

<u>Dehcho Regional Wildlife Workshop</u> <u>October 19-20th, 2004</u>

Delegate Participants

Gordon Timbre - Acho Dene Koe Band, Fort Liard

Ernest Timbre – Acho Dene Koe Band, Fort Liard

Angus Sanguez – Jean Marie River First Nation

Boris Sanguez – Jean Marie River First Nation

James Tonka – Nahanni Butte Dene Band

Dennis Deneron – Sambaa K'e Dene Band, Trout Lake

Andrew Lomen – Sambaa K'e Dene Band, Trout Lake

Jonas Lafferty – Fort Simpson Métis Local

Marie Lafferty – Fort Simpson Métis Local

Edward Cholo – Liidlii Kue First Nation, Fort Simpson

Robert Hardisty – Liidlii Kue First Nation, Fort Simpson

Gabe Hardisty – Pehdzeh Ki First Nation, Wrigley

Albert Moses – Pehdzeh Ki First Nation, Wrigley

Peter Sabourin – Katlodeeche First Nation, Hay River Reserve

Robert Lamalice – Katlodeeche First Nation, Hay River Reserve

Karen Felker - West Point First Nation

William Michelle – West Point First Nation

Lloyd Chicot – Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation, Kakisa

George Simba – Ka'a'gee Tu First Nation, Kakisa

Melanie Thom – Deh Gah Gotie Dene Band, Fort Providence

RWED Participants

Nic Larter – Dehcho Regional Biologist, Fort Simpson

Danny Allaire – Dehcho Wildlife Technician, Fort Simpson

Deborah Johnson – South Slave Regional Biologist, Fort Smith

Robert Mulders – Carnivore/Fur Biologist, Yellowknife

Suzanne Carriere – Ecosystem Management Biologist, Yellowknife

Nahanni National Park Reserve Participants

Doug Tate – Conservation Biologist, Fort Simpson

Steve Catto – Parks Expansion Officer, Fort Simpson

Local Participants

Phoebe Allaire – Liidlii Kue First Nation
Jonas Antoine – Nahanni Expansion Working Group
Florence Brown – Liidlii Kue First Nation
Michael Cazon – Liidlii Kue First Nation
Peter Corneille – Liidlii Kue First Nation
Derek Neary – Fort Simpson
Bob Norwegian – Liidlii Kue First Nation
Leo Norwegian – Liidlii Kue First Nation
John Renaud – Liidlii Kue First Nation
Lee Thom – Dehcho First Nation
Frank Tsetso – Liidlii Kue First Nation

Interpreter: Joe Tambour, Hay River Sound provided by Mike Chemerys and MJC Sound Inc. Lunches and coffee breaks were catered by the Thomas Simpson School On 19-20 October, 2004, the Department of Resources, Wildlife & Economic Development (RWED), Dehcho Region held a Regional Wildlife Workshop at the Cultural Centre in Fort Simpson. This workshop occurred roughly two years after an inaugural Regional Wildlife Workshop, co-sponsored by Dehcho First Nations (DFN) and RWED, in September, 2002. The direction for wildlife research in the Dehcho and a list of 12 action items were the key results of the 2002 workshop. The goals of the 2004 workshop were to:

- 1) provide an update of the wildlife research that RWED had initiated and conducted in the Dehcho since the 2002 workshop,
- 2) provide an assessment of how well RWED had a ddressed the 12 action items,
- 3) provide a forum for other agencies and other RWED programs to present research findings,
- 4) provide an open forum for the discussion of regional wildlife issues, and
- 5) ensure a continued dialogue about research and monitoring programs between all Dehcho First Nations and RWED.

During Day 1, RWED made a presentation detailing how they had addressed each of the 12 action items from the 2002 workshop. This was followed by presentations on the major research programs being conducted by RWED and presentations from Parks Canada on research and the proposed park expansion. The walls of the Cultural Centre were covered with posters showing the results of wildlife research programs that had been initiated since 2002. The posters became focal points during coffee and lunch breaks and during round table discussion sessions. Day 2 started with an initial RWED presentation followed

by open round table discussions on a variety of wildlife research topics and issues and feedback from delegates on any and all wildlife-related topics. The workshop was extremely well attended, and RWED would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those First Nations whom sent delegates to the workshop. What follows is the final workshop agenda, the key discussion items and comments that came forth during the workshop, and some action items for RWED to pursue. The discussion items are not listed in any particular order.

Day 1 – 19 October, 2004

0920	Opening Prayer-Jonas Antoine
0925	Introductions
0935	Welcoming Comments-Paul Kraft, Regional Superintendent, RWED
0955	Review of 2002 workshop action items-Nic Larter
1030	Coffee Break
1050	Boreal Caribou Northwest Territories-wide-Deborah Johnson
1150	Lunch catered by TSS
1315	Species at Risk-Suzanne Carriere
1345	Dehcho Caribou Program-Nic Larter

- 1510 Dehcho Youth Ecology Camp-Danny Allaire
- 1525 Dehcho Bison Program-Nic Larter

1415 Dehcho Moose Program-Nic Larter

1450 Coffee Break

- 1545 Wildlife Research Nahanni National Park Reserve-Doug Tate
- 1615 Nahanni Park Expansion-Steve Catto
- 1645 Specific discussion topics handout and Closing Prayer-Jonas Antoine

Day 2 – 20 October, 2004

Opening Prayer-Gabe Hardisty
Monitoring Furbearer Populations in the NWT-Robert Mulders
Round table discussions on trapping and furbearer research
Coffee Break
Round table discussions on moose/caribou research
Lunch catered by TSS
Round table discussions of youth ecology camps
Round table discussions about collaring, capturing, and handling animals
Coffee Break
Round table discussion on r qtential action items/current and future workshop formats

1615 Workshop closing comments and Closing Prayer-Gabe Hardisty

<u>Day 1</u>

The presentation of how RWED had addressed the 12 action items resulting from the September 2002 workshop stimulated discussion on a few topics.

RWED in the schools

There were questions about whether RWED staff would be available to go to the schools to make presentation and participate in educational activities. There were questions about where to direct requests for RWED staff to participate in such schooling activities. Cultural camps have been established throughout the Dehcho by various groups in order to get youth back out on to the land and so that youth can experience being out on the land. Would RWED be willing to provide training and/or expertise at such cultural camps on a short-term basis? It was indicated that requests need to be made to local RWED offices and that RWED is more than willing to look at any of these kinds of requests and to participate wherever possible given staff commitments.

Bison

There was concern about the lack of a proper management plan being in place for the Nahanni Bison Herd. With the herd expanding in numbers and the area of their range increasing there was concern that it was encroaching on local moose populations and either causing moose numbers to decline or c ause moose to move further away from the river during summer. There was discussion on the need for a boundary, similar to those for the Mackenzie Herd, beyond which animals would be removed. It was indicated that RWED also agreed that there was a need for a more structured management plan and that community meetings would be necessary in order to properly address the issue. RWED also noted that there was a draft protocol for bi son-motor vehicle

collisions that had been used this fall with the 3 unfortunate collisions. The protocol includes biological sampling, meat salvage, and information on road conditions and vehicle descriptions.

There was also concern that since the fires in the 1990s bison would utilize more of the Horn Plateau, especially areas that had been caribou habitat prior to the fire and that this would displace caribou.

Big Game Outfitters

There was the belief that RWED's current methods of monitoring big game outfitter harvests were inadequate and that there needed to be either more active monitoring by R WED or the need for local monitors to accompany the outfitters and verify harvest. Local monitors could provide an opportunity for youth to learn from the experience of hunting in the mountains and they could make dry meat while in camp. It was indicated that RWED was unable to go out and make regular checks on all 8 outfitters at their camps during summer. RWED indicated that all animals harvested by the outfitters had to be reported and that the Dehcho office received all outfitter harvest forms and produced a detailed annual report of the non-resident harvest.

There was concern that sport hunting was removing all the seed animals and causing weakened populations. RWED indicated that historical harvest results and the additional horn measurements and voluntary observation information provided by the outfitters does not indicate weakened populations and that if trophy animals were not present clients would not be hunting.

There was the misconception that outfitters were rich and were only hunting for money. It was indicated that outfitters spread their harvest effort throughout their zones in order to maintain healthy harvestable populations, like trappers spreading their effort amongst different lines. There was the familiar comment about the lack of local guides being hired by outfitters. RWED indicated that it is well aware of this complaint and that they are also aware of instances where outfitters have been unable to find local guides or that guides have not been willing to work the whole season.

There was a feeling that there needed to be more "zonal management", that outfitter zones were too large and the areas needed to be split because smaller areas are easier to manage.

Day 2

Trapping and Furbearers

Many participants shared stories about trapping in the glory years before the advent of anti-fur campaigns. There was consensus around the table that the trapping industry had undergone some drastic changes over the past 10-15 years, and that these changes had been forced upon the industry by pressures from outside the Northwest Territories and outside Canada. These changes had made trapping as a way of life virtually impossible. The change from leghold to conibear traps, which are bigger, bulkier, and more difficult to set, was seen as a key adjustment that reduced the number of active trappers.

There was consensus that RWED should talk with and work with trappers in the communities to understand why trappers are not trapping and to come up with some basic cooperative research and monitoring programs that trappers could

participate in. The high costs related to trapping and the relatively low fur prices are creating hardships for trappers.

There was comment that if one was trapping nowadays for just the money it was not going to work because one can't make money trapping. However, if the reasons for trapping were not material but for a healthy, active lifestyle for trappers and their families and for a more spiritual existence with the land then trapping was still a very appealing lifestyle.

Delegates wanted RWED to continue promoting and supporting the trapping industry and providing trapper training course that looked at other humane methods of capturing wildlife.

There was reference that the financial assistance provided by RWED to local bands in support of hunters and trappers was not being disbursed by the bands to those trappers that really needed the assistance.

It was felt that RWED should strive to make a better connection with traditional harvesters who have established family camps on the land so that cooperative programs from monitoring animal tracks to culture camps could be established.

Moose

There was consensus around the table that conducting the baseline moose surveys in winter 2003-04 was important but there was a need for an ongoing moose monitoring program, which were good prog rams and need to be supported.

It was pointed out that there was no earlier population estimate on which RWED could compare their survey results and given the numbers that RWED had presented only local harvesters had the knowledge of population trend.

There was consensus from participants that the moose numbers RWED reported from their surveys in winter 2003-04 were lower than in previous years (especially the 1970's before the Liard Highway) and the only place in the Dehcho where moose numbers had remained relatively stable was around Blackwater and between Wrigley and Tulita.

There was concern that bison and the Liard Highway had caused the decline in moose numbers in the Liard Valley, where moose had been plentiful.

There was concern amongst the participants that the old traditional ways of harvesting animals (particularly moose) were being lost and that an abuse of treaty rights and lack of respect for the resource were responsible for decreased moose numbers. There was concern that local hunters were not harvesting only what they needed any more and that too many cows were being taken.

It was noted that every hunter has a unique respect for and thoughts about the animal they are hunting. Everyone has different thoughts.

There was consensus among participants that there needed to be more monitoring of the moose harvest and that this monitoring should be "self-management" initiated by the local bands so that they could monitor their membership. There was a need to demonstrate that such a program could be

community driven as everyone has a vested interest in maintaining healthy moose populations.

There was active discussion as to how best to initiate or conduct a "self-management" program with agreement that the time for local monitoring was now. Self-management should be something supported by but not regulated by RWED. There was discussion on local harvest studies being conducted in other regions as part of their land claims agreements.

There was comment that road enforcement would be an effective way to monitor moose harvest.

Boreal Caribou

Again a concern was raised about the lack of respect for hunting caribou and the abuse of hunting rights. Local rumors indicate the abuse and the possible need for local monitoring and enforcement.

There is a need to have community members monitor the carcasses of harvested animals for abnormalities. RWED indicated that now as in the past they would investigate any abnormalities that are discovered in harvested wildlife and encourage harvesters to contact them if abnormalities are discovered. RWED also indicated that they were trying to get a program going that would collect various biological samples from harvested caribou.

There was concern that boreal caribou numbers are declining.

There was general approval of the boreal caribou research program initiated by RWED, but there were many questions surrounding the handling of a nimals which was necessary in order to put radio collars on them. There was a lengthy discussion by RWED staff with experience handling caribou (and other wildlife) with net guns or darts on the advantages and disadvantages of netting versus drugging wildlife. They also discussed how to keep stress on wildlife to a minimum.

There was some concern that the locations of caribou being tracked by satellite collars could be acquired by outside parties who would misuse the information, or that other people would be able to track the caribou collared in the region. RWED indicated that other people would not be able to come up and track animals in the region because there would be no access to the radio frequencies the collars used. RWED agreed that there was the need to manage the timing and accessibility of raw caribou location information, and that they were working with Trout Lake specifically on how to share the information because it was useful to their Traditional Knowledge Study and for land use planning. RWED indicated that it takes time for the raw location data that is received from a satellite to be transformed into usable maps, and therefore all location information that could possibly be made public would have a time delay.

Youth Ecology Camp

There was much discussion and interest about the current summer youth ecology camp. There was consensus that the camps in 2002 and 2003 were a success but there were also discussion about changing the location of the camp, changing the timing of the camp, changing the format/curriculum of the camp. RWED indicated that the camps were jointly funded and run with DFN and that

because the first camps were to highlight activities including traditional and scientific knowledge and funding came on short notice there was a need for a base camp with adequate infrastructure and easy accessibility and so Trout Lake Base Camp was chosen.

RWED indicated that they had been discussing with DFN possible changes to the format of and location of these camps and, that any and all comments for the participants would be useful in assisting them in pursuing such changes. Other suggested locations for camps were Fisherman Lake, Sandy Creek, Fish Lake, Willow Lake, Blackstone, and Telemia Healing Camp.

It was suggested that by changing the timing of the camp from summer to spring, winter, or fall would permit a greater variety of traditional and scientific activities to expose youth to. There were discussions on how to balance between a really "roughing it" camp without any luxuries from town and a "not roughing it camp". It was agreed that would depend upon what the key focus of the camp was. There was suggestion that camps could run almost exclusively in Slavey, that camps run for longer than 1 week, that camps target different and specific age groups, and that more than one camp a year be conducted.

It was proposed that hosting camps should go out to tender. This would permit the utilization of traditional homesteads in the region and would provide the opportunity and encouragement for traditional families to fix up and improve traditional areas. Camps could be kept simple and authentic.

There was discussion about whether or not there was a the need for training for any and all staff that would be working with youth, and whether or not there should be rigorously structured programming and the need for staff orientation prior to the camps.

Miscellaneous Topics of Discussion

There was concern about the lack of an all encompassing wildlife management board in the Dehcho. Delegates suggested that there is a need for RWED to fund a Dehcho wildlife management board with membership of all First Nations. The need for this board is now since there is currently no land claim.

There was consensus that the regional wildlife workshops are a very good idea and that they need to be continued at least every two years. The timing of this workshop was good and should be kept for future workshops as it comes at a time when people are not out on the land as much as it is after fall hunting time.

There is a need to continue to involve youth and elders at these wildlife workshops. There were fewer elders participating at this workshop than the one in 2002, but it was good to see younger delegates attending.

There needs to be more common sense used by all involved in wildlife issues, especially appropriate harvesting and that common sense has to start at home with family.

There was concern that some currently issued land leases were encroaching on traditional community trapping areas.

There was a discussion lead by RWED to explain why certain biological samples need to be collected and what information they provided. Of particular

importance are the teeth which determine the age of animals, the kidney and liver which indicate the amount of and type of contaminants found in wildlife, the poop which tells us about diet and parasites, the bone marrow which gives us an idea of animal fatness, and small pieces of muscle which can be used in DNA analyses.

Action Items

- 1. RWED needs to ensure that the Final Report of this workshop is distributed to all First Nations in a timely basis.
- 2. RWED needs to ensure that these workshops become a biannual event and that participation by elders and youth of the region is actively supported and encouraged.
- 3. RWED needs to ensure that a bison management plan is developed for the Nahanni Bison Herd.
- 4. RWED needs to initiate discussions with trappers in the communities of the Dehcho, to stimulate cooperation in conducting basic research and monitoring programs.
- 5. RWED needs to discuss changes and modifications to the current youth ecology camp location, timing, and format with local communities and DFN and investigate other available options.
- 6. RWED needs to continue to promote and support community wildlife monitoring programs.
- 7. RWED needs to support any self-management programs related to wildlife harvest that may be initiated by local First Nations.

Appendices

The following appendices are copies (4 slides to a page) of the presentations made during the workshop in the order they were presented. Digital versions of these presentations are provided on the cd that is included with this final report. There is also a digital copy of the 2004 Youth Ecology Camp on the cd. This report was reviewed during the workshop.

- 1) Update on action items arising from the September 2002 Workshop
- 2) Boreal Caribou research in the NWT (excluding the Dehcho)
- 3) Overview of the Species at Risk Accord
- 4) Dehcho Boreal Caribou research program
- 5) Dehcho Moose research program
- 6) Nahanni Bison research program
- 7) Wildlife research in Nahanni National Park Reserve
- 8) Overview of the Nahanni Expansion Working Group and Park Expansion
- 9) Furbearer research in NWT



In September, 2002, The Department of Resources, Wildlife & Economic Development (RWED) and Dehcho First Nations (DFN) jointly hosted a Regional Wildlife Workshop in Fort Simpson.

The main purpose of the workshop was to discuss regional wildlife issues and to provide RWED with direction for wildlife research in the region. RWED had just initiated a Biological Program by staffing a Regional Biologist and Wildlife Technician.

At the end of the workshop 12 follow-up activities were recommended by the delegates in attendance.

What follows is a description of the activity and the action by RWED on each item.

Item #1

Ensure that the summary and hard copies of the presentations covered at the workshop are distributed to all Dehcho First Nations.

Action: Copies were forwarded to all First Nations by 1 November 2002 DEH CHO REGIONAL WILDLIFE WORKSHOP

CO-HOSTED BY

DEH CHO FIRST NATIONS

&

RESOURCES, WILDLIFE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

September 23-25, Fort Simpson

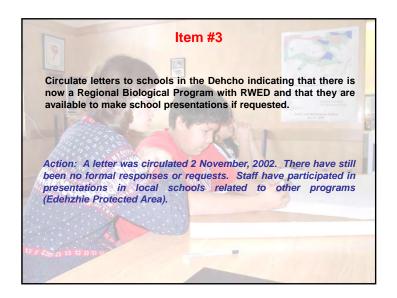




Item #2

Arrange meetings and discussions with those First Nations that were unable to send delegates to the Workshop (Trout Lake, Kakisa, Fort Liard). For Kakisa the Regional Biologists from the South Slave and the Dehcho should attend.

Action: Met with Trout Lake on 6 November, 2002. Met with Kakisa on 8 and 21 January, 2003, both regional biologists attended. Unable to schedule formal meetings with Fort Liard but had follow-up phone correspondence and informal meetings in conjunction with summer bison classification surveys. A formal meeting was conducted in July 2004.



Item #5

Identify ways that moose populations in the Dehcho could be monitored at regular intervals

Action: RWED conducted surveys of moose populations along the Mackenzie River Valley and along the Liard River Valley in winter 2003/04. The results of this baseline data have been presented to the communities and First Nations involved.

During summer 2004 community meetings RWED discussed potential monitoring programs. Based upon community support RWED produced a proposal to establish an annual monitoring program and submitted funding and research permit applications. RWED is waiting for the funding decision and currently has permit support from JMRFN, LKFN, PKFN and Ft. Simpson Métis.

Item #4

Explore options and develop a proposal for how a science camp/research station could be established in the Dehcho.

Action: RWED worked cooperatively with DFN since December 2002 on science camp issue. Proposals were accepted for 2003 and 2004 and we have run summer Youth Ecology Camps at the Trout Lake Fire Base both years. We hope to acquire necessary funding to make this an annual event.

There have been ongoing discussions with RWED, University of Alberta, and Parks Canada on the ability to promote the establishment of a research station in the Dehcho. No proposals have been developed yet.

Item #6

Identify ways that the Nahanni bison population could be monitored regularly.

Action: Dehcho RWED has provided staff and logistics to ensure that summer sex/age classification surveys of the Nahanni bison herd are conducted annually since 2002. RWED has provided survey results to Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte on a timely basis.

In cooperation with the Yukon Territorial Gov't, RWED conducted the first aerial population survey of the Nahanni bison herd in March 2004. The results were circulated and discussed at summer community meetings. Continued annual sex/age classification surveys have received community approval.

Item #7

Identify ways that the status of boreal caribou in the Dehcho could be clarified and he potential impacts of oil and gas exploration and development on boreal caribou could be studied in the Cameron Hills area and possibly other key areas in boreal caribou range in the Dehcho.

Action: As part of an NWTwide program for boreal caribou, collaring programs were initiated by RWED in the Kakisa and Trout Lake areas as well as areas in the Sahtu and Inuvik Regions. 10 females were outfitted with satellite collars in the Trout Lake area and 30 females were outfitted with conventional VHF collars. RWED is using these animals to monitor seasonal movements and distribution, calf production/survival, and adult survival.

Item #9

Identify ways that monitoring of the harvest in the Dehcho could be enhanced.

Action: Dehcho RWED monitors the annual non-resident harvest in the Mackenzie Mts and publishes a detailed annual report of the harvest. RWED-HQ is responsible for monitoring resident harvest based upon questionnaire returns.

Dehcho RWED has discussed the topic of improved monitoring of community harvest (beyond collecting biological samples from a few harvested animals) at local meetings. This is a topic that needs to be further explored. Other regions have wildlife harvest studies which document the numbers and types of country foods harvested by community residents.

Item #8

Identify ways that community based monitoring of wildlife health could be implemented in the Dehcho.

Action: RWED participated with Dehcho communities in the contaminant program headed by the Dene Nation. At community meetings RWED has proposed the collection of various biological samples from harvested wildlife to monitor wildlife health. RWED has proposed a moose monitoring program for this year which would monitor moose health. RWED would like to establish a program of biological sampling from harvested boreal caribou.

RWED has encouraged harvesters to report harvested wildlife that does not appear normal. When samples have been received diagnoses has been made by RWED staff or from the appropriate wildlife laboratory.

Item #10

Identify appropriate indicators for monitoring and assessing environmental and landscape change (including those resulting from climate change) that could be established in the Dehcho.

Action: RWED-HQ has established sophisticated air quality monitoring stations in Ft. Liard, Norman Wells, and Inuvik.

Dehcho RWED continues to be part of the NWTwide hare and small mammal monitoring program which is over 10 years old. We continue annual monitoring of the Nahanni bison herd and to collect annual non-resident harvest data including measuring horns of harvested Dall's sheep to assess long term growth patterns.

This item still requires discussion; the more information we can collect over the long term the better.

Item #11

Identify studies that are needed to support protected areas initiatives in the Dehcho.

RWED identified the need to test and refine the caribou occupancy model of 2002 because it could be an important component for protecting areas for boreal caribou.

RWED conducted a wildlife survey over much of the proposed Edehzhie Protected Area in 2003 and provided the results to the Working Group to be used in assessment of the PA.

RWED surveyed areas Trout Lake felt were important in relation to protecting boreal caribou. RWED deployed satellite radio collars on boreal caribou to monitor seasonal caribou movements, determine important areas of use, and to provide additional data to refine the caribou occupancy model.

Programs/Projects Dehcho RWED Undertook/Participated in Since 2002

Problem Bear Disease/Parasites Diseased/Parasitized/Injured Wildlife Sampling Wolf Carcass/Stomach Collection **Small Mammal Trapping** Hare Turd Counts Tourist and Staff Wildlife Observation Edehzhie and area Wildlife Survey Boreal Caribou Survey/Satellite Collar Deployment **Boreal Caribou Occupancy Model Refinement** Nahanni Bison Sex/Age Classification Survey Nahanni Bison Population Survey Youth Summer Ecology Camp Moose Population Survey - Mackenzie River Valley Moose Population Survey - Liard River Valley Dall's Sheep Survey Nahanni/Liard Ranges Dall's Sheep Horn Growth Non-Resident Hunter Harvest Monitoring/Sampling Mountain Goat Survey Flat River Monitoring EnCana Gravity Survey Participated in Dene Nation Contaminant Study Participated in University of Alberta Mink Study Proposed Moose Population Monitoring

Proposed Boreal Caribou Harvest Sampling

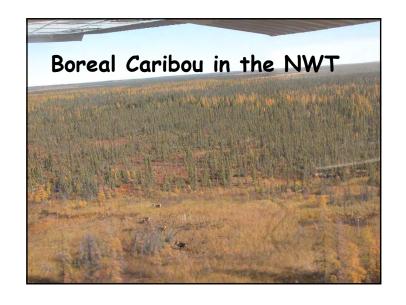
Item #12

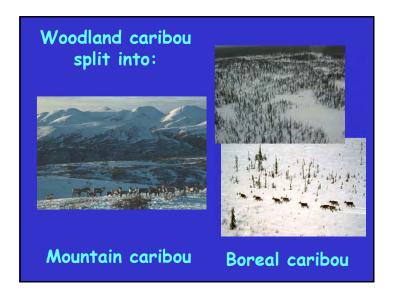
Maintain contact and dialogue with all Dehcho First Nations to ensure that all research and monitoring programs are developed and implemented together.

Action: Dehcho RWED has attempted to maintain continued dialogue with all of the Dehcho First Nations (resident within the political boundaries) by having community meetings at least annually and by phone/written/electronic communication.

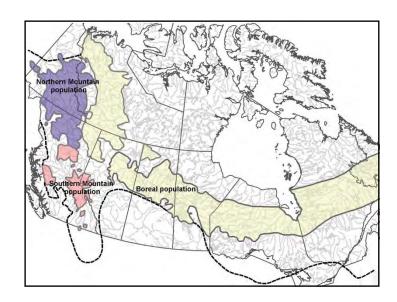
All Dehcho RWED research/monitoring programs have been developed and implemented with local First Nations and have received signed approval from those First Nations involved as per RWED Wildlife Research Permitting protocol.

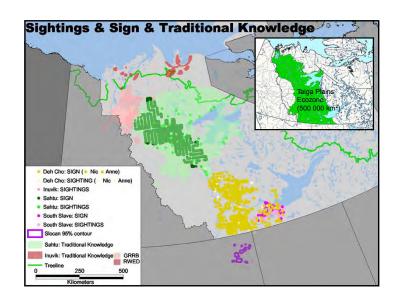
This meeting is to maintain dialogue and ensure that all Dehcho First Nations have this opportunity first hand.

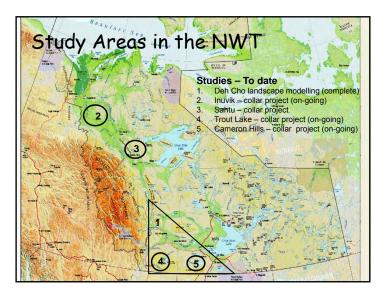






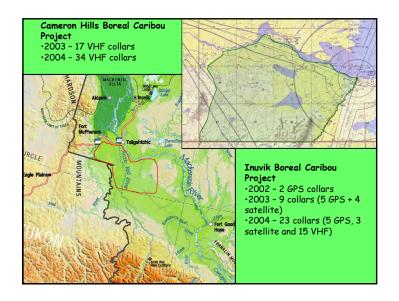






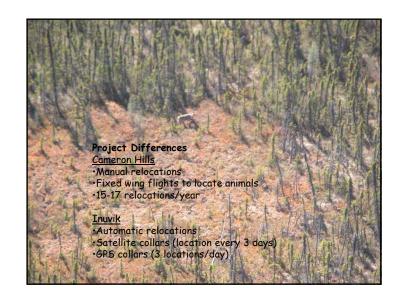


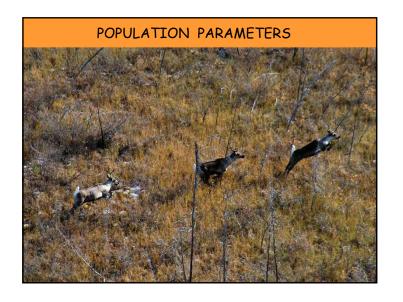




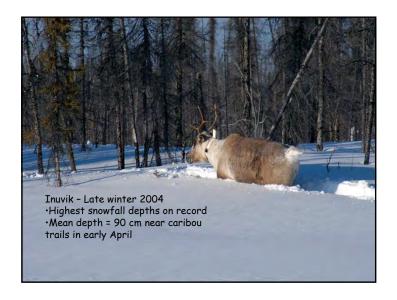


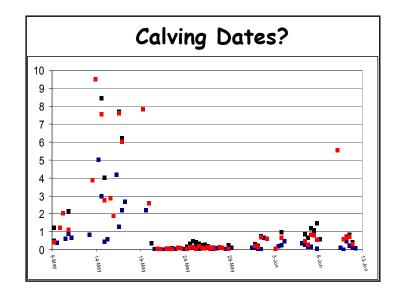












Calf Survival	Year	Inuvik	Cameron Hills
Summer (calving – Sep)	2003	~62.5 %	~54 %
10 month (end of winter)	2003- 04	~37.5 %	0.1717 ± 0.0293 SE (n=33 groups classified) 17 calves per 100 cows
Calving (calving - 15 June)	2004	No data	~74 %
Summer (15 June - Sep)	2004	~37.5 - 42 %	~30 - 33%

TIME PERIOD	Inuvik	Cameron Hills
1 April 2003 – 31 March 2004	100% (n=9 collared cows)	76.47% 95 % CI = 57.7-95.29 (n=17 collared cows) 4 mortality events
1 April 2004 - 31 August 2004	86.36% 95 % CI = 72.0-100% (n=22 collared cows) 3 mortality events	91.18% 95 % CI = 81.6-100% (n=34 collared cows) 3 mortality events



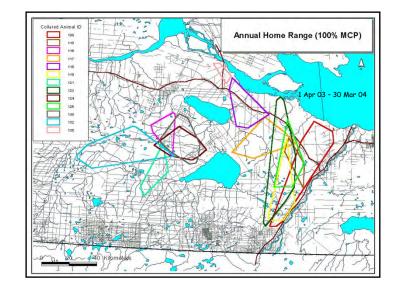


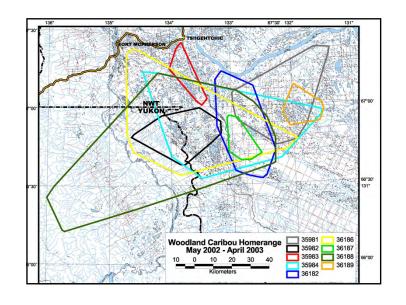
Rate of Increase (Mar 03 - 04) Cameron Hills

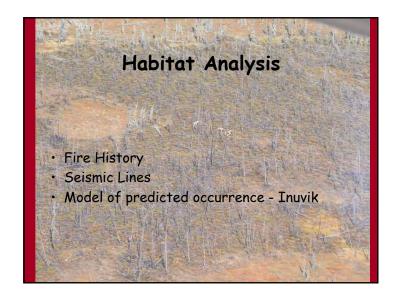
- Evaluation of population growth based on annual survival of adult cows to the survival of calves
- \cdot r = 84.7% (95% CI = 61.2-1.07%)
- Estimate highly variable due to small sample size
- Need large number of collared animals to estimate population trend

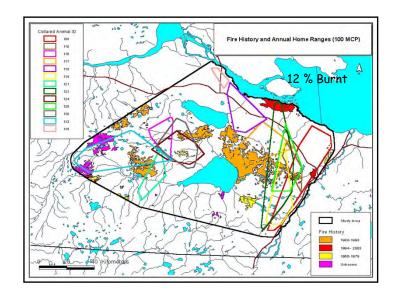
	TYPICAL	. GROUP	SIZE	
Month	TGS Cameron	T <i>GS</i> Inuvik	Range Cameron	Range Inuvik
March	8.2	11.9	1 - 15	2 - 26
April		11.3		1 - 25
May	2.4	3.6	1 - 4	1 - 8
June	1.7	1.8	1 - 2	1 - 2
July/August	1.7	1.5/2.2	1 - 2	1 - 3
September	5.0	9.4	1 - 11	1 - 26
October		12.7		1 - 20
November	8.4	6.8	2 - 12	2 - 10
December	7.6		2 - 11	
January	5.4		2 - 8	
February	8.8		1 - 14	

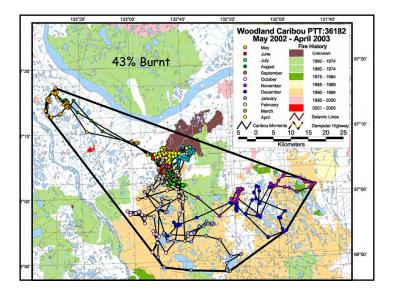
	100% MCP Cameron Hills	100% MCP Inuvik
Mean (km²)	619	3346 2571
Range (km²)	75 - 1235	481 - 10 326 481 - 6021

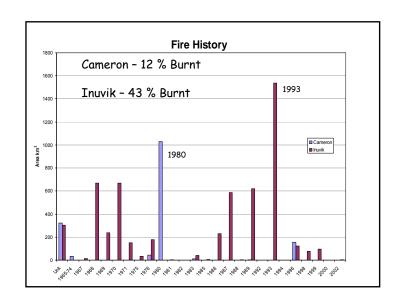


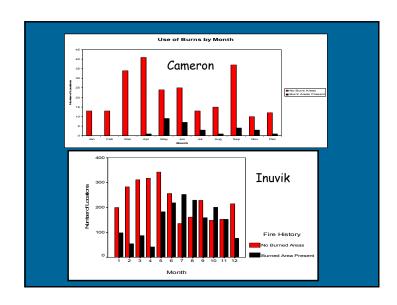


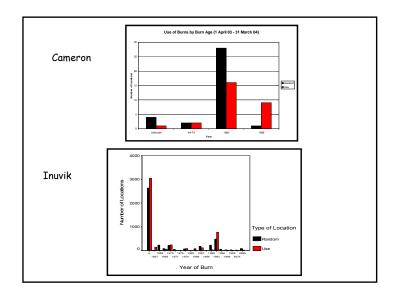




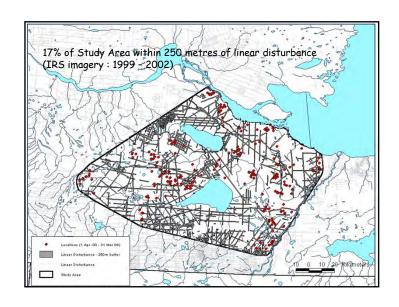


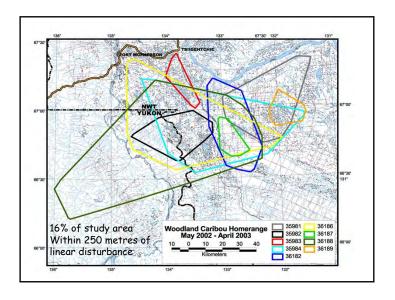


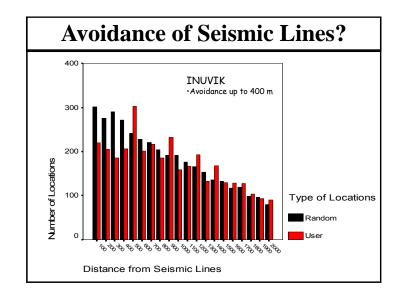














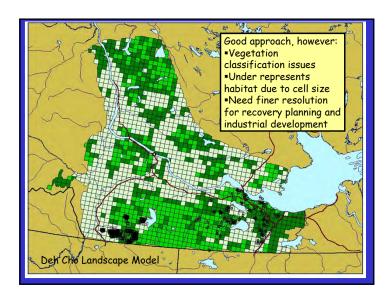
Inuvik

- In progress
- · RWED (John Nagy)
- · Regional approach
- · Late winter occupancy
- · 1 km grid
- Vegetation and seismic lines predictors of occurrence

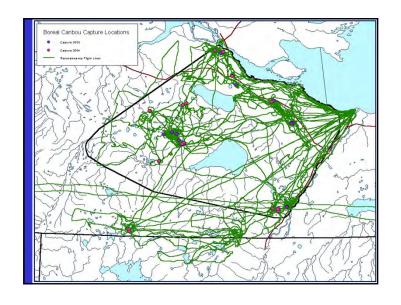
Deh Cho

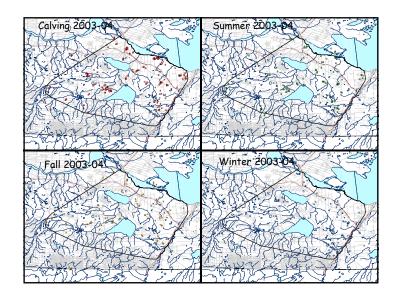
- · Completed
- · RWED (Anne Gunn) and DCFN
- · Landscape approach
- · Late winter occupancy
- · 10 km grid
- Vegetation main predictor of occurrence (black spruce-lichen)

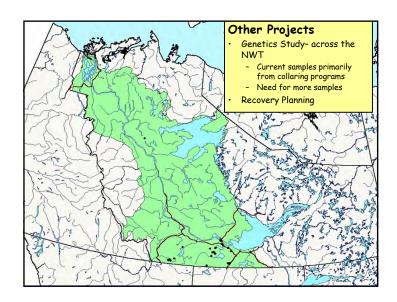
Link to Inuvik Habitat Model:





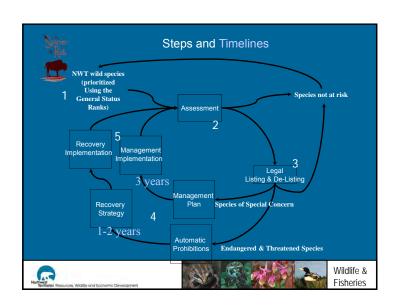


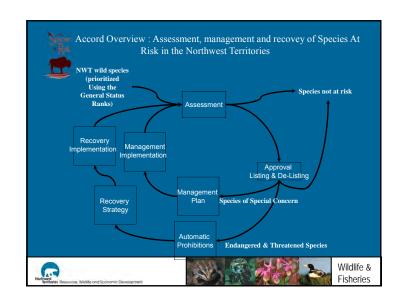


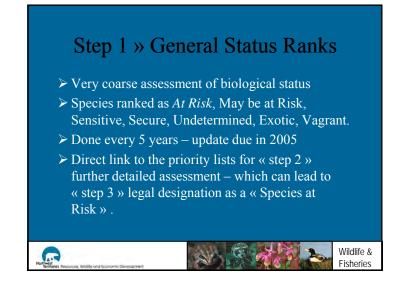




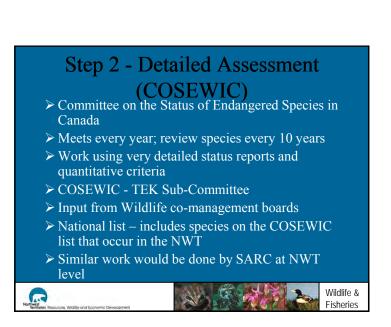


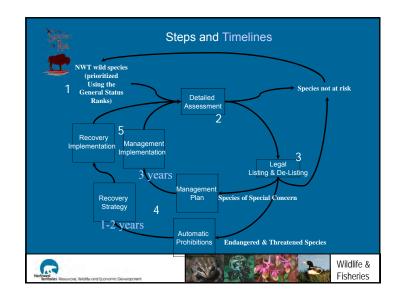


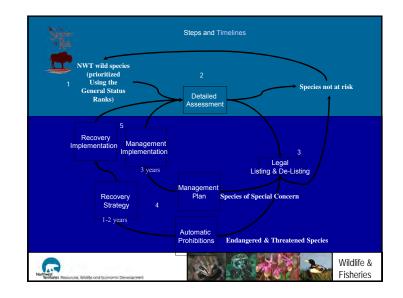












Fisheries

Step 3, 4, 5 – Legislated activities

- ➤ Species at Risk Act
- > Proposed NWT Species at Risk Act
- ➤ Legal lists are modified after consultation
- ➤ Results in prohibitions for some species in some areas, and in scheduled tasks:
 - ➤ Endangered Recovery strategy within 1 year
 - ➤ Threatened Recovery strategy within 2 years
 - ➤ Special Concern Management Plan within 3 years
- ➤ NWT Species on COSEWIC list and on SARA legal list given as hand-out





Wildlife & Fisheries

Cho
Legal list
June 2004
June 2004
? Jan 2005
? Jan 2005
? Jan 2005
June 2004
?
June 2004
?
? Jan 2005
? Jan 2005

SAR Species in the Deh C	Cho
COSEWIC list	Legal list
-Wood Bison (THR)	June 2004
-Boreal Woodland Caribou (THR)	June 2004
-Grizzly (SPC)	١,
-Wolverine (SPC)	١,
-Northern Mountain Woodland Caribou (SPC)	١,
-Peregrine Falcon (THR)	June 2004
-Short-eared Owl (SPC)	
-Yellow Rail (SPC)	June 2004
-Shortjaw Cisco (THR)	١,
-Northern Leopard Frog (SPC)	
-Western Toad (SPC)	
Management Wester and Concerns Development	Wildlife & Fisheries

Input??

- ➤ Help draft and review General Status Ranks
- ➤ Involvement in TEK reviews (COSEWIC)
- ➤ Input and review of detailed assessment reports
- ➤ Input and review in recovery strategies and management plans
- ➤ On the land involvment: planning to implementation of activities related to SAR in the Deh Cho.



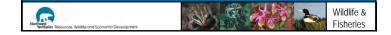


Wildlife & Fisheries

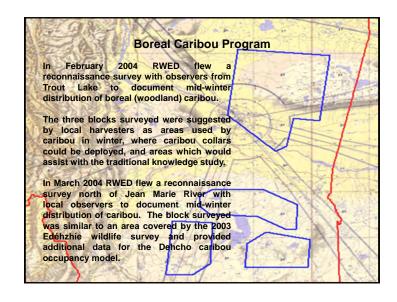
COSEWIC list	Planning
-Wood Bison (THR)	R. Strategy 2007
-Boreal Woodland Caribou (THR)	R. Strategy 2007
-Grizzly (SPC)	
-Wolverine (SPC)	
-N. Mountain Woodland Caribou (SPC)	
-Peregrine Falcon (THR)	R. Strategy 2007
-Short-eared Owl (SPC)	
-Yellow Rail (SPC)	Manag. Plan 2008
-Shortjaw Cisco (THR)	
-Northern Leopard Frog (SPC)	
-Western Toad (SPC)	

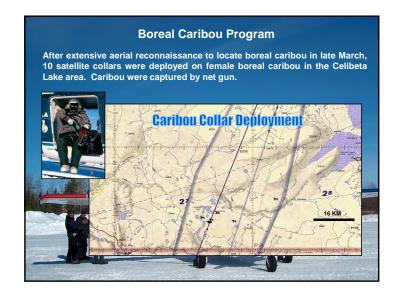
Deh Cho in North America

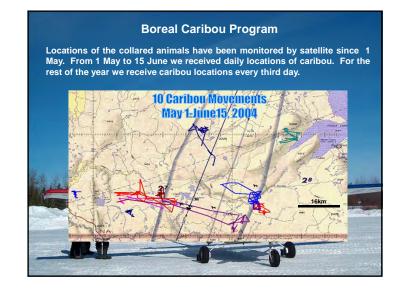
- ➤ Major pristine portion of the greater Boreal Forest cradle of many boreal bird species
- > Expertise in TEK
- > Expertise in Aboriginal involment
- ➤ Species at northern edge, southern edge, eastern edge, and western edge of their range Biodiversity Hotspot understudied
- ➤ Diversity in Landscapes

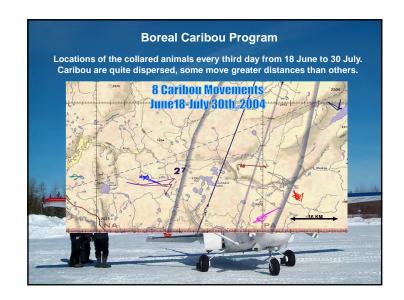


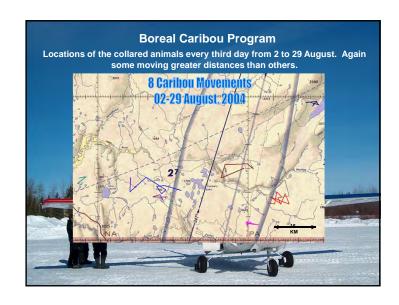


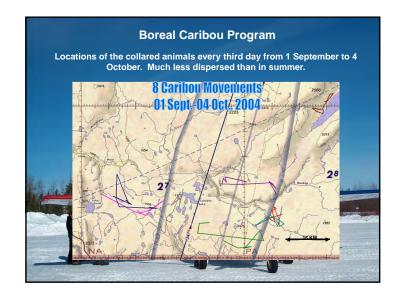


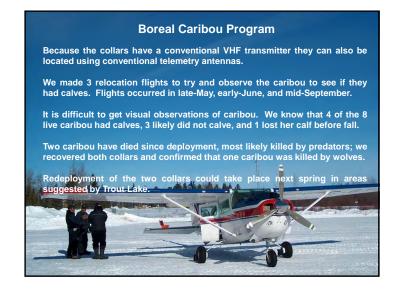


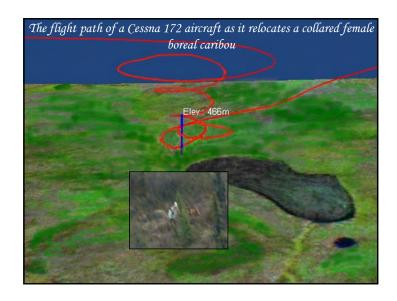


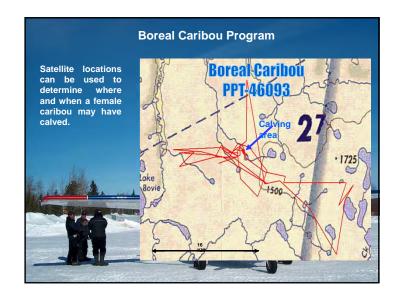




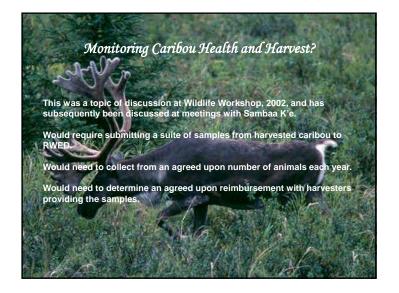


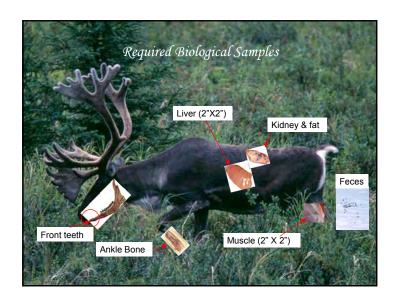






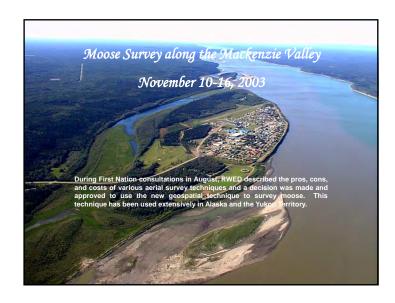




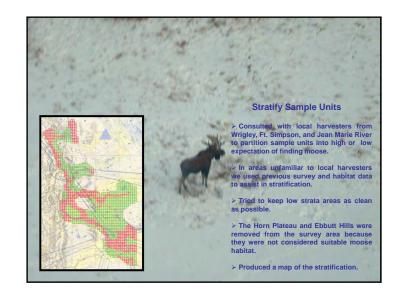


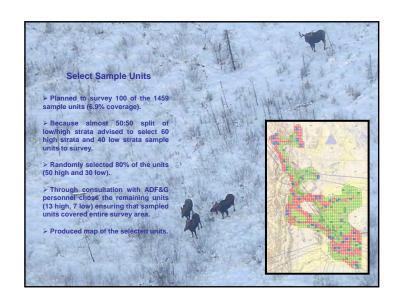


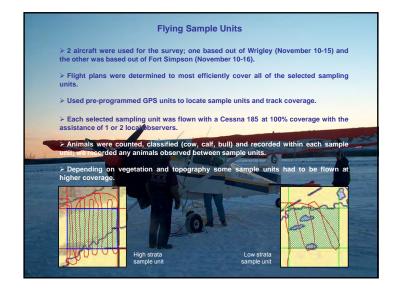


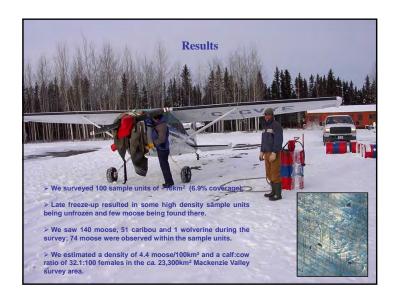


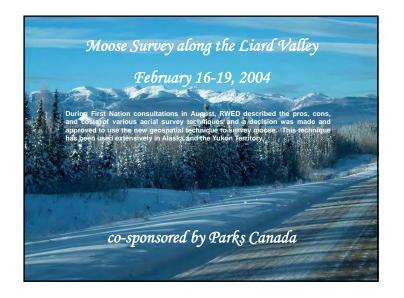






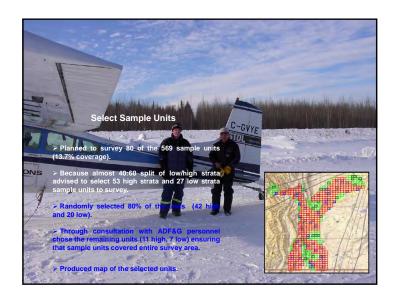


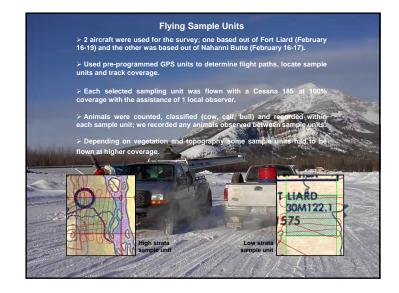


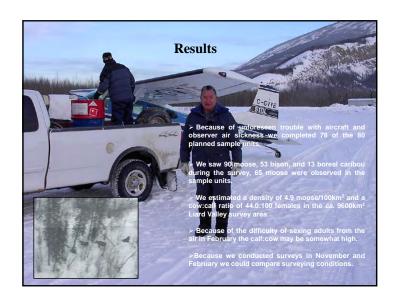




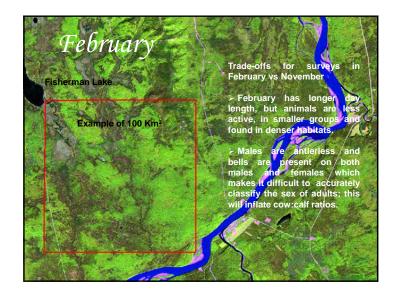


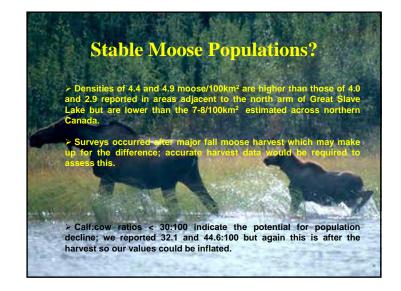


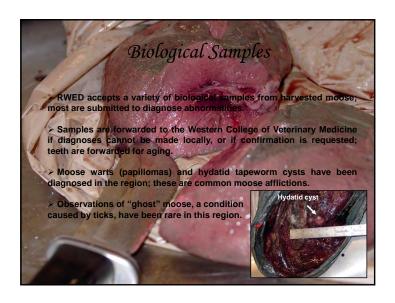


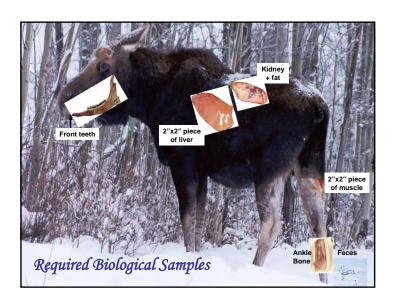






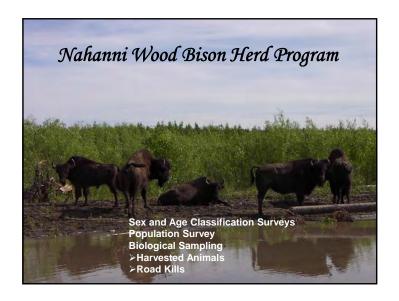


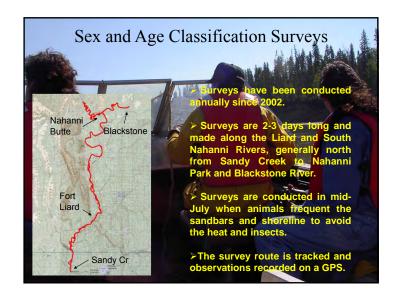


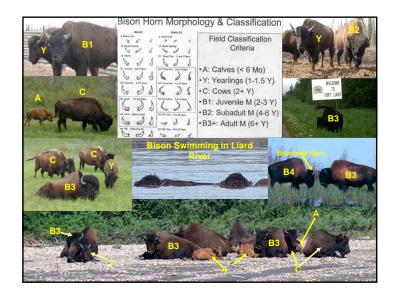


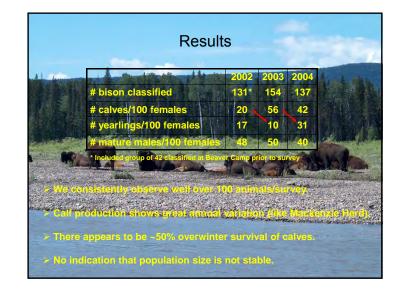
Monitoring Moose Population & Health This was a topic of discussion at Wildlife Workshop, 2002, and has subsequently been discussed at meetings in Wrigley, Fort Simpson, Jean Marie River, Nahanni Butte, and Fort Liard. RWED proposes to begin annual monitoring of moose density, distribution and cow:calf ratios during winter in the Mackenzie and Liard Valleys, by conducting annual small scale aerial surveys from each community; the same blocks used in the 2003-04 geospatial surveys will be used for the monitoring program. RWED also proposes to collect biological samples from 5 harvested moose from each First Nation in these communities; local harvesters will be reimbursed for providing these samples. The Wildlife Research Permit Application for this proposal has been approved by PKFN, JMRFN, LKFN and the Fort Simpson Métis.

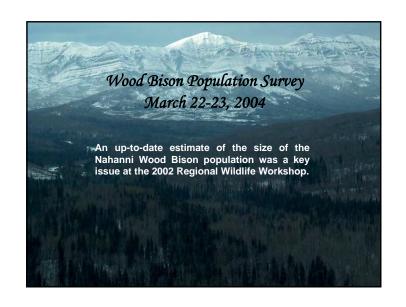


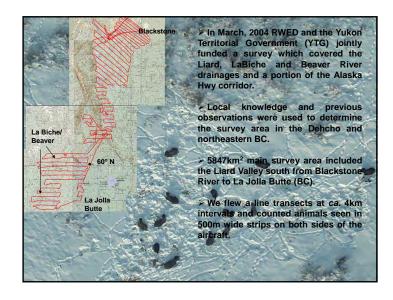


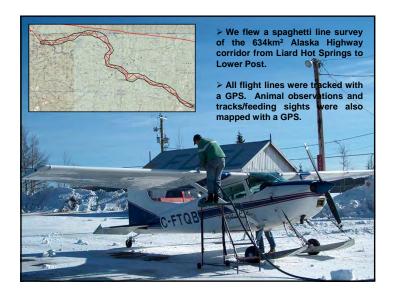




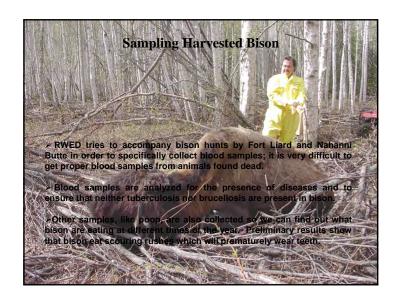


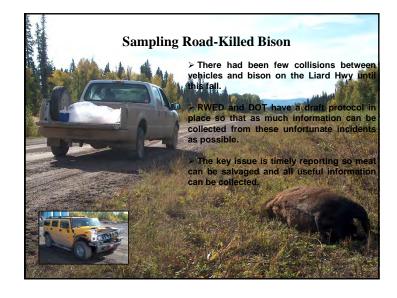






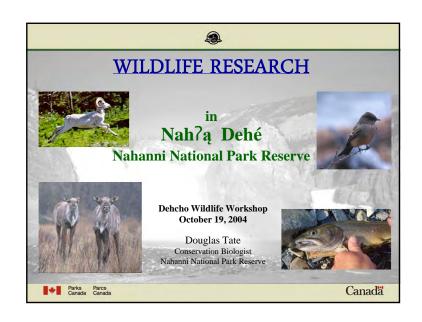
NT 3755 1113 29.6 102 344
YT 519 114 22.0 0 0
BC 1573 405 25.7 0 0
AKHwy 634 222 35.0 6 18
TOTAL 6481 1854 28.6 108 362

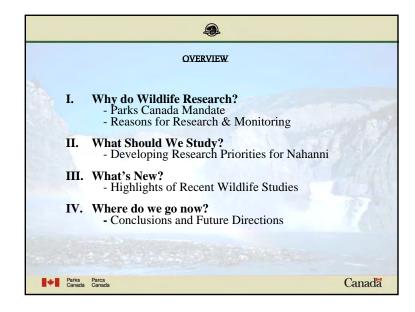


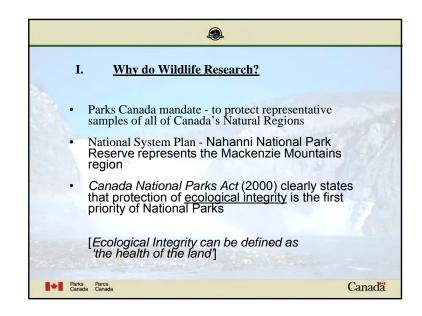




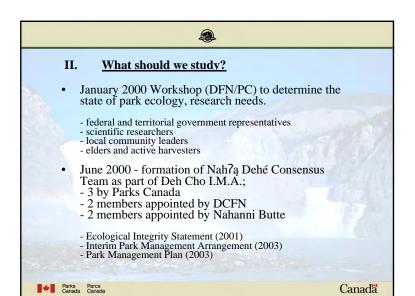


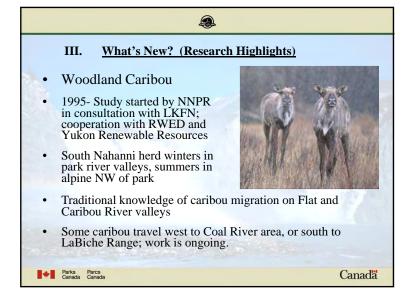


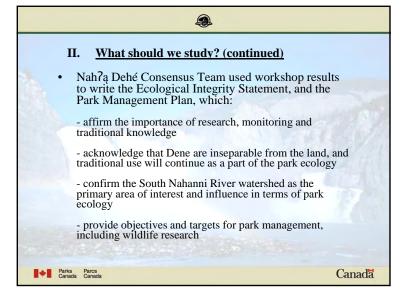


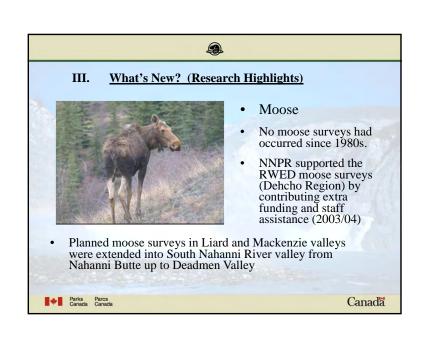


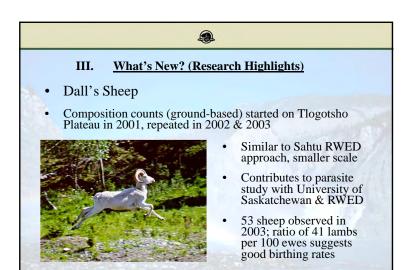




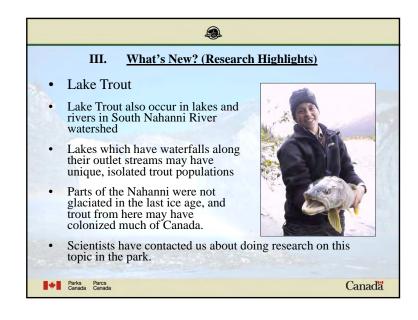








Parks Parcs
Canada Canada



HII. What's New? (Research Highlights) Bull Trout Listed as 'threatened' in US, 'sensitive' in AB, BC & YT, and 'may be at risk' in NWT (RWED, 2000) Southern populations of Bull Trout have declined due to industrial disturbance

4

- Initial work with Neil Mochnacz (UofM & DFO) in 2001 confirmed that Bull Trout, not Dolly Varden, occur in the South Nahanni River watershed
- Additional work, done in 2004, will look at distribution, and genetic differences between river and stream-dwelling trout

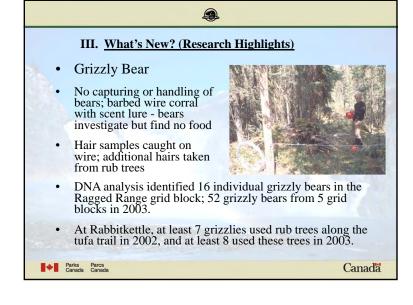
Canada

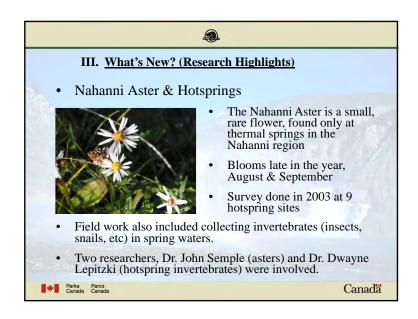


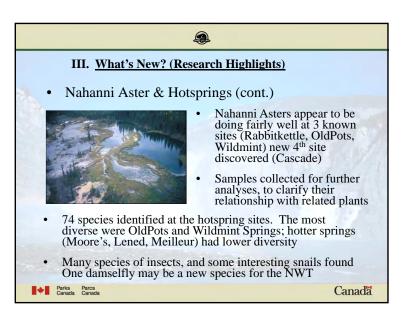


Canada











III. What's New? (Research Highlights)

- Other Wildlife
- Record sightings of other species including wolves, lynx, mountain goat, beaver, frog.
- Breeding bird and spring migration monitoring, recording observations on park shifts and patrols





Parks Parcs Canada Canada

- Periodic surveys for Trumpeter Swans, and raptors (eagles, hawks & falcons)
- Occasional monitoring of rare species such as Upland Sandpiper, Black Tern, Western Toad





IV. Where do we go now? (continued)

- Nah?ą Dehé Consensus Team continues to act as the cooperative management team for NNPR; wildlife research proposals are reviewed by the NDCT
- NDCT currently consists of:
 Douglas Tate
 Sophie Borcoman
 Wesley Hardisty

Jonas Antoine George Tsetso Morris Vital George Betsaka

- Nah?ą Dehé K'éodíi Taking Care of Nah?ą Dehé workshop in Nahanni Butte in Feb 2004; confirmed the desire of the community to expand the park, to develop a code of conduct for harvesters, and to further study traditional knowledge of the park
- Nahanni Expansion Working Group formed

Parks Parcs Canada Canada

Canada



IV. Where do we go now?

- Ecological Integrity (health of the land) is good in Nah a Dehé - Nahanni National Park Reserve
- There are some areas of concern, there is a need to continue research
- Cooperation with DFN, RWED, communities and other organizations has worked well; partnerships will continue to be very important in future
- Planning to develop a Science Strategy for the park which spells out priorities in more detail, and we look forward to involving our partners in this effort.
- Parks Canada is a major partner in administering the new Species at Risk Act - may be more opportunities for cooperative research



Canada

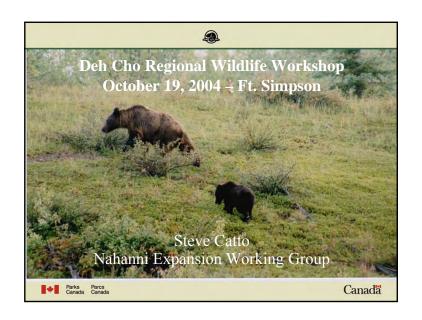


MAHSI CHO / THANK YOU

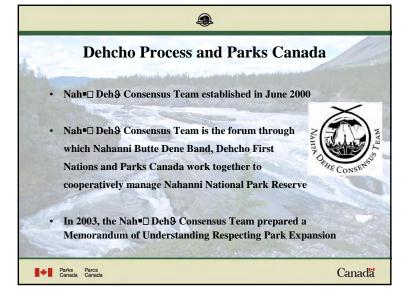
- Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
 & Dehcho First Nations
- Nah?ą Dehé Consensus Team & NNPR Staff
- RWED (YK, Dehcho & Sahtu)
- Yukon Renewable Resources
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans,
- Environment Canada (Canadian Wildlife Service)
- Univ Manitoba, Univ Saskatchewan, Univ Waterloo
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- Wildlife Systems Research

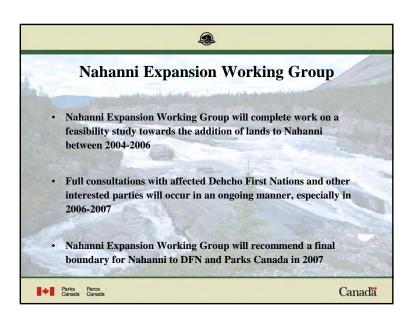


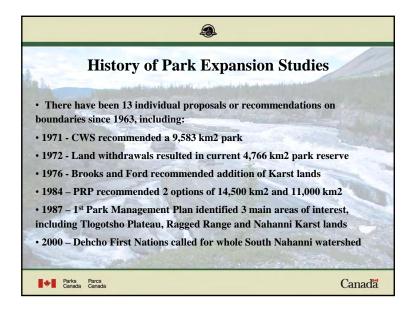
Canada

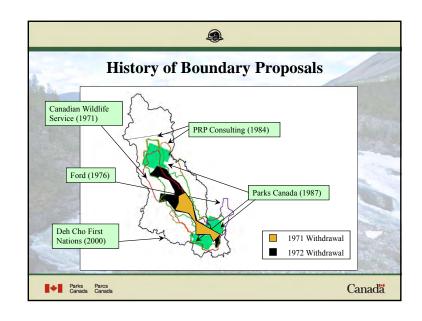


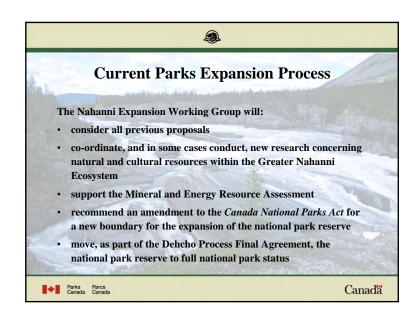


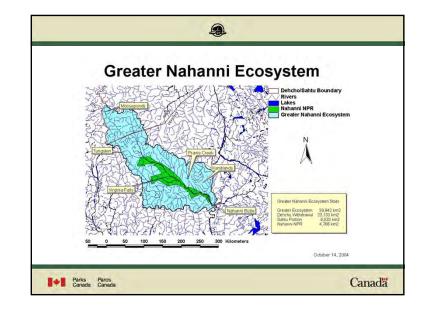








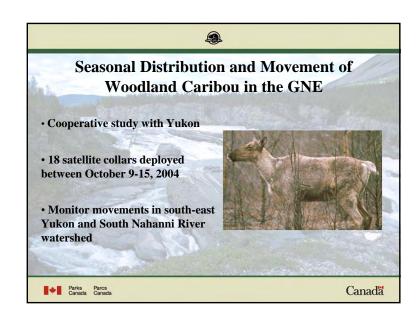












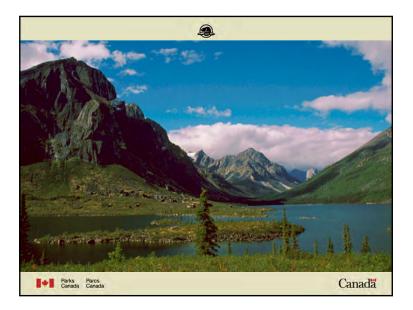


Collaboration with Wildlife Conservation Society

- · Dr. John Weaver of the Wildlife Conservation Society has been researching grizzlies in the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem since 2002
- Dr. Weaver has established good relationships with First Nations, wildlife management agencies and ENGO's
- · The Nahanni Expansion Working Group hopes to work with Dr. Weaver on additional Dall's sheep, grizzly bear, and woodland caribou studies

Parks Parcs Canada

Canada





Moving Forward Through Consultation

- · The Nahanni Expansion Working Group will be seeking the input and guidance of various groups including:
 - · Dehcho First Nations
 - · Sahtu Dene & Metis
 - GNWT RWED (Deh Cho & Sahtu Regions)
 - Federal Government (EC, DFO, DIAND, NRCan, GSC)
 - Yukon Government (Environment Yukon)
 - ENGO's (CPAWS, WWF)
 - · Other Stakeholders and the General Public



Parks Parcs Canada Canada

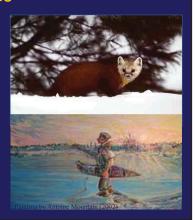
Canada

Furbearer Populations

- Climate Change
- Habitat loss / disturbance

Monitoring

- Fur Auction data
- Small mammals
- Hare density
- Snow track counts
- Carcass collections

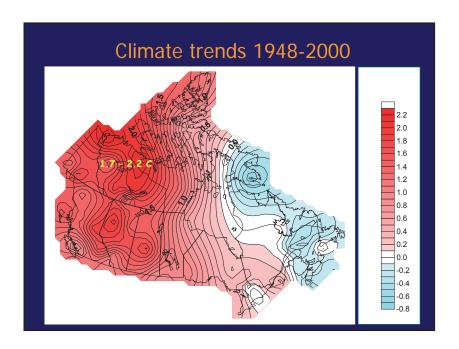


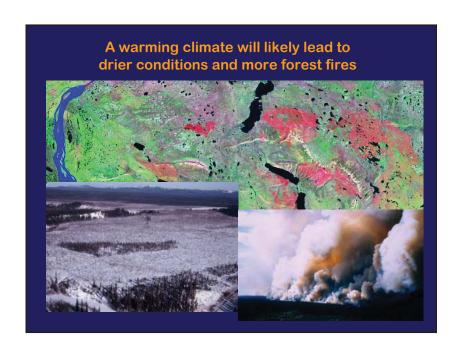
Wildlife

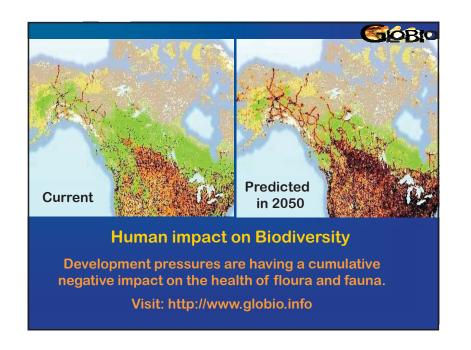
How are populations distributed?How many are there?How are they doing?

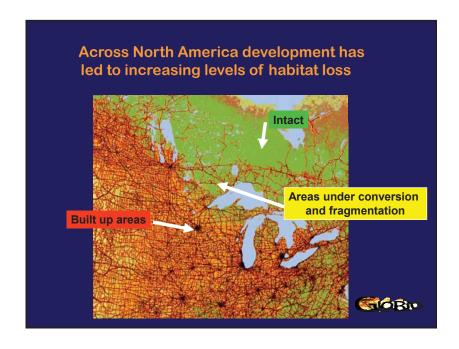


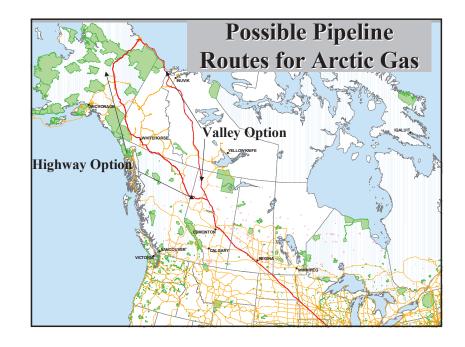
- Need a basic ecological understanding of how species are doing and fluctuate under "natural" conditions
- Unclear how global warming will impact various species
- Need to better understand the impacts of increasing forms of human activity (Cumulative Effects)
- Difficult to distinguish between the effects of environmental variation and human activities

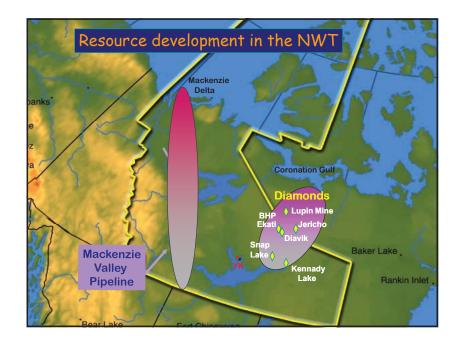


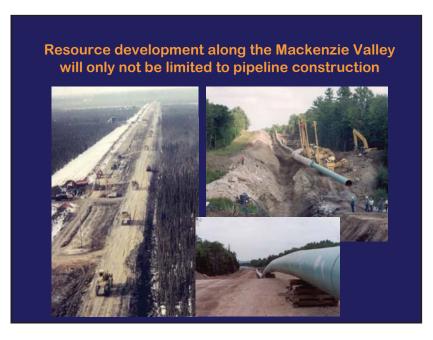






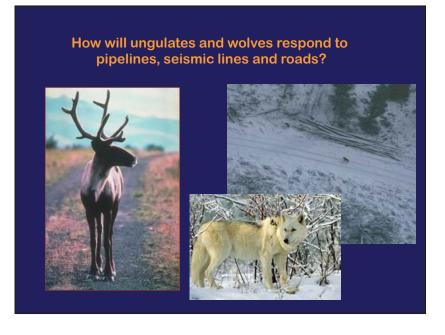








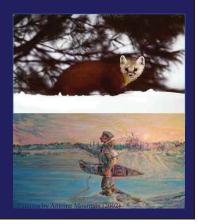


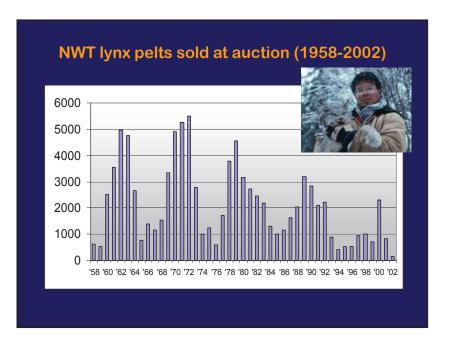


What impact will increased hunting and trapping access to remote areas have on wildlife populations?

Monitoring

- Fur Auction data
- Small mammals
- Hare density
- Snow track counts
- Carcass collections





Lynx pelt measurements

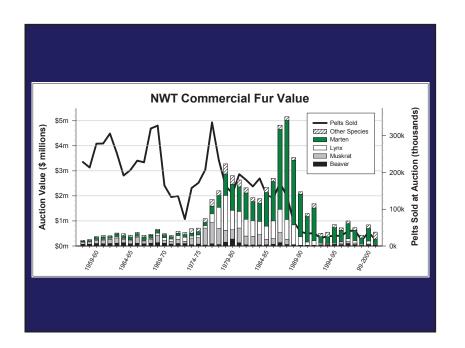
Pelts measured prior to going to auction.

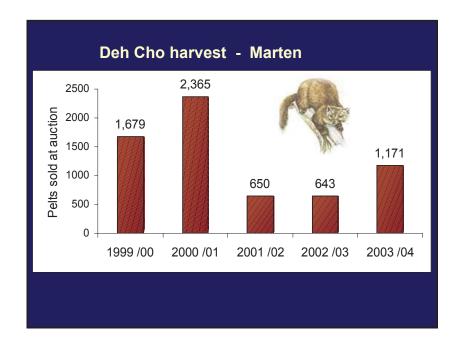
Young of the year typically measure less than 89 cm.

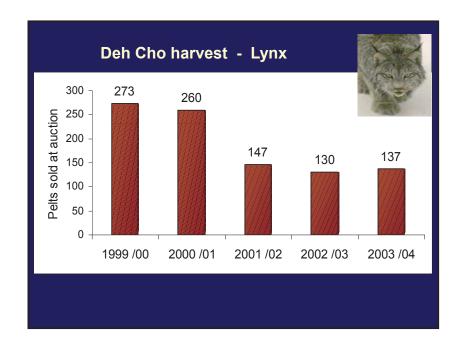
A low level of young of the year in the harvest indicates poor kit survival.

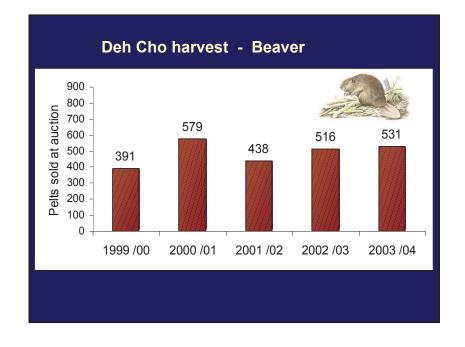
During periods of low hare abundance, reduced lynx trapping pressure leaves more breeding pairs available – once hare numbers recover.

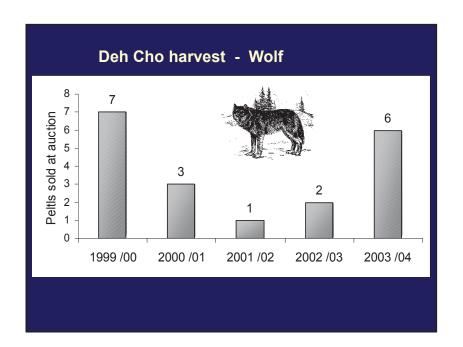


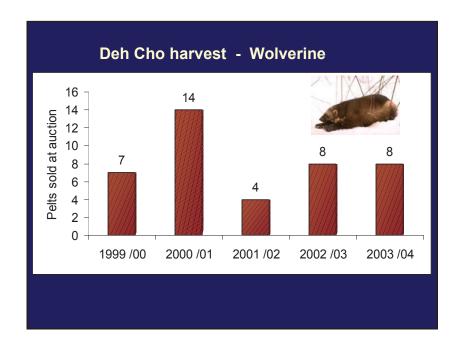


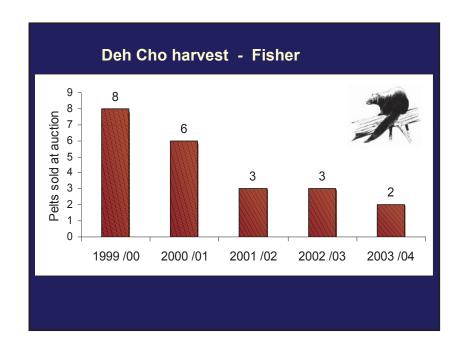


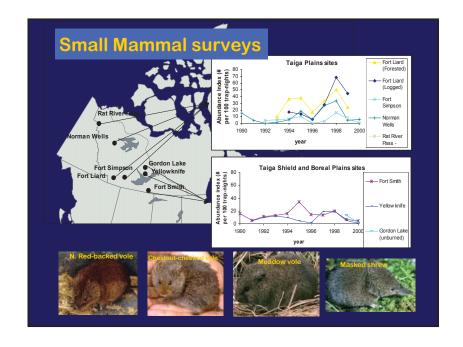


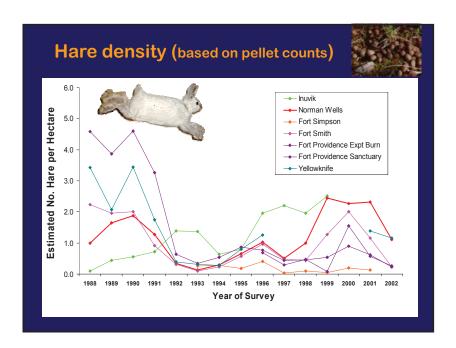












Snow track counts

- Annual surveys
- Index relative abundance







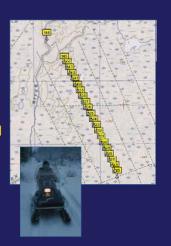
Snow track counts

Sample representative habitats

Use areas with limited trapping and minimal disturbance

Long-term monitoring of annual changes (trends) in abundance

Useful to index small mammals, squirrels, hare, weasel, lynx, mink & marten



Carcass collections

- Distribution and patterns of harvest
- Age and sex ratio of the harvest
- Body and reproductive condition
- Winter diet (stomach contents)
- Optimize long-term harvesting opportunities
 - > Wolverine
 - > Fisher



RWED strives to help trappers to harvest furbearers on a sustainable basis and optimize long-term harvesting opportunities.



Small mammal surveys
Snow track surveys
Carcass collection

- Wolverine
- Fisher

Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development investing in our future

