



KLUANE FIRST NATION

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March 15, 2017

Mr. Dennis Zimmerman
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust
P.O. Box 31022,
Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 5P7

Dear Mr. Zimmerman:

Re: Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust Funding Report

On behalf of Kluane First Nation, I would like to thank the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust (YFWET) for their continued support of our wildlife monitor program. I am very pleased to report our success of our program throughout the year. Kluane First Nation used the funds contributed by YFWET to hire two wildlife monitors for the 2016 harvest season. KFN wildlife monitors conducted 116 patrols throughout the months of August – December. Wildlife monitors were also able to conduct harvest surveys. Throughout their contract, wildlife monitors liaised with KFN staff and citizens, Conservation Officers, Parks Canada Wardens and RCMP in regards to wildlife and environmental concerns.

Throughout the season the wildlife monitors witnessed many significant changes to the landscape in Kluane Traditional Territory. The Kaskawulsh Glacier has retreated to the point where its melt water is now going in a completely different direction, away from the Ä'äy Chù (Slims Valley). This has significantly altered Kluane Lake levels and wildlife monitors were able to observe changes in wildlife behaviour and habitat use. For example wildlife monitors observed that Dall sheep were moving down from Tachäl Dhäl (Sheep Mountain) and onto the highway earlier in the season. This observation brought about additional management concerns around sheep being hunted just off the highway and led to an emergency temporary hunting closure of that area.

Thank you again for your support and funding as it aligns with and will greatly contribute to the initiatives and goals of Kluane First Nation.

Sincerely,

Kate Ballegooyen
Environment and YESAA Coordinator
Kluane First Nation
environment@kfn.ca
867-841-4274 ext 233

PROJECT ACTIVITIES (1-2 pages)

Kluane First Nation used the funds contributed by YFWET to hire two wildlife monitors, Robert Dickson and Rick Staley for the 2016 harvest season. KFN wildlife monitors conducted 116 patrols throughout the months of August – December. Wildlife monitors were also able to conduct harvest surveys. Wildlife Monitors reported what wildlife was being harvested, where it was harvested and by whom. Throughout their contract, wildlife monitors liaised with KFN staff and citizens, Conservation Officers, Parks Canada Wardens and RCMP in regards to wildlife and environmental concerns.

This project succeeded in contributing to our goals and objectives by reducing harassment and poaching and by being present on the land and monitoring harvesting activities. As our eyes and ears on the land, the wildlife monitors advised enforcement officials of their observations, plus they documented (information and pictures) activities in the area.

The wildlife monitors were able to observe changes in wildlife behaviour and habitat use. For example wildlife monitors observed that the Dall sheep were moving down from Tachäl Dhäl (Sheep Mountain) and onto the highway earlier in the season. This observation brought about additional management concerns around sheep being hunted just off the highway and led to an emergency temporary hunting closure of that area. These observations also encouraged wildlife managers to address signage and traffic problems in the area as a number of sheep were being hit on the highway. Wildlife monitors were able to provide some baseline data to support management regimes that were implemented

Additionally wildlife monitors were able to observe and report landslides in the Quill Creek area after a major rain event (over 50 slides were reported). As many KFN citizens and community members work and recreate in that area it was essential to ensure the road was safe. Monitoring and reporting climate change and extreme weather events will become a focus in future years.

Our timeline for monitoring was extended because one wildlife monitor had to leave to begin another position. We were therefore able to extend the other wildlife monitor later into the season. It was helpful to have wildlife monitor available late into the season because of an increase in bison harvesters on KFN R-3A settlement block or near Cultus Bay. Work plans had

to remain flexible due to weather conditions. Wildlife monitors did not conduct patrols when we had extended periods of -30 or -40 degrees.

The wildlife monitors work contributed to the protection, enhancement or restoration of fish, wildlife or their habitat as they were able to more accurately track information of wildlife harvest and now have a better understanding of predator/prey relationships by tracking and observing kill sites. Furthermore, as was mentioned earlier, the wildlife monitors were able to observe extreme climactic events and their impacts on wildlife behaviour and habitat use. In the future we would like to attract youth to the position or have them be mentored by the wildlife monitors to take over the position one day.

COMMUNICATIONS (1 page)

To ensure that the community was aware of our program we wrote an article in the KFN newsletter introducing them to the community. The wildlife monitors also participated in KFN's annual harvest gathering in Cultus Bay in order to meet the community. Here they also helped to demonstrate the proper way to set up an electric fence to protect harvested meat. We discussed the wildlife monitors observations internally with our department so that people were kept up to date. The wildlife monitors connected with the Conservation Officers, KNPR Park Wardens and RCMP throughout their contract and shared important wildlife and environmental information. The wildlife monitors engaged with KFN citizens they came in contact with out on the land. Wildlife monitors discussed any changes to the land, whether or not their harvest was successful and the presence or absence of wildlife. Another newsletter article was written at the end of their contract to capture what they observed and reported. The Enhancement Trust was identified as a source of funding in all of our publications.

KFN and Parks Canada were also in contact throughout the wildlife monitor program. In conjunction with the program, Parks Canada staff (park warden and additional resource staff) came out to speak with the Elders Council about wildlife in the park and surrounding areas. They communicated the results of recent surveys completed in the park as well.

See Appendix A for photos.

Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust:
KFN Wildlife Monitor Program Reporting 2016-17

FINANCIAL REPORTS (1-2 pages + receipts)

Wages were lower than projected due to wildlife monitor availability and weather.

Final Report Budget Sheet

Expenditure Categories	Item	Projected Cost	Actual Cost	Receipts included
1. Project/Rental Expenses (equipment, machinery)				
2. Wages and Contract services	116 days @ \$200/day	Wildlife Monitors x 2 (80/day x 200 X 2) = \$32,000.00	\$23,200	Yes
3. Office and Administrative expenses				
4. Travel expenses				
5. Materials and supplies				
6. Facility				
7. Other Expenses				
	Totals:		\$23,200	

Appendix A: Photographs



Image 1. Dust coming off the slims river



Image 2. New Lake at Cultus Bay – caused by wave action



Image 3. Eagle Carcass



Image 4. Found Dumpsite



Image 5. Dall Sheep on Highway near Ä'äy Chù (Slims River).



Image 6. Tourists on highway near Ä'äy Chù (Slims River)