



YUKON TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION

The 2014 Wolf Skinning Workshop was held on March 15, 2014 at the Yukon Transportation Museum in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

The wolf harvest in Yukon has a direct effect to the population of ungulates. The population of ungulates is a priority for the Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board. Wolves are harvested by several methods including shooting, trapping, snaring, and accidental kills. Yukon Trappers Association contributes to the YFWMB priority through the method of trapping. It can be noted that during the 2013-2014 trapping season, several First Nations trappers have mentioned that they are seeing more ungulates than before, and are contributing the increased sightings to the harvest of wolves.

At the Fur Depot, YTA volunteers see first hand the result of the wolf harvest. There are wide variations in the quality of the finished dried wolf pelt ranging from an excellent job done by an expert award winning trapper to a job done by an uneducated first time wolf skinner. The quality of the skinning job is directly related to the end result at the auction house. During 2012-2013, in particular, YTA listened to the trappers reports about the harvest of wolves. The most frequent comments are that harvesting wolves is difficult because wolves are wiley and can outsmart the trapper; that skinning wolves is a long and difficult job which requires meticulous attention to detail as well as proper size forming boards and special knives and supplies; that the end result at the auction house amounts to an average of \$110 per pelt, which is considered pitiful. In response and in support of our members, YTA offers a tanning service which will help the trapper increase the value of his wolf pelt dramatically; and YTA offers a wolf skinning workshop.

Project Activities.

The workshop gives trappers a demonstration and verbal guidance so that their wolf skinning skills may be enhanced such that their net sales amount at the auction house may be increased. Trappers were invited to bring their own wolf in the round for hands-on guidance. Although no one brought their own wolf, workshop participants helped with the skinning and cleaning and offered their own tips and guidance.

Robert Stitt, President of the YTA, along with board members all worked together to present the workshop. Two directors provided assistance and hospitality, and the secretary treasurer provided administration and bookkeeping services. One of our members provided the wolf in the round.

The activities all resulted in a highly successful workshop which is worth repeating. When we run the workshop again, we mean to invite more people to present the information, and pay them a contribution stipend. The purchase of more wolves in the round well in advance would make the workshop less anxious.

Communications.

The workshop was first advertised in our newsletter, and then in the Yukon News. A poster was developed and distributed to the Yukon RRC and First Nations offices.

Photographs of the project in action may be found on our Facebook page. Attached are black and white images from a printer, not the best quality. We see Jacques Jobin, past Secretary Treasurer, providing assistance; Robert Stitt talking about getting started; the pelt coming off the body; the head being cleaned out; the paws being cleaned; and the job almost done. Please observe the use of tarps and plastic. The number of people present for the demonstration increases and decreases throughout the day, with only a few still in attendance near the end.

Financial Statements.

Attached is an excel worksheet of the financial expenditures. Because the workshop expenses and budget are closely matched, we didn't have to fundraise (which would have meant a workshop fee to participants). The worksheet may be considered our financial statement.

-end of report-

Yukon Trapper's
Association
presents...

WOLF SKINNING WORKSHOP

Demonstration by

ROBERT STITT

President of Yukon Trappers Association



Funded in part by
Yukon Fish and Wildlife
Management Board.

**SAT.
MARCH
15TH**

10AM until late
in the afternoon
at the Yukon
Transportation
Museum.

Register
at the door.

**PAYMENT BY
DONATION.**

For more
information
phone: 667 7091.