

# BEVERLY AND QAMANIRJUAQ CARIBOU MANAGEMENT BOARD

27 March 2010

Mike Byrne and Rhian Christie  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
P. O. Box 1500  
Yellowknife NT X1A 2R3

by e-mail: [mike.byrne@inac-ainc.gc.ca](mailto:mike.byrne@inac-ainc.gc.ca)  
[rhian.christie@inac-ainc.gc.ca](mailto:rhian.christie@inac-ainc.gc.ca)

Dear Mr. Byrne and Ms. Christie:

I am writing to provide comments from the perspective of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB) regarding the draft Upper Thelon Land and Resource Management Plan (UTLARMP or the Plan). The BQCMB is pleased that dialogue on land use issues in the Upper Thelon region has been initiated with INAC's "key planning partners", and we appreciate the opportunity to provide input for improving the Plan.

The BQCMB is a co-management board that works with governments, communities, industry and other organizations to develop recommendations for conservation and management of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds and their ranges. The Board advises communities and governments across the caribou ranges, including four territorial and provincial governments (Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) and the federal government. The BQCMB works primarily in the interest of traditional caribou users and their descendents, based on the cooperative partnership between governments and communities that has been developed since the Board was established in 1982. The BQCMB is keenly interested in planning processes underway across the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou ranges regarding land use and management of human activities, including this process being led by INAC for part of the Upper Thelon region.

Please note that these are initial comments based on a preliminary review. With this submission, we are formally requesting the opportunity for further meaningful involvement in what we hope will become a process for developing a more broadly-based plan for land use and management of human land use activities in the Upper Thelon region. This would include providing additional comments on subsequent drafts of the Plan, as well as a more detailed assessment of the potential effectiveness of the Plan for maintaining caribou populations and opportunities for traditional use of caribou by communities. This is according to the Board's mandate to provide advice to governments about caribou, caribou habitat, and people who depend on caribou.

This submission provides the deliverables described below, based on the funding agreement between INAC and the BQCMB. These two reports are provided as attachments to this letter.

- 1) A written report which reviews and comments on the draft UTLARMP including plan components entitled Guiding Principles and Land Access Provisions.
- 2) A written report containing the following information:
  - Context for the BQCMB's review of the Draft UTLARMP.
  - Background information about the BQCMB, Beverly caribou and adjacent herds, and BQCMB action planning for the Beverly herd.

**Secretariat Address: P.O. Box 629 Stonewall MB R0C 2Z0**  
**Tel: (204) 467-2438 e-mail: [rossthompson@mts.net](mailto:rossthompson@mts.net)**  
**website: [www.arctic-caribou.com](http://www.arctic-caribou.com)**

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- Land use recommendations and information about barren-ground caribou range use (including known water crossings) provided previously by the BQCMB for the Upper Thelon region.
- Summary of known use of the Upper Thelon region by caribou and issues related to mineral exploration impacts on caribou in this area.
- Recommendations for permitting mineral exploration and development in the Upper Thelon region.

Please note that we are unable to provide any comments on the Plan Atlas, which was specified as a portion of the first deliverable, as the Atlas has not yet been provided to us. These comments were also developed without the benefit of access to other materials referred to in the draft Plan, including information about the preliminary geologic study, the Upper Thelon Water Quality Monitoring Program, draft State of Knowledge Report, UTLARMP workshop reports, and any other background materials used for development of the draft Plan. We expect to be provided with the opportunity to review the next draft of the Plan with these related materials, including the Plan Atlas.

We have focused our preliminary review on the proposed caribou protection provisions, as per your request and in light of the limited time available for this first round of comments. We hope to base further review on all available data on seasonal movements and range use by caribou, including the Beverly herd, in the Upper Thelon region. Given sufficient time to do so, the BQCMB will collaborate with GNWT-ENR to utilize all available caribou information during development of additional input on the draft Plan.

Please let Ross Thompson, the BQCMB Secretary-Treasurer, or I know if you have any questions about these comments from the BQCMB.

Sincerely,



Leslie Wakelyn  
BQCMB Biologist

Attachments (2)

cc: Albert Thorassie, BQCMB Chairperson  
Allicia Kelly, South Slave Regional Biologist, GNWT-ENR

**Secretariat Address: P.O. Box 629 Stonewall MB R0C 2Z0**  
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**website: [www.arctic-caribou.com](http://www.arctic-caribou.com)**