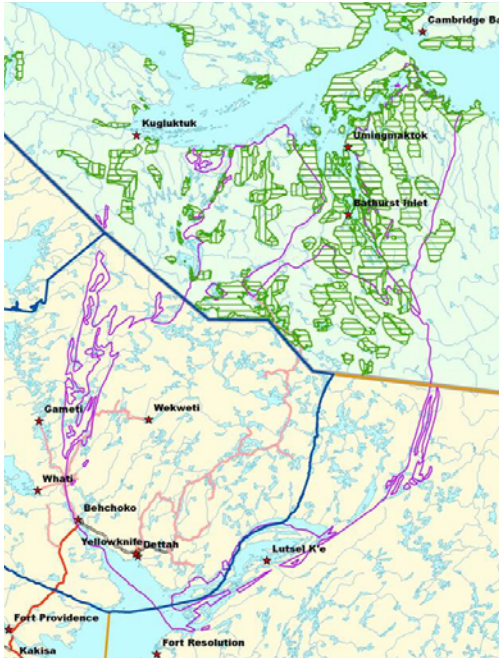


An Overview of WKSS and it's Projects



What is the West Kitikmeot / Slave Study?

The West Kitikmeot / Slave Study (WKSS) is a 'made-in-the-north' success story. The WKSS Society is a partnership of aboriginal, co-management and environmental organizations, government and industry that finished an initial five-year research program in 2001. Since then, WKSS has continued to fund several key projects during the interim period until regional monitoring systems are in place. The WKSS study area is the Slave Geological Province, which includes parts of the NWT and Nunavut. Community capacity building and traditional knowledge research have been priorities.

What Type of Information is Available from WKSS?

The WKSS has funded more than twenty-five reports, documenting both traditional knowledge and scientific research. Topics have included caribou and other wildlife, community health, vegetation and water quality. The WKSS *'Final Report'* describes the Society, its activities and accomplishments over the five-year research program. A comprehensive *'State of Knowledge Report'* was also produced in 2001; it is currently being updated. All finalized WKSS reports, including individual project reports, are available at <http://www.wkss.nt.ca/>.



How Can the Information from WKSS Projects Be Used?

The information from WKSS projects is available to inform decision making by all kinds of organizations, such as communities, resource management boards/committees, industry, regulators, and government. This knowledge can be used for many purposes, including:

- Land use planning
- Environmental and resource management
- Regulatory review
- Cumulative effects assessment and management
- Project-specific planning and management
- Project screening, environmental assessment and review



What Project Reports Are Available from WKSS?

The Study has provided an information base to be used in examining the long and short-term effects of development. The Traditional Knowledge and Scientific Research projects funded by WKSS are listed below. These reports are available at: <http://www.wkss.nt.ca>.

Traditional Knowledge Research



Habitat

- Traditional Ecological Knowledge Research in the Kache Tue Study Region (Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation)
- Habitat of Dogrib Traditional Territory: Place Names as Indicators of Bio-geographical Knowledge (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council)

Community-Based Monitoring

- Community-Based Monitoring of Winter Hunting Along Winter Roads Within the North Slave (ENR/GNWT)
- Ni hat'ni - Watching the Land: Results and Implications of 2002-2003 and 2003-2005 Monitoring Activities in the Traditional Territory of the Lutsel K'e Denesoline (Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation)
- Final Report: Community Based Monitoring (Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation)
- Traditional Knowledge Study on Community Health (Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation)
- A Community-Based Monitoring System in the Slave Geological Province (Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation)



Caribou

- Monitoring Caribou: The Relationship Between Tlicho Principles, Laws and Rules and Indicators of Change
- Traditional Knowledge on the Relationship between Caribou Migration Patterns and the State of Caribou Habitat (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council)
- Tuktu and Nogak Project - Inuit Knowledge about Wildlife in Bathurst Inlet: Focus on Caribou and Calving Areas (Simon Fraser University and the Tuktu and Nogak Board)

Scientific Research

Habitat

- Ecosystem Classification – Taiga Shield
- Habitat/Vegetation Classification for the West Kitikmeot/Slave Study Region (Northwest Territories Centre for Remote Sensing)
- Esker Habitat Studies in the Slave Geological Province (GNWT/DIAND)
 - Esker Habitat Characteristics and Traditional Use Study in the Slave Geological Province



Water

- Investigation of Aquatic Impacts of On-Ice Exploratory Diamond Drilling
- Reading Water Quality Record in West Kitikmeot/Slave Sediment (DIAND)

Caribou

- An Estimate of Breeding Females in the Bathurst Herd of Barren Ground Caribou, June 2003 (GNWT/Integrated Ecological Research)
- Bathurst Caribou Calving Ground Studies (University of Alaska, GNWT, Canadian Wildlife Service)
 - Influence Of Nutrition And Human Activity On Calving Ground Location
 - Prevalence and Intensity of Gastro-intestinal Nematode Parasitism in the Bathurst Caribou Herd, 1998-99
- Seasonal Movements of the Bathurst Caribou Herd (GNWT)
- Summer Behaviour of Bathurst Caribou Herd (GNWT)
 - Summer Behaviour of Bathurst Caribou at Mine Sites and Response of Caribou to Fencing and Plastic Deflectors
 - Effect of Gravel Road and Tailing Pond Dust on Tundra Plant Communities near Lupin Mine, NWT



Moose

- Survey of Moose Abundance in the Boreal Forest around Yellowknife, Northwest Territories (GNWT)

Grizzly Bear

- Population Ecology of Grizzly Bears in the Slave Geological Province (University of Saskatchewan, GNWT)
 - Spatial Organization and Habitat Selection Patterns of Barren ground Grizzly Bears
 - Grizzly Bear (*Ursus Arctos*) Studies in the Northwest Territories: Nutritional Component



Wolverine

- Wolverine Hair Snagging and DNA Analysis on the Central Barrens (ENR/GNWT)
- Wolverine Ecology, Distribution and Productivity in a Tundra Environment (GNWT)

Wolves

- Esker Habitat Studies in the Slave Geological Province (GNWT, DIAND)
 - Analysis of Esker Use by Wolves Denning in the Central Arctic, NWT

Other

- A Literature Review of the Use of Native Northern Plants for the Re-vegetation of Arctic Mine Tailings and Mine Waste (Aboriginal Engineering Ltd.)
- Modeling Store and Release Covers at Three Northern Mining Properties Using Soil Cover (Aboriginal Engineering Ltd.)



The WKSS Management Board

The WKSS is a partnership of aboriginal and environmental organizations, government and industry. Board members and their respective organizations are:

- Ted Blondin (Chair) - *Dogrib Treaty 11 Council*
- Bill Carpenter - *Environmental Organizations* (Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, Ecology North, World Wildlife Fund, Canadian Nature Federation)
- Susan Fleck (Vice Chair) - *Government of the Northwest Territories*, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Philippe di Pizzo - *Nunavut Co-Management Organizations* (Nunavut Impact Review Board, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Nunavut Water Board, Nunavut Planning Commission)
- Sheryl Grieve (Secretary Treasurer) - *North Slave Metis Alliance*
- David Livingstone - *Government of Canada*, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
- Florence Catholique - *Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation*
- Mathieu Dumond - *Government of Nunavut*, Department of Sustainable Development
- James Eetoolook - *Inuit Organizations* (Kitikmeot Hunters and Trappers Association, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Kitikmeot Inuit Association)
- Jane M. Howe - *NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines*

How to Reach the WKSS

The WKSS Secretariat can be reached at:

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For more information on the WKSS, please visit our website at www.wkss.nt.ca.



March 16, 2007