

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
5<sup>TH</sup> COUNCIL, 34<sup>TH</sup> SESSION**

**RECOMMENDATION TO  
COUNCIL NO. 5-34**

**TABLED ON MARCH 9, 1967**

Recommendation to Council 5-34  
Tabled on March 9, 1967



February 13, 1967  
Confidential - Not  
for release before  
tabling during the  
34th Session of  
Council.

**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL NO. 5  
(First Session, 1967)**

**INCLUSION OF ZONE 19  
IN THE BIG GAME HUNTING PROGRAM**

**DISPOSITION**

Tabled	To Committee	Accepted as Read	Accepted as Amended	Deferred (to Session)	Rejected	Noted not Considered

INCLUSION OF ZONE 19  
IN THE BIG GAME HUNTING PROGRAM

In assessing the present utilization of game resources in the Northwest Territories, it becomes evident that many areas with substantial fur and/or game populations are not harvested at all and that a large proportion of an important resource which otherwise could be economically utilized is being wasted. This is particularly conspicuous in the western part of the Northwest Territories, the Mackenzie Mountains, where hardly any game or fur bearing species are taken.

As a first step towards a proper utilization program, big game sport hunting for residents and non-residents in Game Management Zone No. 12 came into effect in 1965. After two years' experience it can be stated that this program has been highly successful and there are all indications that it will remain a valuable asset to the northern economy. Income from governmental licences alone amounted to \$25,490.00 in 1966. In addition, and possibly even more important, \$17,535.00 was paid to local guides by five local outfitters and it is estimated that the sixth outfitter, who did not report, paid at least an additional \$1,200.00 to local guides. Furthermore, a total of \$48,853.00 comprising aircraft charter (\$20,282.00) purchase of food (\$3,515.00), purchase of gas (\$6,458.00), purchase of outfitting equipment (\$13,385.00) and freight charges did flow into the local economy.

In anticipating a request for expanding sport hunting possibilities, a survey of Zone No. 19 (north of Zone No. 12), an area similar in topographical characteristics and with an alleged high game population which had not been harvested hitherto, was considered and carried out during the summer of 1965.

Due to the fact that no funds were allotted for the survey, no intensive inventory could be conducted. However, the Game Management Officer at Fort McPherson, when on a flight to Colville Lake, took advantage of the opportunity and used a route through the mountains. A total of 81 sheep and eight moose were sighted on this reconnaissance flight.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to whom we had rendered assistance in their waterfowl banding program, returned the favours and provided us with approximately 15 hours of free survey flying. A total of 79 sheep, 12 moose and two black bear were seen during this survey, in which the McPherson Game Officer participated. When visiting the big game outfitters in Zone No. 12 the Superintendent of Game, accompanied by the McPherson Game Officer, was able to arrange for another brief survey over the southern part of Zone No. 19 during which a total of 49 sheep were counted.

The flight routes and surveys were as follows:

Flight One: From Many Beaver Lake up to Cranswick River for approximately 30 miles, thence through various valleys

to the Red River. From there south of the Tawu Range to the Gayna River following it to a point where it turns almost due north. From there in an east-south-eastern direction to the Mountain River following the same out of the mountains.

Flight Two: The second phase of the survey covered the Arctic Red River valley and the northwestern mountain ranges.

Flight Three: The last phase again covered the Mountain River, from where it leaves the mountains, upstream to almost the Yukon-Northwest Territories Boundary then through the smaller valleys and over the high plateaus in a northerly direction to the Gayna River following the latter to a point where it leaves the mountains.

Although no caribou were spotted, the numerous caribou trails indicated that the entire area is visited by this species. Sheep trails were in evidence almost everywhere.

It is not possible to estimate the total number of game animals in Zone No. 19. However, it was definitely concluded that game was sufficiently abundant throughout the area to permit sport hunting by residents and non-residents alike.

#### Recommendations

The Commissioner therefore recommends that sport hunting in Game Management Zone No. 19 be permitted and that two resident outfitters be licensed to begin outfitting in 1967 on an experimental basis.

The recommendation is based on the following factors:

- 1) Big game species in Game Management Zone No. 19 are presently not utilized and there are no indications that this situation will ever change because of the relatively difficult access.
- 2) Game population are sufficiently abundant to permit sport hunting.
- 3) Because of the adverse accessibility, overharvesting will automatically be prevented.
- 4) Big game hunting in Game Management Zone No. 19 will add substantially to the economic welfare of the Northwest Territories and especially of the local population at Fort Good Hope where seasonal employment possibilities are presently non-existent.