

# PCMB

## *Annual Harvest Meeting*

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025



## Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

FISH AND WILDLIFE BRANCH




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# Harvest Data Collection

- TH F&W actively seeks harvest data information from Citizens through a variety of methods:
  - Mail-outs
  - Door-to-door surveys
  - Phone calls
  - Word of mouth and follow-up
  - Citizen meetings
  - Wildlife Monitoring
  - TH Website
  - Social Media 


**Harvest for tomorrow:**

✓ **Shoot a bull.**




Not as many bulls are needed in a healthy population.

✓ **Let cows live.**



Cows produce calves. Their calves grow into adults and produce more calves.

On average, a cow that lives 10 years could result in 23 more caribou.





Harvest Dates June 1 <sup>st</sup> – May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Reported Harvest Numbers
2012/ 2013	1
2013/ 2014	2
2014/ 2015	6
2015/ 2016	12
2016/ 2017	0
2017/ 2018	0
2018/2019	1*
2019/2020	3
2020/2021	0
2021/2022	0
2022/2023	0
2023/2024	0**

# TH Reported Harvest

## *Porcupine Caribou Herd*



# Body Condition/ Animal health

- Information from questions asked about caribou condition and availability during mail-outs and door-to-door surveys
- No observations were reported for the porcupine caribou herd by TH in the 2021/22 harvest year

Was the animal(s) HEALTHY? (check all that apply)
<input type="checkbox"/> Fat <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Skinny <input type="checkbox"/> Sick/injured
<input type="checkbox"/> Fat <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Skinny <input type="checkbox"/> Sick/injured
<input type="checkbox"/> Fat <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Skinny <input type="checkbox"/> Sick/injured
<input type="checkbox"/> Fat <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Skinny <input type="checkbox"/> Sick/injured
<input type="checkbox"/> Fat <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Skinny <input type="checkbox"/> Sick/injured
<input type="checkbox"/> Fat <input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Skinny <input type="checkbox"/> Sick/injured

Were the fish HEALTHY? (check all that apply)
<input type="checkbox"/> Net marks <input type="checkbox"/> Lamprey marks <input type="checkbox"/> Diseased <input type="checkbox"/> Bruising <input type="checkbox"/> Ripe (females)
<input type="checkbox"/> Net marks <input type="checkbox"/> Lamprey marks <input type="checkbox"/> Diseased <input type="checkbox"/> Bruising <input type="checkbox"/> Ripe (females)
<input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Wounds <input type="checkbox"/> Disease <input type="checkbox"/> Fungus <input type="checkbox"/> Worms
<input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Wounds <input type="checkbox"/> Disease <input type="checkbox"/> Fungus <input type="checkbox"/> Worms
<input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Wounds <input type="checkbox"/> Disease <input type="checkbox"/> Fungus <input type="checkbox"/> Worms
<input type="checkbox"/> Normal <input type="checkbox"/> Wounds <input type="checkbox"/> Disease <input type="checkbox"/> Fungus <input type="checkbox"/> Worms

Were the plants HEALTHY? check all that apply)
<input type="checkbox"/> Abundant <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Scarce <input type="checkbox"/> Diseased
<input type="checkbox"/> Abundant <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Scarce <input type="checkbox"/> Diseased
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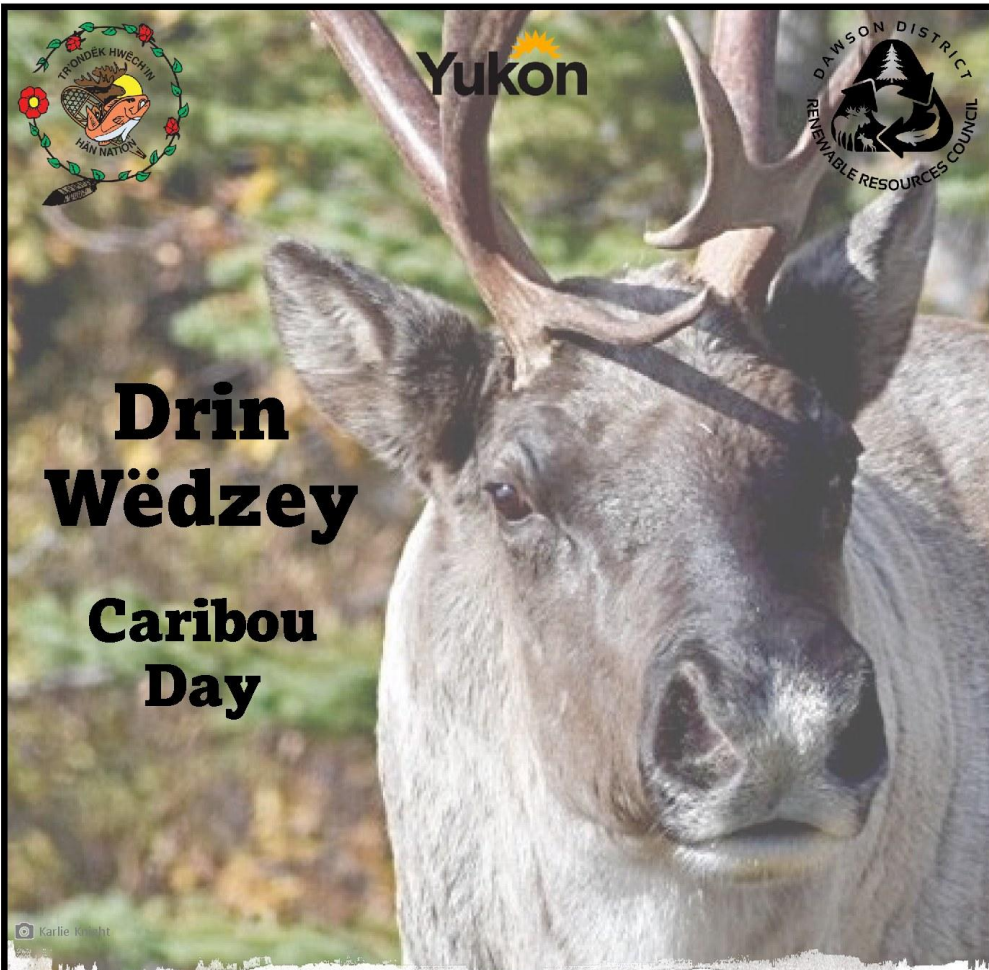




# Population Trends & Habitat

- Population trends and habitat observations are hard to establish with the low number of Porcupine caribou that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Citizens harvest – for example, no porcupine caribou were known to be harvested by TH Citizens this past year.
- In recent years, the PCH has spent very little time (if any) in the THTT, so we have had fewer opportunities to observe the herd in general.





# Drin Wëdzey Caribou Day

 Karlie Knight

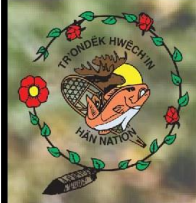
**February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 • Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre**

**Elders Tea 3:30-5pm**  
**Public Session 5-7pm**

Please join us for an evening of herd status updates, research updates, harvest stewardship, hunter education, storytelling, and a short film.

**Hart River • Clear Creek • Porcupine • Fortymile • Nelchina**

*Coffee, tea, and snacks will be provided.*



**Yukon**



# TH Communication Efforts

- The TH F&W branch receives direction from Council, and communicates and consults with Elders' Council, Youth Council and the General Assembly to discuss any harvest management changes that may need to be considered
- The F&W branch informs TH Citizens of harvest management strategies for certain species
- We communicate current population estimates for various species and share communication materials developed by our government and others
- We are involved in various education programs (i.e. First Fish, Fall Harvest Camp, First Hunt, First Trapper, etc.)





# '1002 Lands' Oil and Gas Leasing Timeline

**December 2017**

s.20001 of Public Law 115-97  
"the Tax Act" passed by US Congress

**April 20, 2018**

BLM issued NOI to Conduct a Scoping Process for Leasing EIS

• **June 19, 2018:** TH Response

**December 2018**

BLM released Draft EIS for public comment

• **March 13, 2019:** TH Response

**September 2019**

Final EIS

**August 17, 2020**

BLM released a Record of Decision (ROD)

• **September 10, 2020:** Parties to PCMA (incl. TH) responded by releasing a joint press release

**October 2020**

Kaktovik Iñupiat submitted and application for Seismic Exploration within ANWR

• **November 3, 2020:** TH Response

**November 17, 2020**

Call for Nominations

• **December 7, 2020:** TH Response

**December 16, 2020**

BLM Seismic Exploration Environmental Assessment

• **December 22, 2020:** TH Response

**December 2020**

Notice of 2021 Coastal Plan AK O&G Lease Sale & Notice of Availability of the Detailed Statement of Sale

**January 6, 2021**

1<sup>st</sup> oil and gas drilling lease sale – no bids

**January 19, 2021**

Leases issued to 3 companies for 9 of 22 tracts of land in '1002' lands

**January 20, 2021**

Executive Order signed to place temporary moratorium on O&G leases in ANWR to address potential deficiencies in EIS

**June 1, 2021**

Secretarial Order No. 3401 to suspend the 9 leases

• **June 4, 2021:** Parties to PCMA (incl. TH) responded by releasing a joint press release

**August 4, 2021**

BLM issued NOI to Prepare Supplemental EIS

• **October 4, 2021:** TH Response

**August 2023**

BLM released Draft Supplemental EIS

• **October 23, 2023:** TH Response

**November 6, 2024**  
Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS)

**January 8, 2025**  
2<sup>nd</sup> oil and gas drilling lease sale – no bids





- Range of the Porcupine Caribou Herd



# Education

For over two decades, TH has been educating our youth on the respectful harvesting practices at TH's successful program, "First Hunt"

Since 1994, TH has held a camp every year up the Dempster Highway at Cache Creek

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 Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in subsistence harvest.*



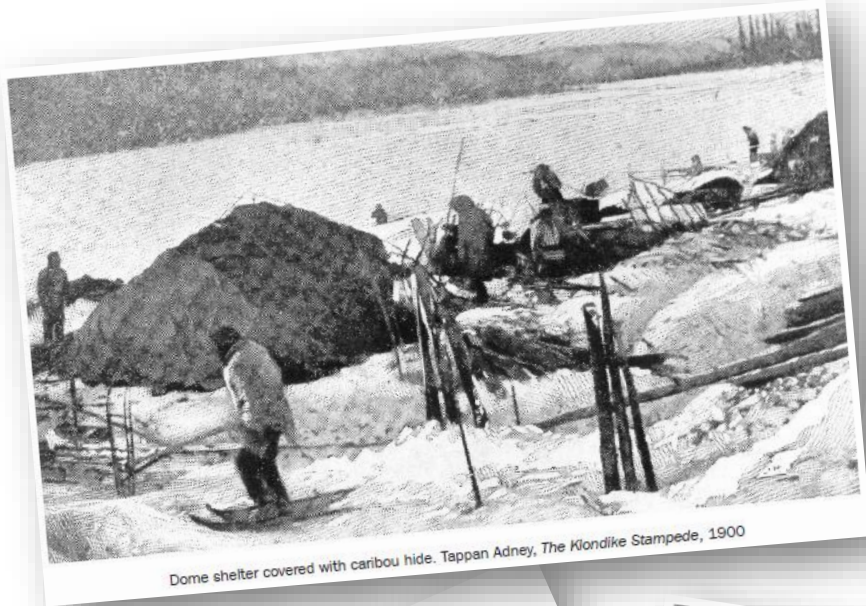


# First Hunt



# Nothing Wasted

## *Traditional Uses of Caribou*



Dome shelter covered with caribou hide. Tappan Adney, *The Klondike Stampede*, 1900



Caribou skin dress.  
Royal Ontario Museum, D.A. Cameron Coll.



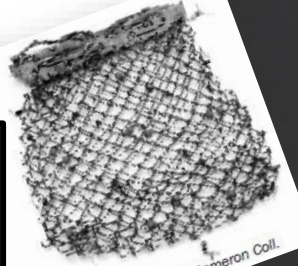
Caribou skin parka.  
Royal Ontario Museum, D.A. Cameron Coll.



"Interior of Indian Skin-house." From Tappan Adney, *The Klondike Stampede*, 1900.

Everything on that caribou is used. Even the feet was hanging dry. They hang it up, it don't spoil. Like the moose nose they burn the hair off it. You could hang it and it'll keep for a long time to come. Then they start to bundle dry meat just like baling fish...In the fall time there's lots of fat caribou. Nothing is wasted on that. They make lard out of the fat, and they use all the bone. They pound it up and they make grease out it. That's something like Crisco. Real high rich fat, grease... They make clothes with parky skin...They make sleeping robe with skin, and they make Skidoo suit for little kids. They look like Skidoo suit so I call it Skidoo suit, because I had one myself. It was one you don't need underclothes under. You just slip it on and we go. You never get cold with that one. That's how caribou is used for many things. You make robe. You make rope with it. You make dog harness, dog collar, so everything there is for everything.

ANNIE HENRY, BLACK CITY, 1992



Babiche Bag.  
Royal Ontario Museum, D.A. Cameron Coll.



End of a decorated bone beamer (scraper).  
From Catherine McClellan, Part of the Land Part of the Water (Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver, 1987).



# Harvest Pressure

- Current increasing pressure on moose and declining salmon populations increases the demand for other sources of wild meat – such as the Porcupine Caribou Herd
- Looking forward, the Porcupine Caribou Herd will continue to be increasingly important as a food source within the TH Traditional Territory



# TH Priorities

## Harvest Reporting & Collection of Traditional Knowledge

- 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.)
- Cultural skills workshops such as hide tanning and drum making, and traditional clothes making.

## Ethical & Respectful Harvesting

- TH community and Councils support ethical and respectful harvesting
- TH supports continued communications and education on Best Practices
- TH supports education initiatives carried out by the PCMB
- Respect your harvest
- TH supports hunting camps that educate hunters on safe and respectful hunting practices

***Shoot to kill. Take only what you need, and use all that you take.***





**Mähsi cho**

*Thank you*

