

I would like to submit the following comments on the wolf review.

#### 7.2 Recommendation

Key ungulate habitat areas should be identified and given full protection from development.

Do we have protected areas that have been established for ungulate protection since 92 especially in calving areas? We are aware of several around Old Crow and Mayo. Serious recommendations need to be given to establish protected areas for ungulates while calving.

#### 7.4 Recommendation

Research and monitoring of ungulate populations and harvest should be improved and expanded. We believe that the monitoring of harvest of ungulates should extend beyond subsistence and sport hunts to include commercial harvests as well. The goal for most hunters is to take the largest trophy animals. Are these kills included in the research?

Is it taken into consideration that the genetic gene pool of ungulates is being marginalized because the largest animals (that are prime breeding stock) are annually being taken out of Yukon wilderness by big game outfitters and trophy hunters?

Have big game outfitters ever been issued a zero hunt regulation in one species in order to help raise the population of that species? In times of ungulate stress even commercial harvest should be limited.

The introduction of foreign species to the Yukon should be investigated and taken into consideration because it is highly relevant to the health and maintenance of native ungulate species.

For example; introduced bison population is increasing, introduced elk population is increasing and deer are moving northward. All bring possible risks to native ungulate species and might affect their general health through diseases, overgrazing and competition for land mass.

In conclusion we offer the following suggestions:

1) investigate both ends of the ungulate life cycle before making judgements on predation. For example; study mortality rate of newborns to yearlings but also study mortality rate of patriarchs or matriarchs (prime breeding stock)

Certainly wolves and bears take a large % of young animals. These statistics are already being documented.

Also take into account how many patriarch animals are being taken in commercial ventures such as big game hunting or in general hunts for trophy animals.

Consistently weakening the gene pool by annually harvesting prime breeding stock out of a population will impact that species over time For Example: when more subservient animals breed rather than the strongest, largest animals the genetic gene pool is weakened over time.

2) Referring to 9.3- " use more traditional types of control methods such as trapping" For example; if trappers are given more incentives (financial) to specialize their efforts on wolves both during spring months (taking pups from dens) as well as winter months with trapping and snaring then consistent results might be realized.

Currently trappers receive very little for their harvest of wolves in comparison to the time and effort it takes to trap and handle the wolves.

Financial incentives offered to all trappers in the Yukon would cost government a fraction of the money spent on government wolf control programs. The money spent on such incentives would go around back into all Yukon communities as money at grassroots level always does.

3) Referring to 9.3 & 9.6 " ideally all forms of hunting should be stopped for the duration of the

wolf reduction program"

If moose population is marginalized in one area ALL hunts should be stopped in that area including commercial harvests. Outfitters have a three bag limit (three animals are offered to all hunters). Less revenue would be realized if one of these three animals were not offered (ie:moose) but outfitters could still make a living on the other two animals offered and the ungulate population would be left for that season without harvest.

4) Referring to 10.1 " Should produce written and audio-visual material on wolves , how they interact with prey and with wolf management in the Yukon".

In this 'new-age' world people are moving further and further away from subsistence life styles and the idea of killing animals to eat. A large % of our population now prefer to buy small packets of meat at the store rather than killing animals for subsistence livelihoods. Because of this trend producing visual documentations of wolves killing prey might act as a double edged sword AGAINST wolves.

Animals killing other animals are rarely humane or pretty sights. These episodes are most often gruesome, long or painful situations that tug at even the most hardened hunting hearts. When wolves kill livestock farmers often become vehement and for good reason. Their livelihood has been diminished. Therefore, many who have seen or been impacted by wolf kills often HATE wolves. There rarely seems to be a neutral appreciation of the rules of nature when it comes to survival and killing by the public. Making written or audio visual materials on wolves in their natural environments should be made with these thoughts in mind, very carefully.

Conclusion: In this era where non-consumptive use and enjoyment of wildlife and wolves is on the rise we must use the industry that has been on the land since the beginning of time, trapping. Trappers are both equipped and able to harvest wolves. Trappers are a strong, silent force on the land and are certainly less visible than government employees shooting wolves from planes to reduce numbers. With trapping prices lower than normal adding financial incentives to trappers for harvesting wolves would benefit all, the ungulate populations, the trappers themselves and the government mandated to try to control predator numbers. It seems to be a logical conclusion and one we can't believe has not been actively pursued before this time.

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING OUR COMMENTS ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT TOPIC.

All the best,  
Kathryn Boivin