Ełexé Eghálats'eda
Working Together: Research and Monitoring in the Sahtú Region

Leon Andrew (Special Advisor) and Deborah Simmons (Executive Director)

Ɂehdzo Got’įnę Gots’ę Nákedì – Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
Joint Polar Knowledge Canada
NASA Arctic Boreal Vulnerability Experiment
Government of Northwest Territories Workshop

Yellowknife, May 10, 2016
Sahtú Ecozones
Credit: Sahtú GIS
Co-Management and Research

“... shall directly involve Renewable Resources Councils and participant harvesters to the greatest extent possible.” Sahtú Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement 13.8.40
Íhda Gókágha
Climate-Biome Change

• Sahtú may undergo 2-3 cliome shifts between 2000s and 2090s.
• From arctic shrubs, open canopy forest, to mixed (teal) and closed-canopy (blue) boreal and coniferous wooded grasslands (lime).

Source: Scenarios Network for Arctic Planning (SNAP), 2012
Research Licenses by Category 1991-2014
Total = 141

- Physical Sciences: 39%
- Social Sciences: 22%
- Biology: 14%
- Contaminants: 6%
- Health: 9%
- Traditional Knowledge: 7%
- Engineering: 3%
Sahtú Research and Monitoring Coordination Workshop, Tulít’a 2014
Can you study impacts on the ENVIRONMENT without studying impacts on PEOPLE?
GOALS of a COORDINATING GROUP

- Protect
- Data sharing
- Build networks
- See bigger picture
- Getting people to help
- Build ownership
- Buy-in

What would a COORDINATING GROUP NOT DO?

- Support decision making?
- Solve all problems
- Replace
- Make protocols
- Set cumulative impact targets
- Make sure YOUTH and ELDERs are involved in research
- Different organizations play different roles
- Make timelines clear and easy to understand
- Fund projects
“If someone from our group is sitting on this, I want it to be someone with passion.”

Edwin Erutse (Fort Good Hope)
Vision - Environmental monitoring and research programs and projects in the Sahtú are coordinated and conducted in ways that reflect regional and community priorities, engage communities, value both western science and traditional knowledge, and support wise decision-making.
Sahtú ERM Forum MEMBERSHIP

- Five ᖈehdzo Got’înę
- Federal, Territorial, Sahtú governments
- Industry
- Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
- Youth
Sahtú ERM Forum

Participants at this workshop!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Fellow Travellers</th>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Applejohn</td>
<td>Cristina Soto</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bruce Hanna</td>
<td>David Livingstone</td>
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<td>Deborah Simmons</td>
<td>David Miller</td>
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<td>Heather Sayine-Crawford</td>
<td>Mike English</td>
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<td>Julian Kanigan</td>
<td>Susan Kutz</td>
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<td>Leon Andrew</td>
<td>Tom Andrews</td>
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Łeghágots'enetę (learning together): the importance of indigenous perspectives in the identification of biological variation

Jean L. Polfus¹, Micheline Manseau¹², Deborah Simmons³⁴, Michael Neyelle³⁵, Walter Bayha⁶, Frederick Andrew³, Leon Andrew³, Cornelya F. C. Klüt sch⁷, Keren Rice⁸ and Paul Wilson⁷

ABSTRACT. Using multiple knowledge sources to interpret patterns of biodiversity can generate the comprehensive species characterizations that are required for effective conservation strategies. Caribou (Rangifer tarandus) display substantial intraspecific variation across their distribution and in the Sahtú Region of the Northwest Territories, Canada, three caribou types, each with a different conservation status, co-occur. Caribou are essential to the economies, culture, and livelihoods of northern indigenous peoples. Indigenous communities across the north are insisting that caribou research be community-driven and collaborative. In response to questions that arose through dialogue with five Sahtú Dene and Métis communities, we jointly developed a research approach to understand caribou differentiation and population structure. Our goal was to examine caribou variation through analysis of population genetics and an exploration of the relationships Dene and Métis people establish with animals within bioculturally diverse systems. To cultivate a research environment that supported Łeghágots'enetę “learning together” we collaborated with ᖁेदɂo Got'įñę (Renewable Resources Councils), elders, and an advisory group. Dene knowledge and categorization systems include a comprehensive understanding
Toward a Place-Based Research and Monitoring Strategy

Biocultural diversity in the context of change

- People, language, stories of survival
- Caribou and fish ecology and livelihoods
- Arezhoné asįį godį (all the living beings)
- Water, snow and ice systems
Máhsí!

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