



FOR RELEASE
May 10, 2012

A new plan for wolf conservation and management in Yukon

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon has approved the *Yukon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (YWCMP) 2012* as part of its ongoing commitment to promote the sustainable use of wildlife resources, Environment Minister Currie Dixon announced today.

“The plan is intended to guide wolf conservation and management throughout Yukon, ensuring that the roles of wolves and their prey species are respected,” Dixon said.

The plan calls for:

- Removing aerial wolf control as a recommended tool to meet ungulate management goals;
- Investigating the use of trapping as a local wolf management tool;
- Addressing wolf-human conflicts;
- Integrating ungulate management with wolf management goals;
- Ongoing research and information sharing; and
- Developing materials and outreach programs to inform visitors and Yukoners about the status and importance of wolves.

“Successful implementation of the species management plan at the community level will require collaboration between the Yukon government, First Nation governments, Inuvialuit, and wildlife management boards and councils,” Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (YFWMB) chair Richard Sidney said.

The YFWMB and the Yukon government agreed in 2010 to jointly conduct a comprehensive review of the original 1992 plan. Over the course of 2011, the YWCMP review committee held 14 community meetings, a workshop with Yukon First Nations, a workshop with wildlife management boards and councils, and a public review of a draft plan.

The committee reviewed 42 written submissions as well as the latest research in wolf and ungulate management. It submitted the *Recommended Wolf Conservation and Management Plan* to the Environment Minister and YFWMB chair in July 2011. The YFWMB recommended the plan to the Yukon government in December 2011.

The plan can be downloaded from the Environment Yukon website or the YFWMB website.

-30-

See backgrounder below.

Contact:

Elaine Schiman
Cabinet Communications

Nancy Campbell
Communications, Environment

867-633-7961
elaine.schiman@gov.yk.ca

867-456-6794
nancy.campbell@gov.yk.ca

Graham Van Tighem
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board
867-667-3754
execdirector@yfwmb.ca

Background

Yukon government approves Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

The *Yukon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (2012)* contains 27 recommendations which address the following seven goals:

- Conserve wolf populations in recognition of the role of wolves in ecosystems and the maintenance of biodiversity
- Manage the harvest of wolves in recognition of their social, cultural and economic importance to all Yukoners
- Manage wolf populations in recognition of the enjoyment and appreciation that Yukoners and visitors have in experiencing wolves in Yukon wilderness
- Use wolf harvest as a management tool to reduce predation rates of moose and caribou in local areas
- Integrate ungulate management with wolf management goals
- Manage wolves to address human-wildlife conflict
- Promote research, education programs and information sharing to enhance understanding of wolf behaviour and ecology and management decisions affecting wolves

The plan retains respect for wolves as a core value from the 1992 version. Significant changes include:

- Reflecting the institutional arrangements created by Yukon land claim agreements
- Recommending against the use of aerial wolf control when helping ungulate populations recover
- Calling for a more diverse range of tools for managing and conserving wolves
- Recommending a stronger role for local involvement in wolf management

The plan is a management framework and its implementation will rely on collaboration, consultation and communication between the Yukon government, First Nation governments, the Inuvialuit, boards and councils, and hunters and trappers.

The plan calls for a five-year-review of its implementation by appropriate agencies to determine if overall goals and principles are being met.

News Release #12-091



Stay up to date with the latest Yukon government news by subscribing to our RSS feed here: <http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/rss.html>. Or follow us on Twitter @yukongov.