



April 3, 2024

Mr. Joe Tetlich  
Chair  
Porcupine Caribou Management Board  
Box 31723  
Whitehorse YT Y1A 6L3  
Email: [jtetlich31@northwestel.net](mailto:jtetlich31@northwestel.net)

Dear Mr. Tetlich:

Thank you for your letter of March 1, 2024, regarding the 2024 Annual Harvest Meeting (AHM) and harvest management recommendations. I regret the delay in responding beyond the April 2, 2024 deadline.

I am pleased that the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) is continuing to recommend harvest management actions consistent with the Green Zone of the Harvest Management Plan. Based on the information provided, I am in agreement with the recommendations of the Board.

It is heartening that all available demographic factors seem to point to a healthy herd that is likely stable or larger than the last census in 2017. I look forward to hearing about the potential minimum estimate available from partial photo census this year. I have been told that efforts are made each year to complete a photo census, and how difficult it is for all factors to come together for a successful census. I hope that conditions cooperate this summer to complete a population census.

Although it is a perennial issue that not all Parties submitted harvest data in time for the AHM, I know that the PCMB will continue to work with communities to improve hunter participation and reporting rates over the next year. I hope that when the Inuvialuit Harvest Study begins again that Inuvik will be able to report harvest to the Board and Parties.

Regarding the recommendation to manage by the precautionary principle, the existing Harvest Management Plan agreed to by all Parties exemplifies that approach already, codifying restrictions and sacrifice by harvesters at population levels higher than when actions have been taken for declining herds elsewhere. That should be celebrated as already operationalizing the precautionary principle. I am sure that this prudence will also be well represented in the draft conservation plan that is in preparation by the Board.

I appreciate the efforts of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board each year to ensure harvest management actions are made based on best available information.

Sincerely,

**Shannon, Tara** Digitally signed  
by Shannon, Tara  
Date: 2024.04.08  
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Tara Shannon  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Canadian Wildlife Service

cc. Bruce MacDonald, Regional Director, Northern Region, Canadian Wildlife Service  
Craig Machtans, Party Representative for Canada at the AHM, Manager, Northern  
Region, Canadian Wildlife Service  
Deana Lemke, Executive Director, Porcupine Caribou Management Board  
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