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WILDLIFE INVENTORY WORK HELPS CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE

WHITEHORSE – The investment of an additional \$500,000 for wildlife inventory work this year is already benefiting Yukoners, Environment Minister Elaine Taylor said today.

“Information helps us manage our resources in a balanced and sustainable way,” Taylor said. “By finding out more about species numbers, distribution, and behaviours, we not only inform our wildlife management decisions but we can monitor the impacts of climate change on Yukon’s environment.”

A total of \$1.785 million is being spent on wildlife-related studies this fiscal year, up from approximately \$500,000 in 2006. This has meant more studies have or will be taking place, including a composition count of the Porcupine caribou herd during the rut this fall and a muskrat survey in the Old Crow flats.

Several studies are planned in partnership with Parks Canada and the Government of Northwest Territories to collect data on population size, demographics and seasonal ranges.

“Wildlife information is critical for people who rely on the resource,” Taylor said. “Inventory work helps us address key gaps in our knowledge of the impact that climate change may have on biodiversity and species of concern to Yukoners.”

Staff biologists and other researchers are involved in a total of 41 inventory and 17 wildlife management projects.

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