

**Wildlife management and recovery in a trans-boundary context:  
Lessons from North Slope Muskox co-management in Alaska, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.**

**Lindsay Staples**

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), Whitehorse, Yukon

Muskox were re-introduced to the North Slope of Alaska in 1969 and 1970. The population grew rapidly from 1977 to 1981, doubling every three to four years. Mixed sex groups eventually expanded their range into the Yukon in 1985, with a large dispersal occurring in the late 1980s. Until recently, the population in the Yukon continued to increase and has expanded its range into the Northwest Territories. Today, animals continue to move back and forth across the Alaska, Yukon and Northwest Territories borders. Management of the recovery and maintenance of this population has raised many issues and concerns: diverging management goals, conflicting public perceptions and competing interests between harvesters, differences between aboriginal traditional knowledge and scientific perspectives, and complex jurisdictional authorities to name a few. The task of meeting this management challenge has fallen in part to co-management arrangements in the Yukon and Northwest Territories established under land claim agreements. This presentation speaks to these issues and challenges from the perspective and experience of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) - a body established under the 1984 *Inuvialuit (Western Arctic) Final Agreement*.