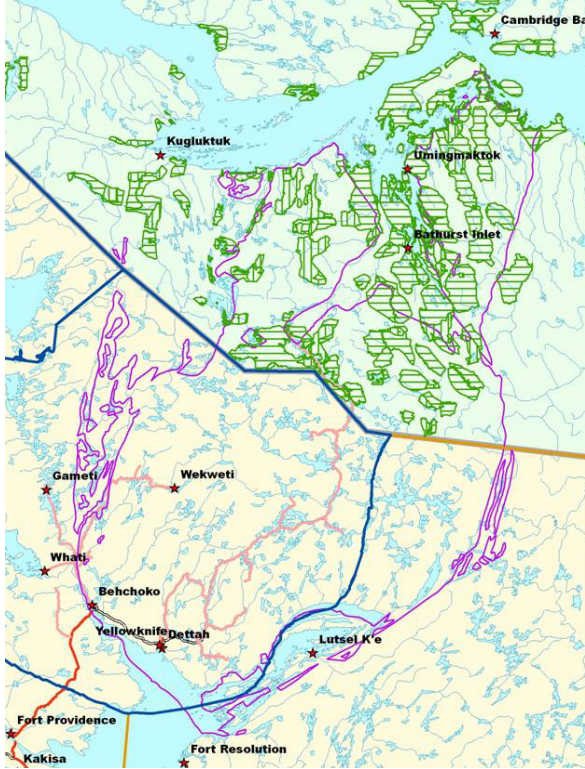


An Overview of WKSS and its Projects

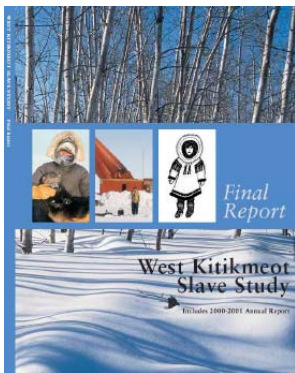


What Was the West Kitikmeot / Slave Study?

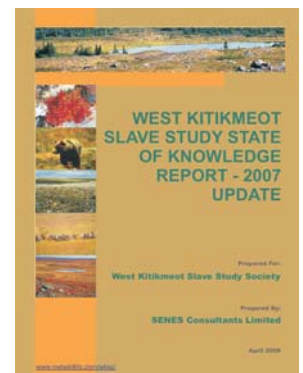
The West Kitikmeot / Slave Study (WKSS) was a 'made-in-the-north' success story. The WKSS Society partnership included aboriginal, co-management and environmental organizations, government and industry. The WKSS study area was the Slave Geological Province, which includes parts of the NWT and Nunavut. Community capacity building and traditional knowledge research were WKSS priorities. Beginning in 1996, WKSS completed its initial five-year research program in 2001. Until 2007, WKSS continued to fund several key projects during the interim period while regional monitoring systems (e.g., the NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program and the Nunavut General Monitoring Plan) were being developed. The WKSS was wrapped up in 2009, and a Legacy Package CD containing all project reports and other key documents has been prepared.¹



What Type of Information is Available from WKSS?



The WKSS funded more than thirty projects, documenting both traditional knowledge and scientific research. These are listed below. Topics included caribou and other wildlife, community health, vegetation and water quality. A comprehensive 'State of Knowledge Report' was produced in 2001 and updated in 2008. A plain language summary of the updated State of Knowledge report was also prepared. The WKSS 'Final Report' (2001) describes the Society, its activities and accomplishments over the initial five-year research program. All finalized WKSS reports, including individual project reports, are available at www.nwtwildlife.com/wkss/, and are on the legacy package CD.



¹ Copies of the WKSS Legacy Package CD can be obtained from WKSS@gov.nt.ca

How Can the Information from WKSS Projects Be Used?

The information from WKSS projects is available to inform decision making by all kinds of organizations, such as communities, resource management boards/committees, industry, regulators, and government. This knowledge can be used for many purposes, including:

- Land use planning
- Environmental and resource management
- Regulatory review
- Cumulative effects assessment / management
- Project-specific planning and management
- Project screening & environmental assessment

Project Reports Available from WKSS

The Study provided an information base to be used in examining the long and short-term effects of development. The Traditional Knowledge and Scientific Research projects funded by WKSS are listed below. These reports are available at: www.nwtwildlife.com/wkss/ and are on the Legacy Package CD.

State of Knowledge

- State of Knowledge Report - 2001. Updated in 2008 (includes a Plain Language Summary)

Traditional Knowledge Research



Habitat

- Traditional Knowledge in the Kache Tué Study Region: Phase Three -Towards a Comprehensive Environmental Monitoring Program in the Kakinyne Region. Final Report. (Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation, 2002)
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the Kache Tue Study Region Final Report (Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation, 2001)
- Habitat of Dogrib Traditional Territory: Place Names as Indicators of Biogeographical Knowledge (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, 2001)

Community-Based Monitoring

- Ni hat'ni - Watching the Land: Results and Implications of 2002-2003 and 2003-2005 Monitoring Activities in the Traditional Territory of the Łutsël K'e Denesoline (Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation, 2003, 2005)
- Community Based Monitoring. Annual and Final Reports (Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation, -1997-2002)
- Traditional Knowledge Study on Community Health: (Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation, 1997 -1998)
- Traditional Knowledge on Community Health (Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation, 1997)

Caribou

- Monitoring Caribou: The Relationship Between Tlicho Principles, Laws and Rules and Indicators of Change (Tłıchq Government, 2008)
- Dogrib Knowledge on Placenames, Caribou and Habitat (Dogrib Treaty Council 11, 2002)
- Traditional Knowledge on the Relationship between Caribou Migration Patterns and the State of Caribou Habitat (Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, 2001)
- Tuktu and Nogak Project - A Caribou Chronicle. (Simon Fraser University and the Tuktu and Nogak Board, 2001) Includes maps.



Scientific Research

Habitat

- Ecological Regions of the Northwest Territories – Taiga Shield (GNWT, 2007)
- Vegetation Classification for the West Kitikmeot/Slave Study Region (GNWT, 2001)
- Tibbitt Lake to Contwoyto Winter Road – Monitoring Station Report (GNWT, 2007)
- Esker Habitat Studies in the Slave Geological Province. Movements and Habitat Use of Wolves Denning in the Central Arctic, NWT and Nunavut. Final Report (GNWT, 2002)
- Esker Habitat Characteristics and Traditional Use Study in the Slave Geological Province Final Report (INAC, 2001)

Water

- Investigation of Aquatic Impacts of On-Ice Exploratory Diamond Drilling (Environment Canada, 1997 - 2000)
- Results from Sediment Cores Collected from an Arctic Tundra Lake, NWT. Final Report (INAC, 1999)



Caribou

- Movements and Distribution of the Bathurst and Ahiak Barren-Ground Caribou Herds – 2005 Annual Report (GNWT, undated)
- An Estimate of Breeding Females in the Bathurst Herd of Barren-Ground Caribou (GNWT, 2005)
- Bathurst Caribou Calving Ground Studies: Influence of Nutrition and Human Activity on Calving Ground Location; and Influence of Parasites on Calving Ground Location. Final Report. (GNWT, 2002)
- Prevalence and Intensity of Gastro-intestinal Parasitism in the Bathurst Caribou Herd 1998-99. Final Report. (GNWT, 2002)
- Seasonal Movements of Satellite-Collared Caribou from the Bathurst Herd. Final Report (GNWT, 2002)
- Summer Behavior of Bathurst Caribou at Mine Sites, and Response of Caribou to Fencing and Plastic Deflector. Final Report.(GNWT, 1998)
- Effects of Gravel Road and Tailing Pond Dust on Tundra Plant Communities near Lupin Mine, NWT. Final Report. (GNWT, 1998)

Moose

- Survey of Moose Abundance in the Boreal Forest around Yellowknife, Northwest Territories (GNWT, 2005)

Grizzly Bears

- Spatial Organization and Habitat Selection Patterns of Barren ground Grizzly Bears in the NWT and Nunavut. Final Report (GNWT, 2000)
- Grizzly Bear (*Ursus Arctos*) Studies in the Northwest Territories: Component No. 1, Nutritional Ecology. Final Report (GNWT,1999)

Wolverine

- Analysis of 2005 and 2006 Wolverine DNA Mark-Recapture Sampling at Daring Lake, Ekati, Diavik and Kennady Lake, NWT (GNWT, 2008)
- Wolverine Ecology, Distribution and Productivity in the Slave Geological Province. Final Report (GNWT, 2000)

Wolves

- Esker Habitat Studies in the Slave Geological Province. Movements and Habitat Use of Wolves Denning in the Central Arctic, NWT and Nunavut, Canada. Final Report (GNWT, 2002)
- Esker Habitat Characteristics and Traditional Use Study in the Slave Geological Province. Final Report.(INAC, 2001)



Mine Remediation

- Northern Hard Rock Mining: Effects of Riparian Zones and Passive Biological Treatment of Impacted Waters (Aboriginal Engineering Ltd., 2006)
- Modeling Store and Release Covers at Three Northern Mining Properties Using Soil Covers (Aboriginal Engineering Ltd., 2006)
- Revegetation of Lands Impacted by Northern Hard Rock Mining – Case Studies (Aboriginal Engineering Ltd., 2005)
- A Literature Review of the Use of Native Northern Plants for the Re-Vegetation of Arctic Mine Tailings and Mine Waste (Aboriginal Engineering Ltd., 2005)

The WKSS Management Board

The WKSS Society was a partnership of aboriginal and environmental organizations, government and industry:

- *Dogrib Treaty 11 Council/ Tłjchq Government*
- *North Slave Metis Alliance*
- *Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation*
- *Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Environment and Natural Resources*
- *Government of Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada*
- *Environmental Organizations (Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, Ecology North, World Wildlife Fund, Canadian Nature Federation)*
- *Inuit Organizations (Kitikmeot Hunters and Trappers Association, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Kitikmeot Inuit Association)*
- *Government of Nunavut, Department of Environment*
- *Nunavut Co-Management Organizations (Nunavut Impact Review Board, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Nunavut Water Board, Nunavut Planning Commission)*
- *NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines*

For More Information on WKSS

For more information on WKSS, please visit the website at www.nwtwildlife.com/wkss/.

