



# Wildlife Watch

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (NORTH SLOPE)  
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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## Knowledge Co-Op Reviews Standards

The second Annual Gathering of the Northern Yukon Ecological Knowledge Co-operative, March 18-19 in Whitehorse, will try to develop a set of standards for measuring environmental change. The Knowledge Co-op was formed about a year ago to co-ordinate scientific and traditional information about environmental change in the northern Yukon. The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) is one of the founding agencies.

At last year's Gathering, participants developed lists of indicators that might be used to track climate change, contaminants, changes in human activity - and their effects on the environment.

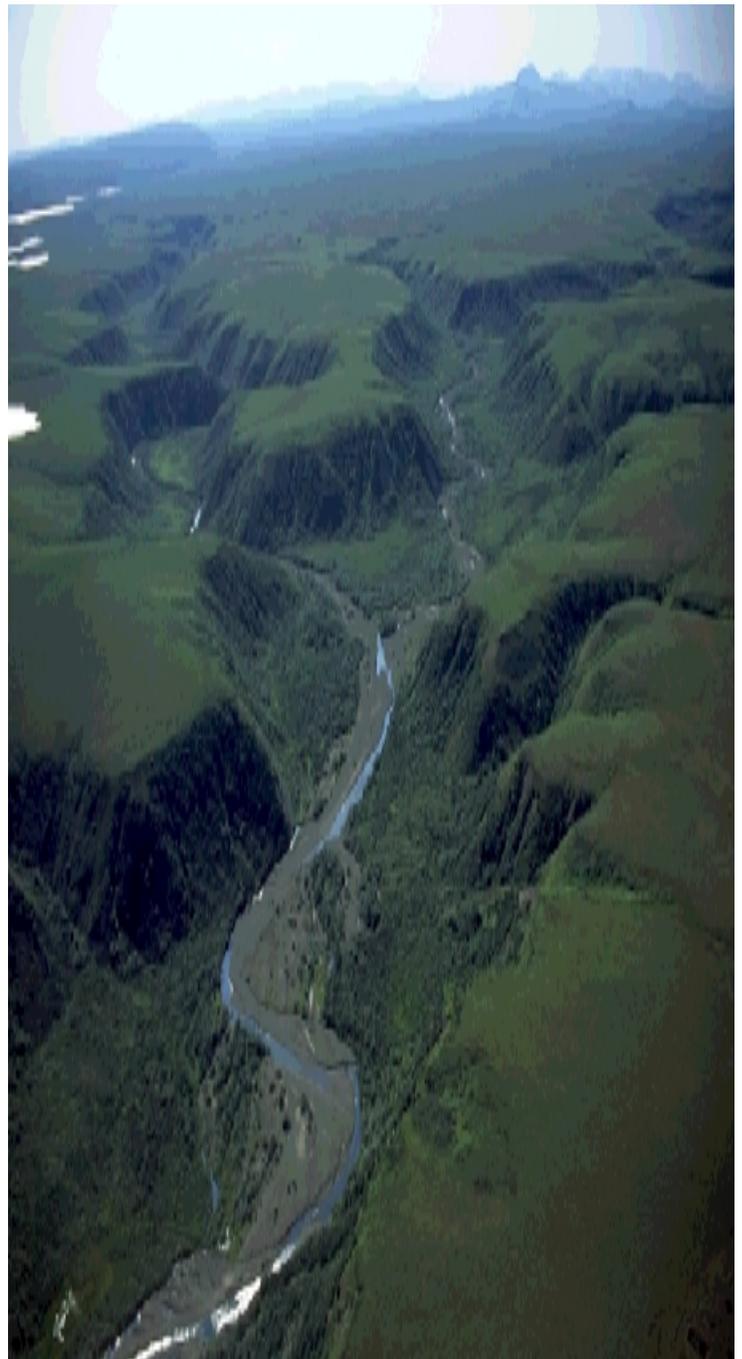
### Information gathered over year

Joan Eamer, a biologist with the Canadian Wildlife Service, says people involved with the Co-op have been collecting information about the indicators over the past year. At the Gathering, participants evaluate the different types of indicators.

Eamer, a member of WMAC(NS), is one of the organizers of the Gathering. She says the goal is to establish a "core monitoring program." The program would allow observers to collect the same kinds of information about environmental change and make it easier to compare their results.

### Other organizations helping

Some work has already been done on developing core monitoring indicators, she says. At the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Workshop in Whitehorse last fall participants looked at the kinds of information harvest reporting systems collect now and what people would like to see collected in the future. More information about contaminants will be



available soon, Eamer says. The Northern Contaminants Program (part of the Arctic Environmental Strategy) is producing a report on several years of research, which the Knowledge Co-op will be able to make use of, she says.

Researcher Gary Kofinas will tour northern communities in February, delivering information about the Co-op and discussing how people can contribute and receive information at the community level. He will report to the Annual Gathering.

The Knowledge Co-op is part of a Canada-wide network, the Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN) and, through EMAN, is linked with an international network of monitoring programs, Eamer says.

“We are trying to contact existing programs and networks and tie into them,” she says.



## Electronic

### Visitors Can See the Northern Yukon

The Northern Yukon Ecological Knowledge Co-operative is on the Internet!

The “State of the Northern Yukon” web site is now open to computer users around the world. Visitors can see a slide show on caribou and climate research, view satellite image maps of Old Crow Flats, try an interactive model that shows how climate change might affect the Porcupine Caribou Herd ...and more.“

I see it as the background document for the Co-op,” says WMAC(NS) member Joan Eamer, who helped design the web site. “We will be able to add to it, adapt it, and change it as time goes on.”

Eamer is now working on a web site specifically for the Knowledge Co-op, with information about the background and current activities of the Co-op, the core monitoring program, and observations contributed by the communities. The site will also contain results of the core monitoring program and interpretation of those results, as well as links to the State of the Northern Yukon site and to a web

site being developed for users of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

The State of the Northern Yukon site can be found at:

<http://www.pwc.bc.doe.ca/ec/nysoc/index/>. It will be available for viewing at the second Annual Gathering of the

Knowledge Co-op.

### Co-op’s Database Is Now Available

The Knowledge Co-op’s Database of Information Sources contains about 400 references to past work, on going studies, and data sets related to the northern Yukon.

Printed and disc copies (Paradox or Access) are available from Joan Eamer, Canadian Wildlife Service, at: 403-667-3949 (phone), 667-7960 (fax) or [joan.eamer@ec.gc.ca](mailto:joan.eamer@ec.gc.ca) (e-mail).

## 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
- **Secretariat:** Aileen Horler

For more information, please contact us at: WMAC (NS), P.O. Box 5928, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 5L6  
Tel: (867) 633-5476 Fax: (867) 633-6900

Email: [wmacns@web.net](mailto:wmacns@web.net) Website: [www.taiga.net/wmac](http://www.taiga.net/wmac)