

**Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board
Five Year Report
1994 to 1999**

December 1999

Inuvik, NT

Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board
Report 99-10



RobertCharlie

Robert Charlie has served as Chairperson of the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board (GRRB) since 1993. Robert is dedicated to renewable resource management and wildlife issues.

The GRRB has been in operation for five years and has made exceptional progress in carrying out its mandate as per the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA) and the Implementation plan. We are a co-management Board that has developed an excellent working relationship with our partners on the Board, Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Canadian Wildlife Services (CWS) and the Department of Resources and Wildlife and Economic Development (DRWED). We have continuously consulted with the communities as we carry out various activities related to the resources that the Gwich'in people and others have depended on for generations.

With the official establishment of the Board in 1994 we consulted with the communities to get some direction on the priorities of the area. Based on this direction the Board decided what research and management activities to carry out. We have since held a strategic planning session and have set goals for the next few years.

The Board also recognizes the importance of Local Knowledge and has initiated a project to collect information on the wildlife, fish and forest resources used by Gwich'in people.

The Board has developed an excellent working relationship with other Land Claim groups and have held joint meetings with them to discuss issues of common concern. We have also met with Territorial and Federal departments responsible for wildlife, fish and forestry resources to promote and present the perspectives of the people of the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA).

The Board is responsible for conducting the Gwich'in Harvest Study and has been successful in gathering the harvest data in all four communities of the GSA. Our staff have all been visible in the communities carrying out research projects, meeting with the Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs) and Elders' committees and assisting the RRCs whenever possible. During the next three years of implementation, we will continue with these activities and build on the relationships and partnerships that we have with the communities as we carry out the activities of the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board.

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Acronym List

Here is a list of acronyms that we use in this report:

CWS	Canadian Wildlife Services
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
DRWED	Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
GCLCA	Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement
GEKP	Gwich'in Environmental Knowledge Project
GHS	Gwich'in Harvest Study
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRRB	Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board
GSA	Gwich'in Settlement Area
GTC	Gwich'in Tribal Council
HTC	Hunters and Trappers Committee
RRC	Renewable Resource Council
SFMN	Sustainable Forest Management Network



Edigwat'an - Grey Jay (Whiskey Jack)



Peregrine Falcon

This report is written in plain language and is meant for all audiences - community members to government department staff. The report is however, a summary report. Anyone wanting more detailed information on any of the contents should contact the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board office.

Introduction

The Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board (GRRB) completed its 5th year of full operation in 1999. To mark this occasion the Board has put together a summary report that covers all Board activities and projects for the past 5 years. The report also provides an overview of the Board, staff and information available on renewable resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Renewable resources (wildlife, fish and forests) are an important part of Gwich'in culture, lifestyle and economy. The Board is working with all of the communities to ensure that resources are used and managed sustainably. By working together we can ensure there are resources for future generations.



Margorie Greenland



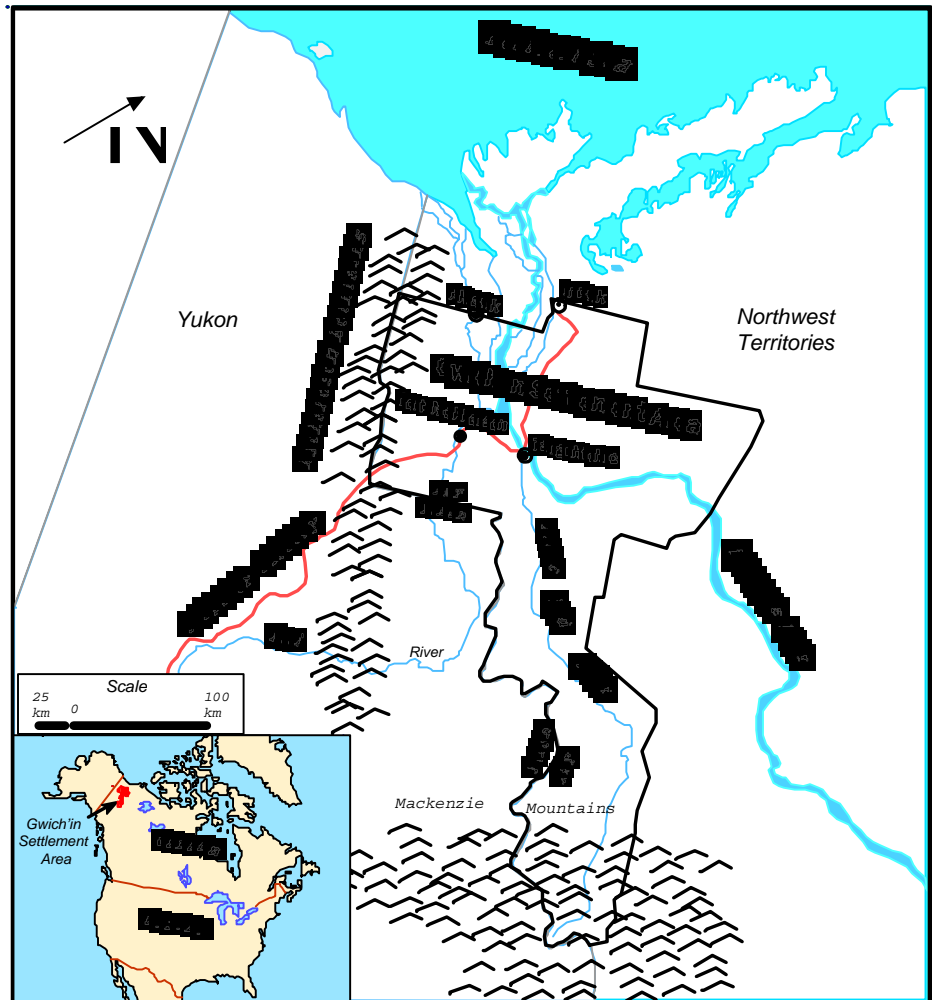
Daagoo-Plamigan

Gwich'in Land Claim

The Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement was signed in 1992. The Agreement covers approximately 56,935 square km, and includes the communities of Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Inuvik and Tsiigehtchic.



Gwich'in Settlement Area



Land

The Gwich'in settlement area has two mountain ranges: the Mackenzie Mountains and the Richardson Mountains. Much of the landscape is covered by boreal forest, arctic tundra and alpine tundra.

The Mackenzie Delta is the largest delta in Canada (12, 170 km²). It drains an area of 1.75 million km², discharges 335 km³ of water per year and carries 118 tonnes of suspended sediment.

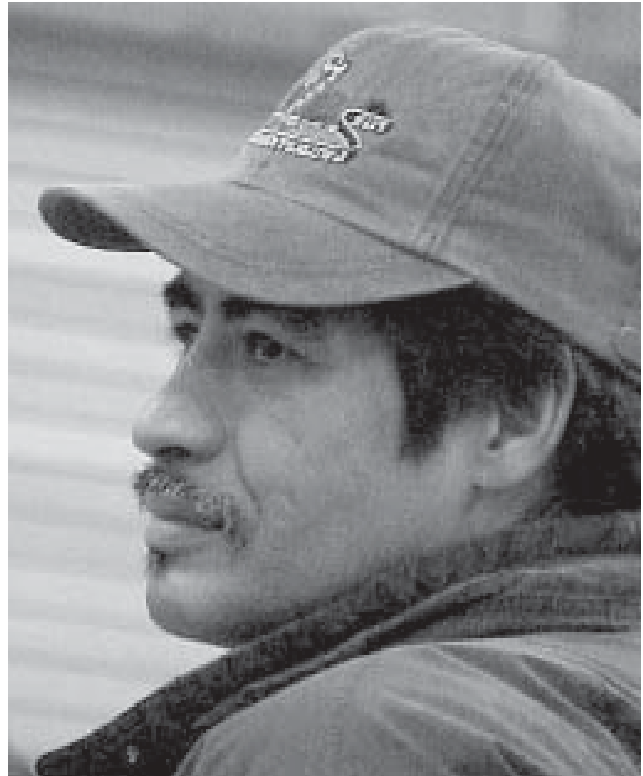
People

The total population of the Gwich'in Settlement Area including Gwich'in beneficiaries, Inuvialuit, Metis and non-aboriginals, is approximately 5,100. There are close to 2,440 Gwich'in beneficiaries, but only about 1,400 Gwich'in live in the land claim area.

For centuries the Gwich'in have depended on the land for their survival. Today the knowledge they have accumulated is used to manage the resources they control in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

People still depend heavily on the renewable resources of the area, such as caribou and fish, for maintaining their lifestyle and their ties with the land.

Each community has a council that deals with local renewable resource issues. The elected/appointed members represent their community at meetings to make decisions on renewable resource management and planning.



Johnny Firth

Renewable Resources

The renewable resources are managed through a co-management structure. The Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board is the main co-management body responsible for renewable resources.

Caribou and moose are important to the Gwich'in as subsistence food sources. The ranges of both the Porcupine and Bluenose Caribou herds overlap the settlement area. Moose are found throughout the region.

Fish are used throughout the settlement area. The main species used are Broad Whitefish, Dolly Varden Charr, Coney, Lake Whitefish, Lake Trout, Burbot (loche) and Northern Pike (jackfish).

Forests of black and white spruce cover a large part of the Gwich'in Settlement Area. This ecosystem provides habitat for caribou, bears and furbearers. The largest trees are concentrated in the Mackenzie Delta and in the river and creek valleys.



Vadzah Egi-Caribou Calf

Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board

The Gwich'in Renewable Resource 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. The powers and responsibilities of the Board are detailed in Chapters 12 and 13 of the GCLCA, Volume 1.

Our Mission

Conserve and manage renewable resources within the Gwich'in Settlement Area in a sustainable manner to meet the needs of the public today and in the future.

Our Vision

People in the Gwich'in Settlement Area are responsible for using, protecting and conserving their resources, and are active partners with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board in managing their resources.

Our Office

Our office is located in Inuvik on the second floor of the Alex Moses Greenland Building. The GRRB staff provide support to the Board, help implement the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement and conduct meetings, research, management projects and education programs. Board staff include 10 to 12 professional and technical support positions. Additional staff (part-time community interviewers, field assistants and students) are hired depending on project needs.

Each summer, the Board hires students to provide them with work experience opportunities and encourage them to pursue a career in renewable resources. The Board has established a successful on-the-job training program that has provided Gwich'in beneficiaries with valuable work experience in the area of renewable resources. Past trainees have gone on to permanent positions in renewable resources management.

Our Website

The Board has developed a comprehensive website that provides information about the Board, its members, staff, research and management programs. For more information about the Board, visit <http://www.grrb.nt.ca>.

GRRB Operations

The GRRB is a co-management board that acts in the public interest to manage renewable resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Although board members are nominated by the Gwich'in Tribal council (GTC) and various government departments, all members act in the public interest, independent of their nominating organization or department. Having a mix of Gwich'in beneficiaries and government appointments provides the diversity and balance needed to allow the Board to make informed decisions. The Chairperson of the Board must reside within the GSA. The Board has developed an Operations Procedure Manual to provide direction for the Board and staff.

Board Meetings

The Board currently meets twice per year. Meeting locations rotate between the four communities in the GSA.

In January, the Board addresses any important issues concerning operations or renewable resource management. The Board approves its operating and harvest study budgets for the next fiscal year. As well, the GRRB allocates funds from the Wildlife Studies Fund for research, management and educational projects.

The Board meets for a second time in late September or early October. At this meeting, the Board reviews research and management projects, addresses other issues and identifies research and management priorities for the coming fiscal year.

During the first 5 years of the Board's operation it was necessary to meet more frequently to provide direction for Board operations. The Board may meet or tele-conference at any time to address specific issues.

List of Past Board Meetings (dates and locations)

October 1-2, 1993, Tsiigehtchic
February 18, 1994, Whitehorse
May 25-27, 1994, Inuvik
June 15, 1994, conference call
October 12-14, 1994, Inuvik
January 23-26, 1995, Aklavik
April 3-6, 1995, Fort McPherson
July 25-27, 1995, Tsiigehtchic
November 25-26, 1995, Inuvik
February 12-14, 1996, Aklavik
April 10-12, 1996, Fort McPherson
July 25-26, 1996, Tsiigehtchic
October 16-18, 1996, Inuvik
January 21-24, 1997, Tsiigehtchic
April 9-11, 1997, Aklavik
July 21-23, 1997, TI'oondih, Peel River
October 28, 1997, Fort McPherson
January 28-30, 1998, Inuvik
October 12, 1998, Tsiigehtchic
January 28-29, 1999, Aklavik
September 23-24, 1999, Fort McPherson



Vadzah Choo-Bull Caribou



Robert Alexie Sr.

The Board is composed of one chairperson, six members and six alternates. The Gwich'in Tribal Council nominates three members and three alternates. The Canadian Wildlife Services, the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans nominates one member and one alternate each. The Chairperson is chosen by the Board members.

**Board
Members
(past and present)**

1999

Members: Robert Charlie-Chairperson
James Firth
Roger Peet
Paul Latour
Ron Morrison
Joe Benoit
Robert Alexie Sr.

Alternates: John Nagy
Melba Mitchell
Norman Snowshoe
Robert Elias
Vicky Johnston
Robert Moshenko

1998

Members: Robert Charlie-Chairperson
James Firth
Joe Benoit
Robert Alexie Sr.
Ron Morrison
Paul Latour
Jim Hickling

Alternates: Roger Peet
James Ross
John Nagy
Kevin McCormick
Melba Mitchell
Robert Elias
Norman Snowshoe

1997

Members: Robert Charlie-Chairperson
James Firth
Joe Benoit
Robert Alexie Sr.
Paul Latour
Jim Hickling
Roger Binne

Alternates: Roger Peet
Ron Morrison
Freddie Greenland
Kevin McCormick
Ed Henderdon
James Ross

1996

Members: Robert Charlie-Chairperson
James Firth
Robert Alexie Sr.
Joe Benoit
Jim Hickling
Paul Latour
Roger Binne

Alternates: Grace Blake
James Ross
Freddie Greenland
Ed Henderson
Kevin McCormick
Roger Peet

1995

Members: Robert Charlie-Chairperson
James Firth
Robert Alexie Sr.
Joe Benoit
Jim Hickling
Paul Laotour
Roger Binne

Alternates: Freddie Greenland
Roger Peet
Grace Blake
Ed Henderson
Kevin McCormick
James Ross

1994

Members: Robert Charlie-Chairperson
James Firth
James Ross
Joe Benoit
Jim Hickling
Kevin McCormick
Roger Binne

Alternates: Paul Latour
Ed Henderson
Robert Alexie Sr.
Roger Peet
Grace Blake
Freddie Greenland

1993

Members: James Firth
James Ross
Joe Benoit
Jim Hickling
Roger Binne
Kevin McCormick

Alternates: Roger Peet
Ed Henderson
Paul Latour
Grace Blake
Freddie Greenland
Robert Alexie Sr.



Peter Clarkson

The Board office has a full complement of support staff that work out of the office in Inuvik. Other part time staff work in the communities conducting harvest study interviews, local knowledge interviews and work as field project assistants. Staff provide the Board with information to make informed decisions. Board staff work closely with community members to facilitate community-based management.

**Board
Staff
(past and present)**

Executive Director

Peter Clarkson 1994 - 1999

Office Manager

Julia Neyelle 1999

Trina Edwards 1995 - 1999

Secretary

Cheryl Wright 1996 - 1999

Bonnie Ross 1994 - 1995

Rita Mitchell 1994 - 1995

Wildlife Biologist

Bryon Benn 1999

Jason Marshal 1997 - 1999

Cheryl Chetkiewicz 1995 - 1997

Fisheries/Forestry Biologist

Jennifer Walker-Larsen 1999

Ian MacDonald 1998 - 1999

Patrice Simon 1997 - 1998

Wynet Smith 1995 - 1996

Fisheries Technician

Allen Firth 1998 - 1999

Steven Charlie 1997 - 1998

Ian McLeod 1996 - 1997

Special Projects Biologist/ Resource Person

Shannon Haszard 1998 - 1999

Jennifer Shaw 1999

Shannon Ward 1996 - 1997

Gwich'in Harvest Study Coordinator

Beverly Arey	1998 - 1999
Ian MacDonald	1995 - 1998

Gwich'in Harvest Study Assistant

Sheldon Bernard	1999
Lena Church	1998 - 1999
Beverly Arey	1997 - 1998
Shawn Firth	1996 - 1997
Norman Snowshoe	1995 - 1996

Gwich'in Harvest Study Interviewers

James Andre	1996 - 1997
Noel Andre	1995 - 1996
Georgie Blake	1995 - 1996
Ernest Bonnetplume	1995 - 1996
Eddie Greenland	1995 - 1996
Norman Snowshoe	1995 - 1996
Shaun Firth	1996 - 1997
Clifford Francis	1996
Loretta Koe	1996 - 1997
Julie Ann Andre	1997 - 1999
Dan Andre	1997 - 1998
Beverly Arey	1997 - 1998
Johnny Firth	1997 - 1998
Donna Koe	1997 - 1998
Melba Mitchell	1996 - 1999
Elizabeth Snowshoe	1997 - 1999
Lena Church	1998 - 1999
Effie Jane Snowshoe	1998 - 1999
Annie Smith	1999

Research and Management Trainee

Allen Firth	1998
Doug Villeneuve	1996 - 1998

On-Site Resource People

Isaac Imasuen	1998
Jaida Edwards	1996
Jennifer Castleden	1995 - 1996

Gwich'in Environmental Knowledge Project (GEKP) Coordinator

Vesna Madjaric	1999
Deena Clayton	1998 - 1999
Gordon Petrie	1997 - 1998
Gleb Raygorodetsky	1995 - 1997

GEKP Assistant

Bobbie Jo Greenland	1998 - 1999
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GEKP Communications Manager

Marie-Anick Elie	1997 - 1999
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GEKP Archival Assistant

Neal Simard	1996 - 1997
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GEKP Interviewers

Dan Andre	1997 - 1998
Agnes Francis	1998
Myrna Vaneltsi	1997 - 1998
Michelle Furlong	1998
Beatrice Stewart	1997 - 1998
Charles Wright	1997
Russell Andre	1996

Summer Students

Augusto Carriedo	1999
Suzannah Simon	1999
Donald Andre	1997 - 1999
Johnny Edwards	1998
Dave Watt	1998
Krista Carnogursky	1998
Amanda Jerome	1998
Eleanor Jerome	1997
Herbert Blake	1997
Bradley Firth	1995 - 1996
Beatrice Stewart	1996
Louise Simpson	1996
Kenny Smith	1995
Grant Sullivan	1995
Ian McLeod	1995



Caribou Hunters (Leslie Snowshoe and Ben Mitchell)

The Gwich'in Harvest Study (GHS) records the number and location of fish and wildlife that are taken by Gwich'in harvesters. The Harvest study provides information to determine and protect the Gwich'in minimum needs level.

Gwich'in Harvest Study

The Harvest Study is required by the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement to help determine the number of animals required to feed all Gwich'in households each year (the Gwich'in Minimum Needs Level). The Gwich'in minimum needs level will protect Gwich'in hunting and fishing in the future. The Harvest Study is a five year study that began in August 1995 and will be completed in July 2000.



Alfred Francis

Harvest Study data collection

The Harvest Study is conducted in the four communities of the Gwich'in Settlement Area (Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik). Each month, interviewers record the following information from harvesters:

- animal harvested
- number
- location
- age and sex of the species harvested and
- harvester's comments.



Fish Camp



Melba Mitchell is an Alternate member of the GRRB and has worked as a Harvest Study Interviewer from 1996-1999

Who will use this information?

The information from the Gwich'in Harvest Study is used by the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Councils, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Results are also given to Gwich'in hunters who are interviewed. Hunter names are kept confidential.

How the Gwich'in Harvest Study Works

1

Gwich'in hunt, fish and trap animals.



Hunters

Harvest information is sent to the Renewable Resource Councils in Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik.

Office

3

Tables and maps are produced.

2

Community interviewers speak to Gwich'in who hunt, fish and trap.

Interviewers

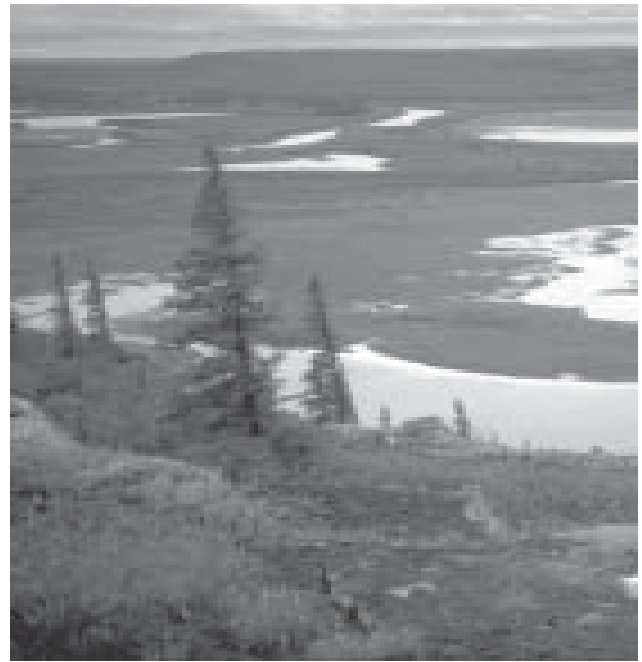
Harvest information is sent to the Board office.

Why was the GHS Database and Mapping System developed?


The GHS database and mapping system was developed to produce maps and tables to make information more understandable. It can organize the data by species and area and allows various methods of entering and accessing information.

Tables

The table below is an example of what we can produce using the GHS database. The table shows the number of fish and waterfowl harvested in 1995 and the first five months of 1996.



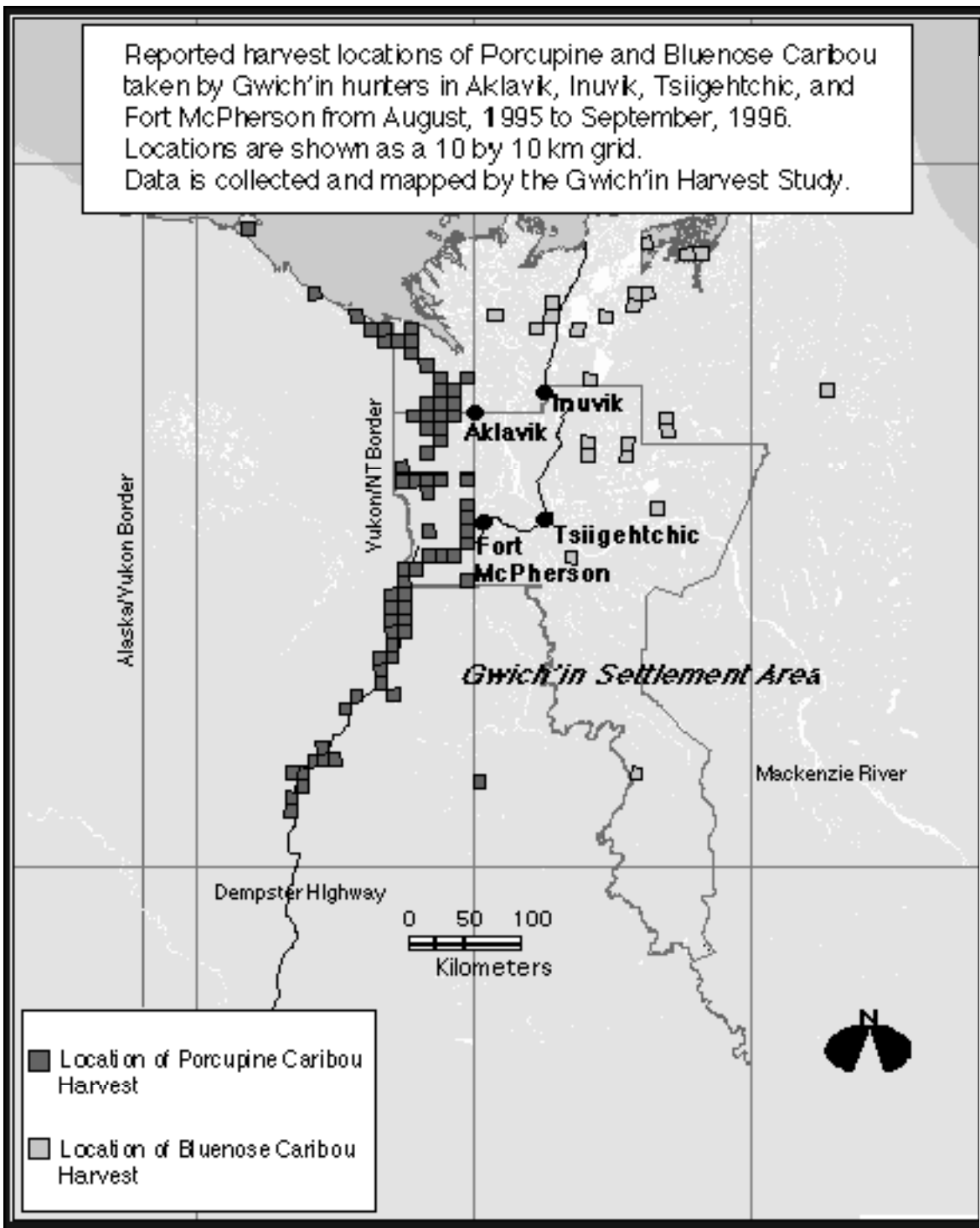
Campbell Lake

 Gwich'in Harvest Study Monthly Report		Reported Harvest Last Year	Reported Harvest This Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Whitefish	23315	4868	4	0	2	0	40	
Crookedback	10027	1377	0	0	4	0	10	
Charr	1163	786	0	0	0	0	0	
Jackfish	449	386	0	0	10	0	23	
Lake Trout	140	55	0	0	0	23	0	
Canada Goose	17	07	0	0	0	1	02	
Snow Goose	50	182	0	0	0	2	179	
Greater White Fronted Goose	9	90	0	0	0	8	82	
Tundra Swan	29	68	0	0	0	0	60	
Mallard	131	105	0	0	4	0	54	
Pintail	0	21	0	0	0	0	7	
Wigeon	3	60	0	0	0	0	50	
Shoveller	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	
Blue-Winged Teal	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	
Green-Winged Teal	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
Scaup	6	19	0	0	0	0	3	
Black Duck	100	390	0	0	0	0	269	

Maps

This is an example of a map that can be produced using the database and the mapping system. This map

shows where Porcupine and Bluenose Caribou were harvested between August 1995 and September 1996.





Ezhin-GoldenEagle

Wildlife in the GSA includes all mammals and birds that use the area for all or part of the year. Harvested species receive more attention as residents rely on these species for subsistence. However, the Board is concerned and responsible for the long-term conservation of all wildlife species.

Wildlife Research and Management

The Gwich'in are known as "People of the Caribou" because their culture and subsistence largely depends on the caribou. However, residents of the GSA rely on many different animals for subsistence. The GRRB wants to ensure long-term conservation and use of all species in the GSA. To help the Board make informed decisions on wildlife management it relies on local and traditional knowledge, community input and participation, and results from research projects.

To ensure that wildlife is managed for long-term sustainable use, the Board is working with the communities and government departments to develop management plans. As many species are shared with other jurisdictions, management plans must be worked on cooperatively and integrate all of the concerns and uses.

Comprehensive information and management plans are necessary for fair distribution of available quota species such as grizzly bears. Management plans are also necessary to protect Gwich'in subsistence needs in the event of low wildlife numbers or to ensure fair distribution as community members begin guided sport hunting.



Dinik-Moose

Moose Management Plan

A Moose Management Plan for the GSA is being produced by the GRRB, RRCs, and DRWED. The finished plan will provide a framework for the management of moose, protection of moose habitat, and the protection of Gwich'in harvesting rights.

Moose Surveys

Moose densities in the GSA are among the lowest recorded in North America. It is not understood if this is natural or if there are factors that keep the population from increasing to its carrying capacity. Aerial surveys were conducted in 1996, 1997, and 1998 in the Inuvik-Tsiigehtchic region of the GSA to collect information and estimate the abundance and composition of moose in the region. Results of these surveys were highly variable due to the low density of moose in the region. In future years there will be more surveys throughout the GSA.

Moose Harvest Study

A Moose Harvest Study was initiated in September 1998. Hunters have been asked to supply information on moose harvested. This information along with the resident and non-resident harvest information will help biologists understand how many moose are killed annually, and the effects the harvest has on the moose population.

There were 35 lower jaws submitted for the 1998-99 moose harvest. Males made up 81% of the reported harvest. The most common ages in the kill were 2 - 5 year olds. The average age of moose killed overall was 4 years.

Moose Habitat Study

The GRRB and DRWED began classifying satellite images and ground truthing the classification, in order to evaluate moose habitat in the GSA. As a result, DRWED is producing maps for parts of the Mackenzie River area using

these satellite images.

In addition, a moose browse survey was conducted to assess browse selection and availability. Snow characteristics were studied to determine if they were limiting moose movements and feeding.

Browsing intensity was found to be very low in the Inuvik-Tsiigehtchic area, and snow depths and densities were not considered to be a limiting factor for moose feeding and movements.

Grizzly Bear Management Plan

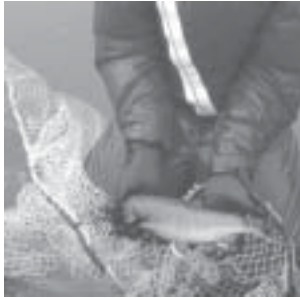
A Grizzly Bear Management Plan for the GSA has been developed by the GRRB, RRCs and DRWED. The finished plan will provide a framework for the management of grizzly bears, protection of grizzly habitat, and the protection of Gwich'in harvesting rights.



Shih-GrizzlyBear

Hare Transect Study

GRRB staff have been collecting population trend information on snowshoe hares around the Inuvik area. This is part of a Northwest Territories-wide study on snowshoe hare population changes.



FishSampling

Fish are an important resource for the people of the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The Board works with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to manage and protect the fish stocks for future generations.

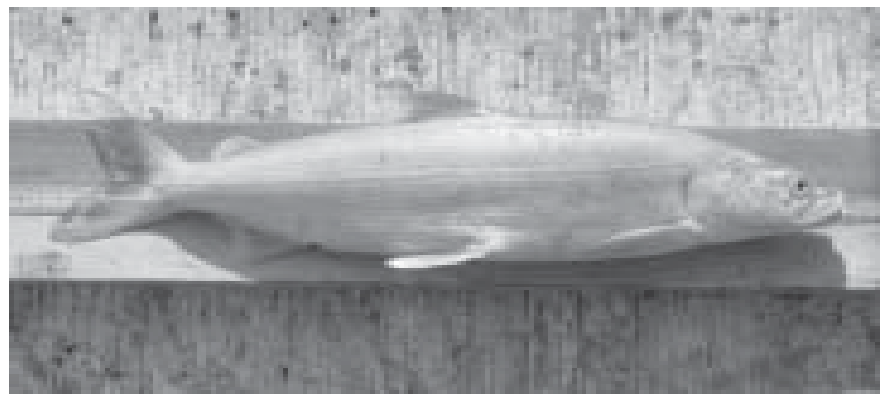
Fisheries Research and Management

People of the GSA depend on fish for their subsistence and recreation. Today residents fish for whitefish, burbot, coney, charr and trout. In the past herring were also caught each fall for food and to feed dogs. Fishing is an important part of the subsistence economy of all of the communities. To ensure that fish stocks are not over harvested the Board is working with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, RRCs, and adjacent land claim co-management boards to prepare fisheries management plans. As most fish stocks are shared with other jurisdictions it is important to develop a management plan that includes all harvesting of fish.

The Board has been assisting RRCs to conduct their own fisheries research projects to address local community concerns and questions. Community members are also used for all fish monitoring and research projects in the GSA.

Coney Index Netting Project

This project was initiated in 1999 with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to monitor the number of coney and other fish species in the Lower Mackenzie River. Sampling of fish at locations within the three land claim areas (Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Sahtu) will occur at the same time every 2-3 years. This will show whether fish populations are increasing or decreasing over the long term.



Suh-Coney

Peel River Fish Study

Every year coney, whitefish, crookedback, and herring migrate from the Beaufort Sea to river spawning sites in the Mackenzie River drainage. In response to concerns that potential developments in the Peel will affect fish populations, the Board began the Peel River Fish Study in 1998 to determine the timing of migration and to locate spawning sites in the Peel River. Gwich'in fishermen with camps along the Peel River are hired each fall to catch fish and collect biological information. This study is done in cooperation with the Tetlit RRC and Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Sandy Lakes Fish Stock Study

This study was proposed by the Nihtat RRC in 1998 to determine whether Sandy Lake and adjoining Sunny and Point Lakes can support a Sport Fishing Lodge. A fish stock survey was completed in 1999 to provide a preliminary assessment of the fish species present, size of fish, number of fish, and growth rate.

Campbell Creek/Lake Study

Campbell Creek is an important recreational and subsistence fishing area. Major fish species present include broad and lake whitefish and northern pike. Recreational use is expected to increase with the development of the Gwich'in Territorial Park. This may affect the fish populations. The Campbell Creek/Lake Study was started in 1998 to learn more about the fish and how they use the creek and lake. Projects have included mapping fish movements within Campbell Creek and Campbell Lake in the spring, determining available overwintering habitat, and identifying sensitive habitat areas. This information will be important for managing recreational activities to protect the fish.

Rat River Charr

Rat River charr are a major subsistence food source for the Gwich'in of Aklavik and Fort McPherson. Community concerns that the stock was being overfished led to the development of the Rat River

charr fishing plan in 1997. The Board, in cooperation with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, undertook research projects from 1995 to 1997 to provide basic information on the charr for the fishing plan. A monitoring program was initiated in 1995 to track the status of the charr stock. Each year local Gwich'in fishers are hired to sample fish and collect biological data. This data indicates the health of the stock and shows how many fish are being taken.

Vittrekwa River Charr Study

Elders from Fort McPherson said there should be Dolly Varden charr in the Vittrekwa River, however, no one has reported fishing for charr there since the 1950's. The Board and the Tetlit RRC confirmed the presence of charr in 1997 and since then have been working with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to collect basic information about the stock. Information from an unexploited charr population may help manage exploited stocks in the Rat River and Big Fish River.



Donald Andre working as a Summer Student on the Vittrekwa River Charr Study

Database of Fish Research in the GSA

The Board has developed a database for all known records of fish research undertaken in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The database is searchable by fish species, location of research, type of data collected, and other parameters. Research locations have been mapped using a Geographic Information System (GIS).



Boreal Forest

A Forest Management Plan is being developed for the Gwich'in Settlement Area to address community and management concerns about forestry. The Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board in cooperation with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development have taken the lead role in developing the plan. The GRRB discusses forestry issues at the community level and conducts research that will help to develop a Forest Management Plan.

Forest Research and Management

The Board and DRWED have been working with the RRCs and collecting information on forest resources in the GSA. Past harvest and fire locations have been recorded and will be used to complete a forest management plan.

Forest Inventory

Forest inventory work began in 1996 to collect information on areas with potential for commercial harvesting. Timber cruising training was provided to Gwich'in beneficiaries, who were then hired to ground truth forest interpretation work done with air photos. This work was done in cooperation with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.



Henry Cardinal working on forest inventory as a Field Assistant

Forest Management Working Group

To assist with the development of forest research and management planning the Board established a Forest Management Working Group. The Group includes staff from GRRB, DRWED, and GTC, and also representation from each of the RRCs. The Working Group meets when required and develops a forest research and management work plan for the year. Members of the Working Group identify any forest management concerns that need to be addressed.

Vegetation Mapping

The GRRB purchased satellite imagery of the GSA. DRWED is doing a vegetation classification of the GSA to provide information about size and location of plant communities in the settlement area. The classified vegetation map will be a useful addition to the maps created through the forest inventory.

Forest Use Survey

A survey was conducted in the settlement area in 1996-97 to collect information on current uses of the forest, how people value the forest and community concerns related to forestry. Five Gwich'in beneficiaries were hired and trained to design and run the survey. Over 250 households took part in the survey.

Traditional Knowledge of the Forest

A lack of recorded traditional knowledge about the forest was identified as a community concern through the Forest Use Survey. A workshop was held in March 1997 with Elders from Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Inuvik and Tsiigehtchic to discuss past uses and changes in the forest.

Traditional and Current Forest Use

The Board and the University of Alberta entered into a partnership to collect information on current forest use practices and historical timber harvests. Researchers worked directly with Gwich'in beneficiaries currently living on the land and reviewed the Hudson Bay Archives for information on wood use by steamships travelling on the Mackenzie River. The Sustainable Forest Management Network (SFMN) and the GRRB have provided funding for this project.

Aklavik Forest Use Mapping

The community of Aklavik has raised the concern that firewood has become scarce around the settlement. The project uses the skills developed in the Eco-forestry Workshop to map areas around Aklavik that have been heavily cut, areas that are currently being used for harvesting fuelwood, and areas that should be protected because of their

ecological or cultural significance. The maps will be used to help the community develop solutions to the fuelwood shortage.

Forest Productivity and Regeneration

In 1999, the University of Alberta, in partnership with the GRRB and DRWED, began several studies in the Inuvik area. The SFMN has provided funding for the studies that all focus around the productivity of northern forests for use as firewood and building supplies.

Forest Monitoring Plots

Two forest monitoring plots were established near Campbell Lake in response to community concerns that changes to the forest are taking place. A Forest Health Monitoring Plot (Canadian Forest Service) and a Biodiversity Monitoring Plot (Smithsonian Institution/Man and the Biosphere Biodiversity Program) were set up to monitor changes in timber growth and vegetation biodiversity. The First Nations Forestry Program have provided funding for this project.



Forest Monitoring Plot

Gwich'in Ethno-Botany Study

The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute initiated an ethno-botany study to collect information on the use of plants for traditional medicine and other uses. The board provides funding for the study, and will use the information to build on the traditional knowledge that has been collected through other projects.



DryFish

The Board wanted to use local and traditional knowledge to help manage renewable resources in the GSA. To assist with using community knowledge the Board established the Gwich'in Environmental Knowledge Project.

Gwich'in Environmental Knowledge Project

Traditional Knowledge and Renewable Resource Management

During workshops, community members said they wanted their knowledge used to help manage their resources. In response, the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board has made the Environmental Knowledge project an important part of its operation. Knowledge gathered by the project is used with other information and research results, to manage and conserve the resources of the area.

Gwich'in local and traditional knowledge has been used to identify management issues, plan research and develop management plans. The long-term impacts on the northern environment will be monitored by using local knowledge. Gwich'in knowledge is used when developing wildlife management plans, protected area strategies and land and water use permitting. By recording Gwich'in traditional ecological knowledge we are also helping to pass this knowledge on to the youth and future generations.



Mary Teya and Mary Kendi skinning rats at the Elders and Youth Gathering

Project Goals and Results

The GEKP is recording and mapping Gwich'in Elders' knowledge. The local knowledge collected is used to provide information about the area's ecosystems and to produce more informed wildlife management plans, conservation strategies, and land and water use licensing procedures.

The GRRB is making Gwich'in Traditional Knowledge easily accessible to Board staff, community members and other researchers by developing a database of all recorded information and by publishing books on Gwich'in local ecological knowledge. The books and the database provides a tool for educators in the area and other people interested in traditional knowledge.

GEKP, Phase 1

The project began in 1995 and documented Gwich'in Traditional Knowledge about important wildlife species. Nahn'Kak Geenjit Gwich'in Ginjik (Gwich'in Words About the Land) was published in 1997. The book and the project, have been well received by Gwich'in Elders, community members and boards as well as by agencies and academics involved in resource management and traditional knowledge.

GEKP, Phase 2

The goal of the project is to produce a second book on Gwich'in traditional ecological knowledge by summarizing interviews gathered by the Board in 1997-98 . The second book "Gwich'in Words About The Land" will be distributed throughout the Gwich'in Settlement Area, including communities and schools, and to interested government agencies, researchers, environmental organizations and other First Nations.



Robert Charlie presenting the Porcupine Caribou Management Board Conservation Award to Bobbie Jo Greenland (GEKP Assistant) for her outstanding effort toward conservation of the Porcupine Caribou Herd



MayKaye



HomLake

Special Projects are those that focus on a combination of traditional knowledge, wildlife, fish, and forestry issues. Interdisciplinary work such as environmental education and habitat based projects fall into this category.

Special Projects

Rat River Pass Biodiversity and Cultural Assessment Project

The Rat River Pass project was initiated in 1999 to collect information about the biodiversity, historical use, and traditional ecological knowledge of the Rat River Pass watershed.

GRRB staff and summer students spent a month in the Rat River area surveying and identifying birds, mammals, fish, and vegetation. A group of elders and youth from Fort McPherson hiked part of the area this fall to relive their experiences and share their knowledge of the pass as a traditional use area. GRRB staff interviewed people from Fort McPherson who have traditionally used the area. This information will be compiled into a report and will be distributed to agencies involved in determining the status of this special watershed.



Allen Firth admiring the caribou coral at Hom Lake



Ian McDonald and Sir Alexander Mackenzie School's Students at the Forest Activity Day

The Rat River Pass Biodiversity Assessment project is part of Natural Legacy 2000, a nationwide initiative to conserve wildlife and habitats on private and public lands. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada's Millennium Partnership Program and World Wildlife Fund.

Forest Activity Day

On May 26 and June 9, 1999, the GRRB and DRWED with the help of staff from Parks Canada and the Aurora Research Institute hosted Forest Activity Day at Chuk Park. Over 100 students from Sir Alexander Mackenzie

School's grades two, three, and six classes participated over the course of the two days. The event was an opportunity for students to learn about forest and wildlife ecology through a series of hands-on activities and educational games.

Forest Interpretive Trail Assessment

The GRRB recognized the possibility of constructing a forest interpretive trail(s) for both Gwich'in traditional education and recreational purposes. Four possible areas were identified and assessed: Campbell Creek, Cabin Creek, Caribou Creek and Seagull Outlook.



Securing adequate funding for support staff and research and management programs is a high priority for the Board.

Board Funding

The Board receives funding from several sources each year. The main funding source is the federal government by means of land claims implementation dollars. Implementation funding is provided for the Board's General Operations budget and Harvest Study budget. Having independent funding and expenditure programs allows the Board to be financially efficient and effective.

GRRB Operations Budget

The Boards Operations budget covers the main expenses of the Board, office and staff. Each year the Board submits an expenditure plan to the Gwich'in Land Claim Implementation Committee for approval. The expenditure plan is limited by the funding available to the Board as identified in the Land Claims Implementation Plan. The table on the next page shows how much money was used by the Board each year for the past 7 years.



Jennifer Shaw, GRRB's Special Projects Biologist, doing field work

Gwich'in Harvest Study

The Board was assigned the task of conducting the Harvest Study and receives a separate budget for all harvest study expenses. The Harvest Study expenses include pay for the Coordinator, Assistant, Community Interviewers, supplies and travel needed to complete the study. Annual Harvest Study expenses are shown in the table below.

Wildlife Studies Fund

The Board received a one time payment of 2 million dollars in 1995 to provide funding for wildlife and other renewable resource research and management projects during the 10 year implementation period. The Board invested the funds in secure, interest bearing investments. Each year a portion of the fund is allocated by the Board to fund research, management, local knowledge and educational projects. The table below and on the following pages show how much the Board allocates each year from the fund.

Outside Funding

To complete all of the projects the Board approves each year requires additional funding from outside sources. Board staff apply for funding and in-kind support from several groups and agencies. Much of the Gwich'in Environmental Knowledge Project funds have come from outside sources. Funding for trainees, special project biologists, summer students and graduate students has partially come from outside funding. The amount of outside funding received each year is shown in the table below.

Audited Financial Statements

Each year the Board has an independent auditor prepare audited financial statements. Wowk, Wong and Associates and Paul Teoh have prepared all of the past audited statements. These statements are submitted to the federal government each year and are available for review at the GRRB Office.

Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board Budgets

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999*
Operations Budget	\$ 53,005	\$ 360,966	\$ 642,050	\$ 757,398	\$ 738,372	\$ 541,364	\$ 552,810
Harvest Study Budget			\$ 160,950	\$ 145,700	\$ 185,470	\$ 171,629	\$ 181,230
Wildlife Studies Fund				\$ 100,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,037	\$ 200,000
Outside Funding		\$ 6,757	\$ 32,165	\$ 230,924	\$ 321,682	\$ 276,005	\$ 122,445*
Total	\$ 53,005	\$ 367,723	\$ 835,165	\$1,234,022	\$1,445,524	\$1,189,035	\$1,056,485*

*As of October 1999

Projects funded by the GRRB (1994 to 1999)

	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	Total
Wildlife							
Bluenose Caribou Collaring	\$ 56,000						\$ 56,000
Bluenose Photocensus		\$ 47,000					\$ 47,000
Bluenose Caribou Range Use		\$ 12,235		\$ 10,000		\$ 7,500	\$ 29,735
Bluenose Fuel Cache Request		\$ 4,893					\$ 4,893
Bluenose Car. Recruitment Survey						\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Dall Sheep Survey				\$ 5,000			\$ 5,000
Richardson Mtn Grizzly Bear Collaring			\$ 10,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 26,500
Moose Survey			\$ 45,200	\$ 13,664	\$ 12,124	\$ 35,000	\$ 105,988
Moose Habitat and Harvest					\$ 12,950		\$ 12,950
Porcupine Adopt-a-caribou				\$ 3,000			\$ 3,000
Large Mammal Management Plan					\$ 22,610		\$ 22,610
Trapline Monitoring						\$ 7,170	\$ 7,170
Spring Hunt Waterfowl Study	\$ 39,417						\$ 39,417
Peregrine Falcons		\$ 12,100					\$ 12,100
GTP Waterfowl Survey					\$ 2,600		\$ 2,600
Subtotal	\$ 95,417	\$ 76,228	\$ 55,200	\$ 36,664	\$ 54,284	\$ 67,170	\$ 384,963
Forestry							
Aerial Photography		\$ 10,000					\$ 10,000
Air Photo Interpretation			\$ 20,000				\$ 20,000
Timber Cruising			\$ 31,200	\$ 36,500			\$ 67,700
Forest Health Monitoring (ARNEWS)					\$ 7,000	\$ 8,590	\$ 15,590
Biodiversity Monitoring (SI/MAB)						\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Forest Regeneration and Productivity						\$ 26,000	\$ 26,000
Aklavik Forest Use						\$ 12,190	\$ 12,190
Subtotal		\$ 10,000	\$ 51,200	\$ 36,500	\$ 7,000	\$ 51,780	\$ 156,480



Harvesting trees



Marie-Anick Elie collecting a fish trap

	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	Total
Fisheries							
Rat River Charr Monitoring		\$ 12,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 22,000	\$ 24,800	\$ 20,000	\$ 76,300
Rat River Fish Hole Survey		\$ 16,000	\$ 840	\$ 17,000			\$ 33,840
Rat River Spawners Assessment		\$ 18,000					\$ 18,000
Rat River Hydroacoustics		\$ 8,700					\$ 8,700
Micro-PIXE analysis		\$ 2,000					\$ 2,000
Husky Lakes (Fish Survey)		\$ 7,000	\$ 10,000				\$ 17,000
Inconnu Radio-tagging			\$ 25,500	\$ 11,000			\$ 36,500
Fish Lakes Biodiversity Study			\$ 9,550	\$ 13,600			\$ 23,150
Rat River Silver Radio-tagging			\$ 20,800				\$ 20,800
Rat River Spring Reconnaissance		\$ 6,700					\$ 6,700
Rat River Spawning Habitat				\$ 13,600			\$ 13,600
Vittrekwa River Fish Assessment				\$ 9,750			\$ 9,750
GTP Creel Census					\$ 9,850		\$ 9,850
Vittrekwa River Fish Hole Investigation					\$ 5,550		\$ 5,550
Campbell Lake/Creek Harvest Models					\$ 3,000		\$ 3,000
Peel River Coregonid Spawning Sites					\$ 20,550	\$ 23,540	\$ 20,550
Campbell Lake Spring Whitefish Study					\$ 3,900	\$ 7,200	\$ 3,900
Coney Index Netting Project						\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Vittrekwa River Charr Study						\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
Sunny/Sandy/Point Lakes Stock Study						\$ 8,500	\$ 8,500
Subtotal		\$ 70,400	\$ 84,190	\$ 86,950	\$ 67,650	\$ 76,240	\$ 385,430
Culture/Education/Training							
Field Training Program		\$ 1,441					\$ 1,441
GSCI Science Camp				\$ 17,600	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 37,600
Gwich'in Ethnobotany Project				\$ 3,000	\$ 5,000		\$ 8,000
GEKP		\$ 28,700	\$ 41,500	\$ 32,600	\$ 35,000	\$ 37,000	\$ 174,800
GRRB Website					\$ 5,000		\$ 5,000
Fisheries Technician Salary			\$ 16,700	\$ 16,700			\$ 33,400
Community Ecological Monitoring						\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Gwich'in Knowledge of the Land						\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Subtotal		\$ 30,141	\$ 58,200	\$ 69,900	\$ 65,000	\$ 57,000	\$ 270,241
Other							
Peel River Mapping			\$ 10,000	\$ 6,000			\$ 16,000
Aklavik Water Samples			\$ 1,152				\$ 1,152
James Creek Check Station			\$ 980				\$ 980
Subtotal			\$ 12,132	\$ 6,000			\$ 18,132
Total	\$ 95,417	\$ 186,769	\$ 260,922	\$ 236,014	\$ 193,934	\$ 252,190	\$ 1,215,246



Leslie Villeneuve

Informing youth, other beneficiaries and the general public about co-management of renewable resources in the GSA is an important part of the Board's activities. During the past 5 years the Board has initiated several programs to help youth learn more about renewable resources and encourage them to pursue a career in that area.

Education Programs

Jim Edwards Sittichinli Scholarship

This Scholarship is named after the Reverend Jim Edwards Sittichinli, a respected elder who was committed to the land and wildlife. The GRRB awards two scholarships each year to students pursuing studies in renewable resources or religious studies.

Scholarship have been awarded to the following students:

- 1996 Ian McLeod, Natural Resources Technology Program (NRTP), Aurora College
- 1996 Joe Benoit, NRTP, Aurora College
- 1997 Mary Ann Carol, Forestry/Recreation Program, University of Northern BC
- 1999 Donald Andre, NRTP, Aurora College
- 1999 Sheldon Bernard, NRTP, Aurora College



Robert Charle with the two 1996 Jim Edwards Sittichinli Scholarship recipients, Ian McLeod and Joe Benoit

Johnny D. Charlie Memorial Scholarship

Johnny D. Charlie was a respected Elder devoted to his people, the land and wildlife. The GRRB has established a student work scholarship in his memory. The work scholarship is offered to one student from the Gwich'in Settlement Area each summer. The work scholarship was initiated in 1999 and was awarded to Donald Andre, first year Natural Resources Technology Program student.

Science Camps

Each year since 1996, high school students are taken on the land to a science camp for approximately 10 days. The goal of this project is to help youth learn about Gwich'in traditional knowledge and western science. The camp was initiated by the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute. GRRB staff take part in the camp by passing on information about renewable resources knowledge to the youth.



Rebecca Francis passing on traditional knowledge to James Wilson

School Programs

GRRB staff are active in the schools throughout the GSA. In the past staff have participated in career days, class presentations and special events like forestry and wildlife week. Staff have also assisted in program development and as instructors in the Aurora College, Natural Resources Technology Program.

Trainees

To assist beneficiaries learn more about renewable resource research and management the Board has started 5 on-the-job trainee positions. The positions include: a) Secretary Receptionist/Office Manager, b) Environmental Knowledge Assistant, c) Fisheries Technician, d) Harvest Study Assistant and e) Renewable Resource Management Assistant. The employees work with Board and government department staff and gain valuable work experience. In the past 5 years the following people have worked for the Board in trainee positions:

- Trina Edwards
- Ian McLeod
- Norman Snowshoe
- Shaun Firth
- Bobbie Jo Greenland
- Doug Villeneuve
- Cheryl Wright
- Julia Neyelle
- Beverly Arey
- Lena Church
- Allen Firth
- Steven Charlie
- Sheldon Bernard

Summer Students

Each summer the Board hires students to assist with office support and field projects. Summer students that are interested in pursuing a career in renewable resource management are given preference for the positions. While working for the Board the students gain valuable work experience and get a chance to learn what is involved in managing renewable resources in the GSA. Each student will also propose, plan and conduct their own project during the summer.



Angelo Pappas and Roger Allan

The GRRB recognizes the importance of building capacity among community members to better manage their resources. Community-based management depends on informed community members to make good decisions when managing their resources. To help build capacity at the community level the Board has sponsored and organized several workshops and programs.

Helping Communities Manage Their Resources

RRC Operations Manual

To assist the community RRCs with their day to day operations, Board staff worked with RRC staff and councillors to develop an RRC Operations Manual. The manual covers general RRC meeting procedures, Councillor responsibilities, RRC Coordinator responsibilities and other useful information to assist the RRCs with their mandate. The manual is given to new RRC Councillors to help inform them about RRC operations and about other organizations working to implement the land claims agreement. The manual is well received by the RRC and community members and is currently being revised and reprinted.

Regional RRC Meetings

The 4 RRCs in the GSA need to meet to discuss common resource management issues as there are many shared resources. The GRRB has helped the RRCs get together at regional meetings by assisting with meeting logistics, drafting agendas and writing summary minutes. During regional RRC meetings the Board is able to get input on resource management issues and plans.



Neil Firth, Nihit RRC Coordinator

Community-Based Research Projects

The RRCs in each community are encouraged to identify renewable resource research projects, prepare project proposals, conduct the research and complete project reports. GRRB and agency staff assist the RRCs to plan and conduct projects so that community members learn field research skills. Community research projects have been conducted in Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Inuvik. Board and agency funding has supported these projects.

Community Field Assistants and Monitors

The RRCs have been involved in most research projects in the GSA. Field assistants from the communities are hired by the RRCs to assist with research projects. Field assistants and monitors learn data collection skills and assist with the field portion of research projects. Over the past 5 years the Board and agencies have hired over 50 community assistants to help with wildlife, forestry and fisheries projects.



Leslie Snowshoe, Field Assistant

RRC and Community Member Workshops

To help build community capacity for renewable resource management the Board has organized several workshops for RRC and community members at the request of the RRCs. The workshops have brought together community members, GRRB staff and government department staff to discuss community and resource management concerns. Past workshops have addressed the following topics:

- fur and trappers issues,
- guiding and outfitting concerns,
- eco-forestry principles,
- grizzly bear management,
- forest management,
- youth and Elders' concerns,
- Bluenose caribou and
- Dempster Highway caribou hunting concerns.

Community Interviewers

The Gwich'in Environmental Knowledge Project, Harvest Study and Forest Use Study have all relied on community interviewers to conduct interviews with Elders and community members. These programs have trained community members in interviewing and research techniques. As interviewers, the community members have learned about renewable resource management in the GSA. In the past 5 years over 20 community members have been hired to conduct interviews in the communities.

Traditional Knowledge Database

The database organizes, summarizes and presents Gwich'in traditional environmental knowledge in a user friendly, easily accessible format. The GRRB recently provided the RRC's with GEKP database on a compact disc (CD ROM). The CD ROM can be used by the RRC's and anyone from the community who would like to obtain information on local traditional knowledge about renewable resources in the GSA.



Joe Benoit, Dwayne Semple, Steven Charle

With community workshops the Board has worked to assist community members in making decisions and providing input on renewable resource management.

Community Workshops

The Board has played a large role in bringing the RRCs and community members together to discuss common resource management concerns and issues. By bringing together people from throughout the GSA they are able to share ideas and concerns and help determine what would be the best management strategy for the area. The workshops are also an opportunity to learn more about resource management.

Workshops help inform community members about renewable resource management and build capacity within the community to manage resources. Workshops also help community members understand that different communities and other jurisdictions share some of the same resources.

Beaufort-Delta Trappers Workshops

The Board helped initiate the annual Beaufort-Delta Trappers Workshop. The workshop was first held in October 1997 and has been held each fall since then. The workshop brings together trappers, RRC/HTC members and Board, DRWED and Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat staff to discuss trapping and fur harvest issues. The workshop has been very successful and attracts 80-90 participants each year. In September 1999 the workshop focused on trapper training and education programs.



Doug Villeneuve, Tommy Wright and James McDonald at the Trapper's Workshop

Gwich'in Elders and Youth Gathering

At the end of March 1999, elders, youth and several staff and resource people from all four communities in the Gwich'in Settlement Area met in Fort McPherson for the first Elders and Youth Gathering. They shared knowledge, told old time stories and listened to each other's concerns. During the meeting the GRRB provided translation services to allow participants to speak Gwich'in or English. Elders led most discussion sessions and demonstrated to the youth some traditional activities like caribou cutting and rabbit and muskrat skinning. We hope that Elders from throughout the GSA will be able to get together each year and share their knowledge, tell their stories and have a good time!!!



Nap Norbert at the Elders and Youth Gathering

Guiding and Outfitting Workshop

Community members expressed interest in learning about the guiding and outfitting business. Local residents thought they may be interested in being guides and outfitters for non-resident sport hunters. The Board brought together community members, DRWED, GRRB staff and other knowledgeable people (Kelly Hougen, Arctic Red River Outfitters; Billy and Eileen Jacobsen, Rendezvous Lake Outfitters) for a 2 day workshop in January 1999. The workshop was informative and gave participants information to bring back to the communities for further discussion.

Eco-Forestry Workshop

To assist community members in understanding all the factors involved in forest management, a workshop was held in March 1998. Community members, DRWED and GRRB staff attended a 3 day workshop lead by Herb Hammond of Silva Institute. The workshop focused on forest ecology and natural relationships, impacts on forests and sustainable forest management.

Grizzly Bear Management Workshops

To develop a grizzly bear management plan for the GSA the Board hosted several workshops for RRC members, DRWED and the GRRB to discuss grizzly bear management. At the workshops everyone was able to discuss their concerns and work towards a management plan that is acceptable.

Rat River Charr Management Workshops

Concerns were raised in 1995 by the Fort McPherson RRC that there are fewer charr available for capture in the fall fishery. To address this concern the Board worked with DFO, Fisheries Joint Management Committee, and the RRCs and HTC's to coordinate a workshop to discuss the concerns and charr management. Since the first meeting DFO and the RRCs have continued to meet each year and have developed a Rat River Charr Fishing Plan to manage the charr harvest.

Forestry Traditional Knowledge Workshop

When the Board began collecting information on forestry and forest management we recognized that we should first approach the communities and Elders to discuss available local and traditional knowledge and past harvesting practices in the GSA. The workshop was held for 2 days in March 1997 in Aklavik.



Providing information to residents of the GSA and other interested people is a priority for the Board.

Board Reports, Posters and Presentations

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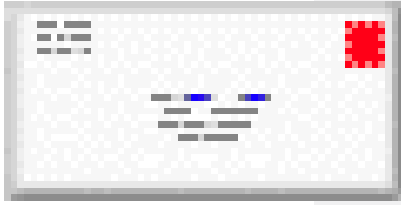
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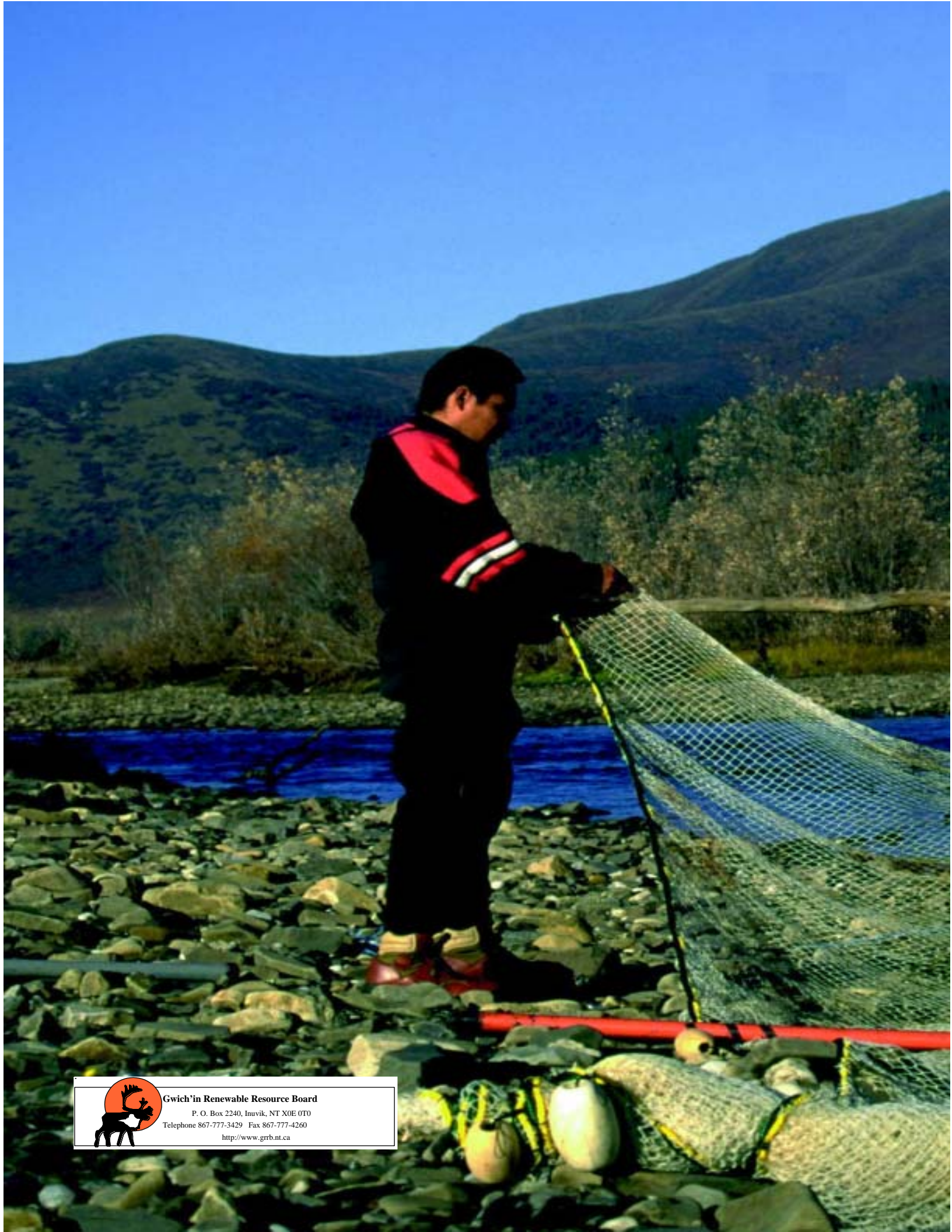
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