



December 9, 2021

Memorandum

To: All *Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement* (PCMA) Stakeholders

From: Porcupine Caribou Management Board

Re Porcupine Caribou Annual Harvest Meeting 2022

As you are aware, the PCMB is responsible for convening our Annual Harvest Meeting (AHM) during the second week of February each year, as agreed to in the *Harvest Management Plan for the Porcupine Caribou Herd* (HMP).

The public portion of the 2022 AHM has been scheduled for February 8. Due to the necessary COVID-19 pandemic safety restrictions related to travel and public gatherings, this year's AHM again be a held via the Zoom video-conferencing platform. As usual, the public session will be followed by a closed meeting of the PCMA Parties and the PCMB, which will be held on February 9.

For your reference, the AHM Terms of Reference and Operating Procedures can be found on the PCMB website at: <https://pcmb.ca/pcmb-operations/annual-harvest-meeting-documents/>

The public meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 8. The Zoom meeting ID is **892 1855 6580** and the passcode is **926542**. This login information will be posted on social media and via pcmb.ca. The intent of this meeting will be for the Parties to share their respective community's information related to observations, activities, and data about the status of the herd. The most recent summary report provided by the Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee (PCTC) will also be presented and discussed. Attendees will be able to watch presentations and are welcome to ask questions and provide comments.

We recommend that anyone interested in participating ensure that their computer or device has Zoom installed and that it has a working microphone and camera. The Zoom feature "Raise Hand" can be used to alert the Zoom host that a participant would like to ask a question or make a comment. We will manage public participation by asking attendees to use this feature to make comments.

As noted above, the PCMB will meet with the Parties in a closed session to deliberate on the AHM information on February 9. After concluding the meeting with Parties, the PCMB will make its determinations in a closed PCMB meeting.

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The PCMB's recommendations with respect to the harvest management regime according to the colour zones outlined in the HMP will be forwarded to the Parties within 30 days of the meeting. The PCMB's recommendations will be distributed to the public after a further 15 days, to allow Parties time for review.

The PCMB is requesting any information that it should consider when assessing the status of the herd by **January 20, 2022**. This would include local and traditional knowledge from organizations or community members. A template to assist with developing submissions is available at <https://pcmb.ca/pcmb-operations/annual-harvest-meeting-documents/>.

Additional information related to submissions can be found in the Operating Procedures Appendix B. The 2020-21 PCH Annual Summary Report from the Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee will be posted on PCMB's website with the other 2022 Annual Harvest Meeting documents.

In addition to the above-noted information, also attached for your reference are the following:

- HMP IP Appendix 6: Summary Table of IP Tasks and Actions (updated at 2021 AHM)
- Milestones Calendar of Recurring Annual Activities (2021-22)

Please advise the PCMB by **January 31, 2022** who will be attending on behalf of your organization and if they will be making a presentation during the public session on February 8. In order to ensure the video-conference runs efficiently, the PCMB will require a digital copy of all presentations by February 7. We also recommend that the presenter, well in advance, test the computer or device that will be used to ensure that Zoom is installed and working properly.

Finally, please note that Appendix 3 of the Implementation Plan outlines the Annual Harvest Meeting Terms of Reference including the Meeting Format (page A3-2). No further agenda is provided for the Annual Harvest Meeting. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Director, Deana Lemke, at (867) 334-3400.

We were very pleased with the turnout and participation in last year's virtual AHM and we look forward to another successful meeting again this year.

Sincerely,



Joe Tetlich
Chair

Attach: IP Appendix 6: Summary Table of IP Tasks and Actions (updated at 2021 AHM)
Milestones Calendar of Recurring Annual Activities (2021-22)



2021-22 Milestones
under the Harvest Management Plan for the Porcupine Caribou Herd

Date	Activity	Who
9-10 February 2021	Annual Harvest Meeting held virtually via videoconference	PCMB convened with all Parties
8 March 2021	Harvest Management recommendations to Parties	PCMB
23 March 2021	Release Harvest Management recommendations publicly	PCMB
7 April 2021	Written response to PCMB recommendations within 30 days	All Parties
31 May 2021	Complete annual communications plan	PCMB and Parties
1 June 2021	Submit harvest data to PCMB	YG, GNWT
15 July 2021	Submit harvest data for 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2021	IGC, GTC, VGG, NND, TH
1 August 2021	Communications materials complete for distribution	PCMB
15 November 2021	Complete Annual Summary Report and submit to PCMB	PCTC
1 December 2021	Distribute Annual Summary Report and invitation to Annual Harvest Meeting	PCMB
20 January 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide comments on report, supplementary information, and evaluation of harvest management measures to PCMB • Respond to AHM invitation, stating who each Party will be sending to the Annual Harvest Meeting 	All Parties
8-9 February 2022	Annual Harvest Meeting to be held in Inuvik, Northwest Territories	All Parties

Summary Table of Implementation Plan Tasks and Actions
Reviewed and updated at 2021 Annual Harvest Meeting
 Based on February 2016 Revised IP

Activity	Lead	Participants	Timing	Status
1. Harvest Management Assessment				
Task 1.1 Report rigorous and verifiable harvest information for all hunters of Porcupine Caribou at all times of the year.				
1.1.2 Implement a jurisdiction-based harvest reporting/verification program in the communities of Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik, Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Tsigehtic, Old Crow, Mayo and Dawson City.	All Parties	JS, WMACs, GRRB, HTCs and RRCs	Annually by deadlines outlined in Appendix 1	IGC – CBM program suspended in 2020 and is currently being reviewed. Plan to implement a modified program in coming year; GTC – GRRB provided estimated harvest and had a good sample to estimate Gwich'in harvest from; TH – total harvest reported based on a voluntary survey approach and not an estimate. Have developed new harvest survey forms and will implement this coming year; NND – total harvest reported based on census technique. Some ongoing work is occurring on the census distribution; VG – minimum harvest reported based on engagement with community harvesters; GNWT – ongoing: reporting a year behind based on current method; however, undergoing a review, including exploring the possibility of moving toward mandatory reporting; YG – ongoing, mandatory reporting for licensed hunters; harvest data submitted.

	Activity	Lead	Participants	Timing	Status
1.1.3	Implement a harvest reporting/verification program through the use of check stations and field monitoring, as required.	YG, GNWT	Participation/ partnerships with individual Parties as agreed to by these Parties	Ongoing	YG – check station in 2019 on south Dempster; COSB had consistent coverage during fall-early winter hunt; check station and focused patrols in fall 2020 during similar period; GNWT – large number of sample kits handed out to the communities in 2019-20 and a large number of samples returned; Renewable Resource officers completing general patrols.
1.1.5	Develop a training module/program for harvest data entry into PCH harvest reporting database.	PCMB	YG, GNWT	Fall 2016	Support provided by GNWT/YG technical staff as requested by Parties/GRRB.
1.1.6	Ensure all Parties are trained and are using the current PCH harvest reporting database as required to facilitate the calculation of a total estimated harvest where appropriate.	All Parties	All Parties; GRRB	Fall 2016	Database not currently in use.
Task 1.2					
Conduct annual harvest data analysis					
1.2.1	Analyze the harvest information collected and submitted by the Parties annually	Chair PCTC	PCTC members	Completed by October 15 (Annual Summary Report)	Presentation done at 2021 meeting.

	Activity	Lead	Participants	Timing	Status
Task 1.3	Conduct annual population analysis				
1.3.1.1	Undertake further work to verify that the population model and predict population size and trends	PCTC	PCMB, PCTC	Winter 16-17	Work presented to PCMB prior to 2016 AHM on population back-casting of the model. Overall results presented to AHM. Model has been adjusted to enable it to be used as an additional tool to inform herd status when no photo-estimate is available. Population estimates provided in PCTC Annual Summary Report that provides five plausible scenarios with estimates current to June 1, 2020.
1.3.1.2	Present and communicate an updated population model to the co-management boards and then the communities	PCMB	YG, GNWT	Dependent on 1.3.1.1	Some presentations have been made to boards. PCMB to discuss communication around the updated model. Ongoing.
1.3.2	Provide herd population information annually to the GC-CWS, PCTC and PCMB to assist in the preparation of the Annual Summary Report	YG, GNWT, ADFG, USFWS	PCTC, PCMB	As completed	Ongoing – no concerns identified
1.3.3	Prepare and maintain a long-term database and provide annual summary of biological information to inform the Annual Summary Report and the population model	GC-CWS	PCTC	Updated by November 1 annually	Ongoing. Work within YG to research best options based on jurisdictional scans, request for information processes, and targeted discussions with biologists located elsewhere.

Task 1.4	Prepare Annual Summary Report					
1.4.2	Prepare an Annual Summary Report, including a population estimate, with the most current available biological information about the herd and the analysis of the total estimated harvest and submit to the PCMB	PCTC			No later than November 15	Report completed late to allow the new population estimates to be incorporated. Delay caused by late harvest data but primarily due to completion of new survival rates being estimated in collaboration with Alaskan biologists.
Task 1.5	Convene the Annual Harvest Meeting and conduct the harvest management assessment					
1.5.2	Distribute the Annual Summary Report to Parties; invite submission of additional information, supplementary to the report, and attendance at the Annual Harvest Meeting	PCMB	Parties register prior to January 20	Annually no later than December 1	Invitation sent on Jan. 7, 2021.	
1.5.3	In response to the Annual Summary Report, each Party will provide written comments and additional information	Parties	WMA/As, GRRB	By January 20 for distribution by PCMB prior to Annual Harvest Meeting	Some Parties responded regarding attendance. No further information was provided.	
1.5.4	Convene the Annual Harvest Meeting to discuss the Annual Summary Report.	PCMB	Parties	Annually 2 nd week of Feb.	Meeting held virtually on Feb 9-10, 2021; GTC not present during Parties meeting although GRRB was as observer.	
1.5.5	Collectively review the effectiveness of each Party's management actions as reported by each Party at the AHM	PCMB	Parties	Annually during the 2 nd week of Feb.	Done during AHM; PCMB sent out prior to AHM to be updated annually at AHM.	

1.5.6	Conduct the harvest management assessment to determine the harvest management (colour) zone and recommend harvest management actions to the Parties	PCMB	Parties, responsible co-management organizations, interested organizations and interested public	Annually 2 nd week Feb.; recommendations by the PCMB to follow within 30 days	Done during AHM, PCMB recommendations sent to Parties March 4, 2020.
1.5.7	Review harvest management recommendations from the PCMB and determine how to implement management actions within respective jurisdictions	All Parties	WMMAC (NS), WMMAC (NWT), GRRB	Written response to PCMB within 30 days	All Parties except IGC responded in a timely fashion to the recommendations after the 10 th AHM in 2020.

2. Harvest Management					
Task 2.1					
Develop and implement communication and education materials and programs					
2.1.4	Implement a youth/hunter education programs including sight-in-your-rifle programs, community-based programs, traditional knowledge-education campaign	GNWT/YG holds sight-in-your-rifle programs. All Parties develop and implement community-based programs and materials	GRRB, HTCs, RRCs	GNWT holds one SIYR per community and two on Dempster prior to March	GNWT - No SIYR events held in 2020 due to COVID-19 issues. YG held three HEED courses in Dawson and assisted in SIYR in Old Crow. TH continues to hold annual First Hunt camp on Dempster and held a fall harvest camp in September in the Fortymile area. Continued efforts are underway on education of citizens, elders, and students in Robert Service School. School on-the-land programs run in NWT- collaboration between RRCs/HTCs and GNWT, also trying to have officers included in school programs. NND holds a TK youth-on-the-land educational and cultural camps and is participating with the NTC in an annual May Gathering. There were some limitations in 2020 due to COVID-19. AHTC facilitates community hunts and provides hunter education to youths. GRRB education and community outreach was put on hold in 2020 due to COVID-19. VGG – hunter education camp held in September 2019.

2.1.5	Develop an annual communication work plan that addresses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • herd status • management actions • board activities • hunter education • multi-year, multi-zone considerations • key messaging focus for field monitoring 	PCMB	Parties	By May 31 of each year and implemented prior to August 1	Communications work done through PCMB. New website "Last Great Herd" (thelastgreatherd.com) developed in 2020 to facilitate information sharing on behalf of PCMA Parties respecting oil and gas development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Ongoing.
Task 2.2					
Develop harvest allocation measures					
2.2.1	Develop a range-wide Native User Access and Consent Agreement	IGC convenes the meetings as required for the participants	TH, NND, VGG, IGC, GTC	Subject to the agreement by participants	NUA completed in 2019 with signing ceremony held in Inuvik in August 2019.
2.2.2	Develop a Yukon First Nations Native User Agreement	VGG convenes the meetings as required for the participants	TH, NND, VGG	Completed by spring 2017	Completed together with 2.2.1.
2.2.3	Develop a Yukon First Nations/Yukon Government Agreement that addresses, at minimum, the allocation of Annual Allowable Harvest in the orange zone between licensed and native users	YG convenes the meetings as required for the participants	TH, NND, VGG, YG	On completion of Yukon First Nations Native User Agreement	YG will initiate discussions with YFNs in 2021. The PCMB will be kept apprised of discussions.
2.2.4	Develop a NWT Native User Agreement that addresses at minimum, the allocation of the NWT Native Annual Allowable Harvest in the orange zone	IGC, GTC convene bi-lateral meetings as required		Initiate in 2016	Completed together with 2.2.1.
2.2.5	Develop a NWT/Yukon/PCA administrative arrangement to recognize a range-wide Porcupine Caribou Herd tag	YG convenes discussions as required	GNWT, PCA	Upon completion of the Native User Agreement	YG will initiate discussions in 2021.

Task 2.3	Implement harvest management measures					
2.3.1	Develop and implement jurisdiction-based harvest management measures.	All Parties	JS, WMAcS, GRRB, HTCs, and RRCs	Fall 2010	Done as required in green zone; 2 male tags for licensed hunters in NWT. Yukon regulations now aligned so that licensed harvest bag limit coincides with the colour zone management actions as recommended by PCMB.	
3. Monitoring, Evaluation and Adaptive Management						
Task 3.1	Evaluate the population model and modify as required					
3.1.1	Review and evaluate the population model and indicators, including the quality and reliability of the information they use and relative confidence in the estimates they produce. Modify as required.	PCTC	PCMB, Parties, Expert Contractor	As required	COMPLETED Further steps for education on the model under activity 1.3.1.1 and .2.	
Task 3.2	Evaluate the quality and reliability of the harvest data and associated reporting program and methodology and modify as required					
3.2.2	Conduct an independent review and evaluation, with recommendations where required, on the methodology, and quality and reliability of the reported and estimated total harvest (including sex ratios) of Porcupine Caribou	PCMB	PCTC, PCMB, Parties	Completed and provided prior to 2021 Annual Harvest Meeting	Harvest data collection programs not ready for review yet. Timeline revised during 2016 review of IP. Revisit status of programs in 2022. (New lead: PCMB instead of GC-PCA)	
3.2.3	Based on the evaluation completed in Activity 3.2.2, formally review the effectiveness of harvest reporting methods and programs. Modify as required.	All Parties	PCMB, PCTC, WMAcS, GRRB, HTCs, RRCs	Periodically as agreed to by the Parties at the AHM	Dependent on 3.2.2	

Task 3.3	Review and evaluate the PCH Harvest Management Plan and Implementation Plan and modify as appropriate				
3.3.1	Evaluate the effectiveness and need for any revisions of the HMP and Implementation Plan	PCMB coordinates the evaluation. All Parties approve revisions that may be required	WMACs, GRRB	Review in 2021	Administrative review of IP completed in 2015-16. Parties will review HMP and IP and provide comments prior to the 2022 AHM with respect to undertaking a full HMP and IP review.