Wildlife Management in Yukon: Porcupine Caribou

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Range of the Porcupine Caribou Herd

[Map showing the range of the Porcupine Caribou Herd with various traditional territories and settlement regions marked.]

- D Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory
- D Nacho Nyak Dun Traditional Territory
- D Tr'ondëk Hwëch'ìn Traditional Territory
- D Tetlit Gwich'in Traditional Territory
- Inuvialuit settlement region
- Gwich'in settlement region

Lakes and rivers are also shown on the map, with major cities and settlements indicated.

Beaufort Sea

Yukon

Alaska

NWT

Range
Management Approach

- Approach focuses on harvest management and habitat planning, understanding that populations increase and decrease over time.

- Harvest rates vary by species and population

- Porcupine Caribou harvest is identified by the Harvest Management Plan
Yukon Harvest

• Harvest in Yukon is divided between:
  • First Nations and Inuvialuit (subsistence)
  • Licensed hunting
    • Resident
    • Non-resident
First Nations and Inuvialuit

• First Nations and Inuvialuit have Constitutionally protected rights to harvest

• These rights are also entrenched in Final Agreements (treaty) that help define the relationship between Canada, YG and First Nations/Inuvialuit.

• May harvest Porcupine Caribou subject to the PCMA
Yukon Wildlife Management

- Based on co-management regime (recommendation bodies)
- Multiple Boards and Councils
- Porcupine Caribou Management Board (1985)
  - Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement (Canada)

- Recommendations may be received at any time and may be directed to Aboriginal, Territorial, and/or Federal Gov’ts.
• COSEWIC independent assessment body – recommend to federal gov’t
• BG caribou first assessed in Nov 2016
• Multiple reasons why barren-ground caribou were assessed

COSEWIC and Barrenground Caribou
• Human disturbance
• Over-hunting
• Predation
• Pathogens

**Threats to BG caribou**
National Recovery Strategy

- National in scope
- Must include:
  - Species requirements
  - Population objectives
  - Distribution objectives
  - Critical habitat
  - Addressing threats
  - Schedule of studies
YG Role in PCH Management

- Role on PCTC
- Manages specific components of monitoring
- Completes various analyses
- Primary technical link with PCMB and Canadian Communities
- Very close collaboration with Alaskan staff
Role in PCH Management

• Assist in harvest data collection and estimation
• Long term contaminants monitoring
• Health and caribou condition
• Engagement with youth and hunters
Role in PCH Management

- Mapping of Critical Habitat
- Link to Alaska through Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee
Questions?