

**YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT BOARD**



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December 19, 2019

Honorable Minister Pauline Frost
Minister of Environment
Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6

Dear Minister Frost,

Re: Fortymile Caribou Adaptive Harvest Provision Support

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board met on December 11th, 2019 to discuss the history of Fortymile caribou management, the Fortymile Caribou Harvest Management Plan, and the implementation of the Adaptive Management proposal “enabling” provisions, which were advanced by the Yukon Government in the spring of 2014. The implementation of this adaptive provision is supported in legislation, as the Board recommended the acceptance the adaptive managements enabling provision during the 2013-2014 Yukon *Wildlife Act* regulation change cycle.

The Board is currently supportive of implementing a licensed harvest of Fortymile caribou, using the adaptive provisions available in the Yukon *Wildlife Act* regulations to enable a winter hunt. This hunt will take place on parts of the non-overlapping Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Traditional Territory. We make these recommendations in recognition of the considerable work that has been undertaken by the technical staff of both Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in First Nation, and Yukon Government, in the drafting of Yukon’s new Fortymile Caribou Harvest Management Plan.

In our deliberations, subsequently leading to our support of this approach, we considered the input and concerns of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in First Nation Government – as well as the support of the Dawson District Renewable Resources Council. The Board also considered the many biological and social indices that have governed our approaches to managing this recovering herd.

We feel our recommendation provides a strong balance of opportunity for both subsistence harvest needs, and a carefully managed licensed hunt. This will also allow us to work towards meeting the expectations of Alaska's rigorous Fortymile Harvest Management Plan.

The Board notes the design of the licensed harvest enables sharing between subsistence and licensed users, while managing for concerns regarding the potential impacts of licensed hunting activity in accessible caribou winter ranges.

Pursuant to our obligations and powers established in the Umbrella Final Agreement 16.7.11, the Board recommends that:

- 1.1 The Yukon Government open an annual winter hunt of the Fortymile Caribou Herd for licensed harvesters;
- 1.2 The winter season for the Fortymile Caribou hunt begin on January 1st and close March 31st annually, or on the date when Yukon Government believes the number of caribou available to licensed harvesters is fulfilled;
- 1.3 The hunt should take place in Game Management Subzones 2-19 to 2-21, 2-24, 3-01 to 3-04, 3-06, the portion of 3-07 not overlapping with other Traditional Territories, 3-10 and 3-12;
- 1.4 The Yukon Government will work with other partners to evaluate the success of the hunt at a minimum of once per year; and
- 1.5 The annual number of permits available for this hunt is set to a maximum of 225.

Thank you for your time in considering this submission. Please contact the Board's Executive Director, Graham Van Tighem, if you have any questions or require clarification (executivedirector@yfwmb.ca or 867-667-5335).

Sincerely,

John Burdek, Chair

Cc: Christine Cleghorn, Director, Fish and Wildlife Branch, Environment Yukon