




Vuntut Gwitchin

Hunting along the Dempster Highway

If you are a beneficiary of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation...


Your rights

- You may hunt the **Porcupine Caribou Herd** for subsistence anywhere* near the Dempster Highway, except on settlement lands belonging to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (permission is required).

 You have a right to hunt **other wildlife** for subsistence in your own Traditional Territory, which includes both sides of the Dempster Highway **north of km 218**.


Your responsibilities

If you want to hunt **other wildlife south of km 218**:

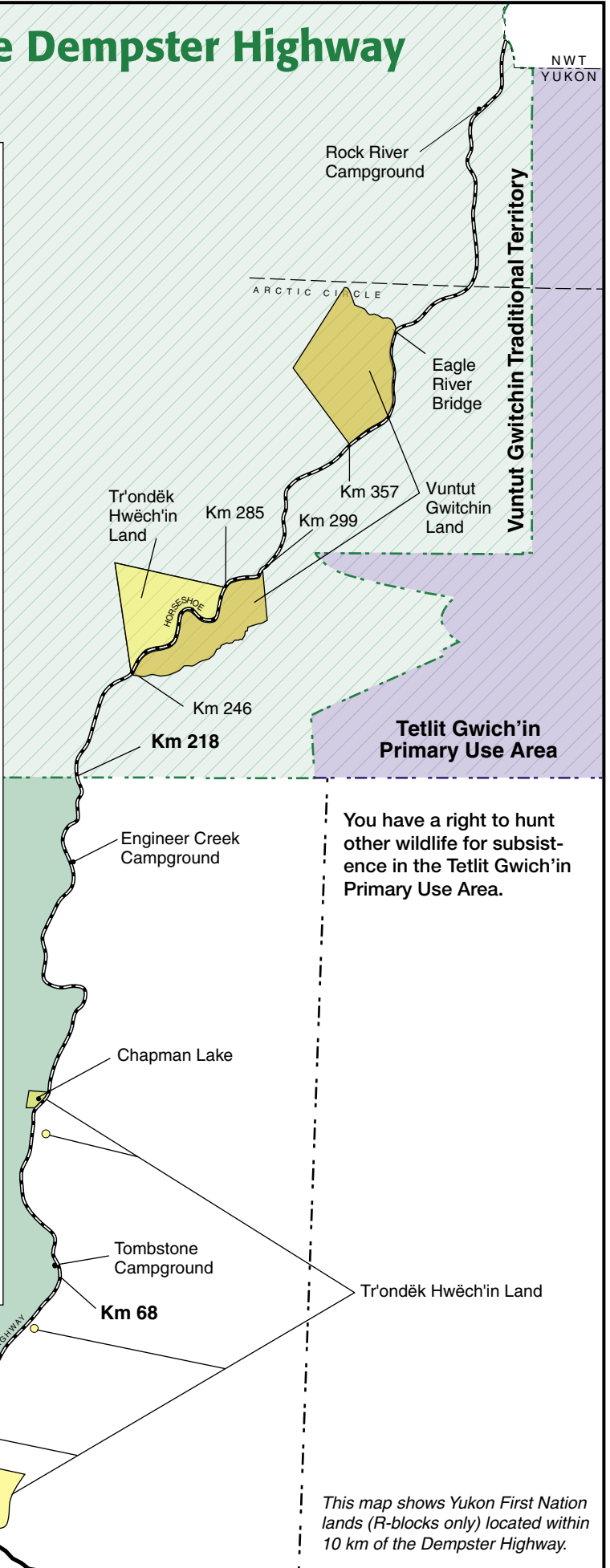
 you must obtain written permission from the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to hunt for subsistence **west of the highway**,

OR

- you must obtain a Yukon hunting licence, which allows you to hunt **anywhere along the highway**, and you must follow the laws that apply to licensed hunting.

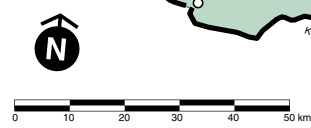
 You cannot get permission to hunt for subsistence **east of the highway** because this is a Traditional Territory overlap area.

* Your hunting area for Porcupine Caribou may be more clearly defined in the future as provided for in the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement.



You have a right to hunt other wildlife for subsistence in the Tetlit Gwich'in Primary Use Area.

This map shows Yukon First Nation lands (R-blocks only) located within 10 km of the Dempster Highway.





Laws that apply to ALL caribou hunters on the Dempster Highway from km 68 to the NWT border

500 metre safety zone

You must move at least 500 metres off the Dempster Highway before you shoot at caribou.

Annual migration closure

The Dempster Highway will be closed to all caribou hunting for one week each fall when the Porcupine Caribou Herd first begins to migrate across the highway. The closure applies within 8 km of either side of the highway. Dates will be announced in local media.

Restrictions on snowmobile use

You cannot use snowmobiles to hunt caribou near the Dempster Highway until the ground is frozen and covered with snow. This restriction applies within 8 km of either side of the highway. It will be lifted each fall when conditions are right, and will be announced in local media. To protect wildlife habitat and prevent disturbance to the animals, off-road use of other vehicles is prohibited year round.

Hunting for subsistence

Hunting for subsistence means harvesting food for yourself, your family and for ceremonial purposes in your own Traditional Territory, or in another First Nation's Traditional Territory with their written consent.

When hunting for subsistence you can harvest male or female animals at any time of year, with no bag limits, subject to the laws of the First Nation.

Your subsistence hunting rights may be limited by laws set in consultation with First Nations for the purpose of conservation, public health or public safety.

Public safety

Shooting Porcupine caribou from the highway is unlawful because it is dangerous. If you shoot from the highway you may be firing in the direction of hunters who have moved 500 metres away and are now standing on the other side of the caribou. Please check the landscape behind your target before you shoot to make sure no one is in your line of fire.

In the interest of public safety, please do not:

- hunt in a way that would put people at risk,
- hunt in a way that is likely to cause damage to personal property, or
- carry a loaded firearm in or on a vehicle, including a snowmobile. You can carry a loaded firearm in a boat.

For more information

- **Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation**
Box 102, Old Crow, YT Y0B 1N0
Phone: (867) 966-3261; Fax: (867) 966-3800
- **Porcupine Caribou Management Board**
Box 31723, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 6L3
Phone/Fax: (867) 633-4780
- **Department of Environment**
Box 2703, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6
Phone: (867) 667-3092; Fax: (867) 393-6213

This is not a legal document. It is a summary prepared to help you understand the basic rules. For more detail consult the Vuntut Gwitchin Final Agreement, the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement, and the Yukon Wildlife Act.