



MEDIA ADVISORY

No hunting of Hart River caribou

(November 4, 2011) -- Environment Yukon has ordered an emergency conservation closure from Monday, Nov. 7, 2011 to July 31, 2012 to protect the Hart River caribou herd.

The Hart River caribou herd uses this area along with the Porcupine caribou herd. Right now, there are no Porcupine caribou in the area.

The Hart River herd is small (2,200 animals) compared to the Porcupine herd (169,000 animals) and cannot sustain the same level of hunting. This is the fifth time a closure order has been made since 2006.

The hunting ban applies to Game Management Subzones 2-16, 2-23, 2-27, 2-28 and 2-39 which include the Dempster Highway from kilometre 77 (North Fork Pass) to kilometre 195 (Ogilvie River Bridge).

In years when Porcupine caribou move into these five subzones, hunting remains open because the risk of a Hart River caribou being harvested instead of a Porcupine Caribou is small. However, this has not yet occurred.

This emergency closure applies to licenced Yukon resident hunters and all non-resident hunters. The closure does not apply to citizens of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in or Nacho Nyäk Dun First Nations who have hunting rights under their land claim agreement.

Caribou in these five sub-zones are not considered Porcupine caribou and harvesting rights under the *Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement* do not extend into the above-noted sub-zones at this time.

For more information contact:

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