



PCMB Annual Harvest Meeting

Gwich'in Tribal Council

February 11, 2014

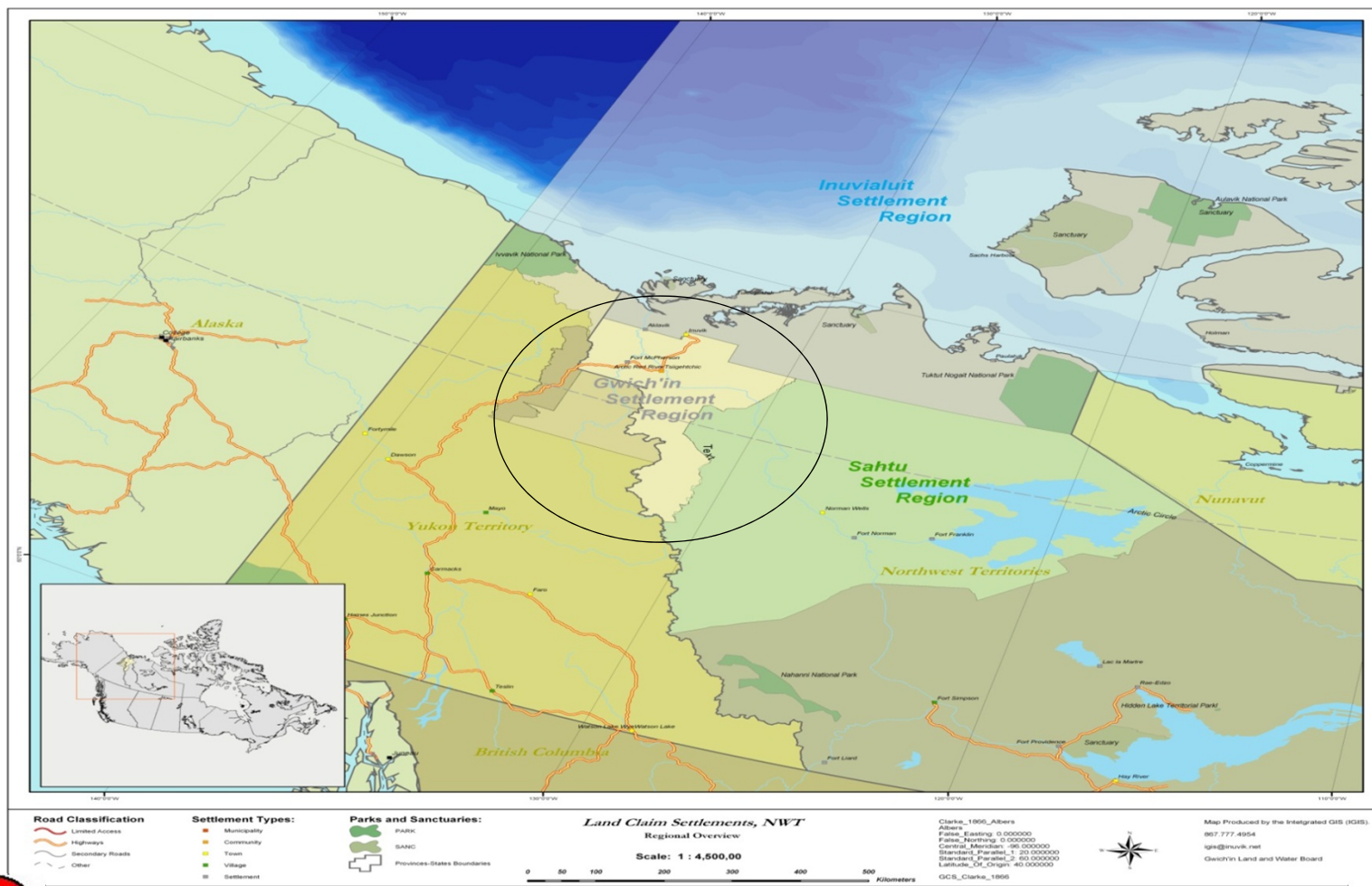
**Presented by: Norman Snowshoe/Mardy Semmler
Director – Lands and Resources**

Outline

- Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement/Yukon Transboundary Agreement
- PCH Harvest Management Plan/ Implementation Plan
- Caribou Management Strategy – GTC/ENR
- Observations
- Challenges
- Next Steps



Gwich'in Settlement Region



Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA)

- Signed in 1992 by Participants of the Gwich'in Nation, Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories
- Appendix C - Yukon Transboundary Agreement – includes provisions that apply to the Primary and Secondary Use Area (Yukon)
- Key provisions of the GCLCA are land ownership, wildlife and harvesting rights, resource management provisions



Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA)

- The GCLCA recognizes historical occupation of lands and harvesting rights of the Gwich'in
- “WHEREAS, the Gwich'in have traditionally used and occupied lands in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon from time immemorial.”



Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA)

Negotiated to meet the following objectives:

1. To set final rights to land and compensation;
2. To ensure the Gwich'in have a right to participate in decision-making over land, water and resources; and
3. To promote and maintain Gwich'in culture and sustainable development in the settlement region.



PCH Harvest Management Plan and Implementation Plan

- GTC is a party and signatory to the management plan and implementation plan;
- Provisions established within the implementation plan are the responsibility of the parties.



Gwich'in Caribou Management Strategy

- Partnership between ENR and GTC/TRRC since 2006;
- Began as “Elders Campaign” – Dempster Patrols;
- Includes Check Station/Harvest Data Collection;
- 2012 operation – August – October 2012
 - Total Caribou reported = 153
- 2013 operated - July – October 2013;
 - Total Caribou reported = 181



Observations

- “Let the Leaders Pass – one week closure” issues – comments from harvesters “Don’t know who the leaders are!”;
- Harvesters heading out when caribou are spotted on Dempster – early July 2013;
- No NWT or Yukon Officer observed during 8 patrols;
- Use of ski doos and ATV’s on flats – leaving ruts;
- Harvesters leaving behind: heads, hides, gut piles



Challenges

- All harvesters not checking in and reporting harvest;
- More grizzly bears visible during harvest



Gwich'in Caribou Harvesting Strategy - proposed

- Harvest on east side of Dempster from Peel River to border during July – September;
- Purpose is to allow for caribou to cross the highway;
- Allow for the “leaders” to migrate to Caribou/Peel/Ogilvie river areas;
- Hopefully the rest of the herd will follow the “leaders” to the winter range



Proposed Harvesting Area – buffer in red



Next Steps

- GTC to continue to collect check station data;
- Continue to Promote an education & communications campaign;
 - “Report your Harvest”
- Promote proper harvesting techniques:
 - “Take all of your harvest, leave no mess behind, etc.”



Gwich'in Tribal Council

Lands and Resources

PO Box 1509

Inuvik, NWT, X0E 0T0

Tel: (867) 777 7900

Fax: (867) 777 7919

www.gwichin.nt.ca

