



Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board What's New?

February 2007

Introduction

Greetings to everyone throughout the Gwich'in Settlement Area. We are now well on our way into 2007 and we hope the months ahead brings everyone something to look forward to.

This is the first newsletter from GRRB since our Christmas edition in December 2006. This edition brings you a little update from some of the staff at the GRRB about various projects. You will also find a story about life long ago from the late Charles Koe of Fort McPherson, NT. This story was taken from the Cope File Archives and was recorded sometime in the 1970's.

The GRRB will be having their next Board Meeting on February 7th-9th, 2007 in Inuvik, NT. The meeting location will be at the Mackenzie Hotel and will be open to the public on February 7th and 8th.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter for the month of February 2007. A reminder that your comments and idea's are always welcome. Hearing from you will help us to improve our newsletters and strengthen our communications with the communities as well.

Mahsi Cho



Flying high above the clouds

Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board 2007 Conservation Calendars

The 2007 Conservation Calendars have arrived. This years calendar is titled "Working to ensure our resources today will be here for the future".

The GRRB would like to thank Department of fisheries & Oceans (DFO) & Environment & Natural

Resources (ENR) for their continued support each year towards the cost of producing this calendar.

Copies of the calendars were sent to each community RRC office. Additional copies are available at the GRRB office in Inuvik.

GRRB

February 2007

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Special points of interest:

- Tsee (beaver) & Dzan (muskrat) study
- NWT Climate Change Summit
- Environmental Biologist Update

Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall...(Story from the late Charles Koe, COPE archives 1970's)

Years ago, the people of Fort McPherson were very hard working people. Summer, winter, fall and spring was filled with different kinds of work. During the fall, after freeze-up or sometimes after Christmas, the people moved up to the mountains. Some men trapped from after freeze-up until the end of trapping season. Then they went up to the mountains to get caribou meat. The men got as many caribou as they could kill and their wives fixed up the meat. They made dry meat, pemmican, and they cut all the meat off the bones. The bones were then chopped up into smaller pieces and this was all put in one big pot and boiled. The marrow would melt and come to the top as grease. The grease was put into another container and then frozen. This was bone grease. It could be used for frying meat or cooking with. Same was done with all the fat. The good caribou skins are cleaned and wrapped around the dry meat. Sometimes the women made huge bags out of the skins for dry meat. When enough meat was waiting to be moved, some men would take the meat and move it on ahead. Sometimes they brought it all the way home to McPherson. Then, when it was time to move back to McPherson, there was room for the food, clothing, and the kids in the sleds. Easter was celebrated. Everyone attended church and those confirmed all took communion. Feasts and dances were held. Sometimes weddings. After spending one or two weeks in town, the people prepared for spring. In those days, everything was hard to get. The men looked after their traps as well as they could and still at times they lost them. Sometimes the spring floods took them away. The store, Hudson Bay store, usually ran short of some items that the trappers needed. The trappers sometimes had a hard time getting together what they needed, then left for the ratting camps. Traps were set. The men and women all set traps. They caught muskrats, brought them home, and stretched the skins for sale. The meat was eaten or fed to the dogs. When it was close to break-up, the traps were taken out of the lakes and some were set around the lake shore. After the ice was all gone, hunting was done by small canoes. At times a man

went out in the late afternoon and he didn't come home till early in the morning, around six. Shortly afterwards, his wife woke up and skinned the muskrats. This was not easy work. Everything was hard work but no one knew of an easier life, so nobody complained. After spring hunting season ended, everyone came to town again - paddling. When they got into town they took their furs to the Bay. Our story teller said there were set prices on fur those days. The fur prices did not go up and down like it does today. The manager did not give money like it does today. He only told the trappers about how much money they had and he kept it in the store. Any time they needed anything, the people would simply go and charge it. After the steamboat came, once again the store was packed with food and hardware and some clothing. The people bought what they needed and made their long trips to the fish camps. Usually it was hot and mosquitoes were bad! There was no such thing as mosquito dope then and the only thing used was a thin mesh. This was used over the head to keep the flies away. When the people arrived at their fish camps, some of them had to build a new fish house. They had to go into the bush and get the bark of trees in huge sheets. These sheets were used to cover the frames made from big willows or small trees. After this was done the men set up the nets made by themselves. The women were busy settling down for the summer. Every day a large number of fish were caught and a lot of dry fish were made. The dry fish were later separated, some for eating and the rest for dog food. The Bay sometimes bought some dry fish. When there was time, during the summer, the women picked berries.

When fall came the people were all ready for the winter. Again, the same things were done. Every day the man of the house did hard work, his wife did the same. The children helped. Life was very good in those days. Today, we have everything and yet our life is not as good as it was in the early days.

The End

Tsee (beaver) and Dzan (muskrat) Study... by: Brian Dokum

The beaver & muskrat study is off to a good start, we currently have 9 GPS's out to three communities; Aklavik, Fort McPherson, and Tsiigehtchic.

In Fort McPherson, the community is needing more GPS's, once I started handing out GPS's, more individuals wanted to take part in the project. On the other hand, we have not received any interested individuals from the Inuvik area yet?



Tsee (beaver)

Here is the list of harvesters that currently have GPS's:

1. Dale Semple
2. Eddie Macleod

3. Lennie Macdonald
4. James Andre
5. John Kay
6. Frederick Blake Jr. (Sonny)
7. George Niditchie Jr. (Georgie)
8. Louie Cardinal
9. ERRC Coordinator (Jerome Gordon)

Jerome will hand out the GPS when someone is interested in collecting data.

Thank you,

Brian Dokum
Renewable Resource Technician

NWT Climate Change Leadership Summit...by: Bobbie Jo Greenland

Ecology North and Dene Nation hosted a Climate Change Leadership Summit in Yellowknife, NT from January 15-17, 2007. I was invited to attend as a youth representative from the Gwich'in Council International (GCI) Board that I am involved with. The host organizations covered all my expenses and I participated as Co-Facilitator in the workshop sessions on Wildlife and Natural Resources.

The Purpose of the summit was to provide a forum where NWT leaders can receive and discuss information about climate change impacts in the NWT and what they can do about it. There were not too many of our Gwich'in leaders at the summit, but I did see Chief Peter Ross from Tsiigehtchic and Chief Richard Nerysoo of Inuvik. There were also a few Band Council Members and Youth representatives at the summit. There were many other Chiefs, band council members and other community resource people from all across the Northwest Territories. There were members from the local

hunters and trappers committees as well. Many of the MLA's were also present for a couple hours on the first day of the Summit. Chief Gary Harrison from Chickaloon Alaska was also present. He is

"There were not too many of our Gwich'in leaders at the summit, but I did see Chief Peter Ross from Tsiigehtchic and Chief Richard Nerysoo of Inuvik"

also the current Chairman for the Indigenous Peoples Secretariat (IPS). The President for Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) Dwayne Smith was also there and he made an excellent presentation.

I have attended similar conferences/summits in the past and I really liked how this particular one was organized. There was more discussions, rather than many long presentations. There was also a wide range of participants coming from different backgrounds and expertise. This is so important when discussing an issue such as Climate Change/Global Warming. There were a number of videos shown in the evenings over the few days. One of

NWT Climate Change Leadership Summit Continued...

the videos I watched was called “An Inconvenient Truth”. It was produced by former USA Vice President, Al Gore. It was very well done and educational on the facts about Climate Change.

I think everyone should watch it. You can rent it from the video store in your community and if they say they don’t have it, then ask them to get it. You can also go online and order a copy at www.amazon.com

We can’t put a stop to climate change, but we can learn how to slow it down, how to minimize the impacts and how to still try and ensure our future generations still have a chance to live in a stable environment. On a daily basis we are all contributing to the causes of climate change/

global warming and many of us are probably not even aware of this. This is why it is important to educate ourselves on the issues and to share what we know with others and increase awareness among our leadership who make decisions on behalf of our communities. This is a serious matter affecting the entire planet and it is the Arctic that will be impacted the most at a faster rate.

The Arctic is our home and we need to learn about what we can and should be doing to deal with all the impacts of global warming and how we are going to have to adapt to the changes today and those to come in the future.

We may be seeing some changes now, BUT it is the next generations that are going to be most affected and forced to live with whatever conditions is left for them.



Shih (Grizzly Bear) in the winter. (GRRB Photo)

For more information on Climate Change or about the leadership summit., please contact Ecology North in Yellowknife at (867) 873-6019 or

email Doug Ritchie at doug@ecologynorth.ca

You can also contact me by calling (867) 777-6616 or email tkmanager@grrb.nt.ca

Mahsi Cho.

Update from Environmental Biologist Amy Thompson

Funding proposal for a Loche liver study for 2007

I have continuously heard complaints from community members about discoloration in loche livers around the GSA. They have concerns about consuming the discoloured livers and what causes the discoloration.

I have applied for funding to investigate the occurrence of discoloured loche livers in the GSA. There have been some studies in the past that looked

at contamination as a possible factor but found no significant difference in the levels between the normal and discoloured livers. I plan to conduct a detailed literature search and summarize all the information to date on loche livers into a document that I will distribute to all the communities.

Then, I plan to analyse the liver content by pathology to understand the tissue structure of normal and discoloured livers.

“I have applied for funding to investigate the occurrence of discoloured loche livers in the GSA”.

Pathology is the study and analysis of the structural and functional changes in molecules, cells, tissues and organs that underlie disease.

This pathology study should reveal and eliminate causes for the liver discoloration. I welcome all comments, concerns and recommendations for this project.

Update from the Environmental Biologist continued....

Collaboration on climate change study for 2007

I have agreed to collaborate with Dr. Mark Johnston from the Saskatchewan Research Council on a project entitled "Forest management strategies to support ecological adaptation and resilience to climate change". He has submitted a proposal to the Sustainable Forest Management Network (SFMN) for funding and is currently awaiting feedback. If funding is granted, I will interview forest managers in the GSA for their input on this issue.

Arctic Red River and lower Mackenzie River: TK study on local fish species

I am pleased to say that this report is in its final steps. Before my holidays, I distributed the report to a few people for review. I will incorporate their comments and I would like to present the results to a few Tsiigehtchic fishers to ensure that the results represent their thoughts appropriately. Then I will circulate it to the communities. I apologise for the lengthy time it has taken to get this out. The report has really improved and if it continues my hopes are to submit it to a scientific journal like Arctic.

Forestry

I am still a Territorial committee member for the First Nation Forestry Program (FNFP). The

FNFP is a program that provides funding and support to improve the capacity of First Nations to develop and sustainably manage their forest resources and to participate in and benefit from forest-based development opportunities. FNFP is issuing a Call for Proposals (CFP) for the 2007-08 fiscal year for projects to be completed between April 1st, 2007, and March 31, 2008 (deadline for CFP is February 28th). First Nations in the NWT are invited to apply for funding assistance to conduct forestry-related projects. For the upcoming year, approximately \$90,000 has been allocated to cost-share projects with First Nations in NWT. Please contact me or visit the FNFP website (www.fnfp.gc.ca) for an application or more information.

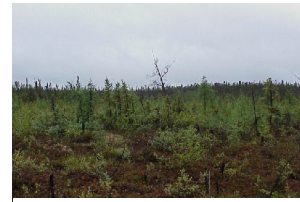
I am also a member of the Forest Management Steering Committee to help complete the Forestry Management Plan for the GSA.

Reviewing Research Applications and Land Use Permits

I am still reviewing research applications and land use permits. Many applications came in over the holidays so I am currently working on responding to them.

Mahsi Choo!

Amy Thompson
Environmental Biologist



Forest area

"FNFP is issuing a Call for Proposals (CFP) for the 2007-08 fiscal year"



Cord Wood



Chehluk (loche)



Luk Zheii (white fish)

Update from Wildlife Biologist Catherine Lambert

NWT Caribou Summit, Inuvik, NT

From January 23rd to 26th, wildlife managers, RRCs and HTC's, community leaders, biologists, harvesters and others from all across the Canadian Arctic met in Inuvik to discuss the decline of the barren-ground caribou in the Northwest Territories. The three days workshop aimed to promote exchange of information and discussion among all the organizations. Strategies to prevent the caribou from further decline were identified and ranked during group workshops. The strategies for caribou conservation fall into one of the five categories: (1) engaging all partners with an interest in barren-ground caribou; (2) making sure appropriate information is available for management decisions; (3) managing impacts of human activities; (4) public education and increased compliance to laws; (5) addressing hardships that result from low caribou numbers. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR, NWT) organized the conference and will be leading the next steps by communicating those strategies in details to your community and organization and by facilitating their implementation. We need to make sure we all work together to help the caribou and ensure its survival for the generations to come.

Yukon North Slope 2007 Mackenzie Gas Project Conference, Whitehorse, YT

North Slope Conferences are held every three years as a result of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, and is a great opportunity for aboriginal organizations, governments, academics and community members to discuss common issues, exchange information and share ideas related to the Yukon North Slope. This year's conference theme was "Meeting the Challenges of Environmental Monitoring and Reporting in Wildlife Management", and main issues addressed were incorporating Traditional users into wildlife monitoring, communicating results to communities, accountability, cumulative impact monitoring, and coastal zone monitoring. The GRRB does not have projects on the North Slope, but we have presented two posters about Grizzly Bear Management in the GSA and about our current Dall's Sheep, Grizzly Bear and Wolf Project in the Richardson Mountains, which are adjacent to the North Slope.



Vadzaih (caribou)

The GRRB presented a joint submission with the GTC at the January hearings in Inuvik. We presented shared concerns about a lack of sufficient information on many wildlife species in the GSA, particularly woodland caribou,

moose and grizzly bears. We are now preparing for another round of hearings in March, which will focus on Monitoring Plans and Cumulative Impacts.

If you have suggestions or recommendations, please contact Catherine at wildlife@grrb.nt.ca or 867-777-6610.

I wish you a great winter!!!



Vadzaih (caribou)

February 2007



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GRRB Mission

To conserve and manage renewable resources within the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) in a sustainable manner to meet the needs of the public today and in the future.

GRRB Vision

We believe that people in the GSA are responsible for using, protecting and conserving their resources, as well as, active partners with the GRRB in managing their resources.

Check us out on the
web www.grrb.nt.ca

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