

BQCMB Comments on the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan



Beverly and Qamanirjuaq
Caribou Management Board

NPC Public Hearing
Iqaluit, Nunavut
March 21-26, 2017

Background

Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB)

- Communities and governments working together - since 1982
 - Nunavut, Northwest Territories, northern Manitoba and northern Saskatchewan

- Advisory board – provides information and recommendations
 - Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds

- Taking care of caribou - a shared responsibility



Background

Who does the BQCMB represent?

- Inuit, Dene, Cree, and Metis caribou harvesters
 - 8 members represent about 20 communities in NU, NWT, MB, SK
- Government biologists, wildlife managers, land managers
 - 5 members from governments (NU, NWT, MB, SK, Canada)

Background

BQCMB and Resource Development

➤ The BQCMB:

- is NOT against mining
- has strong concerns about harm that some land use activities, like mineral exploration and mining, could have on caribou over time
- wants to see clear rules and careful management of land use across the caribou ranges
especially for areas used by caribou for calving and taking care of young calves (calving grounds and post-calving areas)

Background

BQCMB and Land Use Planning

- BQCMB has worked hard to help the Nunavut land use planning process

- The BQCMB believes that:
 - some places are so important that people should not harm the land or bother animals there
 - to stop caribou AND the land from being harmed we need to keep some land uses away from the most important places for caribou
 - Nunavummiut need to take care of these important places in Nunavut

Background

Taking Care of Caribou - Nunavut Land Use Planning

- The Nunavut land use plan is the best way to make sure that:
 - the most important places for caribou in Nunavut are protected from harm
 - AND
 - caribou are not bothered during times when they are most sensitive
- NPC should be very careful with the first land use plan and not take chances that might result in harm to caribou.
- ***NPC can make changes later*** if Nunavummiut decide that they have been too careful.

RECOMMENDATION #1

Protecting the Most Important Places for Caribou - Protected Areas

- ***NPC recommends*** making Protected Areas in the land use plan for places that are the most important for caribou.
- ***The BQCMB supports NPC's proposal*** and does not want this changed.

Protecting the Most Important Places for Caribou

- Calving grounds
- Post-calving areas
- Key access corridors
- Freshwater caribou crossings



RECOMMENDATION #1

Protecting the Most Important Places for Caribou - Protected Areas

- ***NPC recommends*** making Protected Areas in the land use plan for areas:
 - where calves are born
 - where caribou take care of young calves
 - that are used by caribou when moving on and off of calving grounds
 - up to 10 km from important water crossings

- Many caribou harvesters from across the caribou ranges, both inside and outside NU, have asked for protection of these areas for many years.

RECOMMENDATION #1

Protecting the Most Important Places for Caribou - Protected Areas

- Protected Areas would make sure that the land use activities that could harm caribou and habitat are not allowed in the most important areas for caribou.
- This means:
 - Drawing lines around these areas on land use plan maps.
 - Making rules in the land use plan that ***keep specific land use activities out of these areas.***
 - ***Protected Areas in the land use plan can be changed*** by NPC if new information shows that changes are needed.



Taking Care of Caribou - Other Methods

- Conditions on projects to reduce damage and disturbance – in permits from federal government and Regional Inuit Associations
- Seasonal caribou protection measures
 - standard measures used in permits since 1978 for calving and post-calving periods - in Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan
 - NEW mobile measures suggested for Nunavut – move with caribou; protect caribou but not the land, expensive

Taking Care of Caribou - Other Methods

- Permit conditions and seasonal protection measures:
 - attempt to ***reduce harm*** to caribou from land use activities
 - ***DO NOT avoid harm*** to caribou – do not completely stop land use activities from bothering caribou
 - ***DO NOT protect caribou habitat*** - do not stop damage to the land in areas that are most important to caribou, including areas needed by caribou for calving and taking care of young calves

Taking Care of Caribou

- Protecting the Land and Caribou Habitat

➤ NIRB's view:

- Impact assessment looks at effects on caribou one project at a time
- Guidance is needed from the land use plan on regional issues including protection of caribou habitat

➤ BQCMB's view:

- Protection for caribou habitat will not be provided if permit conditions and seasonal protection measures are used as the only way to take care of caribou
- Protected areas are needed to provide habitat protection

RECOMMENDATION #2

Taking Care of Caribou

- Other Seasonal Ranges (Outside Calving and Post-calving)

- For areas that are known to be regularly used by caribou during some seasons outside calving and post-calving,
NPC recommends only mapping some of these as important areas for caribou in the land use plan; not including winter range
- ***The BQCMB supports NPC's proposal ONLY IF some changes are made*** to the land use plan to provide:
 - clearer and more detailed rules for protecting caribou and caribou range from harm
 - information about the location and value of winter range to caribou

RECOMMENDATION #2

Taking Care of Caribou

- Other Seasonal Ranges (Outside Calving and Post-calving)

- Changes the BQCMB asks for are needed to make sure that:
 - before permit applications are accepted for review, land users would have to agree to follow a set of ***rules for avoiding harm*** to caribou and caribou range
 - land users would know about areas where they need to follow these rules during winter, as well as during other periods

- NPC should work on this with the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Impact Review Board.

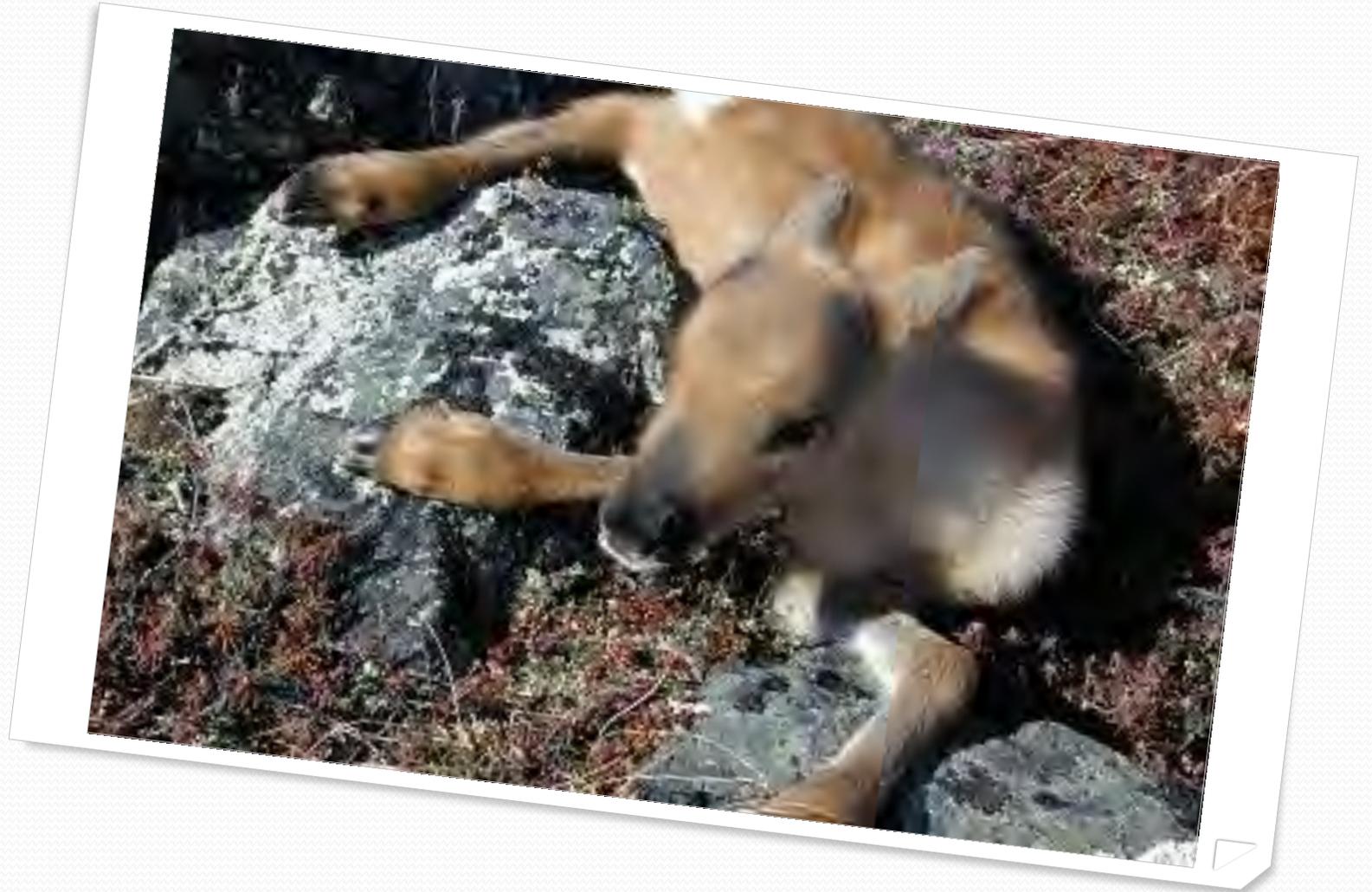


RECOMMENDATION #3

Protecting the Most Important Places for Caribou - Areas with Mineral Potential

- ***NPC recommends*** using Protected Areas in the land use plan to protect the most important places for caribou (such as calving grounds) even when some people think they might have value for mining also.
- ***The BQCMB supports NPC's proposal*** and does not want this changed.

The *most important places for caribou*, especially areas used for calving and taking care of young calves, should be given *higher value in the land use plan than their possible value for mining.*



RECOMMENDATION #4

Protecting the Most Important Places for Caribou - Transportation Corridors

➤ ***NPC recommends that:***

- the first version of the land use plan should keep all-season roads out of Protected Areas used to take care of the most important places for caribou (such as calving grounds)
- proposals for these projects should be reviewed very carefully, including looking for other options that would avoid harm to caribou.

➤ ***The BQCMB supports NPC's proposal*** and does not want this changed.

RECOMMENDATION #5

Taking Care of Caribou - Existing Mineral Rights

- There is a lot of confusion about what is meant by “grandfathering of existing rights”.
- ***BQCMB recommends*** that:
 - companies that have rights for mineral exploration in an area should not automatically be given rights for developing a mine there.
 - time limits for “existing rights” should be set so that a staking rush does not occur before the land use plan is approved.



OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

6. Additional Research and Studies

BQCMB recommends further work on the list of research priorities and provides suggestions for additions.

7. Alternatives Assessment for Proposal Linear Infrastructure

BQCMB supports NPC's approach for assessing alternatives and recommends questions be developed for all caribou seasonal ranges.

8. Land Use Designations

BQCMB recommends designation as Protected Areas and addition of certain prohibited uses for:

core calving areas, post-calving areas, key access corridors; Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary and Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary; and Freshwater Caribou Crossings

SUMMARY

Taking Care of Caribou and the Land

- Caribou are shared by many Indigenous peoples, and many of the most important places for caribou are in Nunavut
- The Nunavut land use plan provides ways to:
 - avoid harm to both caribou and the land in the most important places
 - protect the land in areas needed by caribou for calving and taking care of young calves
 - be careful and not take risks that may result in harm to caribou over time
 - make changes if needed when we learn more about caribou and how land use affects them

CONCLUSION

The BQCMB Perspective

- Nunavut has a great opportunity to use land use planning carefully and wisely.
- Using the land use plan to help safeguard caribou and the traditional cultures of Inuit and other Indigenous peoples that have shared the caribou herds for thousands of years should be viewed as a big success for everyone to celebrate.

Thank-you.



Beverly and Qamanirjuaq
Caribou Management Board

