



Sabina Gold and Silver Corp./B2Gold Nunavut's Back River Energy Centre Proposal

GNWT, Department of Environment and Climate Change, NIRB Public Hearing Presentation
February 2024

Presentation Topics

- GNWT-ECC role in caribou monitoring and management
- GNWT-ECC participation in NIRB review process to date
- Technical review comments
- Sabina/B2Gold follow-up commitments
- Status of GNWT-ECC's concerns



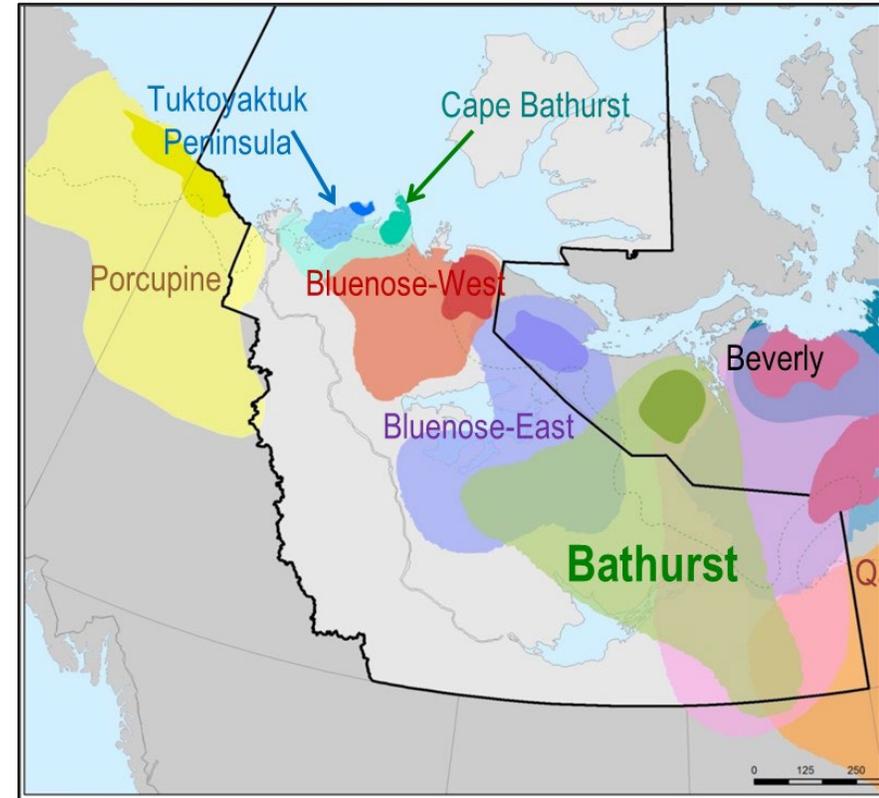
GNWT-ECC role in caribou monitoring and management

- Manage wildlife and steward the environment for the social and economic benefit of all NWT residents while maintaining ecosystem health
- Participant on the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board
- Collaborate with the Government of Nunavut (GN) in surveys to determine population status and distribution of some shared herds, including the Bathurst and Beverly herds
- Develop and implement the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan to manage activities on the land in a way that supports recovery of the herd



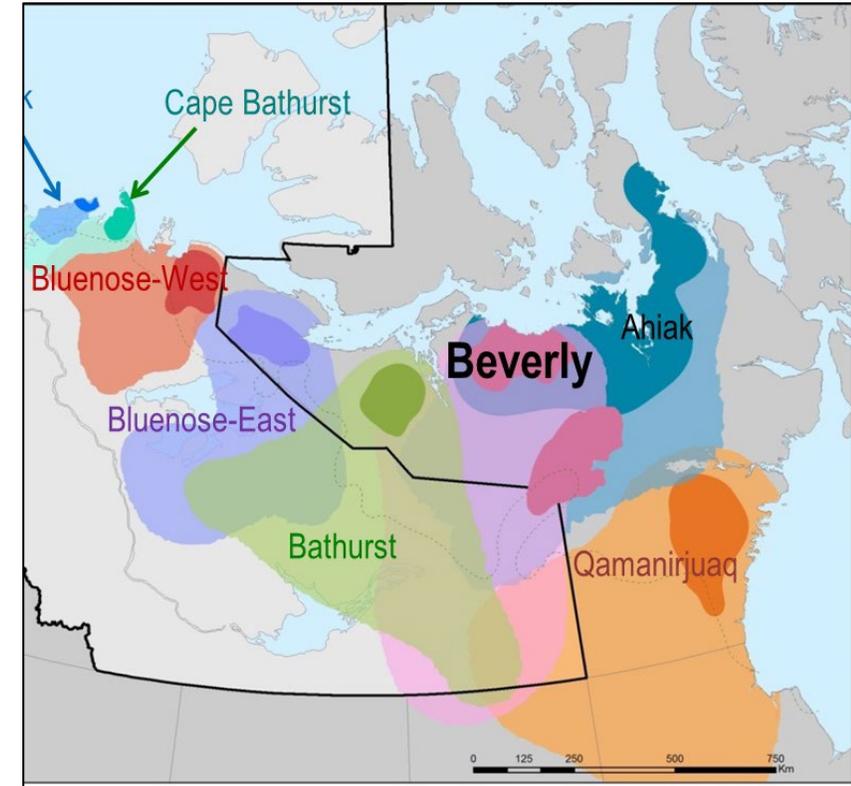
Caribou herd status and monitoring

- Barren-ground caribou considered a Threatened species under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* [does not include the Porcupine caribou herd]; federal listing still under consideration.
- Bathurst herd:
 - Last estimate: 6,800 (2022)
 - 98% decline 1986-2022



Caribou herd status and monitoring

- Barren-ground caribou considered a Threatened species under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*
- Bathurst herd:
 - Last estimate: 6,800 (2022)
 - 98% decline 1986-2022
- Beverly herd:
 - Last estimate: 104,000 (2018)
 - Likely Trend: Slow Decline (2011-2021)



GNWT-ECC participation in NIRB review process to date

- Involved in previous reviews of the Back River project from 2013-2017
- Provided technical review comments in June 2023
- Met with representatives from B2Gold on September 22, 2023, to discuss technical comments



Technical Review Comments

- Topic #1 - Noise Monitoring of Wind Turbines:
 - Extend the noise monitoring, as described in section 7.2.2.5 of the WMMPP, to include noise disturbance from wind turbines
 - Results of the noise monitoring should be compared against noise audible by caribou
 - If noise produced by wind turbines can be perceived by caribou past the 1 km and 1.4 km thresholds, the tiered mitigation response (i.e., staged reductions) should be revised to reflect this new information accordingly.



Technical Review Comments

- Topic #2 - Zone of Influence (ZOI) of Wind Turbines:
 - Conduct the ZOI analysis separately for the Modification PDA and the Goose site rather than conducting the analysis together
 - If the ZOI analysis determines that caribou are avoiding the wind turbines more than initially predicted in the FEIS Addendum and the WMMPP, the tiered mitigation response (i.e., staged reductions) should be revised to reflect this new information accordingly.



Sabina/B2Gold commitments

- Topic #1 - Noise Monitoring of Wind Turbines:

B2Gold Nunavut commits to collect and evaluate the noise from the wind towers: a) in the first year of operation b) in the audible range of caribou and c) link this to adaptive management.



Sabina/B2Gold commitments

- Topic #2 - Zone of Influence (ZOI) of Wind Turbines:

B2Gold Nunavut understands the importance in evaluating the response of caribou to the wind towers separately from the mine site, however, also recognizes the challenges in doing so due to their close proximity. B2Gold Nunavut will continue to update the analyses specific to this and the design of monitoring programs in consultation with the CTAG. The details of the study design will be shared with the GNWT in advance of implementation for review and feedback.



Status of GNWT-ECC's concerns

- Follow-up meeting with B2Gold on September 22, 2023, resolved GNWT-ECC's concerns raised in technical review comments
- GNWT-ECC looks forward to reviewing an updated version of the WMMPP that includes further details outlining how Sabina/B2Gold's two commitments will be implemented.



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