

Written Submission No. 07

2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Proposed Land Use Designation:

Community Areas of Interest – Caribou and Reindeer Harvesting

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

From: The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB), and
the Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) of Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond
Inlet, Sanikiluaq, Hall Beach and Igloolik

Background Information:

Caribou and reindeer are critically important to maintain the health, culture and heritage of the Inuit. Without protection of the communities' caribou and reindeer harvesting areas, the Nunavut Land Use Plan will fail in its goal to protect and promote the well-being of all of Nunavut's residents as a primary purpose of land use planning under Article 11 of the Nunavut Agreement.

The Inuit of Clyde River, Grise Fiord, Pond Inlet, Sanikiluaq, Hall Beach and Igloolik utilize specific areas to harvest caribou and reindeer on northeastern and northern Baffin, Ellesmere and the Belcher islands, in order to obtain food, skins and other resources, as well as to maintain related family and cultural activities important to the community. Caribou and reindeer may use these harvesting areas in many seasons, including but not limited to: calving, post-calving, migration, rutting and wintering.

Native caribou disappeared from the Belchers Islands about 100 years ago. After the community asked for caribou to be reintroduced to the islands (e.g., from Coats Island), the government introduced semi-domesticated reindeer from Tuktoyaktuk in 1978. The population was left to roam freely, and it grew quickly with the first harvest occurring in 1984. The Inuit of Sanikiluaq have managed the reindeer harvest well, largely unassisted by government, even conducting their own surveys, and setting harvest seasons and restrictions. The areas that have been mapped are critical for the continued survival of the reindeer and their careful local management. This area must be protected from industrial development

On northeastern and northern Baffin Island, some caribou (*tuktu*) migrate short distances among important coastal habitats up and down mountains and between fjords, while other caribou (*qungiq*) live and migrate across high lands mainly inland west of the fjords (Ferguson 1989).

On Melville Peninsula, caribou migrate, calve, summer and winter in specific areas. Inuit from Hall Beach, Igloolik and occasionally other communities harvest caribou throughout the year, and their harvesting areas are closely integrated with the seasonal movements of the caribou. The known caribou harvesting, calving and post-calving, migration corridors and sea-ice crossing areas on Melville Peninsula are all interconnected (see also maps for WS-08, 09 and 10 for a complete picture).

In the High Arctic, Peary caribou travel throughout the year in search of forage that may be accessible through the snow and during the brief snow-free period. The abundance of caribou on northeastern and northern Baffin Island and Peary caribou fluctuates between years, between seasons and from place to place, but are rarely seen in large numbers due to sparse vegetation and very hard wind-blown snow that makes access to forage difficult. Because of their low numbers and difficult environment, these caribou are especially sensitive to disturbance by humans.

Note: Clyde River and Igloolik also harvest caribou within the Multiple Values Area of West Central Baffin Island (see WS-11).

Source of information: Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

Proposed Designation: Protected Area

Proposed Restrictions:

Prohibited Uses: The following uses are prohibited:

- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
- Mineral Exploration and Production;
- Obnoxious Land Use;
- Quarries;
- Hydro-electrical and related infrastructure;
- Wind turbines for electrical generation and related infrastructure;
- Linear Infrastructure; and
- Related research except Non-exploitive Scientific Research

Conditions:

- Wind turbines for electrical generation must be at least 5 km from caribou harvesting areas, and must be positioned so they are not visible from caribou harvesting areas.
- Any project in Nunavut that would violate these conditions is prohibited.

Proposed Boundaries of the Community Area of Interest – Caribou Harvesting:

See the attached maps and the associated shp files

References:

Ferguson, M. 1989. Baffin Island. *In*: E. Hall, editor. People & Caribou in the Northwest Territories. Department of Renewable resources, Government of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, Canada. Pages: 140-149.

Skarin A. and M. Alam. 2017. Reindeer habitat use in relation to two small wind farms, during preconstruction, construction, and operation. *Ecol. Evol.* 7: 3870–3882.

Skarin, A., C. Nellemann, L. Rönnegård, P. Sandström and H. Lundqvist. 2015. Wind farm construction impacts reindeer migration and movement corridors. *Landscape Ecol.* 30: 1527–1540.

Skarin A, P. Sandström and M. Alam. 2018. Out of sight of wind turbines—Reindeer response to wind farms in operation. *Ecol Evol.* 8: 9906–9919.

Date of this draft: November 21, 2018

