



GWICH'IN RENEWABLE RESOURCES BOARD

news

Fall 2019



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who we are

The **Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)** was established under the guidance of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA) to be the main instrument of wildlife, fish and forest management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA).

who we work with

The GRRB works with its co-management partners - Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC), Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO) - to communicate with the public and encourage conservation of renewable resources in the GSA. The GRRB works in collaboration with the four Renewable Resources Councils (RRCs) in the four communities (Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson, and Aklavik) to educate and promote sustainability of resources within the GSA.

our mission

The GRRB works in cooperation with the Gwich'in people, governments and stakeholders and in accordance with the GCLCA to effectively protect, conserve and manage renewable resources in the GSA. It does this in a respectful, transparent, communicative and inclusive manner, using the best available traditional and scientific knowledge.

our vision

The GRRB is a model of renewable resources co-management. Working with its partners, the Board plays a leadership role in ensuring that the fish, forests and wildlife of the GSA remain healthy and sustainable.

our mandate

The GRRB is the main instrument of wildlife, fish and forest management in the GSA. The Board acts in the public interest, representing all the parties to the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Settlement – the Gwich'in, the people of the Northwest Territories and all Canadians.

Amy Amos executive director

Personal Mission Statement: I lead a team of dedicated experts to implement the Board's decisions and responsibilities in accordance with the land claim agreement. I am committed to building strong relationships with respect, compassion and integrity.

I am a Nihtat Gwich'in participant who was born in Inuvik and grew up in Halifax with my father, Wallace Thompson. My mother is Susie Thompson (Linklater/Kaye) from Aklavik. I am related to the Kaye and Stewart families.

I moved back to Inuvik in January 2006 to work at the GRRB and to reconnect with my roots. I was hired as a biologist and then promoted to Executive Director in 2009.

My main job is to ensure that the Board's direction is implemented at the staff level. My job description can be broadly categorized into personnel management, financial management, Board administration and liaison activities. This newsletter is a progress report for work activities since our spring newsletter in May.

Personnel management We continue to have a strong team that works well together. We have long-serving permanent staff that I want to recognize: Cheryl Greenland (Office Manager) has been with us since 2009; Kaytlin Cooper (Species at Risk Biologist) has been with us since 2015; Sarah Lord (Fisheries & Forestry Biologist) and Edouard Belanger (Wildlife Biologist) have both been with us since 2017. Janet Boxwell was our Renewable Resources Manager since 2010. She resigned in July 2019. We wish Janet all the best in her future endeavors. This position is currently vacant

awaiting recommendations from consultants on options for improving how we collect community-based data, such as harvest data. The recommendations may result in changes to the job description for this position. In the interim, Chelsea Hermus is helping us manage the reviews for this position until it is filled. She has been helping us remotely since 2009. She maintains our website and helps with the newsletter and other administrative and communication tasks.

For other casual staff, we have the Technician position and two students. Jordan Norman-Goose has been with us for three consecutive summers (2017-2019). We secured outside funding to extend his work term until March 2020. He has been a great addition to our team, and we will miss him after his term ends. We also receive outside funding to hire two Summer Students. We determined internally that the GRRB did not have enough summer work for a Technician and two Students. We supervised one student and the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board (GLUPB) supervised the other.

Leigh'Ana Cardinal served as the GRRB Summer Student. Leigh'Ana is in grade 12 this year and has expressed interest in becoming a Biologist. We want to support her as best we can. Additional outside funding was found to help keep her on as a part-time casual for the rest of this fiscal year (eight hours per week). She is helping us enter the photograph data from the Dall's sheep project. Lynsey Krutko was the other student. This is her second summer with us. She enjoyed working with the GLUPB this summer. She graduated high school and entered university this fall with an interest in medical sciences.

For contracts, we get outside funding. Nick Westover was contracted again to develop the 2020 Conservation Calendar; Lynda Young and Richard Zieba were contracted to facilitate the Regional Workshop for Defining Commercial Use in July 2019; and we continue to offer youth work experience. This includes inviting local youth to attend GRRB meetings to get youth direct exposure to the work the Board is involved in and hopefully inspire them into this field.

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Photo credit: Black Fly Studios

The funding comes from the Youth Work Experience Program funds.

Financial management Over this reporting period, we held two Finance Committee meetings (May 24 and July 24). The May meeting focused on reviewing the year-end finances (up to March 31, 2019). The July meeting focused on reviewing the draft financial statements for 2018-19 and the first quarter finances (April 1 to June 30). Recommendations from this committee went to the next GRRB teleconferences. The current membership on this committee is Burt Hunt, Sam Bullock and Doug Doan, with Sarah Jerome and Roger Fraser as alternates and with staff support. The October Finance Committee meeting reviewed finances up to September 30 and the midyear variance report. This meeting will be reported on in the next newsletter.

The audit was done by Paul Teoh's Accounting. It went well. Cheryl and I worked with the staff to prepare for the audit making sure all projects were up to date and with the auditors during the audit to ensure they had what they needed.

Staff serve as project leads with my oversight. They help confirm project accounting and we work together to ensure they are presented properly. So far this year, we are managing 14 projects separately from the Board's core operating funding. In addition to this, outside funding was secured to cover the wages for our Technician and two Summer Students. Travel is often covered for meetings and conferences that we attend.

Board administration The biggest change over this reporting period is that three terms expired (Ron Allen on April 10, Burt Hunt on May 8 and Doug Doan on June

13), leaving the Board with only one Government-nominated member. On September 10, we noticed that five appointments were announced on the Government's website, effective August 27, 2019:

- William Koe (nominated by GTC) was appointed as a Member
- Burt Hunt (nominated by the Government of Canada) was reappointed as a Member
- Ron Allen (nominated by the Government of Canada) was reappointed as an Alternate Member
- Myra Robertson (nominated by the Government of Canada) was appointed as an Alternate Member
- Doug Doan (nominated by the Government of Canada) was reappointed as a Member

The only vacancy is the GNWT-nominated seat for a full member. This is the first time that I have seen so many seats filled on the Board. I look forward to working with everyone.



First Aid Training in Inuvik in September

Liaison and Communication

Liaison - Renewable Resources Councils (RRCs) & Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) We strive for strong working relationships with all of our partners, with a special emphasis on our relationship with the community RRCs. This year we planned a community tour for the fall - the entire staff team participated ([page 8](#)). We also continue to work with the GTC office on joint files.

Liaison - Government We continue to work with DFO to organize an annual meeting. This year's meeting was held on November 20-21 in Winnipeg. The goal of the meeting each year is to strengthen our working relationship. During the year, DFO met with the Board as well as Sarah and I directly to discuss the new Arctic region. Some Fisheries officers also stopped by our office while they were in town. I consider this positive movement toward our working relationship.

I am working with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to find more efficient ways to work together on Species at Risk consultations.

We continue to work well with the Inuvik ENR office on wildlife and forestry files. They provide us with support for wildlife research and communication.

Liaison - Researchers I continue to work with researchers and universities to promote best practices for their research, including aligning their research with our priorities or community interests. I co-authored a paper with two of our research partners (muskrat and whitefish projects). This paper has been submitted to the journal Arctic Science. It describes best practices in

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community-based research. I presented this paper as a plenary talk at the Northern Research Basin conference in August 2019 in Yellowknife (costs were covered by GNWT). I plan to co-present it at the upcoming ArcticNet conference in Halifax in December.

Liaison – Other co-management partners Jordan (our Technician) and I attended the NWT Board Forum in Fort Good Hope from June 17-20. The theme was looking for ways to better integrate traditional knowledge and youth into the regulatory system. I was proud to see Jordan participate on a youth panel at this conference, talking about his involvement with the GRRB.

For the first time (at least during my time with the GRRB), we had a joint meeting between the staff of the GRRB and Joint Secretariat to discuss common files. We felt it was efficient and worthwhile. We will aim to have similar meetings at least once per year.

Liaison - Youth I am passionate about youth. My personal goal is for our youth (especially Gwich'in) to be pursuing education in the sciences and becoming our future Biologists. I present to various audiences, telling my story and offering my advice for them. Recently, this includes the local schools (during Nature Day), northern studies students, climate change summit and Gwich'in students at the academic conference. This year, I helped Jordan with Nature Day. It was refreshing to get out of the office and play games with the young students.

Communication Some of the ways we communicate are through this

newsletter, our website and our annual Conservation Calendar. We also communicate through presentations, meetings, reports and word of mouth. We are currently working on the 2020 Conservation Calendar. This year, we are partnering with the Arctic Borderlands (ABEKS). They will provide us with some financial support. In the future, we are considering increasing the size of the calendar to add room for data collection. ABEKS will help cover the increased costs for this initiative. In the interim, for the 2020 calendar, we plan to work together on messaging. We continue to use our Facebook page and our website as communication tools.

*Gwich'in Testimonial Speaker at The Next 40
Gwich'in Academic Conference, University of Saskatchewan*

**GWICH'IN
ACADEMIC
CONFERENCE**

MAY 6-10, 2019

THE NEXT40
ENERGY SOVEREIGNTY, PUBLIC POLICY &
THE FUTURE OF ARCTIC COMMUNITIES

University of Saskatchewan – Youth Event

This year's Academic Conference is being held at the University of Saskatchewan in partnership with the College of Arts and Science and the School of Environment and Sustainability. It is sponsored by the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, and the University of Saskatchewan. It will bring together Gwich'in and other northern experts, southern scholars, as well as students from northern and southern Canada to consider the implications of the global energy transition and to think about the implications of Arctic community futures.

Please contact Diane Baxter (see bottom right for contact information) for an application.

Youth must be
registered Gwich'in
Participants and
between the ages of
15-30

Application Form
Must Be submitted by
Friday, April 5, 2019

Essay is required

Resume is required

Make sure you have
your ID for travel!

**GWICH'IN TRIBAL
COUNCIL**

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Box 1509
Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0
1000.000000000000

Contact: Diane Baxter
diane.baxter@gwichintribal.ca
PH: (867) 777-7924



GRRB Board

Jozef Carnogursky
Chairperson (GRRB)



Order in Council
appointments

Nominating
Agency

Federal
government

Territorial
government

Margaret Begg
Member (GTC)



Sam Bullock
Member (GTC)



William Koe
Member (GTC)



Burt Hunt
Member (Canada)



Doug Doan
Member (Canada)



TBA
Member (GNWT)



Charlie Snowshoe
Alternate (GTC)



Roger Fraser
Alternate (GTC)



Sarah Jerome
Alternate (GTC)



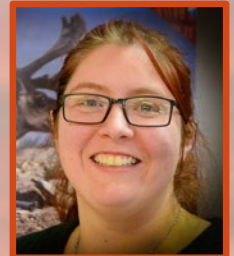
Ron Allen
Alternate (Canada)



Myra Robertson
Alternate (Canada)



Tracy Davison
Alternate (GNWT)



Photos: Black Fly Studios & GRRB

board member updates

The GRRB welcomes our new and returning Board members:

*William Koe
Burt Hunt
Ron Allen
Myra Robertson
Doug Doan*

To form the thirteen-member Board, three members and three alternate members are appointed from nominees put forward by each of the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) and the Government (federal and territorial). Nominees are jointly appointed by the federal and territorial

governments. The Chairperson is nominated by the Board members and jointly appointed by the federal and territorial governments. Once appointed, our Board members act in the public interest. They are independent, not beholden to the agency that nominated them.

Our Board members are busy working in many different areas, including the following:

Committees/Working Groups:

- Conference of Management Authorities (CMA)
- Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) Steering Committee

Meetings/Training:

- GRRB teleconferences and face-to-face meeting
- GRRB Finance Committee teleconferences
- CMA teleconference
- IFMP Steering Committee meeting and teleconference
- Environment and Natural Resources Waters Decision meeting, Inuvik
- Human Resources discussion
- Review of Board Orientation materials (new and returning members)



Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/grrb.nt.ca

GRRB Teleconferences

The Board held two teleconferences between our face-to-face meetings, on May 24 and July 25.

May 24 Teleconference

- Approved *Wildlife Act* regulations (Phase II)
- Discussed other *Wildlife Act* regulations (deer harvesting and moose locations for resident hunters)
- Updates on GRRB remote camera data, PCMB outcomes and defining commercial use
- Approved the Rat River Working Group recommendations
- Updates on the amended version of the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan and plans for the new Arctic Region for Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
- Updates on Species at Risk files (Boreal caribou framework, NWT assessment schedule, Species at Risk Committee appointment, stewardship program)

July 25 Teleconference

- Approved past minutes
- Approved financial statements
- Reviewed deer harvesting regulations
- Reviewed request to Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) for Bluenose-west caribou tag increase
- Update on defining commercial use
- Approved the amendments to the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Dolly Varden char
- Discussed plans for the annual meeting with DFO
- Updates on the boreal caribou framework for range plans
- Approved policy updates

There were two major files for this reporting period:

Commercial Use The GRRB has the power to define what it considers commercial use of wildlife meat (Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement 12.4.16d). The intent is that the Board would determine what is no longer traditional sharing and considered a commercial activity. The *NWT Wildlife Act* can regulate this. The Board has a consultation policy that describes how it would approach consultation on this topic. However, the Board decided it was not going to undertake consultation on this topic unless it was requested to do so. In January 2017, the regional Renewable Resource Council gave direction to the GRRB to begin this process. In December 2018, we held the first round of community consultations. In July 2019, we held a regional workshop. We discussed the outcomes of that workshop and next

steps at the September face-to-face meeting ([page 6](#)).

Harvest Data Collection In March 2019, we held a regional workshop inviting each of the four Gwich'in communities to attend. The workshop was facilitated by Robert Charlie. The goal was to confirm the GRRB's goals and community goals for monitoring and data collection (including harvest information). As a result of this workshop, the GRRB hired consultants to help us address the concerns raised. They will do a needs assessment and then provide us with options for data collection. The idea is to see if we can do a better job at addressing our common goals (GRRB and the community). We want to be more efficient and look at options of collecting more data that can be linked into decision-making. We are considering Arctic Borderlands in this process.



September 2019 Board Meeting

The GRRB held its fall face-to-face Board meeting in Tsiigehtchic from September 18-19.

The meeting began with Board Chairperson Jozef Carnogursky recognizing the new Board members (William Koe, Myra Robertson, Roger Fraser) and re-appointments (Doug Doan, Burt Hunt, Ron Allen).

The Board approved proposed amendments to the Big Game Hunting Regulations under the NWT *Wildlife Act* relating to deer harvesting. Mandatory submission of deer heads to Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) was discussed with the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC). The concern is Chronic Wasting Disease, which is fatal to deer and also to caribou and moose. Our mandate is strictly within the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA). There are no deer in the GSA, but there may be Participants in the south who are affected by this issue. ENR's request to create

a regulation to encourage targeted hunting of deer by resident hunters was approved by the Board. Resident hunters (not including Gwich'in or other indigenous hunters) would have no limit, but would still need a tag, and would need to submit the head to ENR for testing.

Board members and staff presented updates on their activities since the last face-to-face meeting in February. An excellent discussion on the Porcupine caribou harvest followed the Executive Director's report, where many concerns were heard. The GRRB is summarizing these concerns and will communicate them to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, GTC and ENR.

Norman Snowshoe (ENR) provided a brief agency update, including staffing. Lila Voudrach (ENR) discussed field operations, including tags, compliance checks with outfitters in the ISR, bear safety presentations in community schools, Sight Your Rifle, and access to private lands. She also provided a draft report from all officers in all communities about grizzly bear incidents, which

prompted great discussions about food wastage.

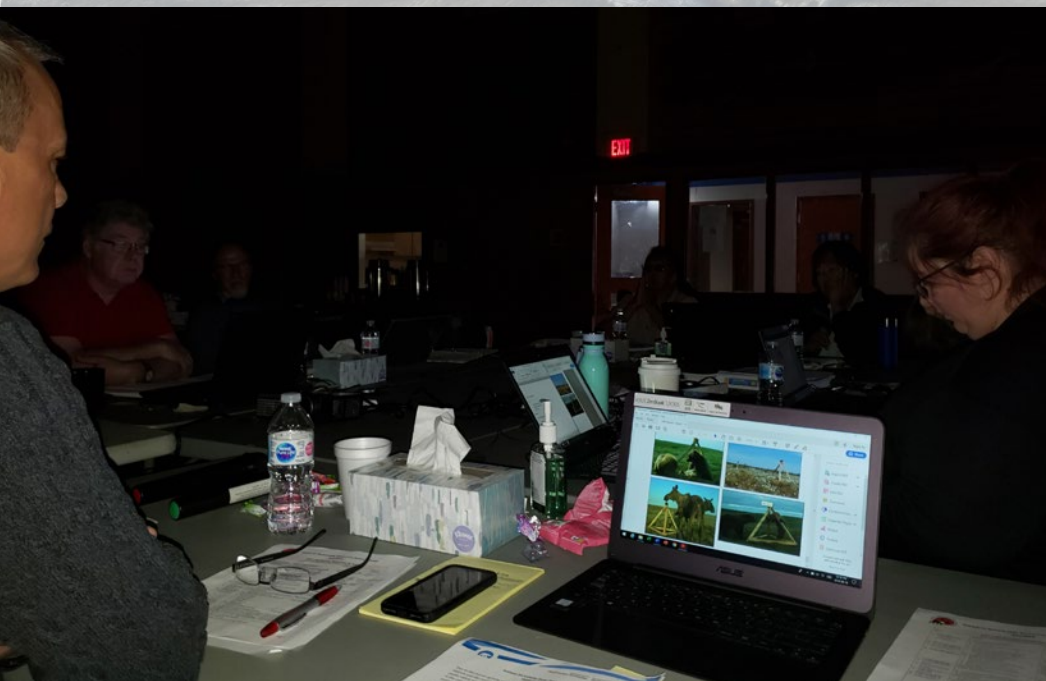
The Board passed two motions supporting the down-listing of two bird species listed under the *Species At Risk Act* due to population improvements. The Olive-sided flycatcher will move from Threatened down to Species of Special Concern. Peregrine falcon populations in Canada Populations initially declined from pesticides (such as DDT), human disturbance of nest sites, development along the Mackenzie River and resource exploration and development. Since 2000, the species has markedly recovered. It is as abundant now as it was before its decline, suggesting that this species should now be classified as Not At Risk. Community consultations were held to discuss both of these down-listings.

Speaking on behalf of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Myra Robertson provided a fact sheet on a modernization of the Migratory Birds Regulations. Healthy discussion followed around the proposed changes. The GRRB summarized all of these comments and concerns in a formal letter to the ECCC.

During the Renewable Resource Council (RRC) and Public session, the Chair opened the floor to questions from the RRCs and members of the public.

The Board reviewed its 2018-2023 Research and Management Priority List, outlining new research interests that have been heard and recorded in the past year. A suggestion that beavers should be added as a 'Priority' (and not just an Interest) was approved, with the Board moving to change "muskrat" to "muskrat and beavers" on the Priority List.

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Working through a power outage during the September Board meeting



The second day of the fall face-to-face meeting began with a Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) agency update provided by Larry Dow. Larry presented concerns with the existing sportfishing limits and asked for Board support to decrease them. A lengthy discussion followed where it was determined that the Board required more information before it could make a decision. The proposed changes will be examined in more detail once more information is provided on the request.

The main item for discussion was the **Defining Commercial Use** file. The GRRB has the power to define what it considers commercial use of wildlife meat (Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement 12.4.16d). The intent is that the Board would determine what is no longer traditional sharing and considered a commercial activity. The *NWT Wildlife Act* can regulate this. The Board has a consultation policy that describes how it would approach consultation on this topic. However, the Board decided it was not going to undertake consultation on this topic unless it was requested to do so. In January 2017, the regional RRC gave direction to the GRRB to begin this process. In December 2018, we held the first round of community consultations. In July 2019, we held a regional workshop (photos this page).



The purpose of the discussion at this September meeting was to obtain Board direction on how to define the commercial sale of wildlife meat. The definition will be used to draft legislation with ENR and the Department of Justice. This legislation will allow commercial sales to be regulated.

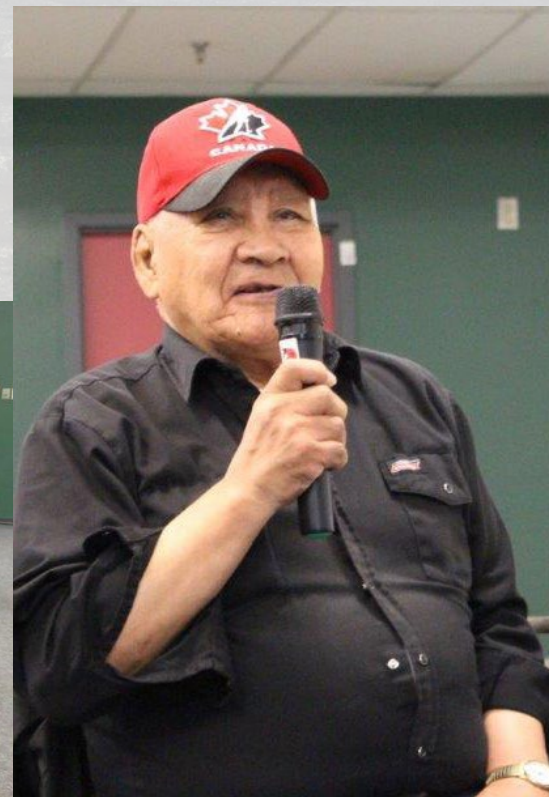
Amy Amos presented the results of the GRRB's consultation activities on this issue. She outlined the various activities involving trade in wild meat and recommendations for each. The Board agreed with most of the recommendations, but decided that more research and consultation were required to define what a business is. The GRRB will talk with the RRCs about defining what would be considered a business.

Where Porcupine caribou meat is concerned, the Board needs to work closely with the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) to define

commercial use as it relates to their mandate. The GRRB will talk to the PCMB regarding how to deal with Porcupine caribou.

Once consultations with the RRCs and PCMB are complete, results will be brought back to the Board and then, if approved, sent to ENR to be developed into draft legislation (which would then be consulted on).

Thank you to the community of Tsiigehtchic, Board members, staff, agencies and members of the public who took part in this meeting. It is really appreciated. The next face-to-face meeting will be held in Inuvik from February 4-6, 2020.



Fall Community Tour

The GRRB has a responsibility to consult regularly with the Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs). We take this very seriously.

Our staff are always engaging with the RRCs and attend their monthly meetings as often as possible. We tend to consult and talk with communities using a species-specific approach.

We wanted to try a different approach to engagement this year, to see if it would be better to have our entire team travel to each community.

In September and October, GRRB staff embarked on a tour of the Gwich'in communities. The tour started in Inuvik on September 25 and moved to Tsiigehtchic (September 30), Aklavik (October 1) and Fort McPherson (October 2).

The overall goal of the community tour was to be more efficient with our engagement. We wanted to (1) provide information on the GRRB and (2) consult and seek input on some specific files:

- Barren-Ground Caribou Recovery Strategy (NWT *Species at Risk Act*)
- Horned Grebe (Hell Diver) Management Plan (Federal *Species at Risk Act*)
- Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee Recovery Strategy (Federal *Species at Risk Act*)
- Bluenose West Caribou & Cape Bathurst annual observations
- Moose Hunting Regulations for Resident Hunters

Overall, the tour was a good approach to RRC engagement. Minutes from all four of the tour stops are now being written up and will be shared with the RRCs. We had a lot of great participation and feedback and will use what we learned to plan for an even better tour next year!



Édouard Bélanger
wildlife biologist
since June 2017

Management Planning

Taking Care of Caribou: the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose West and Bluenose-East barren-ground caribou herds management plan

As a member of the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM) working group, my work is mainly to continue developing the Communication and Education materials and complete the annual monitoring table. In addition, this year the GRRB, along with its co-management partners, agreed to ask for an increase in tags allowed for the Bluenose-West caribou herd. This request was sent to the Minister, who agreed to increase the tag allocated for the Bluenose-West caribou herd.

Commercial Use of Wildlife Meat Consultation In 2017, a motion was passed at the regional Renewable Resource Council (RRC) meeting for the GRRB to define commercial

Photo credit: Black Fly Studios

use of wildlife meat. Amy took the lead on this and we worked on the second phase of the consultation. I helped Amy with various planning. I budgeted for the three phases of the consultation. I participated in the regional workshop, helping participants at the tables during the activities. There will be two more rounds of consultations in the next fiscal year.

Commercial Outfitting Under the land claim, the GRRB has the power to determine if commercial harvesting (i.e. outfitting) is permitted and, if so, to apply terms and conditions to ensure that the activity is sustainable. We have a consultation policy in place that describes how we would work with the communities and our partners to ensure meaningful engagement. There are currently no outfitting zones in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA). However, there is a growing interest in commercial outfitting. We are working with our partners on this file to collect the information required to respond to any outfitting requests.

Grizzly Bears Concern with grizzly bear encounters is growing in the GSA communities. Amy and I met with Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) to discuss present and future management options to limit these cases. We also discussed the tag system and how to deal with a high number of bears being killed in defense of life and property in Gwich'in and Inuvialuit communities with a shared population. More

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discussion also happened at the community level in Aklavik. We are looking at options for hiring a support staff member (term position) to help us review the grizzly bear management plan and agreement and respond to community concerns.

Research Dall's Sheep Research Project In 2018, the Dall's Sheep (Divii) Research Project officially started with a total of 13 cameras installed around Black Mountain. Last winter, we went to service the cameras (retrieve data and change batteries) by snowmobile and helicopter. Eight community members and youth were involved.

Later in the year, I started building a protocol to analyze the pictures. During the summer, our two Summer Students helped by looking through all the pictures taken between August 2018 and March 2019. At this point there are no preliminary results, but some interesting behaviour can be observed. For example, it is known that grizzly bears are opportunistic predators of young ungulates (e.g. caribou, moose, sheep, goats, deer, etc.), especially in the first two weeks after they are born. Bears move to areas where ungulates give birth. We have observed some instances of this behaviour with our cameras.

This summer, we spent 10 days on the land doing Dall's sheep fieldwork.

The team camped in the Northern Richardson mountains and observed Dall's sheep, weather permitting. This included two community members and three youth, as well as the GRRB's Wildlife Biologist. A complete report on last year's activities will be provided in the near future.

Technical Advice Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM) and Barren-Ground Caribou I provided GRRB advice concerning Bluenose-West herd tag allocation. The number of tags has been updated from the 2018 population estimate according to a 4% Total Allowable Harvest. This is in line with the management plan.

General I reviewed several proposed projects in the GSA. I also helped Amy with the definition of commercial use venture that the GRRB is taking on. I will likely help her quite a bit regarding that file in the future. I provided advice on migratory birds and deer hunting regulations.

Liaison Inuvialuit and Gwich'in Co-management In late July, staff members of the GRRB, Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) and Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories) (WMAC (NWT)) met to discuss shared management issues. The goal of this

meeting was to further develop co-management relationships on shared files at a staff level. Moose, beaver, and harvest came as some of the top priorities shared amongst the organizations. I am looking forward to further work with IGC and WMAC (NWT).

General Liaison I participated at various RRC meetings. I presented an update on the wildlife files in the GSA and discussed concerns from the communities. I have strengthened my relationship with various researchers for the Divii - Dall's sheep project and for beavers.

Other Training In March, I completed Mental Health First Aid training in Inuvik with other GRRB staff. This course has trained us in responding to a person developing a mental health problem, experiencing a mental health crisis or a worsening of their mental health.

GRRB Operations As a result of intense fieldwork from the Divii (Dall's sheep) Research Project, several updates were made to the agreement with the RRCs. Amy and I worked to ensure that safety and proper insurance coverage are met for all personnel involved in field projects. With the help of Sarah, I have also updated the extended field travel form. This form is to be used for longer field work, as opposed to travelling on the highway for a meeting. It has more comprehensive safety and check-in plans.

Personal In my personal time, I kept busy going out on the land. I spent a weekend in the Northern Richardsons by Horn Lake in April, took two weeks off to paddle from Summit Lake down the Little Bell, Bell and Porcupine River all the way to Old Crow and enjoyed some moose hunting and fishing.



Kaytlin Cooper

species at risk biologist since January 2015

As Species at Risk Biologist, I work with local communities, Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs) and governments (both Federal and Territorial), assisting with species assessments and listings, developing management plans and recovery strategies and administering species at risk programs and research projects (science and Traditional Knowledge) in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA).

Management Planning Boreal Caribou A public information session and a consultation meeting on the framework for boreal caribou range planning in the NWT were held in Inuvik in June. GRRB staff and Board members, Gwich'in Land and Water Board, Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board, Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) and RRC members from each GSA community and the public were all invited. The framework has now been approved and the creation of a detailed range plan for the GSA will begin in fall 2020.

In June, I attended a meeting in Ottawa for the National Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium (NBCKC). The meeting provided updates on boreal caribou projects



Photo credit: Black Fly Studios

underway across the country, lessons learned, updates on work completed by the NBCKC over the past year and set the direction for the coming year. I am a member of the NBCKC Indigenous Knowledge Circle, which works on how to incorporate Indigenous knowledge into management planning and involving Indigenous peoples in research and management. The work the GRRB does with NWT Species at Risk and collecting Traditional Knowledge has been very helpful to the circle.

Technical Advice I have been involved in the development and review of species assessment reports, management plans and recovery

strategies for several species at risk, including the gypsy cuckoo bumble bee, Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee, horned grebe, collared pika, bats, short-eared owl, barren-ground caribou, northern mountain caribou and Hudsonian godwit.

As a member of the NWT Wildlife Care Committee, I provide technical advice on wildlife handling applications and review wildlife handling reports and other documents. Recent applications include amphibians, bees, bats, whooping cranes, warblers, polar bears and small mammals. I also review research and development

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Photo credit: Matthew Boeckner, NBCKC

applications from the perspective of impacts on species at risk.

I am involved in face-to-face meetings and teleconferences for the Conference of Management Authorities (the group of wildlife co-management boards and governments that share management responsibility for the conservation and recovery of species at risk in the NWT) and the Species at Risk Committee (a group of science and Traditional Knowledge experts who assess the biological status of species that may be at risk in the NWT, identify threats and positive influences to species and their habitats and may recommend conservation actions).

Research Bats Bat data provided to Environment & Natural Resources (ENR) was analyzed, but did not show any bats. Bat detectors will be used again next summer to try to record the presence of bats in the GSA, as we still receive a few reports of sightings each year.

Liaison This year has been busy for species at risk consultations. I consulted with the RRCs and public on the proposed downlistings of the peregrine falcon from Special Concern to Not at Risk and the olive-sided flycatcher from Threatened to Special Concern. I also consulted on the recovery strategies for gypsy cuckoo bumble bee (Endangered) and barren-ground caribou (Threatened) and the management plan for horned grebe (Special Concern).

Professional Development I attended Mental Health First Aid training in March. I also attended webinars on chronic wasting disease: An emerging disease threat for caribou populations in Canada and assessment of impacts and restoration solutions for caribou habitat in the boreal forest.

Species at Risk Acts

There are two *Species at Risk Acts* in Canada that affect us here in the GSA. The federal one looks at how a species is doing Canada-wide. The territorial one looks at how a species is doing in the NWT only.

Species Status Definitions

Species of Special Concern: A species that may become threatened or endangered because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

Threatened Species: A species that is likely to become endangered if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction (could be lost in our children's lifetime).

Endangered Species: A species facing imminent extirpation or extinction (could be lost in our lifetime).

Extirpated Species (NWT): A species that no longer exists in the wild in the NWT, but exists in the wild outside of the NWT.

Extirpated Species (Canada): A species that no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but exists in the wild outside of Canada.

Extinct: A species that does not occur anywhere in the world.

Not at Risk: The species has been assessed and is not at risk of extinction, given the current circumstances.

Data Deficient: There is not enough information available to assess the species.

Recovery Documents

Assessment and Status Report: Provides information on a species' biology, habitat, distribution, population numbers and decreases; outlines threats.

Management Plan: For a species listed as Special Concern; must be completed within three years for federally-listed species and two years for NWT-listed species. Includes measures for the conservation of species and their habitat.

Recovery Strategy: For a species listed as Threatened or Endangered; must be completed in two years for Threatened species and one year for Endangered species. Identifies what needs to be done to stop or reverse the decline of a species.

To learn more about the federal process and what species are listed, visit <http://registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca>

To learn more about the NWT process and what species are listed, visit <https://www.nwt-speciesatrisk.ca>



Sarah Lord
fisheries & forestry
biologist January 2017

Management Planning

Fisheries Management I reviewed the final draft of the new Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) for Dolly Varden in the Western Arctic, 2019-2023. This revised IFMP was approved by the GRRB during their July teleconference meeting.

The IFMP Steering Committee (SC) held its teleconference meeting in June. I drafted a response from the IFMP SC to the Rat River Working Group (RRWG) Chair and I gave a public presentation at the RRWG communication meetings in Aklavik and Fort McPherson in June before fishing season began.

Research I offer my support to researchers at many different organizations for projects that address GRRB research priorities.



Photo credit: Black Fly Studios

Mackenzie Delta Historical Water Levels A proposal for a paleoreconstruction of historical water levels in the Mackenzie Delta led by Dr. Jennifer Galloway (Geological Survey of Canada) has received federal core funding and additional funding from ArcticNet. GRRB is involved in this project. Fieldwork is scheduled to begin in summer 2020 for a five-year funding cycle.

Community-Based Whitefish Monitoring I continue to provide logistical and administrative support for this project with scientists from Simon Fraser University and the University of Maine. The program was carried out by community monitors in Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic in July and August. This is the third year of monitoring, and we are learning some interesting things about whitefish! For example, more than half of all the whitefish caught by the monitors in Fort McPherson used three different rivers during their lives and nearly a third (28%) went out to the ocean at least once. This project is ongoing to help GRRB learn more about where

whitefish go during their lives, so we can make sure that we are protecting the areas that are important for them.

Tracking Change In May, I attended the *Tracking Change* international meeting in New York to discuss interim results for the project *Indigenous knowledge of changes in fisheries due to climate change*. This is an international collaborative project that GRRB, Gwich'in Tribal Council and other renewable resources boards and Indigenous governments in the Mackenzie River basin have been participating in for several years. Together, we are developing book chapters, publications and other communication products and workshops to determine the project's directions over the next two years.

Arctic Salmon Project I work with Karen Dunmall, who is the lead on this project. There were a lot of salmon caught this year. Samples are currently being sampled and analyzed. For more information, check out the project facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/arcticsalmon/>

...continued on next page



Community-Based Water Monitoring Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Waters Division is continuing its community-based water monitoring program. In response to concerns about a red or orange mass seen in the water last summer, ENR Waters worked with the company C-CORE to use satellite data to see if they could identify exactly where and when this phenomenon is happening. They reported back in June that this satellite method is usable and ENR is now determining its next steps. ENR Waters did water sampling in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) in July and August, but the mass was not present at that time.

Technical Advice & Liaison I provided technical advice to the Board about the ongoing review of changes to the *Fisheries Act* (Bill C-68), a long process with many different components. Bill C-68 received royal assent on June 20. All provisions, including the return of the HADD provision (express prohibition against the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat) have now come into force. On June 27, I drafted the GRRB response to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) about Arctic Region Implementation.

ENR continues their Legislative Initiative to update NWT environmental legislation. The *Protected Areas Act* received assent on June 6. The *Environmental Rights Act* received assent on August 21. The revised *Forest Act* was withdrawn in May while with the Standing Committee. In August, I reviewed the draft General Regulations for the *Protected Areas Act* so that the Thaidene Nëné National Park Reserve could be established prior to the territorial election.

I reviewed and provided comments

to our Species at Risk Biologist on a number of Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) files, including the Provisional Special Report on Identifying Designatable Units at an Appropriate Scale for Ciscoes in Canada and the Draft Designatable Unit Reports for Coho and Chinook Salmon in Canada.

I review and provide comments as needed on permit and research license applications. I review research proposals to provide feedback, often drafting Letters of Support. I drafted language for the new 'FAQ for Researchers' tab on our website, to help explain GRRB processes and expectations to external researchers.

I inform researchers about research and management needs in our region and connect them with resources in the GSA. As part of the GRRB's efforts to communicate to other scientists its recommended 'best practices' about how to do community-based research in the GSA, I co-presented a paper with Jeremy Brammer

(Environment Canada) at the Northern Contaminants Results Workshop in Whitehorse in October about how scientists can do a better job carrying out research and communicating results.

Other Health & Safety I remain active on the Occupational Health & Safety Committee. Before the summer field season, I reviewed proposed changes to the GRRB's Safety Policy and Job Risk Analysis documents. Wildlife Biologist Édouard Bélanger and I reviewed and improved our field safety plan forms before the field season began, introducing a new extended field travel form. I also reviewed all safety incidents involving grizzly bears and drafted a briefing note for Board discussion during the September face-to-face Board meeting.

Operational I sat on the Summer Student hiring committee, assessing candidates and arranging and participating in interviews. For a week in August, I was acting Executive Director in Amy's absence.



Jordan Norman-Goose technician to March 2019

I am a Gwich'in Participant. I was born and raised in Inuvik. I graduated from the Environment & Natural Resources Technology Program (ENRTP) in May 2018. I enjoy being active and being outdoors. ENRTP has enhanced my personal knowledge of not only the land, plants and animals, but also my traditional knowledge of travelling, hunting, fishing and outdoor survival. This course allowed me to learn by combining both traditional and scientific knowledge and exercising that knowledge in real-life scenarios.

Since the last newsletter, I participated in and led educational projects and programs within the GSA. In June, I led the outreach program called "Nature Day". I also piloted a teacher's resource package for the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board called "Working for the Land", using the Gwich'in Land Use Plan as an example of Northern Resource Management (**page 17**). Leading Nature Day and piloting this teachers resource package took place during the same month, so it was quite a steep learning curve for me. I was able to build on my planning and time management skills, learn more about coordinating events and all of the logistics involved and learn how to better engage myself with the youth while also being able to provide deliverables.



Photo credit: Black Fly Studios

Since the last newsletter, I completed the following tasks:

- Maintenance around the office, storage units and Sea Can, motorized equipment
- Reception duties and office work (file management, library database)
- GRRB equipment inventory
- MVRMA Workshop in Inuvik
- Mental Health First Aid Training
- Assisted in conducting Gwich'in Harvest Study – attended workshop in Inuvik
- Rapport Leadership International Workshop in Calgary, AB (**page 18**)
- NWT Board Forum, Fort Good Hope
- Regional workshop for Commercial Use
- Assisted with Dall Sheep Project - field work preparation, orientation workshop
- September GRRB meeting
- Community Tour

I worked with the GRRB for three consecutive summers as Technician Trainee and was promoted to full-time Technician during the summer of 2018. I have led projects and coordinated youth programs and activities. I have helped with the logistics for a few GRRB-related meetings. I got to travel to Fort Good Hope for the NWT Board Forum in June. I had the chance to speak on a youth panel during that forum, which was a meaningful experience for me.

I am very thankful that the GRRB hired me as the full-time technician last summer because it gave me an opportunity to enhance my experience in this field of work. I have grown personally and professionally during my time with GRRB and I will continue working as their Technician until March 2020.



NWT Board Forum Youth Panel. Photo credit: M. Cliffe-Phillips, MVRB

GRRB Summer Student Report

Leigh 'Ana Cardinal

Hello, my name is Leigh 'Ana Cardinal and I was born and raised in Inuvik. I am 17 years old and recently completed grade 11 at East Three Secondary School. This fall, I will continue back to school to receive my high school diploma. After I graduate, I plan on furthering my education to my goal of becoming a biologist. I applied for the Summer Student position at the GRRB after school was out for the summer and got an interview a couple days later. Applying for my first job and experiencing my first job interview was very nerve wracking to me, I was super nervous. The following days later, I got a phone call back with good news that I got the job! This was very exciting to me because I was eager to learn new things.

I started the Summer Student position on July 2 and ended on August 30, 2019. During those two months, I learned a lot about how an office operates. It was positive,

hands-on experience. Here are some of the tasks that I was assigned to do over the summer:

- Library database entry
- File management
- Reception duties
- Overseeing photos for Dall's Sheep photo management
- Attending community meetings/presentations to gain more knowledge about the Gwich'in Settlement Area
- Dall's Sheep database entry

My term flew by so fast, and I'm grateful for having the opportunity to work with the GRRB. I gained a lot of knowledge and experience that will benefit me in the future. I would like to personally thank Amy Amos, Cheryl Greenland, Jordan Norman-Goose and the rest of the staff at the GRRB for being my role models throughout the summer. I look forward to the following school year, and I wish best of luck to all the staff



computer skills and helped me to develop a strong work ethic. I spent time working on Gwich'in harvest data and library database entry for the majority of the summer, which I enjoyed. Also, I attended a workshop about the commercial selling of wildlife, which was very interesting to be a part of.

Some of the tasks I was assigned to do over my summer term include:

- Library database entry
- Gwich'in Harvest Study database entry
- Attendance and note taking at the Commercial Selling workshop July 9-11

The summer student position is a great job for those who are looking to gain work experience and learn new career skills. This job can play a role in helping one decide what type of career they want in the future. I am very grateful that I was able to work for the GRRB for two years in a row, and that I got to work with the GLUPB this year. I would like to thank the GRRB, GLUPB, Sue McKenzie, Amy Amos, and the other staff members for giving me this amazing opportunity.

Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board (GLUPB) Summer Student Report

Lynsey Krutko

My name is Lynsey Krutko and I live in Inuvik. In June 2019, I graduated from grade 12 at East Three Secondary School. I will be moving in a couple weeks to attend University, where I will be taking a Bachelor of Science program.

My term began on June 28 and ended on August 14, 2019. I worked with the GRRB as well as the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board (GLUPB) this summer. The summer student position has provided me with the opportunity to strengthen my work skills, such as communication skills,



Cheryl Greenland office administration and finances

since February 2009

I am a Nihtat Gwich'in Participant from Inuvik. I was born and raised here in Inuvik. I am responsible for file management, payroll, and all financial entries.

I keep track of staff time records. I also cover our reception desk and maintain the front office area.

I assist with the development and distribution of the Conservation Calendar each year.

Since our last newsletter, I helped with the financial audit and helped prepare for Finance Committee meetings in May and July. I ensure that the reports are ready for the meeting dates (we try to have them one week before the meeting). I work closely with Amy during these times to prepare the financial reports.



Photo credit: Black Fly Studios

I attended the Regional workshop for commercial use in July 2019. I helped set up and make sure the food and snacks were there in a timely manner.

I presented to the Taii Trigwatsii program students with Amy in Tsiigehtchic. I was nervous to speak

but it was good to get out and talk to them about my experiences.

In my safety role, I participate in Safety Committee meetings and offer advice on any safety concerns around the office.

Resource Management Pilot Project

Jordan Norman-Goose, Technician

At the beginning of June, I introduced a Resource Management pilot package and tested it out with students in grades 4 and 7 in Aklavik and grades 4, 7 and 10 in Fort McPherson. It is a bit difficult to catch the attention of the students in grades 4 and 7, but they were okay once they started doing the work. The grade 10 students were excellent - I just had to keep pushing them and asking them questions and help them out to keep them occupied with the material.



Grade 7 Resource Management class in Fort McPherson

Throughout the activities in each unit, I put up examples of what we were doing at the front of the class and walked around the room asking questions and telling the students about the way decisions are made through consultations, meetings, etc. I showed them live examples using our physical land and maps of the GSA.

Mahsi Cho for the great opportunity to get out into the communities and to learn to work with youth from a teacher's perspective. I think it went very well for the schools, the students and for me! I enjoyed coordinating this. Once the ball got rolling, everything fell into place. It was a great learning experience!



Course Report: Rapport Leadership International's 'Leadership Breakthrough One'

**Jordan Norman-Goose,
Technician**

From May 3-5, I was fortunate enough to attend the Leadership Breakthrough One course from Rapport Leadership International in Calgary. This course allowed me to step outside of my comfort zone and helped me push past some blocks holding me back from being a leader. This intense two-and-a-half-day course is done through experiential processes and debriefing, journaling and self-reflection.

Here are some of the things that I discovered and developed throughout the course:

- Increased skills and emotional intelligence (communication, emotional awareness)

- Understanding of teamwork and support
- Passion and enthusiasm
- Free flowing communication and accountability
- Feedback, giving and receiving
- Confidence to get outside my comfort zone, and to take action when needed

Being able to travel out of the territory for work and meeting more great people along the way was a great and intense experience. At the same time, I learned more about my capabilities and strengths and how I can further apply them positively to my own personal and business life. The trip was really empowering and eventful. I know I won't forget about the course and some of the great people I met during the course and time in Calgary.

Mahsi Cho to my Executive Director, Amy Amos, for appointing me to this course and for seeing the leadership potential in me. I really appreciate it and am glad I was able to attend this awesome course.



GET IN TOUCH!

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upcoming events

ArcticNet Annual Scientific Meeting
December 2-5, 2019
Halifax, NS

GRRB Winter Board Meeting
February 4-6, 2020
Inuvik, NT

Porcupine Caribou Management Board Annual Harvest Meeting
February 11-12, 2020
TBA

Conference of Management Authorities

February 18-20, 2020
Inuvik, NT

Rat River Working Group Meeting
March 3, 2020

West Side Working Group Meeting
March 4, 2020

Species at Risk Committee Meeting
April 7-9, 2020
Yellowknife, NT



Please call your RRC for monthly meeting times:

Ehdiitat RRC (Aklavik)
867-978-2336

Tetlit RRC (Fort McPherson)
867-952-2330

Gwichya RRC (Tsiigehtchic)
867-953-3608

Nihtat RRC (Inuvik)
867-777-6650