
BATHURST CARIBOU HERD

LONG TERM MANAGEMENT PROCESS MEETING

January 21, 22 2016 Tree of Peace, Yellowknife, NT
Meeting Summary

Purpose and Background

The Bathurst caribou herd has long been a defining element of the natural environment, people and culture of the West Kitikmeot and Slave Regions of the Northwest Territories (NWT) and Nunavut. Its central importance and recent population declines have led to a series of efforts to identify measures to help conserve the herd and work with people and organizations affected by its conservation and management.

Short-term efforts such as the December 2015 Government of the Northwest Territories and Tłıchǵ Government Joint Proposal on Caribou Management Actions for the Bathurst herd: 2016-2019 are in process at the same time as the Long Term Management Process Meeting (NWT, TG, 2015). A public hearing on the Joint Management Proposal for the Bathurst herd has been called for February 2016 by the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB). The Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) will be holding a public hearing later in 2016.



- Discussions towards a long-term management approach have been held at workshops in 2013 and 2014 all leading to recommendations which included a call for a long-term management mechanism, such as a Bathurst caribou Management Board, to be developed (see reference documents). The July 2013 Bathurst caribou Harvesters Gathering recommended that “an inter-regional body is needed to discuss changes in the Bathurst caribou and make recommendations for common actions to conserve the caribou for future generations.”
- The October 2013 Exploring Issues of Working Together for the Bathurst caribou recommended that parties “Create a mechanism that allows for a united voice to work and learn for the management of the Bathurst caribou herd.”
- The October 2014 Understanding a New Mechanism for the Bathurst caribou meeting recommended that: A preliminary Terms of Reference for the mechanism be drafted; the TOR be shared with representatives, and; parties meet for feedback on the TOR

In December 2015, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) invited traditional users and wildlife management authorities to participate in a collaborative approach to develop a long-term management mechanism for the management and conservation of the herd.

The purpose of the Bathurst Caribou Herd Long Term Management Process meeting was to discuss a path forward to finalize, implement and fund a long-term Bathurst management planning mechanism and review and approve a Terms of Reference for that mechanism.

This Meeting Summary reports on the key understandings and conclusions towards the future long term management of the herd.

Meeting Understandings and Conclusions

The following main understandings and conclusions were reached by meeting participants:

There is Support for a Long-Term Management Mechanism

There is a recognized need and interest in sharing information and coordinating management actions in a long-term committee for the Bathurst caribou Herd:

- Discussion and communication between traditional harvesters of the Bathurst caribou herd and management authorities is critical to effective management for the herd
- Any management mechanism needs to be advisory and make recommendations, respecting the role of management authorities
- Any management mechanism also needs to fully consider and integrate TK/IQ and scientific information

Future Management of the Herd Needs Underlying Relationship Issues to be Addressed

There is a history of distrust between and within user groups and management authorities that needs to be considered to help all parties move forward together:

- Communication with and respect for traditional users of the Bathurst caribou herd can be improved
- Efforts to meaningfully reconcile outstanding issues with Bathurst caribou herd users by involving them in management advice will help re-establish the Treaty relationship



A Bathurst Caribou Herd Cooperative Advisory Committee Should be Established

A Terms of Reference for a Bathurst Caribou Cooperative Advisory Committee was drafted by Workshop representatives for their organization's review that recommends:

- A cooperative committee that works together to provide advice to management authorities
- A Membership of up to 16 representatives from public governments, management authorities and Aboriginal governments and organizations
- Committee responsibilities including the development of a Management Plan, and recommendations on data collection and use, monitoring and research, harvest data collection, harvest limits and allocations, habitat protection, and communications and education
- Operating procedures and financing

The Committee is not designed to replace or reduce consultation with Aboriginal rights holders or other interested parties.

The Committee Should Work on Priority Areas

Participants identified initial priority areas for the Committee's work by identifying their top two priorities (identified level of priority in number on brackets) for the Committee's work, including:

- Development of a Bathurst Caribou Management Plan (13)
 - Including Predator Management
- Advice to Bathurst Caribou Range Management planning(7)
 - Including Habitat and Calving Ground Protection
- Recommendations on Short-term/ Interim Management Actions (5)
- Communications Planning and Communications with Communities (4)
- Traditional Harvester Monitoring Program (1)
- Review and Prioritize Research (1)
- Build Relationships and Education (1)

The Committee Should be Formally Established and Start Its Work Now

It was recognized that with sixteen potential Members on the Committee and the length of time to receive formal feedback and ratification for the Terms of Reference, that representatives of Member organizations should begin their work while formal ratification is being sought.

Next Steps

Meeting representatives recommended the following process forward:

- End January – Send out Meeting Summary and Draft Terms of Reference to meeting participants and representative organizations and authorities
- February 10th – Meeting representatives provide comments on Meeting Summary and Draft Terms of Reference. Meeting representatives also begin briefing process within their organizations in advance of review and approval (**Proposed revised date – February 19, 2016**)
- February 15th – Conference Call of Meeting Representatives to address any outstanding issues from the Draft Terms of Reference (**Proposed revised date – February 22, 2016**)
- February 18th – Finalize Draft Terms of Reference and formally send to representative organizations and management authorities for review and approval (**Proposed revised date – February 26, 2016**)
- March 18th – Management authority and representative organization ratification of the Terms of Reference and appointment of Committee appointment and alternates
- March-April – First Meeting of the Committee (**Proposed revised date – March 26, 2016**)

Reference Documents

WRRB, TG (2013) Bathurst Caribou Harvesters' Gathering January 29 – 31 2013 Workshop Report. Yellowknife, NWT, January 2013.

GNWT ENR (2013) Workshop Results: Exploring Issues of Working Together for the Bathurst Caribou Herd. Yellowknife, NWT, October 2013.

GNWT ENR (2014) Workshop Results: Understanding a New Mechanism for Sustaining the Bathurst Caribou Herd for Future Generations. Yellowknife, NWT, March 2014.

GNWT, Tlicho Government (Dec 15 2015) Letter – Joint Management Proposal for the Bathurst Caribou. Yellowknife, NWT, December 2015.

Participants

1. Lynda Yonge – ENR, GNWT
2. Brett Elkin – ENR, GNWT
3. Bruno Croft, ENR, GNWT - Support
4. Jan Adamczewski – ENR, GNWT – Support
5. Alex Power –Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN)
6. Elder Napoleon Mackenzie – YKDFN
7. Elder Alfred Baillargeon –YKDFN
8. Fred Sangris - YKDFN
9. Al Harman Jr. – North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA)
10. Arnold Enge – NSMA
11. Ema Qaggutaq – Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board (KRWB)
12. Simon Qingnaqtuq – KRWB
13. Larry Adjun – KRWB – Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO)
14. Sam Kapolak –KRWB, Bathurst Inlet/Burnside HTO
15. Peter Kapolak – KRWB, Bay Chimo/Umingmaktok HTO
16. Earl Evans – Northwest Territories Métis Nation
17. Sjoerd van der Wielen – Tłı̨chǫ Government (TG)
18. John B. Zoe – TG
19. John Nishi - TG
20. Jonas Lafferty – WRRB
21. Grant Pryznyk – WRRB
22. Jody Pellissey – WRRB
23. Rosy Bjornson - Deninu K'ue First Nation – Present for Day 1
24. Brad Laviolette – Salt River First Nation
25. Chief Felix Lockhart – Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation (LKDFN)
26. Archie Catholique - LKDFN
27. Drikus Gissing –Department of Environment (DOE), Government of Nunavut (GN) – Observer
28. Lisa-Marie Leclerc – DOE, GN
29. Erin Keenan – Nunavut Wildlife Management Board – Observer

