

Caribou
(text and photos by Dr. Trudy Sable, Director, OANR)

Woodland Caribou Management Module

February 19 28, 2007

The Woodland Caribou Management module was part of a larger initiative undertaken within the fiscal year, 2006 2007, with funding from the Social within a context that is culturally meaningful to the Innu. This larger context is considered integral to the specific efforts of the Species At Risk Act for conservation and protection of the

Woodland caribou boreal populations.

To this end, two Caribou management training modules were planned to coincide with peak migration times of the caribou herds of most significance to the Innu communities of Labrador and Quebec—the George River herd, whose territory now extends into the Lake Melville region, and the Mealy Mountain Red Wine herd, of particular concern to Species at Risk Act initiatives.

The first module, Innuts mak Atikwuts: The Innu and Caribou in a Shared Landscape; 8,000 years of Innu Culture and History in Northern Nitassinan (a.k.a. Fieldwork in Archaeology) took place from September October, 2006. The second of module, Woodland Caribou Management, was held February 19 28, 2007, and targeted specific objectives outlined by the Canadian Wildlife Service, whose funding helped support the development of this module. Both Gary Yetman and Isabelle Schmeltzer of the Canadian Wildlife Service were present during two days of the module.

The majority of the module was held in a field tent approximately 20 minutes from the community of Sheshatshiu, Labrador, and focused on methods to determine health indicators for the endangered Red Wine Woodland caribou herd.

and long held practices could be included in or complement the current caribou management best practices of the Canadian Wildlife Service, specifically under the Species at Risk program.

Etienne Pastiwet talking about Innu legends and knowledge on the caribou with Stu Luttich and Gary Yetman.

Tshishenuat (elder) Pien Penashue

The module was also taught by Stu Luttich, former Newfoundland/Labrador provincial biologist and one of the foremost experts on the biology of the Woodland Caribou boreal population of Labrador. Mr. Luttich was contracted to help design the module and instruct the Innu Guardians. Mr. Luttich worked in cooperation with Rebecca Jeffries, Newfoundland/Labrador Provincial wild life officer, who also helped with supplying some of the necessary equipment, e.g., caribou collars and jaw bones. The module also included classroom presentations.

Learning to age caribou jawbones

Identifying liver flukes in caribou

Dr. Alexander MacLeod, Atlantic Canada Studies Undergraduate Coordinator at Saint Mary's University, also participated along with Dr. Trudy Sable. Dr. MacLeod is part of the SSHRC research team assessing the accreditation and possible certification of the who Mary's

Alexander MacLeod

Five youth participated in the module assisting in the documentation of the module with both video cameras and digital cameras. These youth were part of the SSHRC