



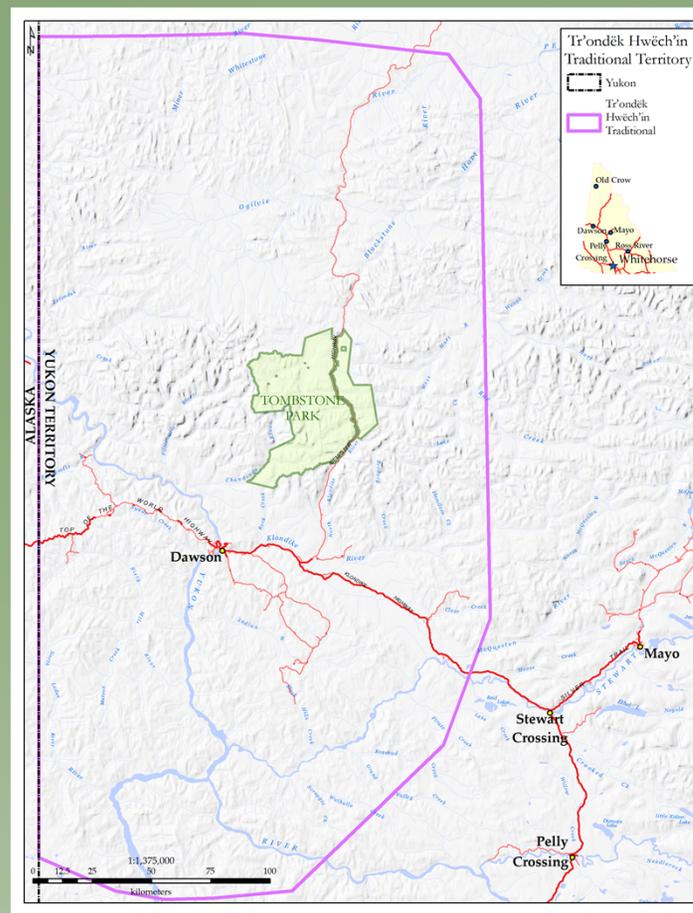
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

FISH AND WILDLIFE BRANCH

Porcupine Caribou Management Board—Annual Harvest Meeting

February 8th–12th, 2016

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory



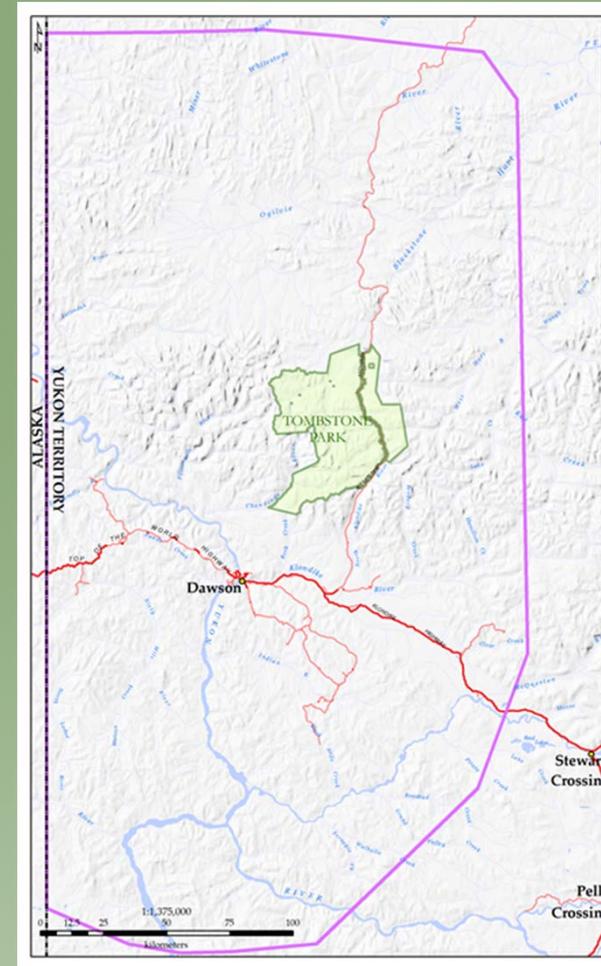
TH Traditional Territory

THTT resides within the mid Northern part of the Yukon Territory

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory (THTT) includes 63,946 Km² (24,686 Mile)

2,590 sq. Km² belong to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the largest private land owner within THTT

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory is home to abundant fish and wildlife species that provide healthy traditional foods for TH citizens.



Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in - Our Relationship with the Land

- TH ancestors were nomadic and travelled within a large landscape
- Travel was based on harvesting foods such as moose, caribou, fresh water fish, small game, birds, salmon and plants
- TH people traditionally rely on caribou for food and clothes
- Changes to the ecosystem can alter biodiversity and impact TH culture, tradition or lifestyle
- There are 4 different herds of caribou within the TH TT
 - Porcupine Caribou, Clear Creek Caribou, Hart River Caribou (conservation concern) and the Fortymile Caribou Herd (recovery resolution)
- The relationship between TH and caribou, as well as other species already mentioned, are based on a culture, tradition and lifestyle that has been passed down through millennia

TH Fish and Wildlife Act

TH is a Self-Governing First Nation with a land claim agreement and Self-Government Agreement, that gives TH the ability to establish their own legislation

In 2007, TH established their own Fish and Wildlife Act



TH Fish and Wildlife Act cont'd...

- Our Act provides TH with full authority to manage and administer subsistence harvest in TH Traditional Territory, along with managing licensed hunting on TH Settlement Lands
- Establishing the responsibility of managing subsistence harvesting in TH TT is not something new, TH has been doing this since the signing of its Final Agreement in July 1998



HARVEST MANAGEMENT

- Harvest Management within THTT is a significant responsibility;
- There are various levels of management for harvest;
- International
 - Used for 3 species (PC, FMC & Salmon)
- Local management (unless there's a species of concern requiring special conservation actions)
- As part of managing harvest, TH may collaborate with other governments and organizations to develop cooperative process/ plans etc. to manage harvest, such as for the Porcupine Caribou Herd



Harvest Management cont'd

Communication:

continues to keep Chief and Council, TH
Government and citizens informed of harvest
management strategies for certain species

share communication materials developed by
rangers

are involved with education programs (i.e. First
First Hunt, First Trapper, etc.)

communicate the need for potential harvest
regulations and consult citizens (Chief and Council,
Elders Council, citizens, General Assembly prior
to any harvest management changes



Harvest Management cont'd

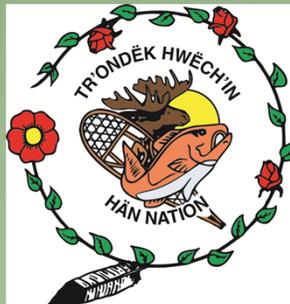
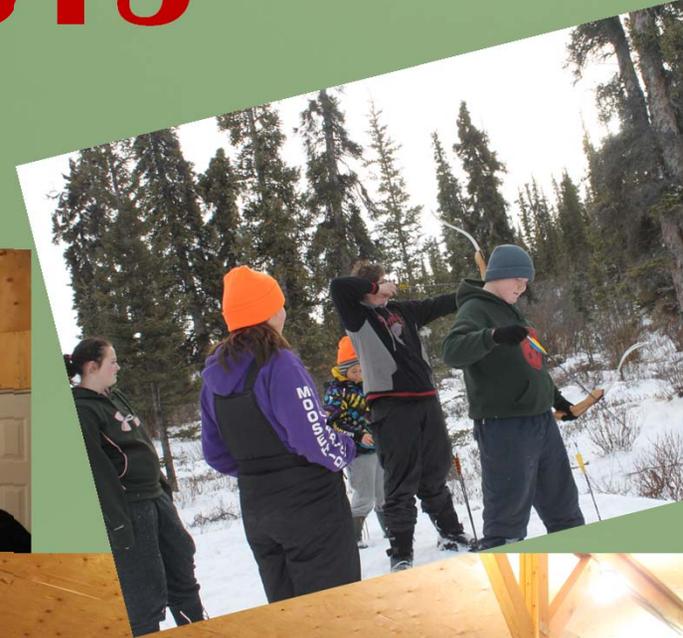


Education:

- For the past 19 years, TH has been educating our youth on the respectful harvesting of the PC through TH's very successful program, known as "First Hunt";
- Eighteen years ago, TH Citizens knew that teaching the Youth the caribou was the basis to developing hunters with the understanding of respectful, traditional, modern and safe hunting methods for harvesting of food;
- Since 1994, TH has held a camp every year up the Dempster Highway;
- Today, our youth and citizens go out onto the land and harvest by using the practices they've learned from the First Hunt camp;
- TH Leaders, Elders, citizens and other members of the Dawson Community strongly support this program to ensure that the practices of taking food from the land will continue for generations to come;

Education is a key responsibility for managing subsistence harvesting in TH Traditional Territory

FIRST HUNT 2015



Harvest Management cont'd

Harvest Data Collection:

- Annually, TH collects big game harvest;
- Harvest data is divided by the various species: caribou, moose and sheep;
- Big game harvest data is for TH purposes only, but may be shared with others if required under various plans
- In addition, TH collects Chinook and Chum salmon harvest
 - TH shares salmon harvest with DFO as it's one of the indicators considered when addressing harvest management for salmon, as well is included in Chapter 16

| TH Porcupine Caribou Harvest by TH citizens | |
|---|---|
| 2012/ 2013 | 1 |
| 2013/ 2014 | 2 |
| 2014/ 2015 | 6 |

***TH monitors and patrols harvesting activities on the Dempster Highway**

***F&W Stewards go door-to-door to request harvest data information**

HARVEST

Historically:

Harvest of PCH occurred within the TH Traditional Territory

Currently:

TH recognizes the importance of continued efforts of management and respect for the herd in order to maintain healthy populations for the future

Future:

PCH will continue to become increasingly important as a food source within TH Traditional Territory

Current declining moose and salmon populations will increase demand for other sources of wild meat such as PCH



Recommendations

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in continues to recommend:

That harvest management remains in the "Green Zone" based on the past year's indicators and strength of the herd



Licensed Hunters:

- Harvest up to two animals
- Mandatory bulls only

Aboriginal Harvesters:

- No harvest limit
- Bulls and cows may be taken

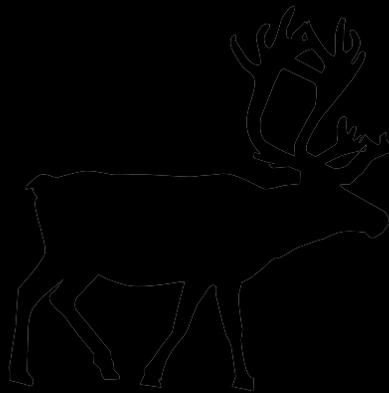
NEXT STEPS

The (3) Northern First Nations Alliance has identified the **Native User Agreement (NUA)** for the Porcupine Caribou Herd as a priority...

Native User Agreement:

TH will continue discussions with Vuntut Gwitchin Government and First Nation of Na-cho Nyak Dun regarding the NUA

*TOR has been drafted



NEXT STEPS

All parties to work together to:

Continue to assess potential impacts to herd health and population

- Development within the herd's range
- Increased harvesting pressure
- Climate change
- More communications and education on Dempster Highway Best Practices

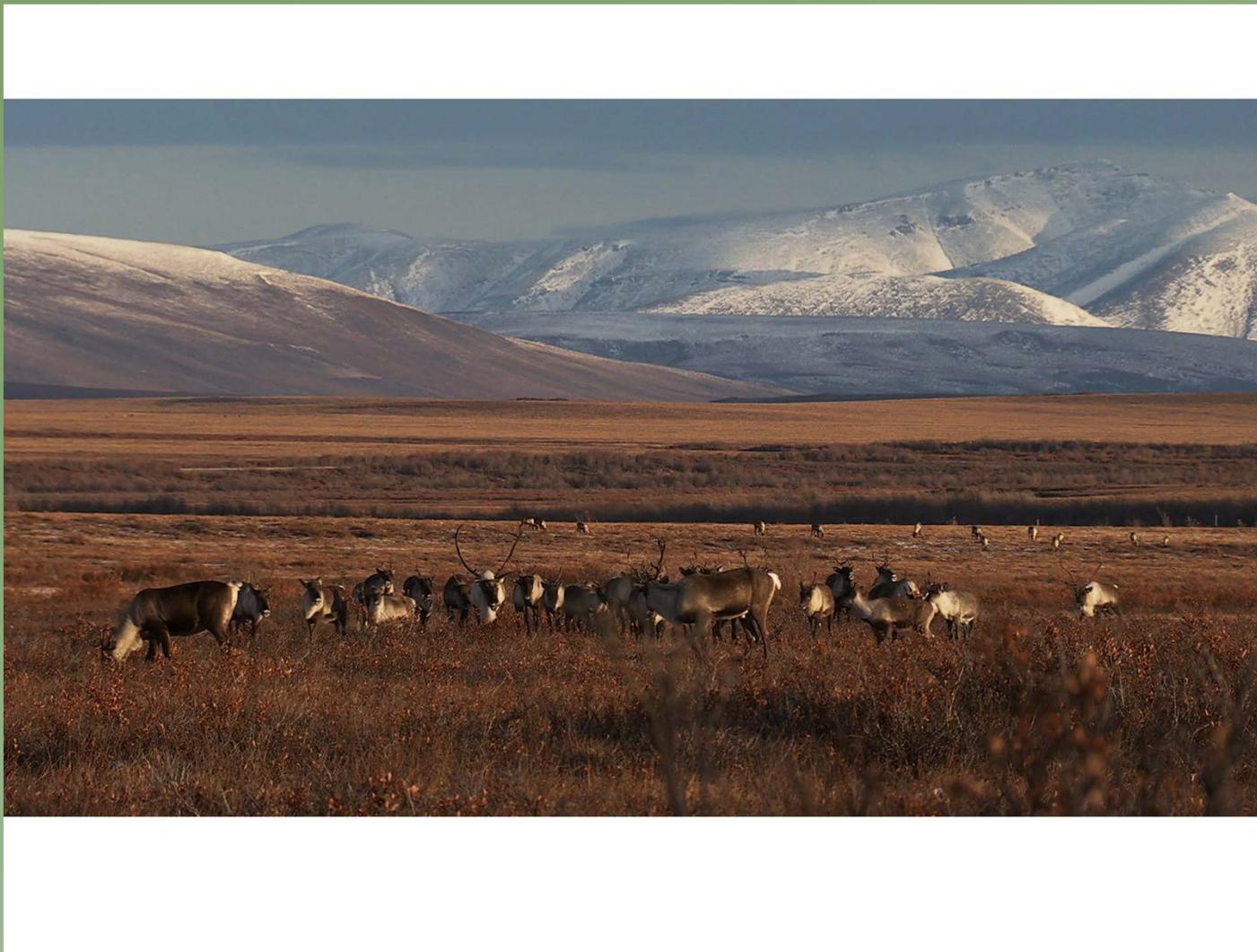


Acknowledgements

TH would like to acknowledge the management conducted by each respective Party and their community for continuing to work towards the success of the PC Harvest Management Plan



QUESTIONS?



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