

**YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT BOARD**



Box 31104, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 5P7
Phone: (867) 667-3754 Fax: (867) 393-6947 officemanager@yfwmb.ca

June 15, 2020

Honorable 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 June 10, 2020, and discussed the history of Fortymile caribou management, the Fortymile Caribou Harvest Management Plan, and the activation of the Adaptive Management proposal “enabling” provisions, which was advanced by the Yukon Government in the spring of 2014. The application of this adaptive provision is supported in legislation, as the Board recommended the acceptance of an adaptive management “enabling” provision during the 2013-2014 Yukon Wildlife Act regulation change cycle, after a lengthy public review.

The Board is supportive of implementing a licensed harvest of Fortymile caribou in the fall of 2020, using the adaptive provisions available in the Yukon Wildlife Act regulations to enable a fall hunt for the parts of the non-overlap Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Traditional Territory. A considerable body of work has been undertaken between the technical staff of Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in First Nation and Yukon Government in developing a draft Yukon harvest management plan; however, a few questions remain.

In our deliberations and subsequent support of this approach, we considered the input and concerns of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in First Nation Government, along with the support of the Dawson District Renewable Resources Council (letter received June 8, 2020). The Board also considered the many biological and social indices that have guided our approaches to managing this recovering herd.

Our recommendations provide a balance between opportunity for a limited *and carefully managed opportunity* for licensed hunters, while ensuring subsistence hunters can still meet their needs. This approach also ensures we are working towards meeting the expectations of the Fortymile Caribou Harvest Management Plan.

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

- 1.1 That the Yukon Government, while facilitating the fall licensed hunt for Fortymile caribou, place a condition on each permit, restricting the hunter to one bull caribou per license year;**
- 1.2 That a condition be applied to each permit issued, restricting Fortymile caribou hunters to harvesting “caribou only,” during their hunt. This condition would effectively prevent those holding caribou permits from harvesting a moose.**
- 1.3 In support of the Dawson District Renewable Resources Council, the Board also recommends the exclusion of the Ladue River Valley from the hunt, to protect moose and sheep from disturbance.**

Thank you for your time in considering this submission, and please contact the Board’s Executive Director Graham Van Tighem if you have any questions or require clarification, executivedirector@yfwmb.ca or by phone at (867)-667-5835.

Sincerely,

Carl Sidney, Chair
Cc: Ryan Hennings