



GWICH'IN RENEWABLE RESOURCES BOARD

news

FEBRUARY 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

- Executive Director's Message
- Farewell to Robert Charlie
- Caribou Management Plan
- Dall Sheep Survey
- 2011 Conservation Calendar
- Moose Survey
- Species at Risk
- GRRB Contact Information

CALENDAR

- **GRRB Board Meeting**
Inuvik
Feb 28-Mar 2
Ingamo Hall
- **Rat River Working Group**
Inuvik
March 7 9am
Mackenzie Hotel
- **Tetlit RRC Meeting**
Fort McPherson
First Monday of every month
- **Ehdiitat RRC Meeting**
Aklavik
First Wednesday of every month (subject to change)
- **Gwichya RRC Meeting**
Tsiigehtchic
Every last Thursday of every month (subject to change)
- **Nihtat RRC Meeting**
Inuvik
First week of every month

WHAT IS GRRB?



GRRB Staff (From Left to Right): Fisheries Biologist Kris Maier, Office Manager Cheryl Greenland, Renewable Resources Manager Janet Boxwell, Executive Director Amy Thompson, and Wildlife Biologist Kristen Callaghan. Missing: Communications Manager Maia Lepage

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).

The GRRB works with its co-management partners to communicate with the public and encourage con-

servation of renewable resources in the GSA.

The GRRB works in collaboration with the four Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs) in the 4 communities (Inuvik, Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson, and Aklavik) to educate and promote sustainability of resources within the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Log on to www.grrb.nt.ca for more information

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Drin Gwiinzih,

We hope you enjoy the newsletter. We aim to distribute a newsletter at least twice a year to update the public on our activities. We've had a busy 2010 and look forward to a productive 2011 working with our co-management partners to manage renewable resources. We are very dedicated and passionate about the work we do and want to work with everyone to manage our resources in the most effective manner so they can be here for future generations.

In 2010, we were involved in the working group to review the NWT Wildlife Act. The NWT Species at Risk Act was enacted and the GRRB has responsibilities under the act. Please read the section on species at risk in our newsletter for more information on the GRRB's role.

We held consultations on various management plans and are pleased to announce the signing of the integrated fisheries management plan for Dolly Varden char.

Our long-serving Chair, Robert Charlie's term as chair has ended

and we are awaiting the appointment of the new GRRB Chair. There were also a number of Board member terms that expired in 2010. Our current members include Dan Topolniski, Joel Ingram, Liz Hansen and alternate George Low. We look forward to welcoming new members in the near future, which could include previous serving members. I am also pleased to report we have a full complement of staff and the newsletter includes updates on their work.

We look forward to a very productive 2011! We will continue to be involved with Species at Risk and the next steps for the Wildlife Act. We will be holding our winter board meeting from February 28 to March 2, 2011 in Inuvik. This is a public meeting and everyone is welcome to join in. This meeting will include project updates and review of proposals to the GRRB's Wildlife Studies Fund. Some other items we will be involved in include a Moose Survey, updating our research priorities, visiting schools in the GSA to promote interest in the renew-



able resources field, Nature Day, draft an updated version of a management plan for the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose West and Bluenose East Caribou herds and working with the RRCs and co-management partners on an on-going basis. For more information, you can also always view our website at www.grrb.nt.ca.

We always welcome suggestions so please feel free to contact our office if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

*Haii Cho,
Amy*

FAREWELL TO CHAIR



Ever since the Board was established, Robert Charlie has been at the forefront of a variety of projects and management processes. He has been the only Chair that the Gwich'in' Renewable Resources Board has known. After many years, Robert has left to pursue other interests. The last day of his term was August 28th, 2010. His passion and conviction are shown by his long history of action and his presence in the office will be missed by many.

Robert has been a vocal advocate of the incorporation of Traditional Knowledge into the management of our renewable resources by bringing the communities perspective on wildlife management and wildlife

issues to the table.

Robert also carries with him a legacy of strong working relations with the Inuvialuit and surrounding land claims. He sees the importance of working together on renewable resource issues. He has contributed to Caribou and Dolly Varden Char management, and The NWT Wildlife Act Renewal, to name a few.

Robert feels strongly that our wildlife needs to be protected; Robert's contributions to the GRRB are invaluable and for his years of dedication, we sincerely thank him and wish him well in his future endeavors.

*Hàì' t's'át nìdìvee
guuzuh'*

Log on to www.grrb.nt.ca for more information

CARIBOU MANAGEMENT PLAN

Many caribou herds in Canada's north have been declining in recent years and two caribou herds that range into the Gwich'in Settlement Area, the Cape Bathurst and Bluenose West, have experienced significant declines. The GRRB has been working with other management bodies as part of the Advisory Committee for the Cooperation of Wildlife Management to create an updated management plan for these herds and the Bluenose East herd. Working group members reporting to the ACCWM held community engagement meetings in late 2009 and 2010 in order to hear community concerns and receive feedback on what communities felt was important in management of these herds. Using the input received from those meetings, the working group has created a first draft of

a management plan. Meetings are again being held in communities across the range of these herds to discuss the draft and to seek input on key aspects of the plan that involve management actions and decision making. Members of all Gwich'in RRCs have been invited to review the draft and attend public meetings in their community in mid-February. Their comments and feedback are particularly welcomed, in addition to public comments. If you would like to review the draft and provide comments, the draft plan can be downloaded from the GRRB website or picked up in our office. Public comments are due by March 12, 2011.

We invite you to attend the meeting in your community to hear more about the plan! Come for a dinner at 5:30 pm and stay for the meeting at 6PM.

| Community | Date | Location |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---|
| <i>Inuvik</i> | Monday, February 14 | Board Room Inuvik Band Office, Alex Moses Greenland Building |
| <i>Tsiigehtchic</i> | Wednesday, February 16 | Community Gym |
| <i>Aklavik</i> | Thursday, February 17 | Band Council Chambers |
| <i>Fort McPherson</i> | Friday, February 18 | Hamlet Council Chambers |



DALL SHEEP MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Work continued in 2010 to address actions called for in the recommended draft management plan for the Dall's sheep population in the Northern Richardson Mountains. This past year both the status report and a survey of the sheep population were completed with GRRB participation. This population has declined from an estimated total of 1730 sheep in 1997 to 704 counted sheep in 2006 and there was concern that the population had continued to decrease in number. The survey conducted in 2010 suggests that the population has stabilized with no significant change since the 2006 survey.

2011 CONSERVATION CALENDAR

The conservation calendar is produced in collaboration with the four Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs) to educate and promote sustainability within the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The conservation calendar outlines some important facts about the GSA and also offers some suggestions on living a more sustainable life to benefit future generations.

The 2011 Conservation Calendar is available at your local RRC office or at the GRRB.

We would like to thank the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) for their yearly financial contribution towards the printing of the conservation calendars.

Log on to www.grrb.nt.ca for more information



2011 MOOSE SURVEY

The GRRB and ENR will be conducting a Moose Survey in March 2011 in the GSA and ISR. In order to prepare for this survey, workshops are being held in all the communities to identify the areas and habitats that are likely to have high and low moose abundance. We will also be accepting applications for a Community Observer to assist with these surveys.

CALENDAR

• Moose Workshops

Inuvik

Monday, February 7th

1 PM

Midnight Sun Rec. Center

Aklavik

Tuesday, February 8

1 PM

Sittichinli Rec. Center

Tsiigehtchic

Wednesday, February 9

9 AM

RRC board room

Fort McPherson

Wednesday, February 9

2 PM

RRC board room

Tuktoyaktuk

Friday, February 11

1 PM

• Moose Survey

Gwichin Settlement Area and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region

March 16-March 31

SPECIES AT RISK

The NWT Species at Risk Act came into force on February 1, 2010. The Species at Risk (NWT) Act provides a process to identify, protect and recover species at risk in the NWT. The Act applies to any wild animal, plant or other species managed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. Two groups were created out of this Act.

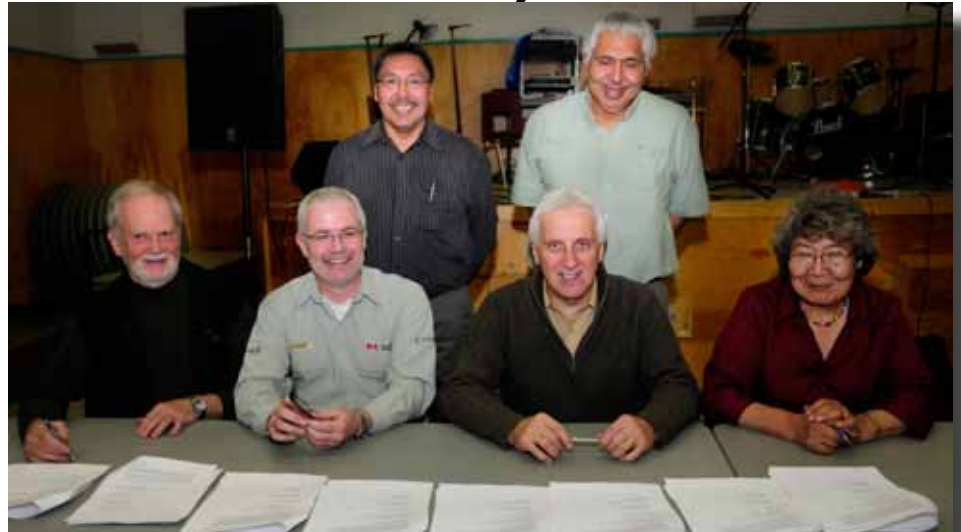
The Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) provides direction, coordination and leadership with respect to the assessment, listing, conservation and recovery of species at risk. The GRRB is a mem-

ber of the CMA.

Species at Risk Committee (SARC) is an independent group of experts, appointed by the different management authorities, which assess the biological status of species that may be at risk in the NWT. James Firth and Eugene Pascal were appointed to SAR to represent the GRRB.

There was also a **Stewardship Program** developed that provides up to \$5000 of funding to each region in the NWT. Visit the website (www.nwt-species-at-risk.ca) or call our office for more details.

DOLLY VARDEN IMFP SIGNED NOV 3, 2010



At the GRRB Board Meeting this past fall, the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) was brought forward for Board support. The Board agreed to support the IFMP as long as there were no major changes before the signing. After all parties had given their approval, a signing ceremony was held in Aklavik on Nov 3, 2010. The IFMP was signed by Liz Hansen of the GRRB, Bob Lambe of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Ifan Thomas of Parks Canada and Burton Ayles of the

Fisheries Joint Management Committee (FJMC).

Throughout the rest of November I have spent a large part of my time finishing an online course on the collection and identification of invertebrates and how to design a study to use that information to assess environmental changes.

I have also been working on the Rat River Char Fishing Plan.

In the coming months I will be working on writing up the results of our summer sampling at Travailant Lake.

-Kris Maier

Fisheries Biologist

Log on to www.grrb.nt.ca for more information

WORKING TOGETHER



As the Renewable Resources Manager, one of my main responsibilities is to work with the RRCs and other co-management partners on such projects as the Harvest Data Collection Project. It is important to obtain accurate information about harvest levels and about what they observe while they are out on the land. The Harvest Study asks harvesters whether they have noticed changes in the land itself or the plants or animals they are harvesting. If there have been changes, then we can track them over time and note how these changes affect the Gwich'in people. These observations are important for making

good wildlife management decisions for present and future generations.

I've also been fortunate to have been involved as a recorder for several Traditional Knowledge (TK) interviews of Gwich'in harvesters regarding the Woodland Caribou (Boreal Caribou) in the GSA. The GRRB and GSCI are working with Environment Canada to provide this information for the national Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy. Environment Canada believes TK from each region of the country is

critical to ensure the success of this program. I have been impressed by the depth of elders' knowledge about the land and with the harvesters who follow their elders' teachings about the wise use of resources.

I feel honoured to have met Gwich'in people of all ages who have a deep connection with the land and their culture.

Masi cho!

-Janet Boxwell

Renewable Resource Manager



GWICH'IN RENEWABLE RESOURCES BOARD

PO Box 2240, Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0 • P: 867.777.6600 • F: 867.777.6601 • www.grrb.nt.ca

GRRB Staff Contact Information

Executive Director

Amy Thompson (867) 777-6602
Joined the GRRB staff January 2006
Athompson@grrb.nt.ca

Office Manager

Cheryl Greenland (867) 777-6600
Joined the GRRB staff February 2009
office@grrb.nt.ca

Fisheries Biologist

Kris Maier (867) 777-6607
Joined the GRRB staff February 2010
kmaier@grrb.nt.ca

Wildlife Biologist

Kristen Callaghan (867) 777-6610
Joined the GRRB staff February 2008
kcallaghan@grrb.nt.ca

Renewable Resources Manager

Janet Boxwell (867) 777-6615
Joined the GRRB staff July 2010
jboxwell@grrb.nt.ca

Communications Manager (casual)

Maia Lepage (867) 777-6616
Joined the GRRB staff October 2010
mlepage@grrb.nt.ca



Log on to www.grrb.nt.ca for more information