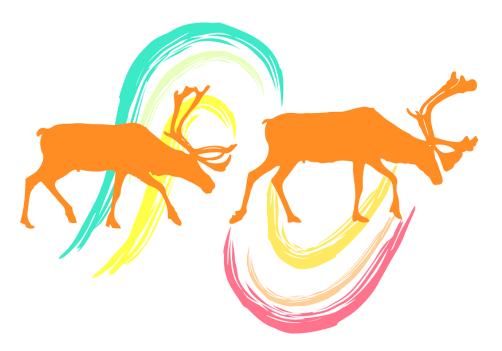


Action Plan for 2022/2023

BLUENOSE-WEST CARIBOU - ORANGE STATUS -



Tuktuvialuk (Inuvialuktun, Siglitun dialect)
Vadzaih (Teetł'it and Gwichya Gwich'in)
Peda (K'áhsho Got'ine, Dela Got'ine)
Pehdaila Gopekwé (Déline Got'ine)

Prepared by the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management

February 2022

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Production note:

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About the ACCWM

The Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management was established to exchange information, help develop cooperation and consensus, and make recommendations regarding wildlife and wildlife habitat issues that cross land claim and treaty boundaries. The committee consists of Chairpersons (or alternate appointees) of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, ?ehdzo Got'ıne Gots'é Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board), Wek'èezhìı Renewable Resources Board, Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board, and Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board.











About Taking Care of Caribou and the associated Action Plans

In late 2014 and early 2015, members of the ACCWM approved *Taking Care of Caribou: the Bluenose West, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East barren-ground caribou herds management plan*. The Plan was developed in consultation with 17 communities that harvest from the three herds. The intent is for the Plan to address caribou management and stewardship over the long term. It was presented to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (Government of the Northwest Territories), the Minister of Environment (Government of Nunavut), and the Environment Minister (Government of Canada) in 2014. The Management Plan is supported by two companion documents: a report summarizing recent scientific information about the herds, and a report that provides a summary of the information that was shared during community meetings to develop the Plan. Individual Action Plans were then developed for each of the three herds. These annual Action Plans provide details on the types of actions that are recommended based on a herd's status, as well as who is responsible for the actions, and when they should be done.

Disclaimer:

The ACCWM recognizes that the implementation of management actions moving forward is subject to appropriations, prioritizations, and budgetary restraints of the participating agencies and organizations.

ACCWM and the Taking Care of Caribou Management Plan

The Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM) was established in 2008, to exchange information, help develop cooperation and consensus and make recommendations regarding wildlife and wildlife habitat issues that cross land claim and treaty boundaries. In 2014, the ACCWM recommended the Taking Care of Caribou management plan to the governments with management jurisdictions of these three herds. The plan was reviewed and updated in 2022. The plan will be revised again in 2024. The current version of the plan can be found here: link

How a Herd's Status and Appropriate Management Actions are Determined

The ACCWM is responsible for determining herd status each year and developing appropriate management actions based on that status. Each fall, the member boards meet for the Annual Status Meeting (Terms of Reference [TOR] can be found here) to share information and make collaborative decisions regarding the herds, including herd status (Figure 1), according to the requirements of regional legislation and land claims agreements. The implementation of the Action Plans is also reviewed at this time and actions for the Bluenose-West (BNW) herd can be found in the Management Action table section of this Action plan (see page 15).

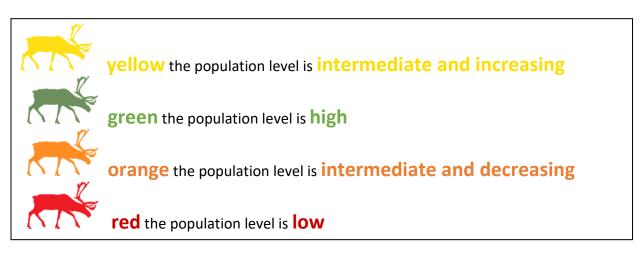


Figure 1: Herd status based on the phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans.

Status Decision 2021

Management actions are based on these phases of the population cycle, using approximate levels or "thresholds" as a guide. Thresholds for the herds were determined by the ACCWM based on known historic highs and lows, with input received from community and technical experts in a consensus-based process. However, it is not only the threshold value that is used to determine the colour zone – the determination of herd status takes into account all available information. The traffic light approach to understanding risk in caribou population cycles is shown in Figure 2 (below) along with the approximate thresholds for the Bluenose-West (BNW) herd.

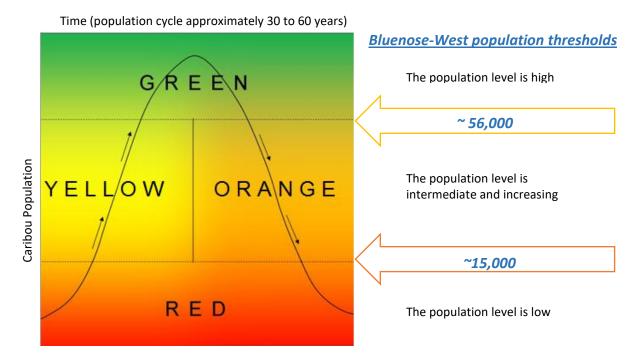


Figure 2: Phases of the population cycle with the colour-coded "traffic light" approach used in the Management Plan and associated Action Plans with Bluenose-West population thresholds.

According to the process outlined in the Management Plan, numerous criteria are used to make an annual status decision. Information considered by the ACCWM in making the 2020 decision is summarized in Table 1 below. During the annual status meeting, stakeholders are encouraged to provide important local and Indigenous knowledge that helps to inform the status decision. This data is reported in the Annual Meeting Summary report when it doesn't fit into the monitoring criteria listed in Table 1.

Based on the information provided, the ACCWM determined the Bluenose-West herd status colour zone to be **orange (intermediate and decreasing)** in November 2021. Member Boards noted that while there are some positive factors described by both the community and scientific presentations, the lack of any indicators strongly showing signs of population growth pushed the ACCWM members to err on the side of caution and maintain the previous year's status designation. This decision recognizes that the herd size appears to be stable and that ongoing conservation actions are needed to help the Bluenose-West herd recover.



Table 1: Criteria used to assess Bluenose-West status in 2021.¹

Criteria	Community-Based Information ²	Scientific Information ³	Comments
Population size	 GRRB: Less or same as past years Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2020: Seems to have been stable for a few years. Good stable numbers. New normal? Hunters all saying they got lots of caribou when they went hunting - just need to go far enough to 	Estimated number of adult caribou at least 1.5 year old in 2021 Rivest: 18,440 ± 5211 (95%CI)	Estimated based on July post-calving ground survey

¹ This table is populated with information presented to the ACCWM to assess herd status in 2021 and is adapted from the monitoring criteria table included in *Taking Care of Caribou*.

- The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAC, (NWT)) held community meetings in Inuvik, Paulatuk, and Tuktoyaktuk; of these communities, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk are the communities that mostly encounter and harvest Bluenose-West caribou.
- Few Gwich'in Participants harvest from this herd, so the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board's (GRRB) 2021 community-based information is sourced from interviews with only two hunters (both from Inuvik).
- Délįnę is the Sahtú community that primarily harvests ?ehdaįla ?ekwę́. Colville Lake is the Sahtú community that primarily harvests ?ədə. As such, the SRRB annually invites Délįnę and Colville Lake to provide direct presentations of community knowledge to the ACCWM. As part of the SRRB's ongoing Public Listening Session series (2020-2024), publicly available community and scientific information about status of ?ehdaįla ?ekwę́ (Caribou Point or Bluenose East caribou, ?ədə (barren-ground caribou in the K'áhsho Got'įnę District or Bluenose West caribou), people, and planning for 2021 can be found in Délįnę and Colville responses to Information Requests, as well as Indigenous knowledge and science literature reviews. These are posted on the Délįnę 2021 PLS Public Registry at www.srrb.nt.ca.

Of note are the following planning updates from Dél_ine and Colville Lake: As of October 2021, the Dél_ine Got'_ine Government has approved a revised version of the Belare Wíle Gots'é ?ekwé - Caribou for All Time plan that accounts for increased conservation concerns about ?ehda_ila ?ekwé. Colville Lake has developed the Dehlá Got'_ine ?ada Plan and Ts'_iduweh ?ada ?ea (Ancient Caribou Plan). Expanded versions of these plans that address SRRB recommendations and the PLS "hot topics" for 2020 and 2021 (harvest regulation, predators and competitors) will be considered by the SRRB at the Dél_ine 2021 PLS in February 2021.

² Bluenose-West caribou usually migrate through two settlement areas/regions and are typically harvested by four communities: Aklavik, Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic and Tuktoyaktuk. In 2018, community-based information was documented in the following ways:

³ All scientific information and comments were provided by Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) (GNWT) unless otherwise noted.

	 This past year was first in a long time that animals are coming close to the community July, later in summer, herd of around 300 caribou were seen at Billy's Creek, then 1000 caribou observed over the hill. then ended up across the bay, 1000. This was very exciting Saw a few young bulls here and there this fall (September) and most of winter - missed lots because weather impeded travel. Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2021: Has been stable for a long while. People get what they need, and have good access to caribou, easy to get them from about 2 hours from town. Local population is at level that sustains community 		
Population trend and rate of change	 GRRB: Decreasing or same as last couple years. Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2020: Leveled out currently. Leveled out trend for the past few years, been stable. They're always in the same place in the same times, we know where the caribou are. Lot of caribou, lot of wolves. Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2021: Still stable – small fluctuations only for the past 	Between 2005 and 2021 the herd shows a non-statistically significant decrease of 2% per year (95%CI of stable to 4% decline)	Trend analysis is based on Rivest estimates 2021 18,440 ± 5211 2018 21,011 ± 4,602 2015 21,535 ± 5,136 2012 32,326 ± 15,482 2009 21,773 ± 4,884 2006 28,461 ± 7,431 2005 26, 228 ± 5,878

	decade.Have caribou throughout winter – means numbers are pretty good		
Productivity and recruitment	 Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2020: Reports of cows seen with a young one and a yearling or two yearlings. Lot of are hunters going up and not seeing young with cows – seeing many cows with yearlings, but not newborn calves One observation last spring of a cow with two young – yearling and newborn. Might have seen a couple cows with calves this last season. The year before they saw many cows with young ones but this year was so different – yearlings, not young ones. Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2021: See a lot of young ones, multiple calves with cows, good signs of growth. Seeing larger/older calves with cows – it seems like calves are staying with their mothers longer – change in diet? Seeing mostly cows and calves for a longer period in the fall. GRRB: Few "In the past, I used to always see calves and cows. None in the past two years." 	Pregnancy rate of captured cows 2021: 24/33 (73%). Last recruitment survey was 2017 so no current information available.	Pregnancy based on serum progesterone. 2017 recruitment survey estimated was 34 + 2.8 (SE) calves per 100 cows.

	GRRB:		
Adult composition	Fewer males than normal	There is only one bull to cow ratio for	
	 Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2020: Billy Creek observation of 300 herd – 2/3 bulls. One hunter did not see more bulls than previous year Saw some groups of 10-11 bulls. Within treeline, thousands of bulls – until 1st week of October Didn't see huge movement from east to west of migrating cows – smaller groups, go farther to find them – sometimes you just don't see them, they're using different areas - other hunter said he saw them all over. One hunter observed a herd of 30-40 cow. Another hunter observed a herd of 20 cows Mostly ran into herds of cows, other hunters ran into 3-4 bulls in a bunch. Observed bulls coming for 2 days at Langton Bay – older ones then younger ones. Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2021: Good mix, what sex is seen depends on time of year. Mostly harvest bulls now, don't do late fall cow harvest anymore – but bulls always come back at similar numbers every year 	Bluenose-West (2009), so trend is unknown but the 2009 result is considered high. Estimated number of bulls per 100 cows in 2009: 70	
Body condition and health	GRRB: • Healthy, no disease, not skinny	No new information available.	
	Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2020:		

- Other active hunters getting a lot of skinny bulls in September 2020. Some hunters got lucky and got some fat ones.
- In the end of September early October (2020), some of the big bulls were literally skin and bones. Big bulls were skin and bones by then, not even rutting season yet. They shouldn't be that poor that time of year. Expect lots of fat then, but the fattest bull I got last year was 1 inch. 8/10 people who hunted with me, their bulls were like that.
- Bigger horned bulls skinnier than smaller ones.
 (Mating earlier?? Reindeer mate a month earlier were they reindeer?)
- Some good shape bulls to the west in September.
 Year before last, in 2019, on average condition was better than other years, but last year was terrible.
- Disease: A few with sandpaper legs Besnoitia.
 Got one whole body had tiny dots in the meat, can feel it like sandpaper all over. Cut rump open find white balls, loaded right in the meat (tapeworm larvae). Caribou with inflated lungs stuck to the ribs.
- One hunter was Happy with the meat that he got, but he usually keeps fat caribou over winter for quaq, but this year couldn't do it, too skinny.

Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2021:

- Some disease, infection and injury, but not more than usual.
- Healthy caribou generally. Not as fat as last year

	(last year they were particularly fat), some skinny ones, but quite healthy		
Harvest levels	 GRRB: Low. Hunters are generally hunting the Porcupine Herd. 7 tags were used. "I'd really appreciate an increase in the number of tags. They're all gone by Christmas. During years when Porcupine Caribou aren't available, those tags really help people." Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2020: Changes in lifestyle. No one harvesting in the springtime anymore – used to be a big rush in May. Cumulative changes to culture. Community harvest last fall – harvesting was spread out evenly, took 10 days to do the whole harvest, were ranging quite a ways away from the camp to fill the harvest. Successful. Individual harvesters – caribou were there but health wasn't so great. Harvest study is paused, information missing – hard to answer. Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2021: Everyone getting what they need More hunters going out, learning skills, able to get their own caribou Community harvest was smaller this year because more people could go out and get their own. 	Total harvest uncertain. Sex of harvest is not always reported. ENR believes the 80% bull target is not being met.	TAH tag returns in Inuvik Region 2020/2021 Inuvialuit: 403 Quota, 254 harvested Gwich'in: 34 quota, 7 harvested There are no observations of changing harvest levels from previous years in Sahtu communities.
Predator populations	GRRB:	Paulatuk submitted	Changes in wolf harvest

	//e:	15 15 1	
	"Friends have been getting lots of wolves."	1 wolf and Colville	does not necessarily reflect
	"Lots of wolverines last winter. Most I've seen in a long ""	Lake submitted 0	changes in wolf
	time. Not many wolves."	wolves in the 20/21	abundance.
	Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2020:	season.	
	Lots of wolves being spotted. So many bears, unreal.		
	 Family of wolves always at Hornaday camp in summer When wolves are observed on the land, caribou leave 		
	 the area very quickly – large effect on their movements One observation of a caribou with large injury from 		
	predator on its neck		
	Didn't see any bear cubs— year before that there were lots.		
	In 2019, saw one sow with 4 cubs.		
	Not too many eagles this year. In 2019 there were a		
	lot.		
	Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2021:		
	Seeing wolves, not too many – not seeing as many		
	close to the community this year.		
	Didn't notice any bear kills this year on the land – not		
	scavenging either.		
	GRRB:	In 2021, 11 BNW	
Range and	Nothing to report.	collared cows	
movement		were still active	
patterns	Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2020:	from the 2018 deployment and	
	This past year first in a long time coming close to the	all returned to	
	community.	BNW calving	
	Consistent areas at specific time of year	ground.	
	Some hunters wait later on in the month to go West		
	and get good fat bulls. Preference – it's come to	Between 2010	
		and 2021, 99%	

 the point when harvesters have a preference to go west, south or east to get caribou depending on where you want to go, because there are caribou in every direction. 1994 was a really bad year, people going all the way up past Andersen River to get caribou. Since then, changed to gradual harvesting closer to the community. Now we're actually taking pictures of caribou outside our house. Many hunters that went out are not at this meeting. Missing information. Wolves were aware of the change of migration routes and were waiting for them near the community 	of collared BNW cows (219 records) returned year after year to calving ground.	
Paulatuk (WMAbC-NWT) 2021:		
Similar to last year		
Nice to see them migrating right behind us on the hills,		
young people got to see it for first time in many years -		
spring migration, nice to see the hills dance again, don't remember the last time that happened.		
End of September they started coming from the west		
toward Paulatuk, to the end of Big Lake,		
through Langton		
Lots of bulls gathering west and south of town.		
 Summer range: Parry peninsula, Langton Bay, Biname (wide range) 		
A few showed up couple weeks ago from East but		
not many yet – no one hunting on east side yet		
Cows observed going up eastward rather than south		

	Really depends on the weather (late freeze-up)		
Environment and habitat	 GRRB: Forest fires, lots of erosion and slumping, alders are moving into the tundra, moose are moving further north. There wasn't much snow last winter which should have helped the caribou. Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2020: Weather seems to be the same more or less, snow came in almost the same time. Summer was cooler, we thought caribou were going to do really good, cooler than previous years. Bugs nonexistent most of the time last summer. Grass greener this summer, not brown – no cranberries this year, no akpiks. Vegetation was not up to par last summer. Hardly any blueberries. Not many mushrooms. Vegetation quality very closely linked with where caribou calve. Some rain in November 2020 but didn't impact caribou too much. Does slumping play a part in caribou food source? More slumping. Some places can actually see big chunks of land missing. There is concern about slumping and landscape change along the migration routes and in high value foraging areas. Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2021: Very late freeze up and warm summer – caribou on 	There were very few fires in the 2021 season on the Bluenose-west range	
	very late freeze up and warm summer — cambou on		

	 hills and in lakes in cooler areas. Still using quads, normally this time of year hunters travel on skidoo. Concerned about landslides and coastal erosion – lots this summer. Some areas with shallower slopes where it seems like large swaths of land slid slowly down and expose mud. 		
Human disturbance	 GRRB: Nothing to report. Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2020: Concerns about impacts of research, collaring, and surveys on caribou. Especially collaring bulls. No activity in the park No research Concerned about cruise ship landings (less this year) Generally, very slow this year because of COVID ENR were doing surveys on Parry Peninsula, didn't see caribou – boulders – saw caribou moving south from there later (survey missed caribou?) Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT) 2021: More quad traffic, more hunters, new hunters going up with regular hunters – more traffic but caribou don't seem impacted, caribou quite tame and don't seem skittish around quads; they just carry-on eating. 	The Cumulative Effects project is ongoing, initial steps to map all current disturbance in the range show that there is a low human footprint on the range (less than .05% of the range)	

	 Caribou right on trail where people travel. Young hunters learning good skills from more experienced hunters HTC monitors activities really well Tag system going well, people comply Keep advocating for finding better technologies for tracking caribou – collars can damage caribou 		
Competitors	 GRRB: Nothing to report. Paulatuk (WMAC-NWT): Saw lots of reindeer last fall, up in Billy Lake. Reindeer interbreeding? Skinny bulls might actually be reindeer rutting earlier? Lots of moose everywhere. Way more than usual. Could they affect the migration of the caribou? Family of moose, second year they come to Hornaday River. (Not sure when is the best time of year to harvest them) Observed some muskox moving north on the peninsula right after freeze up A few muskox up Hornaday River bNot so many muskox in the past but other harvesters might have more information 	Muskox survey in March 2021 shows changes in muskox distribution from past surveys. Population in the ISR appears stable.	

Orange Status Management Actions for Bluenose West Caribou

Management actions described in *Taking Care of Caribou* fall into five main categories: *Education, Habitat, Land Use Activities, Predators* and *Harvest Management*.

We have included a sixth category here to capture the *Monitoring* actions that were also identified in the Management Plan. Monitoring is a key part of learning and assessing the success of management actions. For the most part, monitoring actions differ from management actions as they are not as dependent on herd status – they are ongoing in many cases, but their frequency or intensity may change with changing status.



To make it easier to find specific information for each of these action categories they have been colour-coded throughout this document.

Different actions are often required depending on whether a herd's status is determined to be green, yellow, orange or red. A table summarizing appropriate management actions for all status levels as agreed to in *Taking Care of Caribou* is included in **Appendix B**. As the status of the Bluenose-West herd is **orange** (intermediate and decreasing), each of the bulleted actions outlined for red status in that table has now been developed into a series of specific tasks in the **Management Actions Table** of this Action Plan.

Because most activities under *Education* and *Habitat* require very long-term approaches to be effective, the suggested management actions remain the same no matter the status of the herd. For actions in the *Land Use Activities*, *Predators*, and *Harvest Management* categories to be responsive to different phases of the population cycle, different actions are required

depending on a herd's status – for example, when setting a herd Total Allowable Harvest (see **Appendix G** for an explanation of how allocations and the Total Allowable Harvest for a herd are set).

Management Actions Table for Bluenose West Caribou: Orange Status

Following principles laid out in *Taking Care of Caribou*, all actions and tasks described in this table will draw upon both community-based knowledge (including traditional knowledge) and scientific information. The ACCWM recognizes that documenting and using traditional knowledge is a priority for all member boards. The ACCWM reviews the relevant data presented at the annual meeting and provides advice to member boards.

A. Education⁴

A - 1. Develop education strategy

Objective – address community concerns regarding a lack of education (see various themes identified in **Taking Care of Caribou**) and clarify an approach

Task	Partners ⁵	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level ⁶	Status November 2021 – plans for 22/23
A.1.1 Engage community organizations regarding types of materials and distribution		Summary of input / guidance from communities and related revisions	Annually	Тор	WMAC (NWT) engages during annual community tour. In 2021, flyers were mailed to outer communities, and all communities were engaged in person except for Tuktoyaktuk (due to COVID-19). ACCWM swag was used for door prizes. SRRB: Engagement through community conservation planning, especially with Colville Lake and Délinę.

⁴ Education specific to industrial land uses is dealt with in section C – Land Use Activities (C.3.1 and C.3.2).

⁵ Potential partners have been identified for individual tasks. Leads on tasks may vary and will be determined at a later date.

⁶ While the ACCWM member boards feel that most of the management actions included here have a high priority, only those tasks and actions that call for immediate attention have been given a priority and deliverable deadline to date. These actions/tasks are categorized as 'Top' priority in the table. Further prioritization work (i.e., assigning High Medium or Low priority and deliverable dates to the remaining actions/tasks) will be done at a later date.

A.1.2 ACCWM reviews educational strategy annually based on community and member board priorities, based on ToR for Communication and Education Working Group	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards	Annually	Тор	ACCWM member boards review educational strategy annually, prior to Annual Status Meeting WMAC (NWT) identifies priorities during community tour. GRRB reviewed the educational strategy in December 2021. SRRB receives input on education needs through annual Public Listening Sessions (hearings) planned for 2020-2024. COVID-19 limited the ability of member boards to engage with communities for this task.
A.1.3 Implementation of educational strategy	Member boards, government partners and regional partners ⁷	Summary report	2018/19 and onwards	Тор	Working group holding regular teleconferences Materials placed in Dropbox for all Member boards to utilize. ACCWM website launched in 2020 and updated in 2021. Several materials have been developed by the Communications and Education Working Group. This includes thank you notes and posters, post cards, shooting targets, etc. ENR created an annual movement animation.

⁷ Regional partners, which vary significantly by region, may include individual community members, community organizations, such as RRCs/HTCs/HTOs, and regional organizations.

The C/E working group is developing more communications items (shooting targets, banners for community tours) in order to spread the message to the communities.
GRRB is providing RRCs with information on wildlife diseases and parasites to distribute to their members.
GRRB is looking into potentially holding an educational summer camp for high school students in 2022.
SRRB: In the Sahtú Region, community conservation planning processes and the Ne K'a Dene Ts'Įlį - Living on the Land Forum are the primary vehicles for communication and education. The focus of educational activities is related to conservation "hot topics" of annual
Public Listening Sessions (hearings); for 2021-2022, this is caribou relationships with other wildlife, and especially predators and competitors; for 2022-2023, the focus will be on caribou, wildfires, and climate change.
Indigenous knowledge and science toolkits are prepared to support knowledge sharing.

B. Habitat							
B – 1. Identify and recommend protection for key habitat areas Objective – address community concerns that key habitat areas are not protected sufficiently							
Task	Partners	Performance Deliverable Priority Status					
		Measure	date	level			

B.1.1 Engage with	ACCWM WG	Summary of	Ongoing	Тор	Ongoing.
community		input/guidance			
organizations and		from			Délıne Plan identifies key habitat areas as does the land use
other co-		communities			plan for the Sahtú. Délįnę is working towards establishing
management					the Great Bear Lake watershed as Indigenous Protected and
partners to identify		Provide report			Conserved Area in addition to the International Biosphere
key habitat areas.		to ACCWM,			Reserve. This process will include identification of key
Develop a sensitive		including draft			habitat areas.
habitat report.		maps of key			
		areas			Parks Canada is working on a BNW forage project in Tuktut
					Nogait National Park to predict and map summer forage
					quality and availability for BNW. This is expected to be able
					to act as a baseline to monitor changes in forage availability
					overtime. Once completed, it will be shared with ACCWM.

B – 2. Review results of monitoring, including cumulative effects, to ensure enough habitat is available and caribou are able to move between areas of good habitat

Objective – ensure research and monitoring programs are relevant and addressing current information needs for habitat management

Task	Partners	Performance	Deliverable	Priority	Status
		Measure	date	level	
B.2.1 Map and	Government	Compilation			GNWT 'Inventory of Landscape Change' being updated.
track landscape	partners	map			
disturbances.					Annual tracking of wildfire footprint.
Identify and review					
recent relevant					Mackenzie Valley GIS submission standards in place.
information and					
gaps.					GNWT Cumulative Effects Assessment of Four Barren-
					ground Caribou Herds underway.
					SRRB is working with Carleton University's Geographic and
					Cartographic Research Centre in development of a caribou
					atlas that will encompass both barren-ground and boreal
					caribou landscapes and will include landscape disturbance
					data.

B.2.2 ACCWM	ACCWM;	Advice provided						
reviews	Member boards							
information and								
provides advice for								
research and								
monitoring based								
on information								
from B.2.1-4.								
Member boards								
make and								
communicate								
recommendations								
to appropriate								
authorities.								
B = 2 Pecommend i	R = 3. Recommend important habitat as a 'value at risk' for forest fire management							

B – 3. Recommend important habitat as a 'value at risk' for forest fire management Objective – ensure sufficient winter habitat for caribou

Task	Partners	Performance	Deliverable	Priority	Status
		Measure	date	level	
B.3.1 Based B – 1 and B – 2, provide advice to member boards on values at risk. Member boards make and	ACCWM; Member Boards	Key areas identified for fire management and advice provided			
communicate recommendations for fire management		provided			

C. Land use activities

 $\mathsf{C}-\mathsf{1}.$ Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs

Objective – ensure cumulative effects monitoring programs are operational and relevant

Task	Partners	Performance	Deliverable	Priority	Status
		Measure	date	level	
C.1.1 Identify and/or review any	ACCWM WG and government	Summary report			GNWT Cumulative Effects Assessment of Four Barrenground Caribou Herds underway.
gaps in cumulative effects data or previous gaps assessments.	partners				SRRB has obtained funding to support enhanced Dél _l ne and Colville Lake community involvement in working with ALCES to consider cumulative effects with respect to Bluenose-West 20d0 and Bluenose-East 20kwé within the Sahtú region.

C – 2. Provide advice on mitigation of industrial.⁸ impacts to proponents and regulators Objective – minimize industrial impacts to caribou and their habitat

Task	Partners	Performance	Deliverable	Priority	Status
		Measure	date	level	
C.2.1 Review	ACCWM WG;				SRRB: Preliminary preparations are underway for a Public
Appendix G ⁹ of the	Member boards				Listening Session (hearing) on caribou and the Sahtú mixed
Management Plan					economy in 2024.
according to					
modern best					
practices.					
C.2.2 Apply	Member boards				WMAC (NWT) and other ISR partners review proposals
Appendix G:					going through EISC.
member boards					
make and					The GRRB reviews research, regulatory, and land access
communicate					permit applications and provides advice to proponents on
recommendations					best practices for reducing their impacts on caribou and
to proponents					other wildlife.
(including air					
carriers and other					SRRB reviews permit and license applications and provides
					advice on wise practices with respect to wildlife and

⁸ In this context, the term "Industrial" includes major development projects such as roads.

⁹ Appendix G of Taking Care of Caribou: https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/rev bluenose caribou herds draft management plan v10 final signed - nov 4 2014 0.pdf#page=81

subcontractors)			landscapes; where possible, proposals are discussed with
and regulators.			the Ne K'ə Dene Ts'ılı - Living on the Land Forum and/or
			?ehdzo Got'ıne (Renewable Resources Councils) to support
			input from community leadership organisations.
C.2.3 Develop	Communication		
and/or adapt	and Education		
communication	working group		
and education			
programs with/for			
industrial			
proponents			
C.2.4 Identify and	Member boards		SRRB: Public Listening Session (hearing), scheduled for 2024,
review regulations			will discuss caribou and the mixed economy in the Sahtú.
and current			Early preparations are underway in 2021 for this process.
inspection/enforce			
ment strategies			
involving land use			
in caribou habitat.			
Recommend			
increased			
enforcement of			
regulations when			
appropriate. Work			
with other relevant			
agencies (GNWT			
Lands, regional			
Land and Water			
Boards)			

D. Predators

D-1. Review results of research programs that monitor predator abundance and predation rates Objective – determine which predators impact caribou and the relative intensity of their impacts

Task	Partners	Performance	Deliverable	Priority	Status
		Measure	date	level	
D.1.1 Gather, compile, review	ACCWM WG and government	Summary report	Ongoing	Тор	Ongoing
and present	partners				Wolf Feasibility Assessment Technical Working Group,
predator research and monitoring results to ACCWM	p				which includes ENR and some ACCWM member boards, completed wolf feasibility assessment (Nov 2017) ¹⁰
(including					KHTO & GN DOE wolf sampling program pilot program are
community and scientific monitoring results)					ongoing. GN will be doing TK and SK studies on grizzly bears in 2021.
monitoring results)					Dropbox folder created for people to add materials.
					PC is developing the raptor monitoring program.
					SRRB: Indigenous knowledge and science "toolkits"
					(literature reviews) were compiled on predator-caribou
					relationships in preparation for the Public Listening Session
					(hearing) on Tich'ádíı hé Gots'edı (Living with Wildlife):
D.1.2 Engage	ACCWM WG	Summary of	Ongoing	Тор	Caribou Predators and Competitors. Ongoing
community	ACCIVITIVG	input / guidance	Oligoling	ТОР	Oligonia
organizations to		from			Research prioritization (GRRB & WMAC-NWT)
identify and		communities			
prioritize research					The GRRB continually gathers and records research interests
needs by region					that are brought forward by community members. We also
					perform a review of our research and management priorities every five years, which includes consultations with
					each RRC. The next review will take place this fall (2022).
					, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,

 $^{^{10} \ \}underline{https://www.wrrb.ca/sites/default/files/FINAL\%20Wolf\%20Feasibility\%20Assessment\%20-\%2010nov17.pdf}$

					SRRB: Déline 2021 Public Listening Session (hearing) addresses knowledge regarding predators including wolves. It is expected that this will give rise to research priorities in the region for predators.
D.1.3 ACCWM reviews and provides advice to member boards. boards recommend research priorities to appropriate authorities	ACCWM; member boards	Advice provided to member boards	Ongoing	Тор	SRRB will be delivering a Reasons for Decision report in 2022, with a focus on predators.

D-2. Consider recommending options for predator management

Objective – review information from all partners to determine whether predator management is a viable option

Task	Partners	Performance	Deliverable	Priority	Status
		Measure	date	level	
D.2.1 Engage with		Information for		Тор	The SRRB has encouraged other jurisdictions and the GNWT
other jurisdictions		summary report			to present submissions to the 2021 public listening session
that have predator					on the topic of predators.
control experience					
D.2.2 Identify		List of existing		Тор	SRRB: The Public Listening Session (hearing) on <i>Tլch'ádíı hé</i>
jurisdictional /		regulations and			Gots'edı (Living with Wildlife): Caribou Predators and
regional rules and		rules			Competitors will address the central question, "What should
regulations around					people's role be in maintaining healthy relationships
predator					between caribou and other wildlife?"
management					
D.2.3 Engage		Summary of		Тор	WMAC (NWT) is updating the ISR Grizzly Bear Management
community		input / guidance			Plan. Two rounds of community input have been completed,
organizations		from			and the final draft is being reviewed internally.
regarding potential		communities			
options for					GRRB and communities are updating the Grizzly Bear
predator					management plan for the Gwich'in Settlement Area. This
management					

				work began in 2020 and we hope to complete it in early 2022. SRRB: Public Listening Session (hearing) focused on predators will occur in 2022.
D.2.4 ACCWM provides advice to member boards regarding options for predator management. If justified, member boards recommend predator management tools to appropriate authorities	ACCWM	Advice provided to member boards	Тор	WRRB and SRRB have provided information to the member boards.

E. Harvest Management

E-1. Resident, outfitter or commercial harvest remain closed¹¹ Objective – limit licensed harvest to assist in herd recovery

Performance Deliverable **Priority** Status Task **Partners** level Measure date E.1.1 Based on Member boards Recommendatio Done results of ns provided discussions concerning a Total Allowable Harvest

¹¹ The process differs in Nunavut, where the Land Claim Agreement (1993) specifies that an Inuk "shall have the right to dispose freely to any person any wildlife lawfully harvested. This includes the right to sell, barter, exchange and give either inside or outside the Nunavut Settlement Area" (5.7.30).

(TAH) and harvest					
ratios, member					
boards make and					
communicate					
recommendations					
to appropriate					
authorities					
E – 2. Review of mar	ndatory limit for sul	bsistence harvest fo	or further redu	uction ¹²	
Objective – limit sub	sistence harvest to	assist in herd recov	very		
Task	Partners	Performance	Deliverable	Priority	Status
		Measure	date	level	
E.2.A.1 Compile	Member boards	Summary			Done
historical and	and	documents			
current harvest	government				
information by	partners				
region					
E.2.A.2 Review	Member boards	Summary of			SRRB: The Sahtú Harvest Study was validated by the five
information from	and regional	input / guidance			?ehdzo Got'įnę (Renewable Resources Councils); community
preceding step	partners	from			reports on the data and validation results were prepared;
with community		communities			the final report on the SHS was presented at the 2020 Public
organizations and					Listening Session (hearing) on Sahtú Ragóza (Hunting Law)
advise regarding					and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting.
regional processes					
(e.g., public					
hearings)					
E.2.A.3 Meetings	Member boards	Provide			
to discuss and	and other	percentages for			
propose regional	traditional users	inclusion in			

Action Plan

¹² As strict conservations measures are needed areas with land claim agreements establish a Total Allowable Harvest (TAH). As circumstances require each ACCWM member (with the exception of the TNNPMB) will set the TAH for their region. When a herd is shared over land claim areas and/or areas without settled land claim agreements proportional allocations are set as to determine how the user groups will share the TAH.

proportional				
allocations ¹³				
E.2.B.1 Based on	ACCWM	Proposed TAH	Every year,	
information		and definition	following	
presented at		of majority bull	annual	
annual status		harvest	status	
meeting, ACCWM			meeting	
proposes a herd				
TAH and sex ratio				
to member				
boards.				
E.2.B.2 ACCWM	ACCWM	Proposed TAH		Ongoing. In the ISR, every change to harvest bylaws follows
advises member		provided to		the Memorandum of Understanding for consultation with
boards regarding		member boards		communities, HTCs, and the Inuvialuit Game Council.
the proposed herd				
TAH, based on				
E.2.B.1				
E.2.B.3 Each	Member boards	Summary of		SRRB: Decisions resulting from the 2020 Public Listening
member board		input / guidance		Session on Sahtú Ragó>a (Hunting Law) and Approaches to
consults with		from		Wildlife Harvesting are under judicial review. Colville Lake's
communities on		communities		Dehlá Got'ุเทeุ ?อdə Plan and Ts'ุเduweh ?อdə ?eวá (Ancient
regional TAH as		and related		Hunting Law) have been approved by the Behdzi Ahda First
required by their		revisions		Nation., and highlights the community's harvest regulation
respective land				system.
claim agreements				
(including public				
hearings as				
required by				
respective land				
claim agreements)				

¹³ The processes for determining Total Allowable Harvests and regional allocations are described in Appendix F.

E.2.B.4 Boards		Recommendatio			4% TAH based on most recent population estimate was
recommend TAH		ns provided			recommended by the WMAC(NWT) and GRRB.
to Minister					
					SRRB recommended the removal of 4% TAH once
					community conservation plan is approved. GNWT set aside
					and replaced this recommendation. In addition to
					community conservation plan, the TAH will remain in place;
					general working of the community conservation plan and
					TAH is under judicial review.
E – 3. Prioritize the o	collection of harves	t information (see F	– 1. Develop	harvest mo	nitoring program)
Objective – record a	ccurate harvest info	ormation	,	,	
Task	Partners	Performance	Deliverable	Priority	Status
		Measure	date	level	
E.3.1 Assess status	ACCWM WG	Review reports		Тор	Part of annual community tour (WMAC (NWT))
of harvest	and regional	from existing			
reporting	partners	programs			SRRB: Pending approval of community conservation plans,
programs (see F –					which include harvest monitoring components.
Monitoring) and					
identify any					
roadblocks /					
challenges to					
success					
E.3.2 Adjust	Communication	Revised		Тор	
educational	and Education	materials, as			
programming or	WG	needed			
communication					
plan if required					
(see A - Education)			<u> </u>		
	narvest of alternate	species and meat r	eplacement pr	rograms, ar	nd encourage increased sharing, trade and barter of traditional
foods	.,		.,		
Objective – explore	1	·			Ta.
Task	Partners	Performance	Deliverable	Priority	Status
		Measure	date	level	

E.4.1 Develop list of regionally appropriate alternate species for harvest and options for meat replacement programs, based on best available information.	Member boards	List of alternate species and meat replacement options	Ongoing work as part of community-based planning programs. Alternate harvests are being promoted regionally. In Nunavut there is a program to subsidize harvesting in Muskox, in the Sahtú alternate species are promoted for harvesting the GRRB is discussing options for commercial harvests. SRRB: the Sahtú Harvest Study includes 84 species, and was used as the basis for developing a Sahtú harvest calendar.
			Community conservation plans include alternative harvest as a component.
E.4.2 Collaborate with partners to recommend the development and funding of harvest or sharing programs (may include trade and barter, community hunts or freezers, etc.)	Member boards	Recommendatio ns provided	SRRB: Funding has been secured for a multi-year Dene Béré (Country Foods) Campaign that will support development of country food security plans.
existing Communication Plan and educational materials to better promote use of alternate species and meat replacement	Education and Communication Working Group	Draft communication plan and education materials	

programs (see A –			
Education and			
Appendix C)			

E-5. Recommend increased enforcement including community monitors (see footnote clarifying monitoring and enforcement responsibilities at C-4).

Objective – maximize approaches and tools to ensure compliance of regulations

Task	Partners	Performance	Deliverable	Priority	Status
		Measure	date	level	
E.5.1 Engage	Member boards	Summary of	Ongoing	Тор	Ongoing.
community		input / guidance			
organizations and					Community tour.
enforcement					
officers regarding					SRRB: Enforcement is a feature of community plans.
enforcement/moni					
toring approaches					
and whether they					
are adequate.					
E.5.2 Member	Member boards	Recommendatio	Ongoing	Тор	
boards provide		ns provided			
recommendations					
to government					
based on ACCWM					
advice					
E.5.3 Engage	ACCWM	Funding plan,	Ongoing	Тор	Various community monitoring programs active in the
partners to assist		training			regions (JS-CBMP, Imaryuk, Munaqsiyit)
in training and		program			
implementing					
community					
monitoring					
programs					

F. Monitoring

F – 1. Develop a comprehensive harvest reporting program

Objective – develop or adapt existing harvest reporting programs to collect and provide standardized harvest data from all regions

Task	Partners	Performance	Deliverable	Priority	Status
		Measure	date	level	
F.1.1 Compile and	ACCWM WG	Summary report	2017/18	Тор	Ongoing.
review information			2018/19		
on existing harvest					
reporting					
programs and					
develop minimum					
standards					
F.1.2 Engage		Summary		Тор	Ongoing.
community		report	2018/19		
organizations					
regarding					
appropriate					
programs for					
harvest data					
collection					
F.1.3. Adapt		Finalized	2018/19	Тор	
harvest reporting		harvest			
programs based on		reporting			
information from		program			
F.1.1 and F.1.2. to					
standardize					
harvest data					
F.1.4 Implement	Member boards	Collections	2018/19	Тор	ISR/GSA harvest reported through tag program; SSA harvest
harvest data	and	initiated			reporting plan being developed.
collection program					

ners Bilet detabase			
Dilat databasa			
Dilat databasa			
Pilot database	2018/19	Тор	
program			
developed			
WM WG Annual	2018/19	Тор	Ongoing. Presented at ASM.
summary table			
	developed VM WG Annual summary table	developed VM WG Annual 2018/19 summary table	developed 2018/19 Top

F – 2. Develop and initiate community-based monitoring (CBM) programs (including observational and experiential data)

Objective – develop or adapt existing community-based monitoring programs to collect data in a format that can be used for decision-making

Task	Partners	Performance	Deliverable	Priority	Status
		Measure	date	level	
F.2.1 Compile and	ACCWM WG	Summary report			
review information					
on existing					
community-based					
monitoring					
programs					
F.2.2 Compile	ACCWM WG	Draft 'state of			
existing traditional	with regional	traditional			
knowledge	partners	knowledge'			
documentation		report(s)			
and identify any					
new					
documentation /					
work required as					
basis for a					
community-based					
monitoring					
program					

F.2.3 Engage	ACCWM WG	Summary of		
community		input /		
organizations		guidance from		
regarding		communities		
appropriate				
programs for				
community-based				
monitoring to				
collect herd status				
information (see				
Table 1 in <i>Taking</i>				
Care of Caribou)				
F.2.4 Adapt and /		Finalized CBM		Inuvialuit CBMP is running with Imaryuk and Munaqsiyit
or develop CBM		program		monitors.
program(s) based				
on information				
from F.2.1-3				
F.2.5 Recommend	Member boards	Recommendatio		
appropriate CBM		ns provided		
programs including				
traditional				
knowledge studies				
F.2.6 Establish	Member boards	Signed data-		
data-sharing	and regional	sharing		
arrangements and	partners	agreements		
/ or information-				
sharing protocols				
F.2.7 Adapt and /	ACCWM WG	Database		
or develop		program		
database		developed		
F.2.8 Gather,	Regional	Summary report	Annual	
compile and	partners		ACCWM	
present results to			meeting	
ACCWM				

Task	Partners	Performance Measure	Deliverable date	Priority level	Status
F.3.1 Compile and	ACCWM WG	Summary report	uate	Тор	
review information				100	
on existing					
scientific					
monitoring					
programs					
F.3.2 Engage	ACCWM WG	Summary of		Тор	Priorities collected on annual community tour
community		input / guidance			
organizations		from			
regarding		communities			
appropriate					
programs for					
scientific					
monitoring to					
collect herd status					
information (see					
also F.2.3) and					
appropriate ways					
to collaborate					
F.3.3 Research and	ACCWM to	Decide on		Тор	
develop	determine	mechanism for			
mechanism for	responsible	collaboration			
collaboration	parties				
between regions,					
compiling					
information and					
reporting on					
research programs					

F.3.4 Construct	ACCWM WG	Annual report /	Annual	Тор	
scientific		work plan	status		
monitoring			meeting		
schedule based on					
engagement and					
Table 1 in <i>Taking</i>					
Care of Caribou					
F.3.5 Support	Member boards	Approval by	Annual	Тор	ACCWM developed a discussion paper on alternatives to
appropriate		member boards	status		collaring caribou.
scientific			meeting		
monitoring studies					
F.3.6 Establish	Government	Information		Тор	Completed - The ACCWM corresponded with GNWT about
information	partners	shared			sharing of preliminary population numbers in 2019.
sharing protocols		according to			Commitment made by GNWT to provide survey results as
		protocol			soon as possible.
F.3.7 Gather,	Government	Status of all	Annual	Тор	Government partners presented information gathered at
compile, and	partners	monitoring	status		2021 ASM.
present results to		criteria	meeting		
ACCWM		communicated			
		to the ACCWM			

Acronyms used in this Plan

ACCWM (WG) Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (Working Group)

CBMP Community Based Monitoring Program

CI Confidence Interval

DoE Department of Environment, Government of Nunavut
ENR Department of Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT

GN Government of Nunavut

GNWT Government of the Northwest Territories
GRRB Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
HTC Hunters and Trappers Committee
HTO Hunters and Trappers Organization

ISR Inuvialuit Settlement Region

NWMB Nunavut Wildlife Management Board

NWT Northwest Territories PCA Parks Canada Agency

RRC Renewable Resources Council

SE Standard Error

TAH Total Allowable Harvest TG Tłįchǫ Government

TNNPMB Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board

TOR Terms of Reference

WEMP Wildlife Effects Monitoring Plan

WMAC (NWT) Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories)

WWHPP Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Protection Plans

Appendix A: List of ACCWM Working Group members

The ACCWM formed a working group to draft the Action Plans that accompany the *Taking Care* of *Caribou* Management Plan. The Working Group included representatives of the following organizations:

- ?ehdzo Got'jne Gots'é Nákedi (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
- Dehcho First Nations¹⁴
- Department of the Environment, Government of Nunavut
- Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), GNWT
- Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
- Inuvialuit Game Council
- Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board
- Kugluktuk Hunters and Trappers Organization (Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association)
- Nunavut Wildlife Management Board
- Parks Canada Agency
- Tłįcho Government
- Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board
- Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board
- Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT).

¹⁴ The Dehcho First Nations organization is part of the Working Group, but has had very limited involvement. There is an outstanding invitation for them to join the ACCWM.

Appendix B: Summary table of management actions presented in *Taking Care of Caribou*

Management Actions Based on Herd Status/Colour Zone									
Management Action	The population level is intermediate and increasing	The population level is high	The population level is intermediate and decreasing	The population level is low					
Education	Recommend education programs for all status levels. Ideas for educational themes include: • Promoting total use of harvested caribou, and proper butchering and storage methods; • Limiting wounding loss; • Letting the leaders pass; • Promoting community hunts with experienced hunters; • Use of alternate species; and • Increased sharing of traditional foods.								
Habitat	 Identify and recommend protection for key habitat areas; Review results of monitoring, including cumulative effects, to ensure enough habitat is available and caribou are able to move between areas of good habitat; Recommend important habitat as a 'value at risk' for forest fire management. 								
Land use activities	 Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; Provide advice on mitigation of industrial impacts to proponents and regulators. 	 Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; Provide advice on mitigation of the impacts of exploration and development activities to proponents and regulators. 	 Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; Provide advice on mitigation of industrial impacts to proponents and regulators; Provide active and accessible communication and recommend education programs for all including proponents and airlines; Recommend increased enforcement of land use regulations, including community monitors. 	 Work directly with proponents and regulators of exploration and development activities to advise on mitigation measures; Review results of cumulative effects monitoring programs; Provide active and accessible communication and recommend education programs for all including proponents and airlines; Recommend increased enforcement of land use regulations, including community monitors. 					

	Management Actions Based on Herd Status/Colour Zone							
Management Action	The population level is intermediate and increasing	The population level is high	The population level is intermediate and decreasing	The population level is low				
Predators	Continue research programs to monitor predator condition (e.g., carcass collection and community monitoring programs).	Continue research programs to monitor predator condition (e.g., carcass collection and community monitoring programs).	 Review results of research programs that monitor predator abundance and predation rates; Consider recommending options for predator management. 	 Review results of research programs that monitor predator abundance and predation rates; Consider recommending options for predator management. 				
Harvest	Recommend easing limits on subsistence and then resident harvests; Consider recommending outfitter and commercial harvests at discretion of the ACCWM.	 Support harvest by beneficiaries of a Land Claim and members of an Aboriginal people, with rights to harvest wildlife in the Region; Recommend that if subsistence needs are met resident harvest should be permitted (with limits); Potentially recommend resident (non-beneficiary), non-resident, sport hunts, and/or commercial harvests. 	 Recommend a mandatory limit on subsistence harvest based on a TAH accepted by the ACCWM; Prioritize the collection of harvest information; Recommend no resident, outfitter or commercial harvest; Recommend a majority-bulls harvest, emphasizing younger and smaller bulls and not the large breeders and leaders; Recommend harvest of alternate species and encourage increased sharing, trade and barter of traditional foods, such as the use of community freezers; Recommend increased enforcement including community monitors. 	 Recommend harvest of alternate species and meat replacement programs, and encourage increased sharing, trade and barter of traditional foods; Prioritize the collection of harvest information; Review of mandatory limit for subsistence harvest for further reduction; Recommend increased enforcement including community monitors; Resident, commercial, or outfitter harvest remain closed. 				