

Using dual knowledge systems to inform management decisions: a Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board example

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The Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) was established to perform the functions of wildlife management set out in the Tłı̄chǫ Agreement in the Wek'èezhì Management Area and has shared responsibility for the monitoring and management of the Bathurst Caribou Herd. In late 2006, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) notified co-management authorities, including the WRRB, and caribou users across the Northwest Territories (NWT) that in their view significant declines had occurred in all barren-ground caribou herds in the NWT, including the Bathurst herd, and that management action was urgently required. In November 2009, the GNWT and Tłı̄chǫ Government submitted the “Joint Proposal on Caribou Management Actions in Wek'èezhì” with nine proposed management actions, including the establishment of a total allowable harvest. As a result, the WRRB initiated its current Proceeding, including a public hearing held in March 2010. During the hearing, the Tłı̄chǫ Government made an application for adjournment to allow for further negotiations on management actions with the GNWT. This resulted in a revised joint management proposal being submitted at the end of May 2010 and a follow-up hearing in August 2010. Currently, the WRRB is preparing its final report for submission to the GNWT and Tłı̄chǫ Government in early October 2010.

