

Report to NWT CIMP
Project “Enhancing the Small Mammal and Snowshoe Hare surveys in the NWT’s communities: Web Portal and Video of Standard protocols”

Funded in 2004-05

Background

Since 1988, the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED), Government of Northwest Territories, has coordinated annual indices of small mammal (i.e., microtine rodents and shrews) and snowshoe hare abundance across the Northwest Territories (NWT). Results from the NWT Small Mammal and Snowshoe Hare surveys are important to our understanding of annual variations and trends in these essential components of sub-Arctic and Arctic ecosystems.

So far, the surveys have included sites at some communities and long-term research stations (e.g., Daring Lake and Tibbitt Lake).

The two major challenges to increasing and maintaining the number of active survey sites for the surveys are:

- Increasing training capacity in view of high turn-over in personnel (e.g., teachers in schools and staff with co-management boards)
- Increasing capacity to share current data and information

The CIMP proposal included projects that will increase training efficiencies and increase capacity.

Update

1) Training capacity – ***Pre-production of a video on NWT-SMS and Snowshoe Hare Survey Protocol:***

The primary result of this project will be the creation of a comprehensive video on the complete methods for the small mammal survey and the snowshoe hare surveys. The requested funding was used to do necessary pre-production work, which will enhance the efficiency of the actual video filming and production.

The contract was awarded to Outcrop Consultant Services. Page Burt has prepared three storyboards, one for each survey protocol, using the detailed methods and necessary material. The storyboards were done using photographs and will be clear enough to be useful tools to teach how to perform each protocol even before the video is produced.

The video is scheduled to be produced this summer. A budget and actual expenses table is presented below.

2) Current data and Information sharing capacity – ***Online data sharing, display, and entry via NWT-SMS web page:***

The second result of this project is the development of a NWT-SMS web page dedicated to information sharing and on-line data entry and analysis. With the rapid increase in Internet access across the NWT, this kind of information sharing solution is now possible for every NWT community.

The contract was awarded to Outcrop web production services. The Small Mammal and Hare summary data can now be entered, reviewed and plotted online. The beta version of this web page can be found at http://clients.outcrop.com/0004_SmallMammal/ .

There was enough interest in this new data sharing capability from other jurisdictions that we included the possibility to input any data from any jurisdictions or ecozones in Canada or elsewhere. As small mammals and hares can fluctuate in a synchronized manner over a large portion of the continent, this extra information will be useful to communities and biologists in the NWT as well as in other jurisdictions.

The online data page was created as a stand-alone web page, with a anonymous “look and feel”. This facilitates the data sharing process by reserving the ability to control the look and feel by each data providers/contributors. Each contributor can build their own web page, with different look and feel, in which they can provide additional information on their own surveys. For example, the NWT surveys will have their own web page under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Wildlife Management Division page, where we will provide additional text on objectives, study sites, methods, results, and possible use of the data. The user then will be able to link to the anonymous online summary graphs and view NWT data and as well as others.

A budget and actual expenses table is presented below.

	Timeline	Actual Cost *and Budget	Other Sources	CIMP Source	CIMP %
SMS Web page with data collection/analysis capabilities					
Design /Testing	Jan-05	\$4,750	RWED	\$3,000	63%
Testing - modifications	Feb-05	\$1,000	RWED		0%
Publication	Jun-05	\$500	RWED		0%
Video on SMS standard protocols					
Pre-production (storyboard) in YK	Mar-05	\$5,600	RWED	\$3,000	54%
Filming (3 days) in Sahtu	Jul-05	\$3,000	RWED;SRRB		0%
Editing and post production in YK	Aug-05	\$2,000	RWED		0%
Distribution to interested orgs.	Sep-05	\$500	RWED		0%
TOTAL		\$17,350		\$6,000	35%

SRRB' contribution includes in-kind help and coordination with community

* Actual costs of contracts are in bold