

I received a few comments for the Kluane Regional Management office in Haines Junction. I'm passing them on to you to illustrate the need more integrated management with the development of common objectives and strategies. With respect to this project the views of the forester and the wildlife manager are not close. FMBs approach is to use natural shelterwood for all blocks regardless of whether they are in the RMZs, Wildlife Management Zones or general harvest zones. In addition, the FMB views the contribution of logging to moose management as being positive, while the habitat/wildlife managers suggest otherwise.

Regional Management Comments:

1) Our recommendations about undeveloped corridor width along the Kathleen and Dezadeash River systems may need to be reiterated. These major waterways and associated habitats contain our most important winter moose habitats as well as well as calving areas and habitats and movement corridors for species as diverse as grizzlies and wolves to rainbow trout. Moose require a variety of vegetation types along these waterways. They use large areas of mature forest types within a couple kilometers of the riparian zone for shelter, travel, avoidance of predators and dispersal. To be beneficial for many important wildlife species, corridors along these waterways need to contain not only riparian vegetation but also a reasonable extent of mature deciduous and conifer forest. Our recommendation during the mapping exercise last winter was that these corridors needed to be at least 2 kilometers wide on each side of the river to be meaningful as long term protection for wildlife.

2) There should be no exploitation at any level, of resources in the corridors designated for wildlife along the Dezadeash and Kathleen Rivers. Any new access put into these areas will put wildlife at greater risk of over hunting. At present most of the moose management units close to communities in this region are seeing a decline in moose numbers and have issues with accessible moose being over harvested. This is not an enforcement issue but a management problem that is being worked on through the Aishihik Integrated Wildlife Management Plan.

3) Quill Creek is a very important for moose wintering and travel between KNP and Yukon lands. Also well used by a number of other species such as bears and wolves for habitat and travel. This creek also needs a corridor that takes these needs into consideration. Not normally considered navigatable waters

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