



Wildlife Watch

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Work Continues on the Conservation & Management Plan

Work continues on the Conservation and Management Plan! Over the past few months Council members met with members of the Yukon and federal governments to discuss the Plan. In late August, the Council met in Inuvik to review comments made by the government people and to consider how we want to proceed.

At the meeting in Inuvik, Donald Aviugana - a new member to the WMAC(NS) - Barbara Allen, and Sadie Whitbread also met to learn more about the Plan. They are planning the consultation meetings

with the people of Aklavik. In the next few months they hope to get around to visit most of you to let you know more about the Plan.

Through the Plan, we are trying to make sure that the principles in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement are used to direct wildlife management and conservation on the North Slope. The Plan will be an important tool for government managers and for you. We need your input to make sure the Plan helps everyone. Call Barbara at the HTC to learn more about the Plan.

and on Wildlife Research within the North Slope Region

Over the past few years, the Aklavik HTC has worked with the Council to identify what type of wildlife research the community felt was important. In the last year, the Council, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and the Yukon Wildlife Branch worked on the Community's input to prepare new ideas for wildlife research.

In planning the research, the Yukon Government worked with the GNWT's Wildlife Branch in Inuvik. All of the government groups hope to work together with the Inuvialuit to do the needed research.

The Yukon will be responsible for doing most of the habitat work. Maps (called habitat maps) will be made of the North Slope to tell us not only where animals are,

but why they are there. Habitat maps for grizzly bears, sheep in the Richardson Mountains, and migratory birds on the coastal plain will be done. If needed, other maps for muskox, snow geese, brant, and moose may be made.

While the Yukon government carries out habitat work, the GNWT's Inuvik Wildlife Branch will conduct other research of relevance to the North Slope. For example, a study will be started to look at the grizzly bear population in the Richardson Mountains.

Wildlife research helps everyone understand more about the North Slope. It is basic to good management and conservation of wildlife and habitat, and to the long-term interest of traditional users of the area.



Qikiqtaruk Archeology Project Uncovers the Past

The Qikiqtaruk archeology project began in 1990. The project is studying Inuvialuit history and pre-history on Herschel Island (history before and since the arrival of Europeans).



During 1990 and 1991, two sites were explored. The first site, Avadlek Spit, was occupied about 500 years ago by people of the Thule culture. The Thule are ancestors of the Inuvialuit. At Avadlek, Thule people lived in rectangular driftwood houses with large sleeping platforms. Tens of thousands of bones found at the site tell us that fish was the most important food of the Thule. Other bones

found were from caribou, ducks, and beluga whales. Many artifacts of slate, antler, wood, and bone were discovered on Avadlek Spit. The four copper fish hooks that were uncovered tell us the people traded with other Inuit from as far away as Coppermine.

The second site studied is the large Inuvialuit village at Pauline Cove. Several driftwood houses were dug out of the ground. The houses are about 120 years old. Most of the artifacts found were made of local materials - ground slate ulus, stone arrowheads, and antler or ivory fishing lures. Trading with the Inupiat from the Barrow region brought rifle cartridges and glass beads to Pauline Cove.

The two sites were uncovered very carefully to make sure that all of the information is collected and saved for the future. The artifacts and bones found will be used in two museum exhibits: one will stay on Herschel Island and the other will be taken to Inuvialuit communities.

Next year, the study will be finished. Two historic sod houses from the early 1900s will be dug up. All of the information gathered will help us understand past and present Inuvialuit cultures. It will also help us manage Herschel Island better.

This archeology work was started by the Yukon Heritage Branch and is supported by the Government of Canada's Northern Oil and Gas Action Plan (NOGAP). The Hunters and Trappers Committee has been involved in the study and each year community people have been hired to help with the field work.

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

- **Inuvialuit Game Council:** Danny C. Gordon; Herbert Felix; Alternates: Billy Archie, and Carol Arey
- **Government of Canada:** Joan Eamer, Canadian Wildlife Service; Alternate: Alan Fehr, Parks Canada

- **Government of Yukon:** Brian Pelchat, Renewable Resources; Alternate: Dorothy Cooley, Renewable Resources
- **Chairperson:** Lindsay Staples
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