



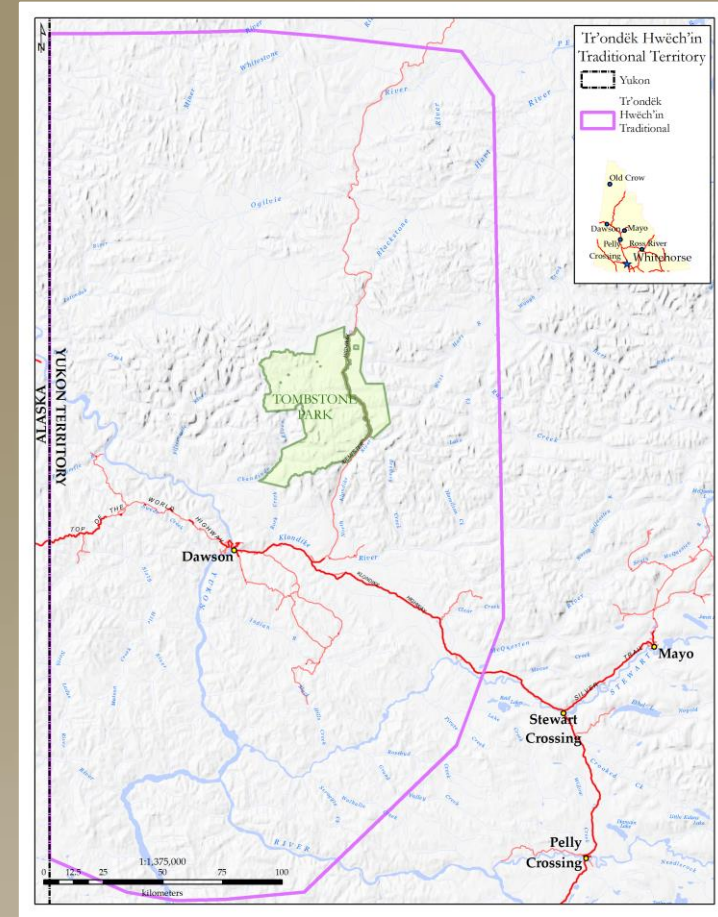
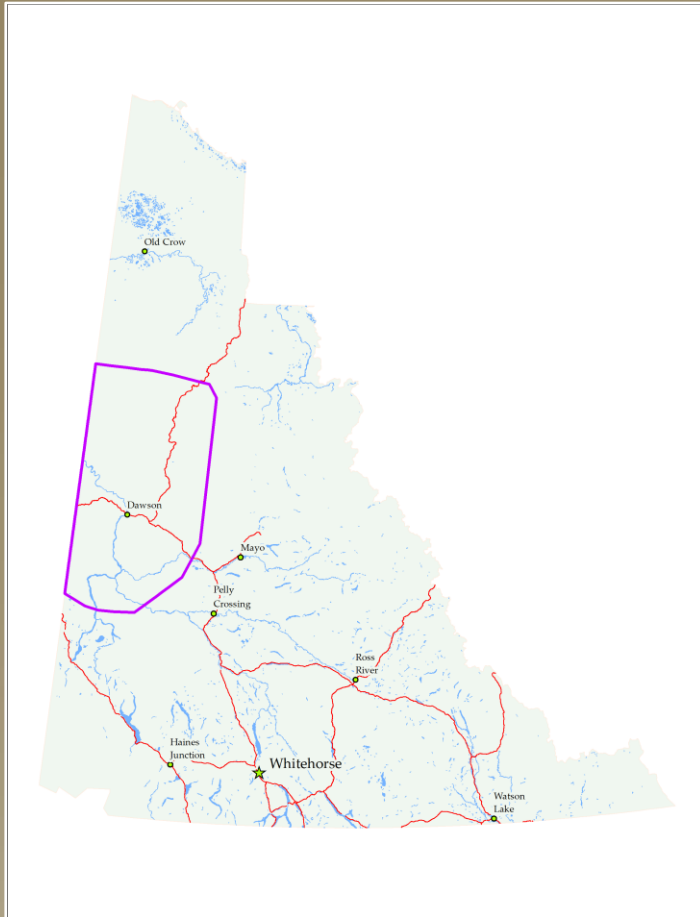
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

FISH AND WILDLIFE BRANCH

Porcupine Caribou Management Board—Annual Harvest Meeting

February 14th–15th, 2017

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory



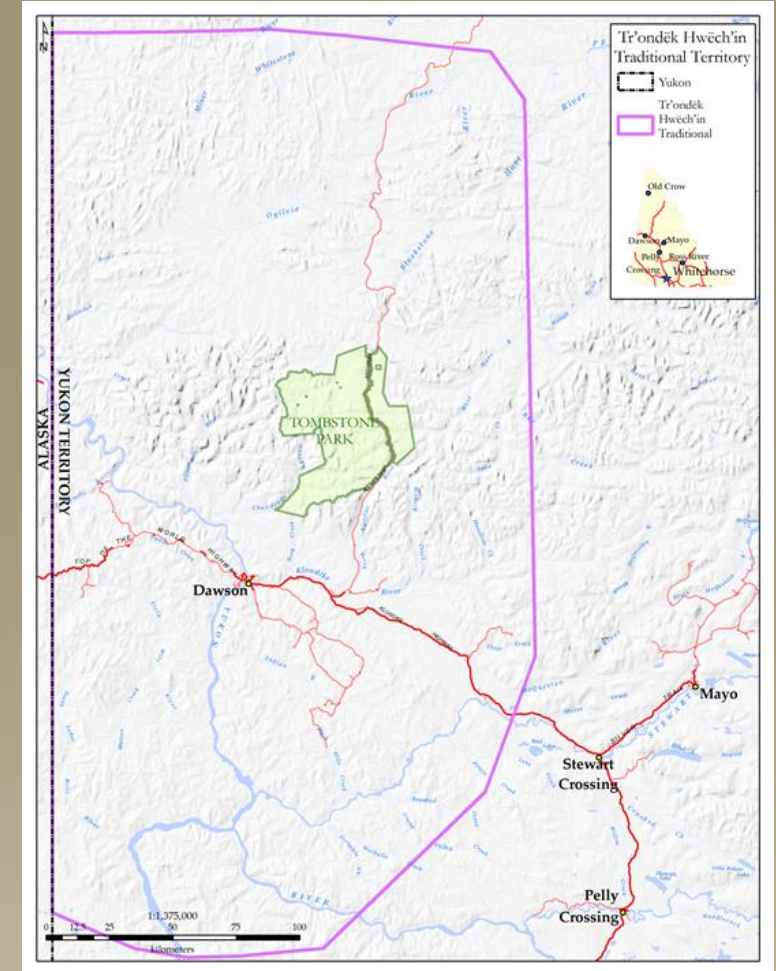
TH Traditional Territory

The THTT is located in the central part of the Yukon Territory

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory (THTT) includes 63,946 Km² (35,466 Mile)

- 2,590 sq. Km² is registered to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in under Category A Settlement Land parcels

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



PCH range
extends
down into
the northern
portion of
the THTT

Range of the Porcupine Caribou Herd



TH Final Agreement and Self-Government Agreements with respect to fish & wildlife

- ❖ The TH Self-Government Agreement out-lines the process for:
 - Programs and services
 - Developing justice
 - allows the Yukon First Nations to establish laws and regulations;
- ❖ Chapter 16 of the Final Agreement out-lines:
 - fish and wildlife management rights and responsibilities within the Yukon and contains specific provisions for individual First Nation Governments

- ❖ Fish and Wildlife Management
 - ❖ Chapter 16 responsibilities
 - ❖ Chapter 16 Objectives
- ❖ Collaborative and cooperative efforts with other Boards and Committees
- ❖ Over-lap responsibilities
- ❖ Trapping Concessions responsibilities
- ❖ Land Use Planning
- ❖ Forestry Planning
- ❖ YESAA: Land use and environmental assessment



TH Fish and Wildlife Act

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

In 2007, TH drafted their own Fish and Wildlife Act; TH is working on updates to the *Act* and *Regulations*



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



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
- There are 4 different herds of caribou within the TH TT
 - Porcupine Caribou;
 - Clear Creek Caribou;
 - Hart River Caribou; and
 - 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

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in - Our Relationship with a changing Land

Changes to the ecosystem can alter biodiversity and impact TH culture, tradition or lifestyle

- Concerns around to much development and activity in winter range
 - Northern cross 3D seismic
 - Dempster highway
- Changes to habitat due to climate change
 - Food availability
 - Predator-prey dynamics
- Weather patterns changing and impacts to the herd
 - Early spring melt and break up
 - High snow depths (e.g. 2014/2015)
 - Freezing rain
- Northern contaminants program (Gamberg Consulting)

HARVEST MANAGEMENT

- Harvest Management within THTT is a significant responsibility;
- There are various levels of management for harvest;
- Local, Territorial, and Federal
- Typically regionalized 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:

- ✓ TH Fish and Wildlife branch receives direction from Chief and Council, Elder's Council, Natural Resources Advisory Council on F&W management issues
- ✓ Fish and Wildlife branch continues to inform TH citizens of harvest management strategies for certain species
- ✓ We share communication materials developed by others
- ✓ We are involved with education programs (i.e. First Fish, First Hunt, First Trapper, etc.)
- ✓ We communicate the need for potential harvest limitations and consult citizens (Chief and Council, TH 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, "First Hunt";
- Eighteen years ago, TH Citizens knew that teaching the Youth about 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 food 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 respectful 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

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 or management strategies
- 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

Harvest Management cont'd

HARVESTERS INTERVIEWED*	ACTIVE HARVESTERS	YEAR JUNE 1 ST to MAY 31 ST	MONTH	# OF BULLS	# OF COWS	UNKNOWN	TOTALS
		2015/ 2016	OCTOBER	1	0	0	1
		2015/ 2016	NOVEMBER	1	0	0	1
		2015/ 2016	NOVEMBER	1	0	0	1
		2015/ 2016	OCTOBER	1	0	0	1
		2015/ 2016	NOVEMBER	5	0	0	5
		2015/ 2016	NOVEMBER	3	0	0	3
15	6			12	0	0	12

*100% response rate

Past & Present Trends

TH Porcupine Caribou Harvest by TH citizens

REPORTING DATE: June 1 – May 31	REPORTED #'S:
2012/ 2013	1
2013/ 2014	2
2014/ 2015	6
2015/ 2016	12
2016/2017	0 (to date)

- 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 be and will 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



TH PRIORITIES

Harvest reporting and Traditional Knowledge collection

- Improve communications with TH citizens for harvest data reporting
- TK based survey to collect information on changes to weather patterns, herd migration, hunting corridors, health of the land, etc.
- offer meat processing workshops (with H&S) to teach butchering skills and meat processing techniques (e.g. sausage making, dry meat, freezer packaging, etc.)
 - Hide tanning and drum making workshops



TH PRIORITIES

Native User Agreement:

- ☑ TOR signed between VGG (Chair), NND and TH
- ☑ establish financials commitment and contribution by Parties
- ☑ hire contractor
 - contract needs to be drafted and signed so that work can begin



NEXT STEPS



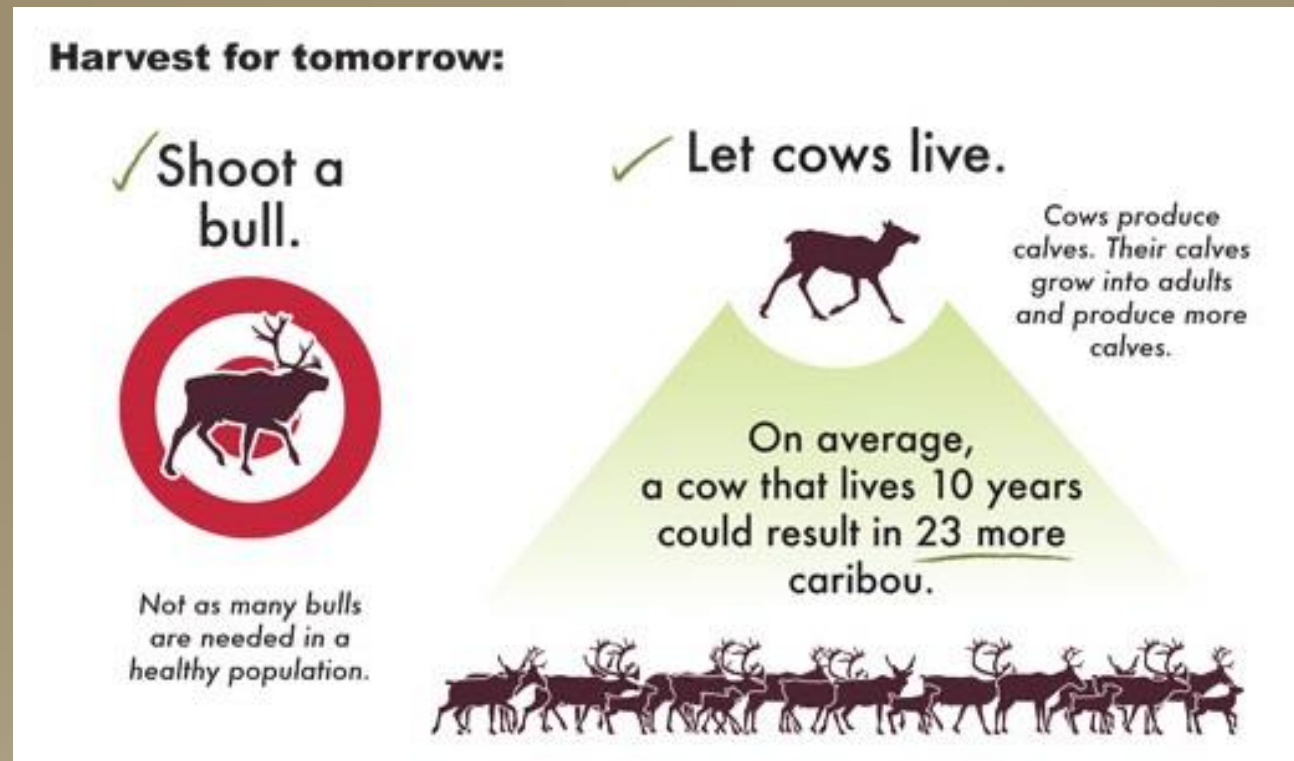
Requests:

- Commitment from PCMB for financial support to assist with the drafting of the NUA
- Clarification on the amount of funding that will be available by PCMB so that VGG, NND and TH can anticipate costs associated with the drafting of the NUA and reflect these costs in our budgets

TH PRIORITIES

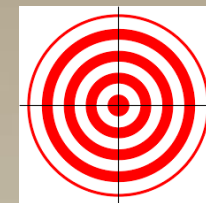
- TH community was concerned about the allegations that there was wasted meat last year
- CTH supports continued communications and education on Best Practices
- TH supports education initiatives carried out by the PCMB

*Respect your harvest
Take only what you need, and use all that you take.*



Shoot to kill

TH supports hunting camps that educate hunters on safe and respectful hunting practices



FIRST HUNT 2016



FIRST HUNT POTLUCK

FEAST TO CELEBRATE
OUR YOUTH'S SUCCESS AT
FIRST HUNT

PLEASE
BRING
YOUR
FAVORITE
DISH
TO SHARE!

FEATURING:

- * Food from the Land ,
including caribou and
rabbit harvested by our
participants
- * Photo Slide Show
- * Acknowledgement of
Elders, Youth , Hunters,
and volunteers



Monday, November 7, 2016

5:30PM at the TH HALL

CONTACT:

Georgette McLeod
993-7100 ext. 139
Erika Scheffen
993-7100 ext. 121



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



Recommendations

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in continues to recommend:

Management remains in the **Green Zone** based on the past year's indicators



QUESTIONS?



MÄHSI CHO