



April 02, 2024

Joe Tetlich, Chairperson
Porcupine Caribou Management Board
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Dear Chairperson Tetlich:

Harvest Management Plan 2024 Annual Harvest Meeting – Recommendations

Thank you for your letter dated March 1, 2024 regarding the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) recommendations from the Annual Harvest Meeting (AHM), held in Inuvik, NWT on February 13-14, 2024.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) supports the PCMB recommendation that the Porcupine caribou herd be considered in the Green Zone (above 115,000). ECC also supports implementation of the following harvest management actions included in the Board's Recommendations to the Parties – February 2024:

- Harvest only the amount needed;
- Licensed hunters receive a maximum of two bull tags;
- Shooting will be accurate and wounded animals will be retrieved; and
- Parties will collect rigorous and verifiable harvest data, to be provided for the AHM.

Accurate and verifiable estimates of harvest from the Porcupine caribou herd is an important piece of information to help inform appropriate management actions for the herd. ECC continues to support the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board and the Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat in the implementation of their respective harvest reporting programs. Technical staff from ECC will continue to participate in any workshop-style meetings coordinated by the PCMB to discuss the issue of harvest reporting for the Porcupine herd.

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ECC is pleased to provide input on the following recommendations from the AHM:

- Continue to use the precautionary principle to manage for the many stressors affecting the herd, including changes in the herd's habitat caused by land use and climate change:

ECC supports the continued use of a precautionary approach for management of the Porcupine caribou herd. While the Porcupine caribou herd is currently at a healthy population level, ECC recognizes the importance of continued vigilance in monitoring environmental conditions and caribou health indicators given the impacts of climate change and other factors. As we have seen with other barren-ground caribou herds, the status of a herd can change rapidly, and the partners to the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement must be prepared to respond in a timely manner.

- Advise the PCMB of PCH outreach priorities for the development of communication materials:

ECC continues to utilize the collaboratively developed PCMB outreach materials as part of our overall approach to public education and engagement, including use of this material on ECC's website, Facebook page and other social media.

- Address identified gaps in harvest data collection:

ECC is engaging with regional co-management partners to ensure they have the resources necessary to effectively collect Porcupine caribou harvest data from their members.

I would like to thank the Porcupine Caribou Management Board for its ongoing efforts to ensure the sustainable management of the Porcupine caribou herd. ECC remains committed to implementation of the Harvest Management Plan, and will continue to work to complete our commitments and actions as identified in the HMP Implementation Plan milestones.

Sincerely,



Erin Kelly, Ph.D.
Deputy Minister
Environment and Climate Change

c. Distribution List

Distribution List:

Dr. Brett Elkin
Assistant Deputy Minister, Wildlife and Forest Management
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