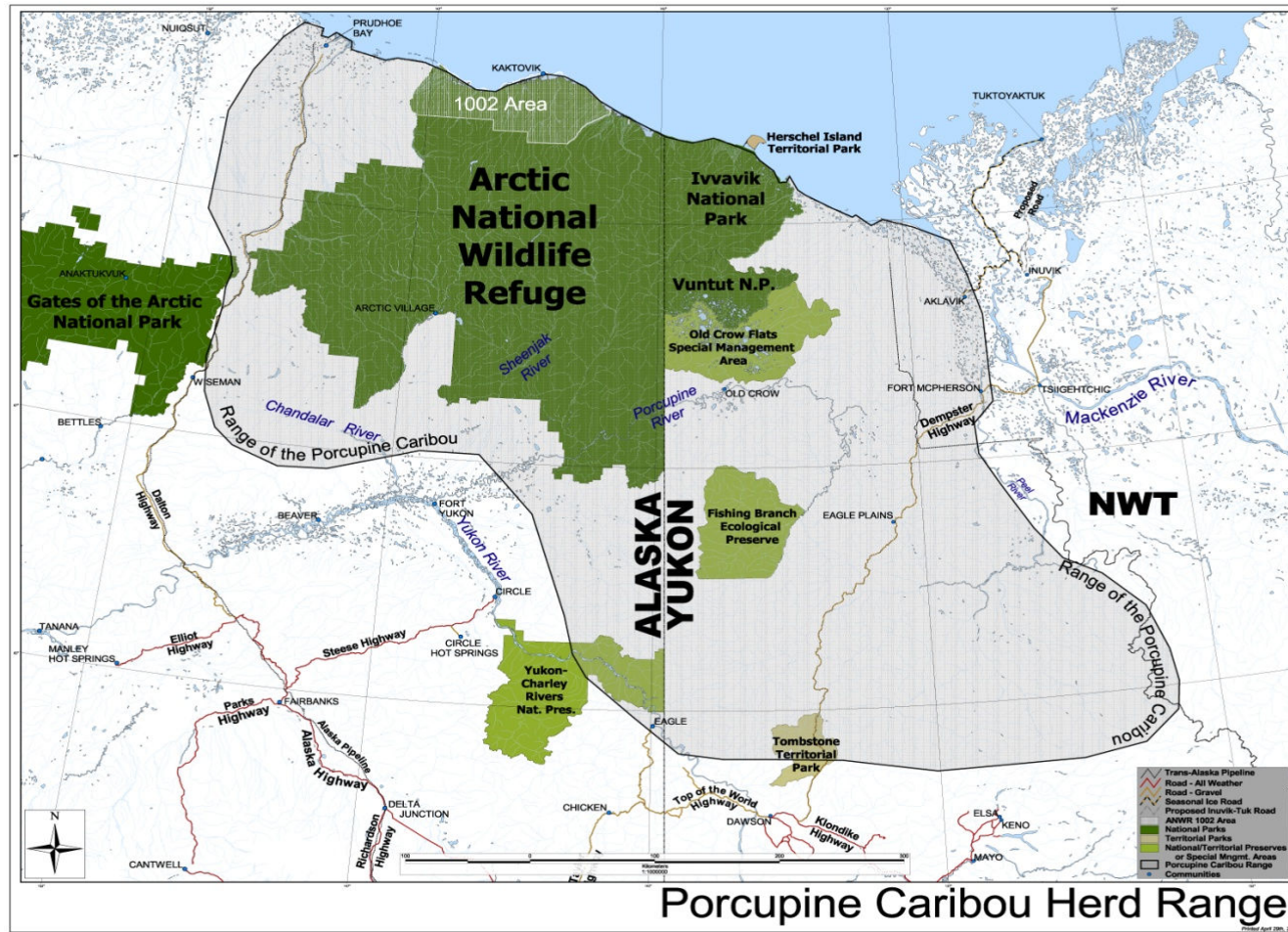


Harvest Management Plan for the Porcupine Caribou Herd in Canada



Why do we need a plan?

The Porcupine Caribou Herd is a magnificent population of migratory caribou that we must conserve for all time. When the herd is large, harvesting caribou poses little or no threat to it. When the herd is declining it can get to a point where hunting could become a serious problem. Harvesting like normal when herd numbers are low and the herd is declining could make the population of the herd go down further and faster so that it would take many, many years to recover. We do not want this to happen.

The Plan is a plan for all times — one that will respond to the status of the Herd whether the population is high or low. The Plan allows us to be proactive, with many hard decisions already made if the herd numbers decline.



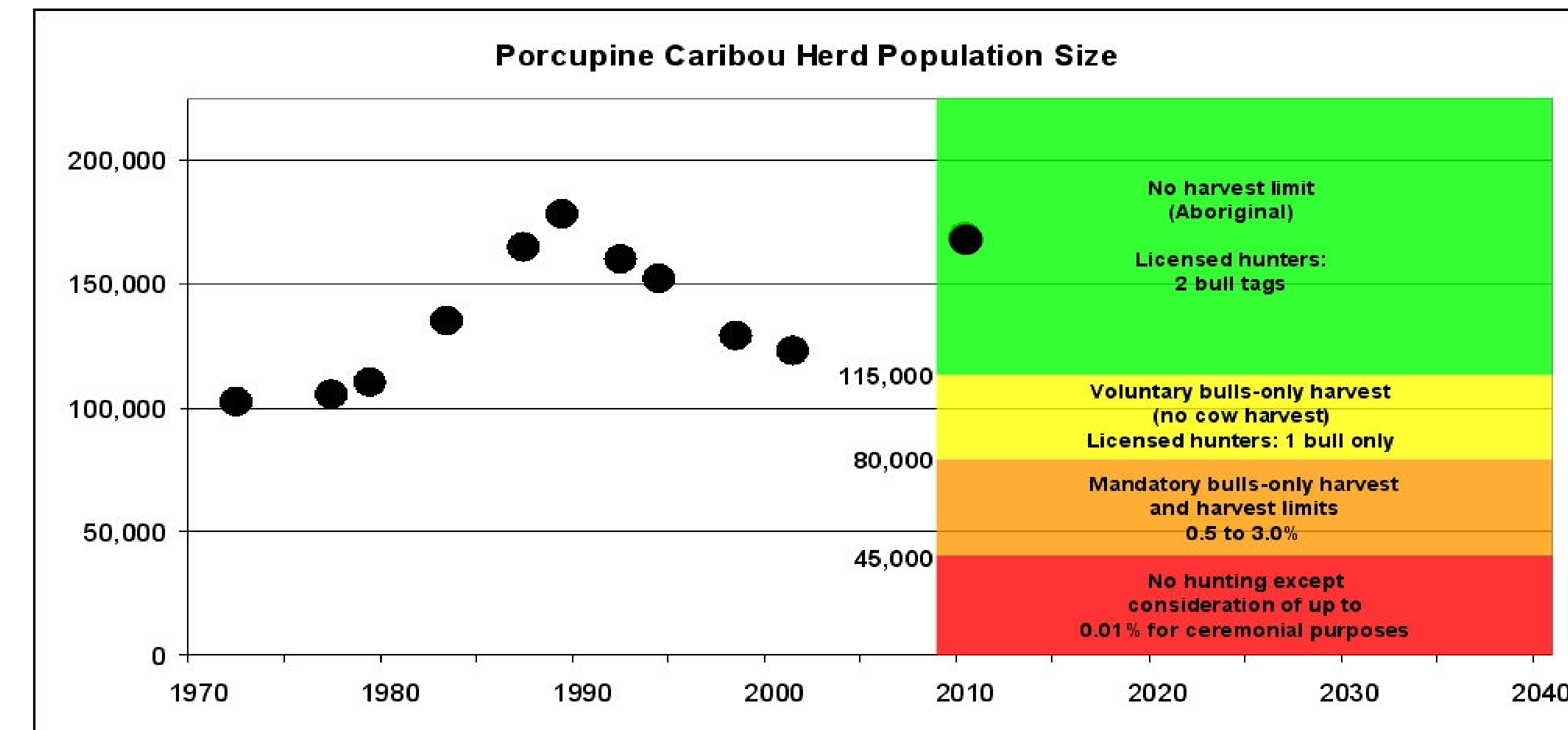
Who wrote this plan?

All eight Parties responsible for Porcupine Caribou management in Canada have agreed and signed an unprecedented plan for the cooperative harvest management of Porcupine Caribou. The Harvest Management Plan coordinates management actions for this essential herd which ranges close to eight communities in five aboriginal land claim areas in two territories in Canada.

Parties to the Plan are:

- o First Nation of Na'Cho Nyäk Dun
- o Gwich'in Tribal Council
- o Inuvialuit Game Council
- o Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
- o Vuntut Gwitchin Government
- o Government of the Northwest Territories
- o Government of Yukon
- o Government of Canada

Management of harvest numbers

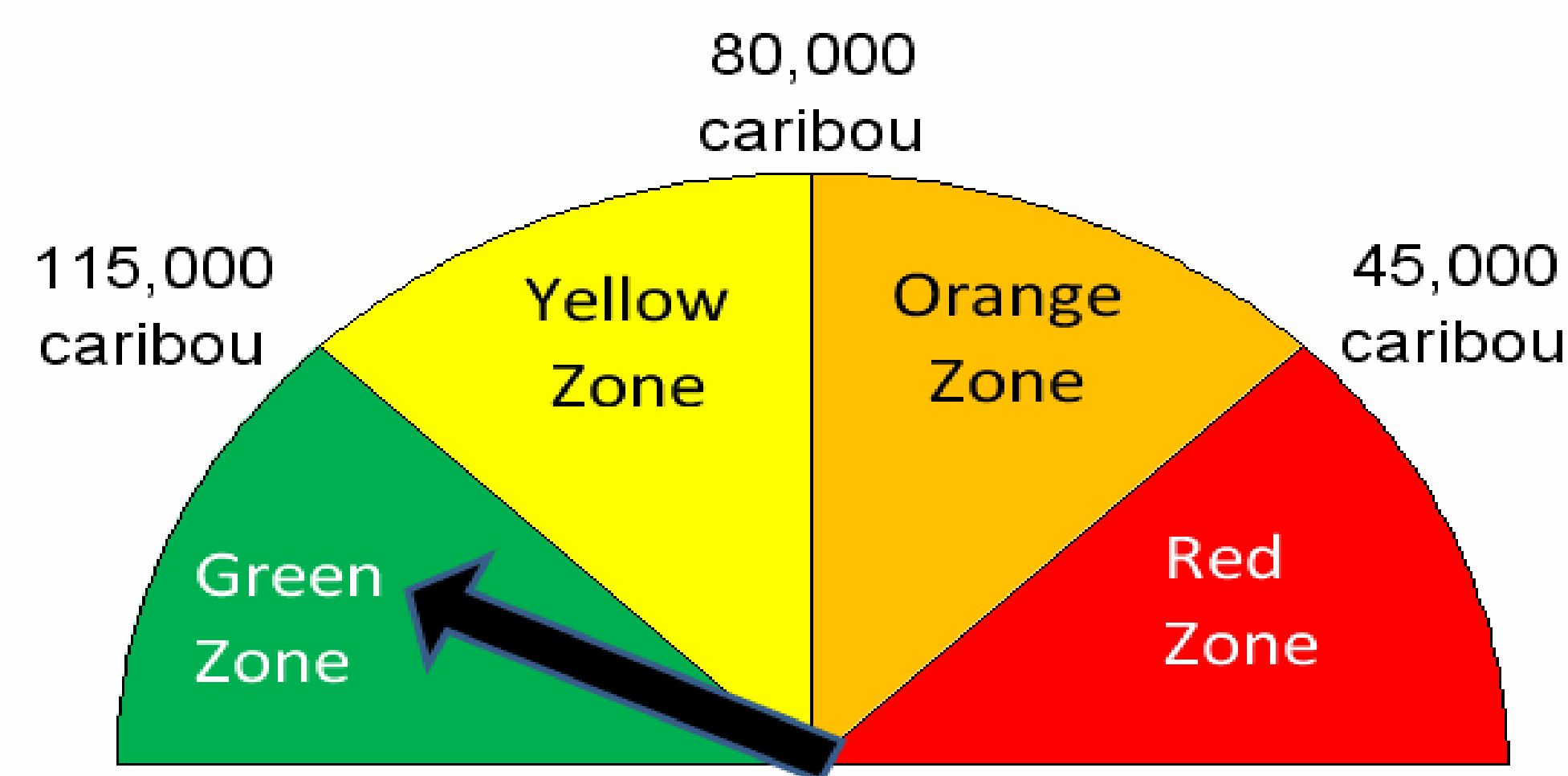


In all colour zones, all hunters are required to report their caribou harvests.

Management Goal:

We want to try to conserve the Porcupine Caribou Herd by adjusting the number and sex of caribou we harvest based on the changes in the herd size and population trend.

Harvest Management Color Chart



How will the allowable harvest be set?

Each year, the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) will host a meeting of the Parties to review all available scientific, local and traditional knowledge about the current status of the herd and recent harvest information from all Parties. The PCMB will then decide which colour zone the herd is in and will recommend management actions to the Parties to implement. This meeting will take place in early February with actions implemented by the next fall hunting season.

If the herd is in the Orange zone, the PCMB will also recommend an Annual Allowable Harvest, limiting the total number of caribou that can be harvested from the herd. This number will be a proportion of the estimated population size (from the photo census where available, otherwise from the computer model). The proportion will range between 0.5% and 3% of the herd, with fewer animals available at the lower end of the population size.

In the Orange and Red zones the limited harvest will be allocated to user groups in both Alaska and Canada. Engagement of Alaskan parties began in 2012 with initial discussions with the International Porcupine Caribou Board. Allocation of harvest limits on Aboriginal hunters will be detailed in Native User Agreements for Yukon and NWT.

What's new?

- December 2010: the Parties finalized the Implementation Plan.
- Preliminary results from the July 2010 photo census indicated the herd was well above the 115,000 caribou benchmark; therefore, at the 2011 Annual Harvest Meeting, the Board recommended that all Parties implement the Green Zone harvest management regime.
- 20 February 2011: the final results from the 2010 photo census showed 168,948 (95% CI=153,493–184,403) caribou in the herd.
- June 2011: the PCMB hosted a workshop to develop a framework for standardized harvest data collection by all Parties. This framework is now available for all Parties to adopt if they wish.
- July 2011: Government of Yukon rescinded the Porcupine Caribou Subsistence regulation and implemented regulations consistent with the Green Zone recommendations.
- February 2012: There was no 2011 photo census; however, annual monitoring activities indicated the herd is likely still above the 115,000 caribou benchmark. Therefore, during the 2012 Annual Harvest Meeting, the PCMB again recommended implementation of the Green Zone management actions for the coming year.
- April 2012: initial discussions with the International Porcupine Caribou Board about planning in Alaska
- July 2012: the photo census attempt was unsuccessful. The next attempt is scheduled for 2013.



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