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# Application for a variance under the Caribou Protection Measures 27 April 2007

Maze Lake Project Kivalliq District, Nunavut

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## **Reasons for the Application:**

The Maze Lake project is located on ground where the Caribou Protection Measures apply. For the first two years of the project, field work has been carried only between July 16 and the fall season. For 2007, 3000m of drilling are planned which should take 2 months to complete between mid-July to mid-September. In order to better defined our drill targets some mapping, rock sampling, soil sampling and ground geophysical surveys have to be completed beforehand. As proposed in our 2007 Work Plan, we would like to have access to the project's site and carry some work between July 1 and July 15 when the Caribou Protection Measures are in force.

The Kamanuriak Caribou Calving Ground, which is usually in the Snug Lake/Quartzite Lake area is located 42 km northwest of the actual camp and 25 km south west of the zone where we are planning to carry exploration work (Figure 1). In 2003 Placer Dome staff noticed a few small herds of 20 to 500 animals migrating across the southern portion of the property in the last 2 weeks of July and in 2004 a very large herd (>10,000 animals?) came near the camp area in two occasions during the third week of July. In both occasions, the herd came in a distance of less than 200m from camp apparently undisturbed by our presence. No observation is available between May 15 and July 15 as neither in 2003 or 2004 were staff present on site during this period. There is no "Designated Crossing" near the property. No drilling activities and no airborne geophysical survey will be carried during this period. Low level flying will be restricted to landing approach only. If caribous are present, an alternate landing site or strip will be used.

The status of the fuel cache near the camp in the south end of the property is going to be evaluated to verify if it can be used for helicopter use. If so, our activity during the exclusion period will be limited to re-establishing the existing camp. If it is no longer suitable for helicopter use, and we have to fly in new fuel, we will consider establishing a camp at the north end closer to the main work area. If the work is limited to re-establishment of the camp, the activity will be very localized and consist of flying in camp materials to one site. If the work requires bringing in new fuel and a new camp it will be in the north end far away from known Caribou migration.

All the activities to take place during this period are summarized in table 1 and described below with the mitigation measures to be taken to protect the caribous.

Table 1: Summary of the activities planned to be carried during the exclusion period

Caribou Protection Measures Period **Activity** May June July 2 4 1 4 2 4 1 3 2 3 1 3 Freight hauling by ground Freight hauling by air Camp building/opening Geological mapping Soil sampling Ground geophysical survey

# **Activities Description and Mitigation Measures:**

#### 1- Equipment hauling- by air

Date: July 1 to July 15

Description: Hauling of camp equipment, fuel drums and drill equipment using helicopter and fixed-wing

aircrafts to existing camp at south end of property (Figure 1 – "CAMP").

Protection: At least three different airstrips are available in the Maze Lake area so landing location can

be selected to avoid areas where caribous are present. If avoidance is impossible, hauling

would be suspended.

## 2- Camp opening/building

Date: July 1 to July 15

Description: Setting up new tents, new sumps and latrine pits, getting camp ready for summer at south

end of property (Figure 1 - "CAMP"). If existing fuel cache quality has expired for helicopter use and new fuel must be brought in, a new camp and fuel cache may be established in the

north end of the property (Figure 1 - "POTENTIAL NEW CAMP" and "POTENTIAL

NORTHERN FUEL CACHE".)

Protection: Camp opening will proceed only if caribou cows are not present close to the camp site. If

cows and calves or migrating caribous were to come close to camp area after opening, noisy activities would be suspended and personnel movement limited to the immediate vicinity of

camp. No all-terrain vehicles will be present on site.

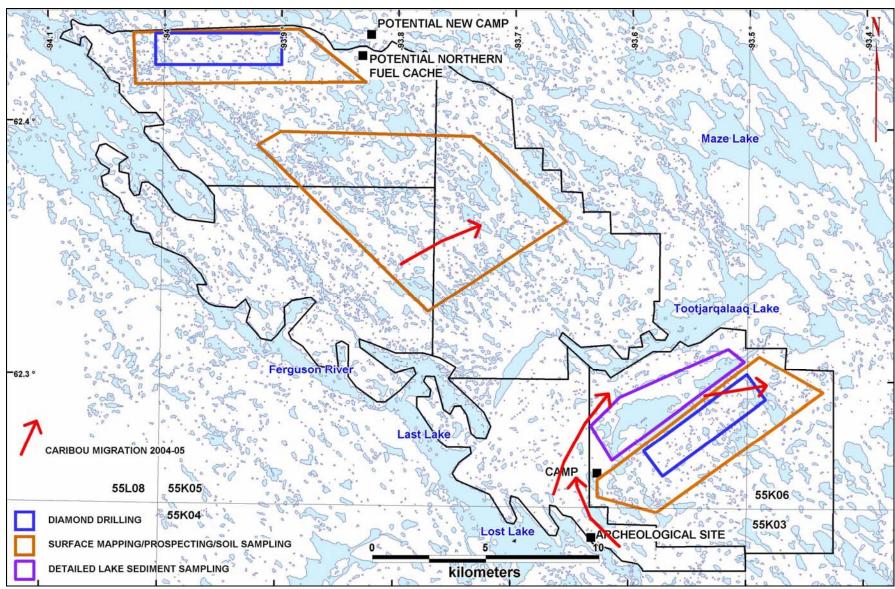


Figure 1 - Known Caribou Migration 2003-05