



Canadian North Slope Muskox Management

The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) has prepared a Canadian North Slope Muskoxen Co-Management Plan. The Plan was developed in consultation with communities, Inuvialuit, Inupiat and Gwich'in organizations, co-management organizations and government agencies.

The main management goal of the Plan is to maintain a stable population of North Slope muskox in Alaska, Yukon and the Northwest Territories. In order to achieve this goal, the Plan has five objectives: 1) to make management decisions that consider the entire North Slope muskox population; 2) to provide user groups with an allocation to harvest muskox; 3) to minimize the detrimental effects the muskox may have on the Porcupine caribou herd and caribou hunting; 4) to improve understanding of North Slope muskox ecology and; 5) to develop an awareness of and interest in muskox and muskox management.

Many steps were taken during the process of developing the Muskox Co-Management Plan. These included a meeting between Inuvialuit and Inupiat in Kaktovik to discuss muskox management issues and objectives for the North Slope. Two additional meetings were held in Alaska with representatives from the Aklavik HTC, the IGC, WMAC(NS) and US and Canadian governments to discuss these same issues. Inuvialuit hunters from Aklavik also traveled to Paulatuk, NWT to learn about muskox hunting practices and muskox and caribou interactions. In 2001, WMAC(NS) hosted a three-day muskox workshop in Aklavik where participants were able to exchange scientific and traditional knowledge about muskox behaviour, biology, distribution and population size. Workshop participants also made recommendations for regional allocations of the determined harvest quota. Continued meetings, education and sharing of information, including traditional, local and scientific knowledge, will be necessary to effectively manage North Slope muskox.



Photo by Ken Madsen

For more information, visit the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) web site on muskox of the Yukon and Alaska North Slope at www.taiga.net/wmac/species/muskox.