

APPENDIX

Environment and Human Health Comments

Caribou Calving and Post Calving Areas

The proposed project is located in Barren-ground caribou (*Rangifer tarandus groenlandicus*) range, with a portion of the study situated in highly sensitive calving and post-calving grounds of the Bathurst caribou herd.

Caribou are particularly sensitive to disturbance during their calving and post-calving periods, when they require a relatively uninterrupted feeding/fattening cycle. If this cycle is significantly interrupted, calf production may decrease, calf mortality may increase, and female and male condition may drop affecting future breeding cycles. Development activities including air, ground, and general noise disturbances will disrupt caribou behaviour with potential impacts to fitness and survival.

Given the importance and sensitivity of caribou calving and post-calving areas, the GN does not support mineral exploration and development activities in calving grounds, and advises a cautious approach in post-calving grounds. These areas are of critical importance for maintaining healthy caribou populations. Development impacts on caribou cannot be mitigated within calving grounds. Therefore, the GN recommends that the proposed project not be approved to proceed unless the area in question is changed to exclude the calving grounds. Activities in the post-calving grounds should also be restricted, with a prohibition on activity during the post-calving period (June 15-July 15). Restricted activities include air and vehicle traffic, and loud or repetitive noise or vibration disturbances.

The GN is providing a map outlining delineated caribou calving and post-calving grounds as they relate to the proposed project (Figure 1). Please contact the GN should further information on the location of these critical areas be required.

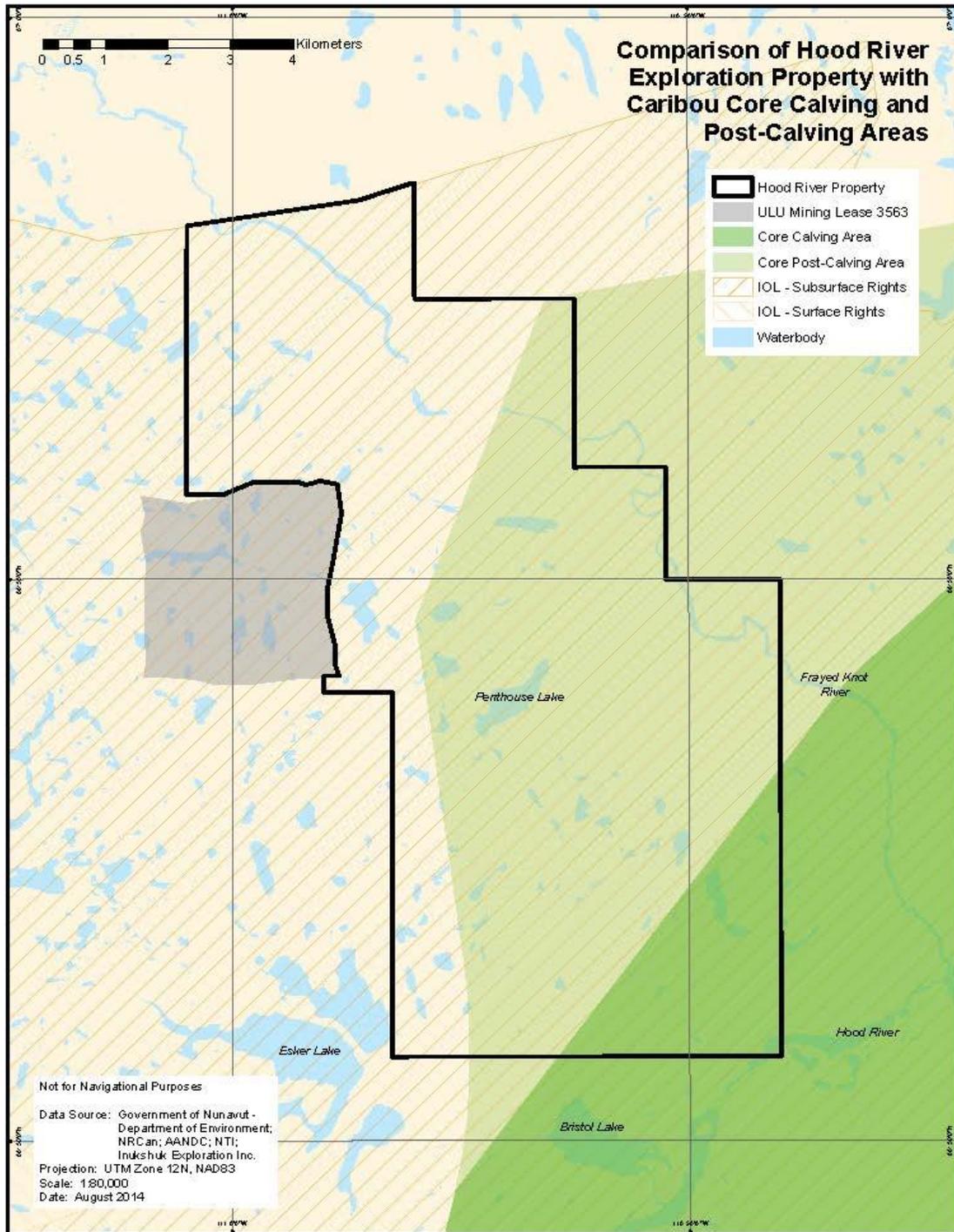


Figure 1. Hood River exploration property and caribou core calving and post-calving areas.

Socio-Economic Comments

Community Involvement and Consultation

The Non-Technical Summary of the Hood River Project indicates that the Proponent will operate in a consultative and cooperative manner with all stakeholders, including local communities. While this is promising, it does not provide enough detail to understand if the consultation process will be effective.

An update regarding community consultations is recommended. If none have occurred and no dates have been set, EDT suggests the Proponent keep in mind that communities have their own agendas and to ensure meaningful participation they should give sufficient advance notice and avoid any conflicting dates when selecting a meeting time.

For additional information on community consultations in Nunavut please refer to the GN's Guide to Consulting with Communities in Nunavut.

Local Development in the Area

The Proponent indicates that they aim to utilize local Inuit employment and business whenever possible, but only Yellowknife is identified as a community to have any link to the Project (through waste backhaul). Unless there is regular air travel between Nunavut communities and the project, the opportunities for local labour and businesses to participate and benefit from operations may be limited.

According to Nunavut's Mineral Exploration and Mining Strategy, most notably Policy 3-1, companies are encouraged to use a Nunavut community as a logistical centre for operations to help stimulate long-term economic development. Hiring locally as is practicable is also desirable, especially when there is an opportunity for ongoing employment.

EDT requests the Proponent provide details of the planned recruitment processes for Kitikmeot communities and consider using one as a logistical base for operations if the Project is approved. If using a Nunavut community as a logistical base is infeasible at this point in time, the following details should be included in the application:

1. Explain how workers from Nunavut communities will be accommodated during work rotation cycles.
2. Explain how local businesses can be engaged and gain access to the Project so that they may reasonably participate and provide goods/services to support operations.