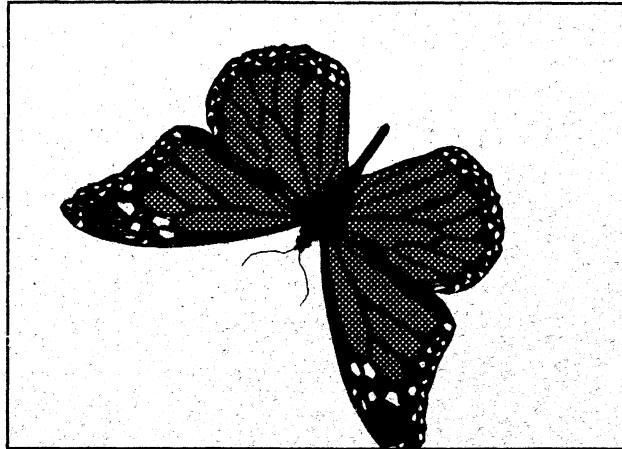


Library



FINAL REPORT:

DEMPSTER INTERPRETIVE CENTRE/RAPTOR RESEARCH PROJECT 1991

Submitted to:
Information and Education
Department of Renewable Resources
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6

By: John H. Pattimore
Karen V. Digby

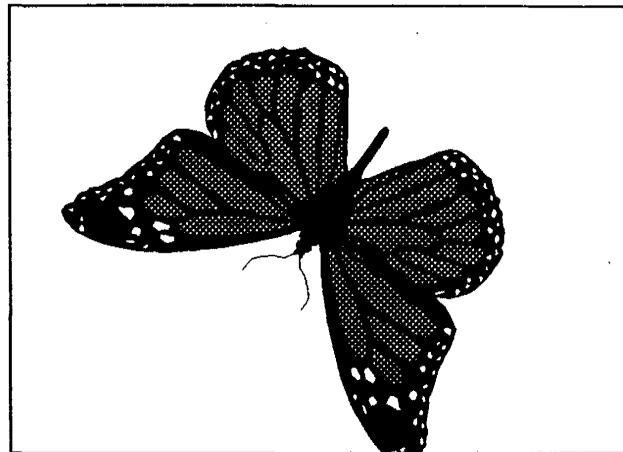
September 3/91

TAIGA RESOURCE CONSULTANTS
Box 5964, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 5L7
Ph: 403-633-4924 or 668-4339

PR 430

MRC-91-1

*RECEIVED
PR430*



FINAL REPORT:

DEMPSTER INTERPRETIVE CENTRE/RAPTOR RESEARCH PROJECT 1991

Submitted to:
Information and Education
Department of Renewable Resources
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6

By: John H. Pattimore
Karen V. Digby

September 3/91



300042818

TAIGA RESOURCE CONSULTANTS
Box 5964, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 5L7
Ph: 403-633-4924 or 668-4339

"THE DEMPSTER"

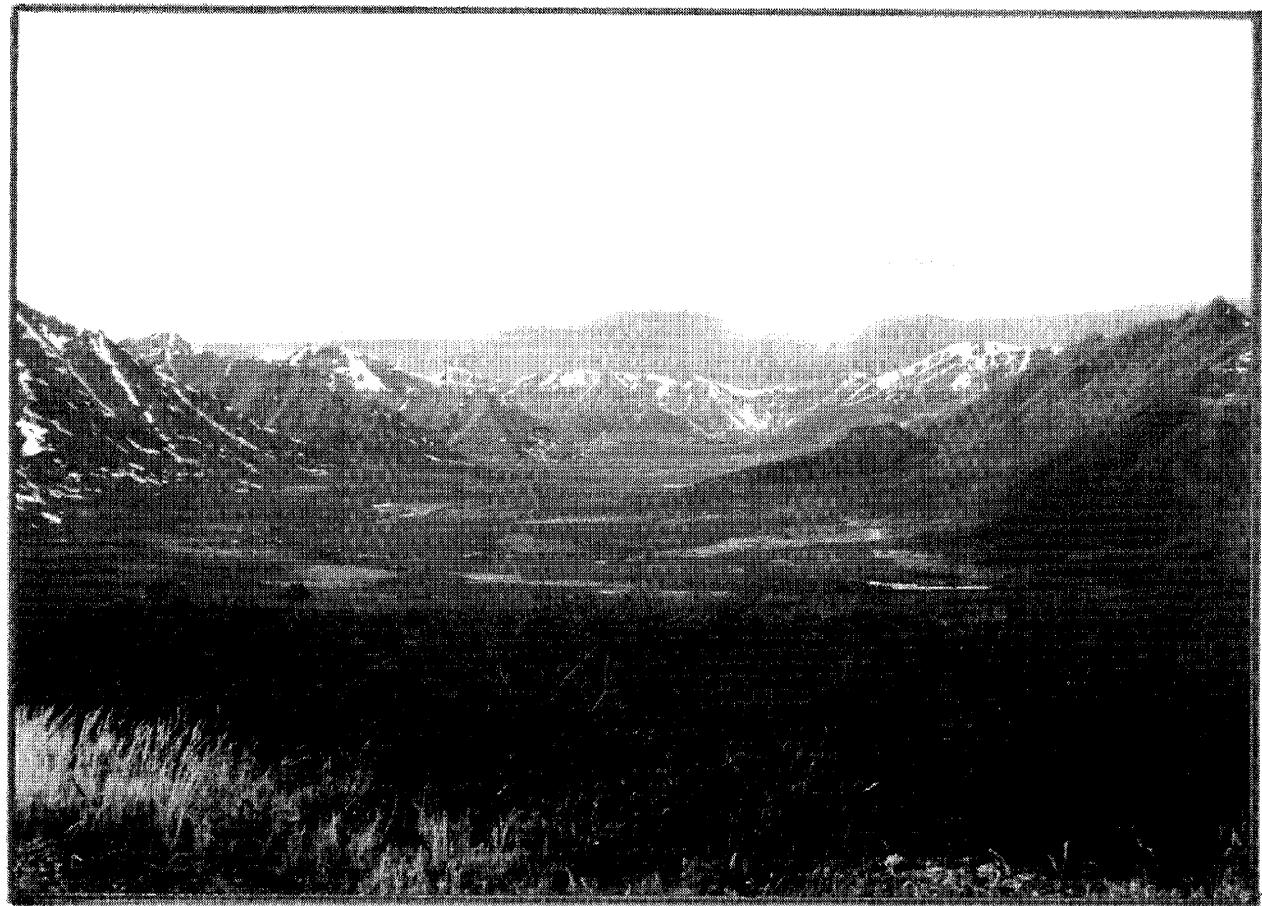


TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|---|------|
| List of Tables | 3 |
| List of Figures | 4 |
| Executive Summary | 5 |
| 1.0 Introduction | 7 |
| 2.0 Interpretive Services | 8 |
| 2.1 Goals and Objectives | 8 |
| 2.2 Methodology | 9 |
| 2.2.1 Publicity | 9 |
| 2.2.2 Interpreters | 9 |
| 2.2.3 Centre/Events | 10 |
| 2.3 Interpretive Centre | 10 |
| 2.3.1 Visitor Data | 11 |
| 2.3.2 Scheduling | 20 |
| 2.3.3 Display | 20 |
| 2.3.4 Wildlife Sightings Board | 23 |
| 2.3.5 Reference Library | 24 |
| 2.3.6 Travelogue/Brochure Handouts | 25 |
| 2.3.7 Book Sales | 25 |
| 2.3.8 Centre Closure | 25 |
| 2.4 Interpretive Events | 26 |
| 2.4.1 Guided Nature Walks | 26 |
| 2.4.2 Evening Programs | 26 |
| 2.4.3 Special Events | 27 |
| 2.4.4 Roadside Interpretation | 27 |
| 3.0 Wildlife Monitoring/Raptor Research | 29 |
| 3.1 Goals and Objectives | 29 |
| 3.2 Wildlife Monitoring | 29 |
| 3.3 Raptor Research | 31 |
| 4.0 Other Activities | 34 |
| 5.0 Recommendations | 37 |
| 5.1 General | 37 |
| 5.2 Interpretive Centre/Events | 39 |
| 5.3 Wildlife Monitoring/Raptor Research | 40 |
| Appendices | 41 |

LIST OF TABLES

| | |
|---|---------|
| TABLE 1: HISTORICAL VISITOR DATA, 1986-91 | page 12 |
| TABLE 2: BUS AND VAN TOUR DATA, 1991 | 16 |
| TABLE 3: VISITOR PLACE OF ORIGIN, 1991 | 18 |
| TABLE 4: VISITOR PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE DEMPSTER INTERPRETIVE CENTRE | 19 |
| TABLE 5: SUMMARY- INTERPRETIVE EVENTS | 28 |
| TABLE 6: RAPTOR MONITORING SUMMARY, 1991 | 32 |

LIST OF FIGURES

| | |
|---|---------|
| FIGURE 1: DAILY VISITATION, 1991 | page 14 |
| FIGURE 2: LOCATION OF SHEEP LICK CAMERA, July 29/91 | 30 |
| FIGURE 3: HIKER REGISTRATION FORM, 1991 | 35 |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our team of Interpreters have carried out the Dempster Interpretive Centre/Raptor Research Project according to the Terms of Reference and our Proposal. We have also achieved our goal and objectives as stated in Section 2.1 of this report.

The Centre was open from June 15 to Sept. 2/91, 7 days per week from 10AM to 10PM (12 hours). This comprised an 80 day season as compared to the 67 day 1990 season.

The initial publicity for the Centre and Events and eventually the word of mouth advertising that resulted drew 2939 visitors to the Centre. This is an approximately 15% decrease from the 3480 visitors during 1990. However, we suggest that this decline in visitation was a result of the general decline in visitation to Yukon and several significant environmental factors. These factors were rain/snow on nearly 50% of the days we were open, the forest fire and the road washout in NWT.

Tourism Industry spokespersons have made statements about the lower 1991 visitation numbers to Yukon that agree with our data for 1991. Word of the environmental factors seems to reach travellers and influence their travel plans over a number of days surrounding certain natural events. Our data and Figure 1 clearly illustrate a correlation between environmental factors and lower than average Centre visitation.

During the summer our Interpreters maintained, enhanced and developed the Interpretive Centre exhibits. Several temporary exhibits and some new exhibits were added for the enjoyment and information of visitors.

Despite the overall decline in visitation numbers our delivery of Interpretive Events can be compared as follows to the 1990 season:

- we were open only 16% (13) more days than in 1990
- we delivered 54% more events than were delivered in 1990
- we contacted 47% more visitors through the events than were contacted this way in 1990

The Wildlife Monitoring/Raptor Research portion of the project resulted in the location and monitoring of three peregrine falcon nests. No nesting gyrfalcons were located. The peregrine nests were watched and we were able to report the likely fledging times and that 6 chicks fledged. The sheep monitoring using the automatic camera was only partially successful. The sheep monitoring otherwise was successful with 11 sheep sightings at the lick being reported.

Wildlife sightings in general are reported from the Wildlife Sightings Board. Appendix F records the wildlife sightings that Interpreters and Visitors made during their travels.

We have included Section 4.0, Other Activities to illustrate the importance the travelling public places on such things as campground management and emergency services. Although these services were not part of the contract we were required, because "we were there", to carry out many services in these areas. Therefore, in Section 5.0 Recommendations we have made some recommendations to improve the situation.

The remainder of Section 5.0, Recommendations is given in the spirit that many improvements can be made to the Centre and therefore to the quality of the visitor experience there.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

"In all the vast wild country of northern Canada and Alaska, only one public road penetrates the subarctic to cross the Arctic Circle ... Along the entire length of the road, wilderness begins at the edge of the gravel. ... Great herds of barren-ground caribou still winter beneath the northern lights. A grizzly and her cubs may be seen digging for ground squirrels. Grayling still leap in the streams, loons call from the lakes, wild flowers brighten the summer tundra."(Calef 1984).

We of Taiga Resource Consultants have seen first hand that those who saw the Dempster country this summer sensed the vastness, the wildness. Our Interpretation/Research team has carried the question below to the Visitors:

What lies below the surface of the vast panoramic view and the spectacular wildlife sightings?

Their questions in return were answered through the Interpretive Centre and in Interpretive Events as we took them on a short but intense journey of discovery behind the "scenes".

The Project is now complete. We have carried out the Interpretive Services and Wildlife Monitoring according to the Terms of Reference and our Proposal dated May 2/91. Completion of the Project represents the 6th year of operation of the Interpretive Centre and the 9th year of Raptor Monitoring.

This report covers the entire Project which ran from the opening of the Interpretive Centre on June 15/91 to closing it September 2/91. Visitor, Interpretive Event and Wildlife/Raptor data are tabulated and discussed. We have made a number of recommendations ranging across all areas of the Project in the spirit that improvements can be made that will considerably increase the quality of the Visitor experience. Some of the recommendations touch on aspects of campground management and visitor safety.

2.0 INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

2.1 Goals and Objectives

Our Goal for the Interpretive Services was:

- to enhance user awareness, understanding and appreciation of the natural features and processes within the Dempster Corridor

The Interpretive Services can be divided into two types, as we did, "Interpretive Centre" and "Interpretive Events". Our Objectives for these services were:

Interpretive Centre

- to open the Centre 7 days per week, 12 hours per day (10 am-10pm), for 80 days (June 15-Sept. 2/91)
- to provide visitors with high quality information that introduces them to the Dempster Corridor (displays, reference library, brochures and answering questions)
- to maintain, enhance and develop the displays
- to record visitor numbers at the Centre

Interpretive Events

- to provide interactive guided walks and hikes and evening programs that involve visitors in hands-on experience with the natural history of the Dempster Corridor
- to provide information on the physical, biological and cultural/historical features and interpretive themes of the Dempster Corridor
- to record visitor numbers participating in Interpretive events

2.2 Methodology

We developed the following three part Methodology for achieving the above Goal and Objectives.

2.2.1 Publicity

We publicized the Dempster Interpretive Centre and program as follows:

- a. poster at the YTG Visitor Reception Centre, Dawson City and speaking to the staff periodically (see Appendix E)
- b. poster at the GNWT Visitor Information Booth (Dawson) and speaking to staff periodically including the staff from the Inuvik Visitor Information Centre (see Appendix E)
- c. poster at Klondike River Lodge, Dempster Corner (see Appendix E)
- d. at the Centre by using the exterior Notice Board, telling the Centre visitors about the Programs and by announcing the next Event at each Event

Table 3 illustrates that our publicity (poster and personal contact with staff) at the Dawson Information Centres (YTG and GNWT) was successful at bringing visitors to the Centre. Table 3 illustrates that only the "Milepost" was named by more visitors as the source of their awareness of the Centre (Milepost: 200, Dawson/Other Centres: 171)

2.2.2 Interpreters

We assembled a well qualified and enthusiastic team of Interpreters to meet the public at the Centre. Three of our Interpreters went on an orientation trip organized by Jack Schick (May 30-June 1). We accompanied: Dave Mossop- Biologist/Ornithologist, Grant Abbot- Geologist, Catherine Kennedy- Botanist, Jean Carey- Sheep Technician and Jack Schick- Coordinator of Information/Education. Each of these people had valuable knowledge about the Dempster Highway area and gave freely of their particular expertise. This was a valuable and necessary activity for our new Interpretive Team.

On June 16/91 a Team Meeting was conducted among all Interpretive Staff at which the Terms of Reference, our Proposal and the Schedule were reviewed. We discussed the duties of each Team member and assigned a project to each.

Our Interpreters were equipped with an I. D. Badge, a field notebook and a large binder as the tools of their trade beyond the centre and library. We did not require them to keep a daily diary as such, but instead asked them to record field observations of note. The binder was an effective storage place for program ideas and other material on Interpretation.

A one half day workshop (June 18/91) was conducted to familiarize interpreters with some concepts of Interpretation and some program/event planning techniques. Each Interpreter received a copy of "Appendix A: Interpretation and Interpretive Planning" from Carson, 1986.

We think our team of Interpreters was highly successful in carrying out the Goal and Objectives of the project. A review of the Guest Record Forms, Appendix B will show that many visitors stated that their visit with us was "very informative, interesting etc." and that Interpreters were "nice, friendly etc.".

2.2.3 Interpretive Centre/Events

Our Methodology for the Interpretive Services was that the Centre would be opened and staffed constantly within the proposed schedule and that there would be a nature walk and evening program offered every day of the season. Sections 2.3 and 2.4 report on our success at carrying out this Methodology and achieving the Goal and Objectives stated above.

2.3 Interpretive Centre

One week prior to opening the Centre (on June 15/91) we met with the Information/Education Coordinator. We discussed and confirmed various aspects of the Project. During this period we gathered materials and supplies to be taken up to the Centre. We did not acquire two of the items on the list (page 6 our proposal) as there did not appear to be any available space in the centre for extra chairs or a table. List 1 in Appendix H includes the Materials and Supplies we purchased on LPO to take up to the Centre.

TABLE 1

HISTORICAL VISITOR DATA 1986-1991
 Dempster Interpretive Centre

| DATA TYPE | 1986 | 1987 | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| # of Visitors | 1445 | 2452 | 2412 | 1483 | 3480 | 2939 |
| Ave. Vtrs./Day | 59 | 63 | 79 | 63 | 52 | 38 |
| Season Length | 25 | 39 | 31 | 24 | 67 | *80 |
| Hours Open | | 8 | 7 | 5 | 10 | 12 |

* There were 2 days on which the centre was closed for most of the day due to staff duties elsewhere. Average visitors per day is calculated using 78 days as season length.

2.3.1 Visitor Data

During the 1991 season 2939 visitors came through the Interpretive Centre. The Centre was open for 78 days and for 12 hours per day (10 hours/day for last 2 weeks of Aug.). Table 1 records the 1991 visitor data and provides data from the previous 5 years for comparison. It should be noted that despite the longer operating hours and season in 1991, the visitation at D.I.C. was down about 15% from 1990. This may be a reflection of the reported decline of visitation to Yukon in general.

In the Wednesday October 23/91 Yukon News article, "Strong end boosts season", some comments by both Government and Industry are informative. John Spicer of Tourism Yukon suggested that the overall visitation to Yukon was down by 5%. Dawson City Museum reported a decline in visitation of 1000 people. The Gateway to the Yukon RV Park in Watson Lake reported a decline of 15% in visitation this summer. The article also points to the 1992 Alaska Highway Celebrations as a factor in decreased visitation in 1991. People may be "holding off" to visit Yukon in 1992.

It must also be noted that this count of visitors is not an accurate count of Dempster Highway travellers or of total contacts made by Interpreters. The visitor count we made could not account for:

- vehicles not stopping at the Centre*
- visitors returning to the Centre more than once*
- visitors attending interpretive events but not entering the Centre*
- visitors arriving during Interpreter lunch and dinner hours*

However, having some sense of the level of highway traffic this summer we suggest that the Centre and the Interpretive Events attracted more than 90% of highway travellers.

In addition to factors affecting general visitation to Yukon and Dawson City there were some ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE along the highway this summer (rain/snow, forest fire, road closure). The possible impact of these events will be discussed in Part a. below.

a. Visitor Record Forms (Visitation at D.I.C.)

A daily record of D.I.C. visitors and descriptive information was kept on Visitor Record Forms (see Appendix A). The descriptive information under the "Comments" section of the forms make interesting reading as well as giving an accurate picture of "typical" days at the Centre. The Visitor Record Forms also contain a record of weather, the impact of the forest fire and road work on visitation.

Figure 1 graphically illustrates daily visitation for 1991. It also gives a picture of the changes in visitation over the season. The horizontal line represents the average daily visitation to the Centre (38 people).

As suggested earlier 1991 Centre visitation was affected by some ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE along the highway, including rain/snow, forest fire and road closure resulting from excessive rain. The Visitor Record Forms and Figure 1 reveal the following relationships between Environmental Factors and Centre Visitation:

Rain/snow:

- * In the 80 day season there were 35 days on which rain or snow were recorded at the Tombstone Campground. This is indeed a significant environmental factor representing nearly 50% of the days we were open.
- * In Aug., 13 days of rain/snow were recorded which was more than 1/3 of the days open in Aug.
- * Aug. visitation was 851 in 1991 while it was 1569 in 1990 over the same number of days open. This is a striking comparison pointing to bad weather as a factor discouraging visitors from driving the Dempster in 1991.

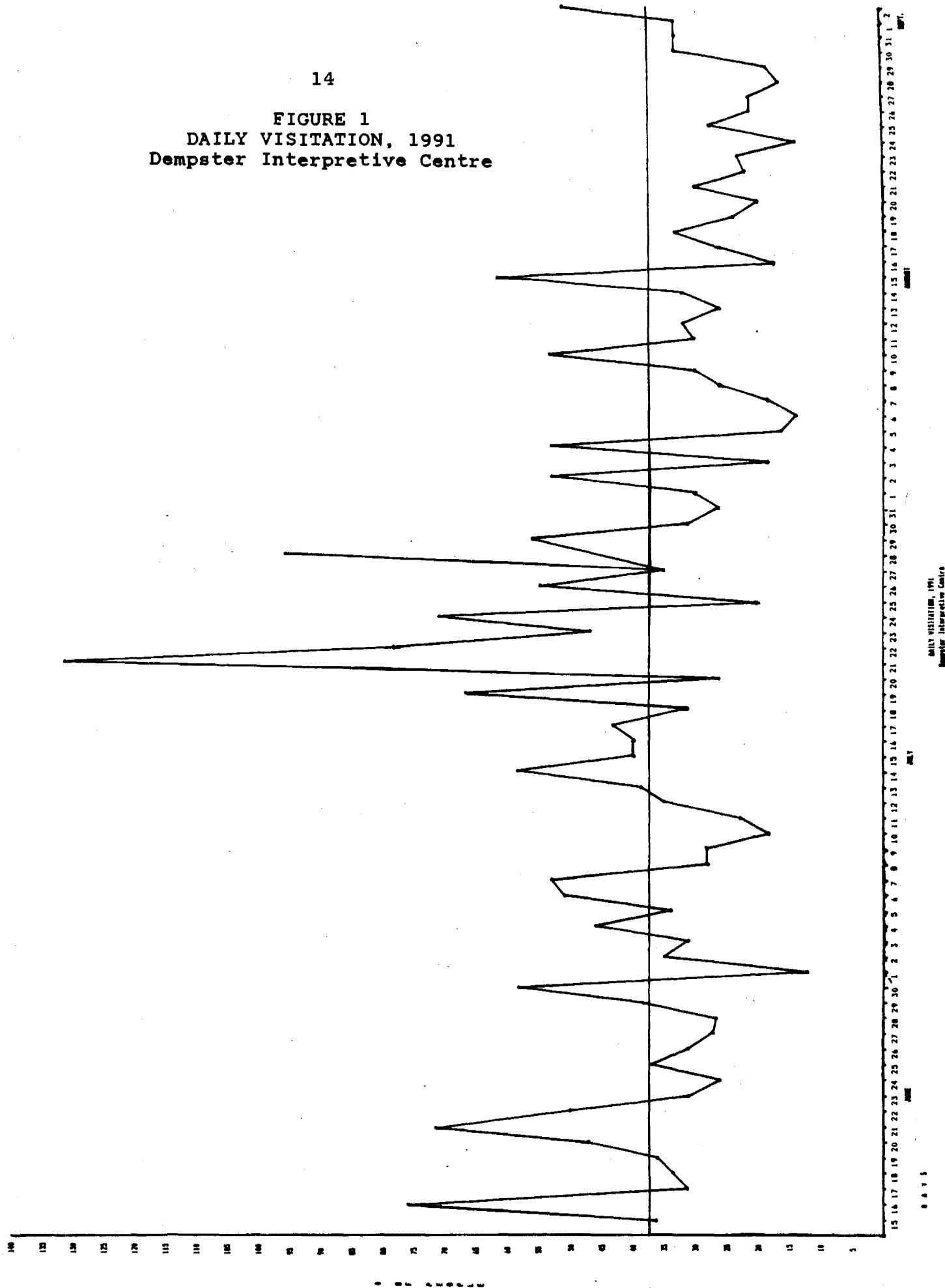
Forest Fire:

- * June 24 the road was closed near the Dempster corner at 5 P.M. and reopened June 25 at 9 A.M. Figure 1 shows below average visitation June 23 to June 28 (6 days) which would be around the time news of the fire would reach travellers either in Whitehorse or Dawson and perhaps have caused them to changed their travel plans.

Road Closure:

- * The Dempster in NWT just north of the Yukon/NWT border was closed Aug. 5. Figure 1 reveals that we recorded below average visitation between Aug. 4 and Aug. 10 (7 days). These numbers likely resulted from the cumulative effects of generally bad Aug. weather and news of the road closure.

FIGURE 1
DAILY VISITATION, 1991
Dempster Interpretive Centre



Summary: Centre Visitation/Environmental Factors

* Figure 1 shows that on 52 days the Centre visitation was below average. Taking the 35 days of rain, 6 days surrounding the fire and 7 days surrounding the road closure we can see that on 48 days of our open season there were unfavourable circumstances for Dempster Highway travel in 1991. This correlates with the 52 days on which Centre Visitation fell below the average daily visitation for 1991.

Bus/Van Tours:

Some of the data points well above the average line resulted from visits by bus or van tours. For example on July 21 of the 136 Centre visitors, 67 were from bus tours. Table 2, lists the bus and van tours by company and by month that visited the Centre. The main tours were by Atlas, Horizon, and Gold City (most frequent if not largest #'s) with several other bus and small natural history van tours also visiting. It is interesting to note that while overall visitation was down in 1991 bus and van tour visitation was up over 1990 (554 in 1991 compared to 392 in 1990). This may be because bus tours are advanced booked and the tour cannot be changed radically enroute as can the routes of individual travellers.

TABLE 2

BUS AND VAN TOURS
Dempster Interpretive Centre, 1991

| TOUR GROUP | JUNE | JULY | AUGUST | SEPT. | TOTAL |
|---------------------|------|------|--------|-------|-------|
| Atlas Tours | 84 | 55 | 36 | - | 175 |
| Horizon | 27 | 96 | - | - | 123 |
| Gold City Tours | 9 | 12 | 19 | - | 40 |
| American Adventures | - | - | 18 | 13 | 31 |
| Rainbow Tours | 8 | 11 | - | - | 19 |
| Golden Arrow | 15 | - | - | - | 15 |
| Other * | 18 | 73 | 52 | 8 | 151 |
| Total | 161 | 247 | 125 | 21 | 554 |

* There were several small tours that passed through the Centre in unmarked vans for which the tour company name was not recorded.

b. Guest Record Forms

The Guest Record Forms (Appendix B) included columns to record:
Name, Province/State, How Knew About Centre, Comments

It should be noted that these columns were not intended to collect data on total numbers of visitors. The Visitor Record Forms were designed for that purpose. The entries on the "Guest" forms were tabulated as the number of parties responding in a certain way.

Visitor Place of Origin data is shown in Table 3 on the following page. The forms had several columns for recording Visitor Prior Knowledge of the Dempster Interpretive Centre 1991. These data are shown in Table 4.

c. Weekly Summary Reports

We have provided Weekly Summary Reports which combine visitor numbers with information on Interpretive Events (see Appendix C). These forms can be used to compare Centre visitation with Event participation which shows that many more people stop at the Centre than stay for Interpretive Events.

These reports give a summary of interpretive themes used for the Events. More will be said of this in Section 2.3.

TABLE 3
VISITOR PLACE OF ORIGIN
Dempster Interpretive Centre 1991

| PLACE | # | PLACE | # |
|----------------|-----|--------------|---|
| Canada | 530 | Japan | 3 |
| Canada (Yukon) | 112 | Scotland | 2 |
| Canada (NWT) | 33 | Sweden | 2 |
| USA | 360 | Israel | 2 |
| Germany | 65 | Belgium | 1 |
| Switzerland | 33 | Denmark | 1 |
| Australia | 23 | Albania | 1 |
| England | 17 | Bermuda | 1 |
| France | 13 | P. N. Guinea | 1 |
| Austria | 11 | Ireland | 1 |
| New Zealand | 9 | Finland | 1 |
| Holland | 7 | Chile | 1 |
| Spain | 5 | India | 1 |
| Italy | 4 | Singapore | 1 |
| Unknown | 4 | | |

TABLE 4
VISITOR PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE
DEMPSTER INTERPRETIVE CENTRE, 1991

| PLACE | # PARTIES |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Pre-Trip Ad | 84 |
| Milepost | 200 |
| Dawson Info Centre | 139 |
| Other Info Centre ^a | 32 |
| Friends/Relatives | 110 |
| Other ^b General | 173 |
| Tour | 6 |
| Been Before | 10 |
| Books | 3 |
| Saw It | 14 |
| | 206 |

a. Other centres means: NWT Visitor Centre in Dawson
 NWT Visitor Centres in Inuvik
 and Yellowknife

b. Other means: all responses that did not fit in
 another column

2.3.2 Scheduling

The proposed schedule (page 12 our proposal) has been adhered to with the visitation data supporting this schedule. The Centre was open 12 hours a day from June 15 to late August and 10 hours a day from late August (the last 2 weeks) to September 2. The centre was opened regularly at 10 am. throughout the season and was closed at 10 pm. (closing at 8 pm. for the final 2 weeks of operation). Until August, visitors were present both before the Centre opened in the morning and after it closed at night.

Morning nature walks took place at 10 or 10.30 am. Evening hikes were generally scheduled for 7 or 7.30 pm. to allow the interpreter to return by 10 pm. Campfire talks were scheduled for 8.00 or 8.30 pm. which was found to be the end of the supper hour for campers. Special events (especially wildlife spotting) took place opportunistically at various hours. Tour Group nature walks were likewise given at various times.

2.2.3 Displays

a. Temporary Displays

The Interpretive Centre's ability to stimulate visitor interest was enhanced by the development of a number of temporary displays that responded to seasonal changes in the natural history of the area, or made use of found objects. These informal displays were extremely popular with visitors, and elicited much curiosity and comment.

"What is It?" Display

Items found by Interpreters or visitors were displayed beside the guest book, highlighted with a card reading "What is it?". Some of the items displayed this way were:

- the uncommon flower Pinguicula villosa, in its patch of bog in a jar
- a mummified yellow warbler
- tumbleweed lichen
- a selection of berries that bears eat
- puffball mushrooms
- a broken robin's egg
- a concretion formed around a pyritized ammonite
- a twig with bear hair caught on it
- mayfly larvae

Animal Signs Collection

A fairly extensive collection of animal scat and other sign was made, which was used as the core of a popular campfire talk on animal sign. Scat was placed in labelled clear plastic containers. Scat was collected for approximately 12 animals common to the area. Other sign collected included items such as caribou lower legs, a beaver-chewed log, and moose and hare-browsed willow shrubs.

Bear Display

The Bear Display was "brought alive" by use of its dry-erase board. Text on the board described the activities of Grizzly Bears in the immediate area, and was updated several times throughout the season. The display generated much visitor enthusiasm and curiosity. This text from late July is typical:

BEARS

We are in the midst of a nursery! Grizzly Bear sows (females) and cubs (babies) have been seen between km. 74 and km. 85. Watch for: a blonde sow with two black cubs or a blonde sow with three cubs, two are blonde and one is chocolate brown. Soon it will be berry season! Grizzly bears are 90% vegetarian. Presently, they are eating roots, young shoots and overwintered berries. Next week we expect the berries to ripen and the bears will fatten up for winter on: overwintered cranberries (sample taped to board), this year's cranberries (sample), crowberries (sample), blueberries (sample).

Rocks and Fossils Display

Fossils were grouped, labelled according to type and location collected, and displayed against a white backdrop. Brachiopods, ammonite concretions, and fossil corals were those given most prominence. This display was at a low level and was particularly popular with children.

Berries Display

In August, at the height of berry season, edible berries were collected, organized by family, and displayed on a large posterboard.

Drying Wild Foods Display

A drying frame over the cook shelter wood stove was used to dry "in season" foods (blueberries and boletus mushrooms), as an example of how Yukoners who live in "the bush" make use of and store edible wild foods. A sign interpreted the display.

Dempster Watersheds: Continental Divides Map

A road map of the Dempster region that indicates the location of Continental divides was enhanced by labelling and displayed to draw travellers' attention to the way they would pass back and forth between two major watersheds as they journeyed north to Inuvik.

b. Enhancement of Existing Permanent Displays**Bird Display**

Bird feathers and a wing were added to the permanent Bird display.

Caribou Display

The display on the Porcupine Caribou Herd was enhanced by the addition of a map of the Yukon with the ranges of Yukon Mountain and Barrenground Caribou herds marked and labelled. The map also has a marginal list of population numbers for each herd. Collected remains (lower legs) were added to those on the floor beneath this display.

"Gone With the Wind" Fireweed Display

The pressed fireweed flower in this display was replaced with a new one.

Lichen Display

More lichens were added to this informal permanent display of local lichen types.

c. Establishment of New Permanent Displays**Wildlife Key Areas Maps**

Blue line maps of wildlife key areas from the Dempster Highway Corridor Study were mounted on the wall to aid interpreters in explaining to visitors where to spot wildlife. The location of the Interpretive Centre was marked by a bright dot.

"Please Touch" animal fur display

Fur samples of common Yukon animals were labelled and mounted on the wall beneath a sign reading "Please Touch". Adults and children both delighted in this display.

Additions to Natural History Collections

Faunal material submitted by visitors was gratefully accepted. This season, visitors and Interpreters added to the collection:

- two lower legs of a caribou, intact
- a caribou rib cage
- a caribou skull with antlers
- a weathered moose antler.

2.3.4 Wildlife Sightings Board

The Interpretive Centre's most popular display was an interactive one. The large dry-erase board mounted on the outside wall of the centre was used to encourage visitors to record their wildlife sightings for the benefit of fellow highway travellers. In prior years the format of reporting has been: date, animal seen, location in kilometres.

Early in the season, Conservation Officer Ken Knutsen expressed concern that populations of big game animals in the corridor area are adversely affected by this practice, as hunters regularly consult the board. Conservation Officers had voiced this objection in 1990 (Hocking 1990:25). A related concern of Interpretive Centre staff was that conflict might arise between consumptive and non-consumptive users of wildlife converging upon the area of a wildlife sighting (as indeed did occur over an apparent poaching incident in July 91).

The format of reporting sightings was therefore changed in late June, to: date, animal seen, description of habitat and behaviour. The board's headings encouraged visitors to "be an interpreter". This format fits with our central theme of discovering what lies "behind the scenes", and we consider it to be not a compromise but an improvement in enhancing visitor awareness. Any further kilometre designations for game animals were then erased from the board by interpreters on duty.

2.3.5 Reference Library

The Dempster Interpretive Centre reference library consists of two parts: a shelf of field guides and natural history books that are referred to by interpreters and visitors alike (see List 2, Appendix H). There are also shelves of more specialized material stored in binders and file boxes which are used almost exclusively by interpreters.

The Interpreters each brought some personal reference works that were evaluated during this summer. Some are recommended for addition to the Centre Library next year.

The following additions were made to the book collection:

- Banfield, A.W.F., 1974. Mammals of Canada. Toronto: University of Toronto Press
- Frisch, Robert, 1987. Birds by the Dempster Highway. Victoria: Morriss Printing Company Ltd.
- Godfrey, W. Earl, 1986. The Birds of Canada. Ottawa: National Museum of Natural Sciences
- Lanz, Walter, 1990. Along the Dempster: An Outdoor Guide to Canada's Northernmost Highway. Vancouver: Oak House Publishing
- Porsild, xxxx, Flora of Continental NWT
- Schofield, 1989. Discovering Wild Plants: Alaska, Western Canada, The Northwest. Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Books
- Robbins, Chandler S., Bertel Brunn, Herbert S. Zim, 1966. A Guide to Field Identification: Birds of North America (Golden Field Guide). New York: Golden Press, Western Publishing Company, Inc. (supplied by Dave Mossop)
- Trelawny, John G., 1988. Wildflowers of the Yukon, Alaska & Northwestern Canada. Victoria: Sono Nico Press

Recommended for purchase for the 1992 season:

- Guild, Ben, 1979. The Alaskan Mushroom Hunter's Guide. Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Publishing Company
- Hall, Ed (Editor), 1989. People and Caribou in the Northwest Territories. Yellowknife: Department of Renewable Resources, Govt. of N.W.T.

These additions and recommendations for additions to the library address both the needs expressed in Hocking, 1990 and our own findings.

2.3.6 Travelogue/Brochure Handouts

The Travelogue was distributed to all who wanted it and visitor comment and input requested. The most common suggestion by visitors on returning to the centre was that the kilometre points were not accurate. This is mostly because not all vehicle odometers read the same. For this reason noting points of interest by kilometres should be scrapped. As soon as possible points of interest signs of a uniform format and identity should be placed in visible locations to clearly mark interpretive features.

Several brochures were also made available in the Interpretive Centre. List 3, Appendix H includes the material we displayed and gave out to visitors. The highest demand was for:

- the place mats for colouring
- Yukon Conservation Society set
- Bear Facts -Be Bear Aware

2.3.7 Book Sales

A small selection of books were offered for sale to test the feasibility of this service to the public. Items relating to hiking such as the Lanz book and topographic maps were in demand. Certain field guides would also have sold. (See recommendation)

2.3.8 Centre Closure

The Interpretive Centre and living trailer were cleaned and emptied of equipment and displays that were to be transported to Whitehorse on Sept. 2 and 3/91. Boarded up and locked. C.O. in Dawson informed of propane tanks to unhook and remove.

The inventory of equipment and supplies for the Interpretive Centre (left in the Centre or returned to Renewable Resources in Whitehorse) is included as List 4 of Appendix H.

Delivery of equipment to Renewable Resources took place on Thursday Sept. 5/91.

2.4 Interpretive Events

We have provided Interpretive Programs/Events in keeping with our proposal (page 8 and 9). The Event Record Forms are included with this report as Appendix D. These data forms illustrate the range of Themes, Sub-themes and Approaches we have used as well as time of day, location and attendance. The Weekly Summary Reports (Appendix C), also provide a snapshot of Interpretive Event Themes and participation numbers. Table 5 is a summary of the numbers of each type of event and the numbers of visitors contacted through the events. For comparison with the 1990 season Hocking, 1990 reported 66 events and 553 visitor contacts over the 67 day season.

Therefore our delivery of Interpretive Events can be compared as follows:

- we were open only 16% more days than in 1990
- we delivered 54% more programs than were delivered in 1990
- we contacted 47% more visitors through the programs than were contacted this way in 1990

2.4.1 Guided Nature Walks

We conducted 57 Guided Nature Walks this season involving 294 people. These were primarily given along the campground nature trail. One (1) was given in the bog. Walks would take about 1/2 hour but often visitor interest and questions lengthened these to 1 hour. Guided Nature Walks were often done on demand at various times of the day, for tour groups, groups of visitors or families.

2.4.2 Evening Programs

We scheduled an Evening Program for every day (our season was 80 days) of the summer. Evening programs could be of the campfire talk or the guided hike type. Interpreters chose the type of event based on a campground walk about to determine what campers might be most interested in.

We presented 32 Campfire Talks with 415 people participating. Our 31 Guided Hikes with 194 people were often given from the "Pit". Other locations included the ridge across from the Centre and the ridge adjacent to the Tombstone Viewpoint. Therefore, we presented Evening Programs on 63 of the 80 nights. The nights when not presented resulted when no campers were in the campground or when no one wished to attend.

2.4.3 Special Events

Our Special Events included Guest Speakers, Talks by Visiting Researchers, wildlife viewing after sightings were reported, certain hikes not lead regularly and "edible wild" excursions.

We presented 17 Special Events to 127 people. We had three (3) Guest Speaker Evening Programs given by Fannie Dupont, daughter of Annie and Joe Henry. She spoke of the resource uses and travel in the Blackstone valley by the Gwich'in. Brent Keiser an artist showed his landscape pieces and spoke of being an artist. The Yukon Trappers Association presented two (2) talks on trapping and trappers.

Three (3) Evening Programs were given by Travelling Researchers, one by David Friesen: Archaeologist, one by Jean Carey: Wildlife Technician and one by Sharon Benjamin: Conservation Officer.

2.4.4 Roadside Interpretation

We did not consider flagging people down along the highway when we were doing the Raptor monitoring. Very few travellers stopped of their own accord. In fact we were surprised at the speed at which travellers chose to pass us by while we worked. In addition several of our stopping places were not safe stopping places for larger RV type vehicles. Given this and the relatively wet summer we did not contact many people in this way. We recorded 4 specific occasions when we contacted travellers (23 people) along the highway. We also stopped to speak to Highways workers on any occasion when vehicles/machines were stopped. We told them what we were doing and passed along the frequent compliments about the road we were receiving from travellers.

TABLE 5

**SUMMARY: INTERPRETIVE EVENTS
Dempster Interpretive Centre, 1991**

| EVENT | # EVENTS | # VISITORS |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Guided Nature Walk | 57 | 294 |
| Campfire Talk | 32 | 415 |
| Guided Nature Hike | 31 | 194 |
| Roadside Interp./Roving | 4 | 23 |
| Special Event | 17 | 127 |
| TOTAL | 141 | 1053 |

3.0 WILDLIFE MONITORING/RAPTOR RESEARCH

3.1 Objectives

The Objectives of this project were:

- to collect population and breeding data for gyrfalcons, peregrine falcons, eagles, owls and other raptors near the Dempster Highway
- to observe Dall sheep activity at a lick site
- to incorporate the raptor and wildlife observations and data into Interpretive Programs

3.2 Wildlife Monitoring

The Sheep Lick Monitoring Camera was first placed and activated June 24/91. Unfortunately, a mis-communication resulted in the camera not being serviced until July 19/91. Therefore, only 1 roll of film was exposed during this period. The camera was relocated (see Figure 2) on July 29/91 and reactivated. In total, 5 rolls of film were exposed and submitted to the technician.

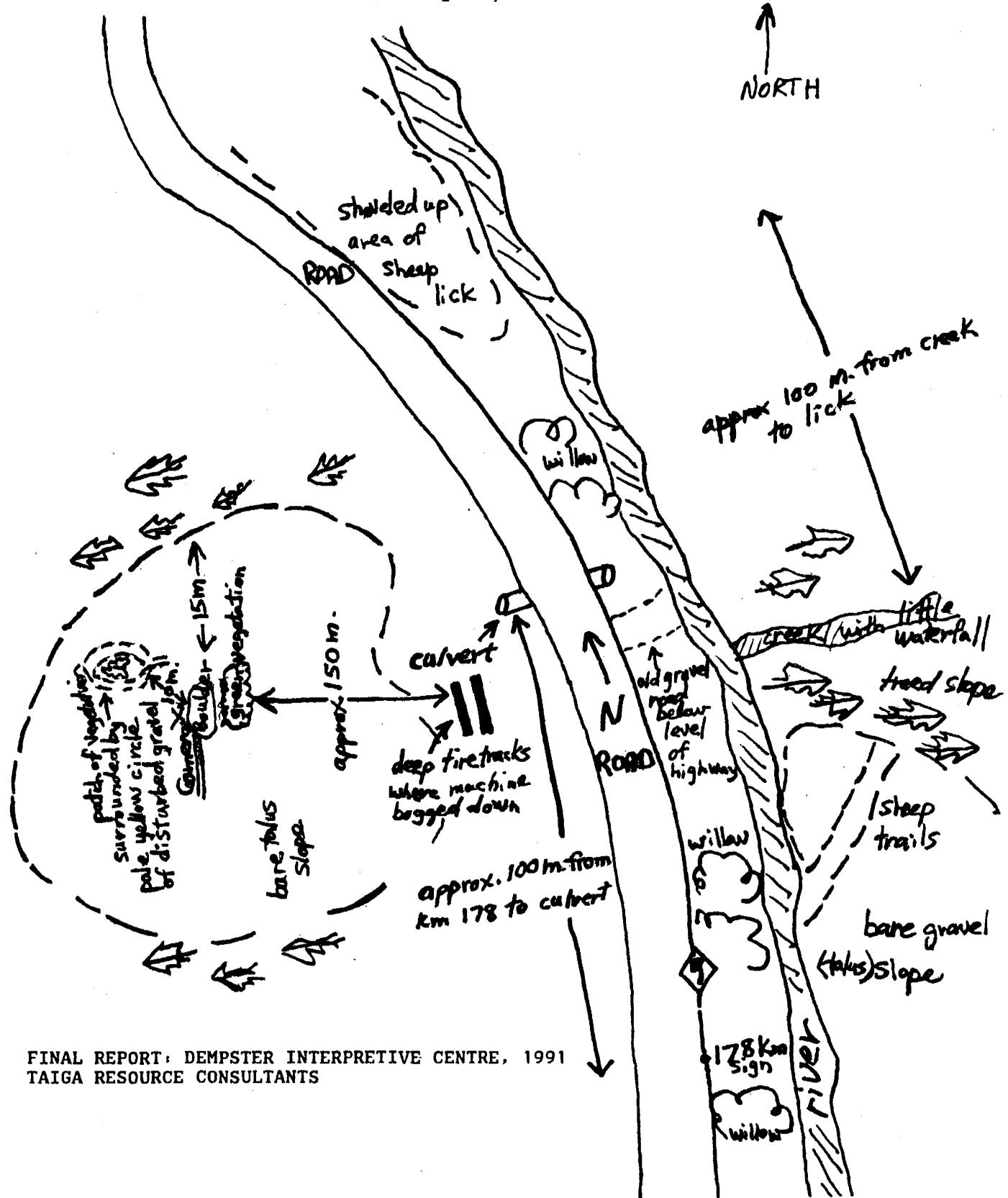
At the time of writing this report the rolls of film had not been developed. We can only assume that the lick and a stretch of the highway will be visible in the pictures. Also if pictures turn out we will have tested the effectiveness of this approach to sheep lick monitoring. The life of the batteries and the quality of photographs that can be obtained will be determined.

We recorded actual sheep sightings in the vicinity of km. 178 and the lick site. These sightings recorded by both our Interpreters and the travelling public were as follows:

- May 31/91- several ewes and lambs up slope on west side of highway opposite the lick (JHP Field Notes)
- June 15/91- visitor reported 3 sheep at Engineer Creek lick
- June 17/91- 6 ewes and lambs on east side of creek, south of the lick area, right at waters edge nibbling the sand
- June 29/91- visitor reported sheep at Engineer Creek lick
- July 16/91- visitor reported sheep at lick
- July 19/91- spotted sheep tracks and signs of activity in black sand at km. 184.5 on east side of highway (JHP)
- July 23/91- visitor reported sheep in willows near lick
- August 6/91- visitor reported sheep at lick
- Sept. 1/91- visitor reported 11 sheep at creek south of lick

FIGURE 2

LOCATION OF THE SHEEP LICK CAMERA
July 29/91



Sheep were reported on our Wildlife Sightings Board (Appendix F) 27 times. Of these reported sightings 5 were in June, 13 were in July, 7 were in August and 2 were in Sept. Of the 9 sightings noted above for the lick, 7 were recorded on the Board. Our Interpreters reported 2 sheep sightings at the "Pit Hike" area during our Interpretive events. It is highly likely that at least some of the other 18 reported sightings, with no location reported, did occur at the km. 178 lick site.

The Wildlife Sightings Board was described and discussed above in Section 2.2.4. The recorded sightings are reported in Appendix F. Of course this information is not data but we feel it is as worthwhile a part of wildlife monitoring as it is of interpretive programming.

3.3 Raptor Research

The Raptor Monitoring was carried out approximately weekly by driving north on the highway and stopping at either the nest boxes or at any likely looking nesting sites. This has resulted in good data gathered on the occupation of the nest boxes by American Kestrels (sorry Dave no Boreal Owls). The nesting sites and actual nests were discovered for three peregrine falcon pairs. John accompanied Dave Mossop on July 16/91 to the peregrine nesting sites to assist in banding chicks. The Ramparts chicks were banded while the Churchward Hill nest proved too dangerous to access with available equipment. We continued to monitor the nests at Sapper Hill, Ramparts and Churchward Hill to determine how many chicks fledge and when.

Appendix G which is a blue binder called Dempster Raptors includes the "Raptor Site Summaries" and "Nest Box Records" for the 1991 Project. Table 6 is a summary of raptor activity for the season.

TABLE 6

RAPTOR MONITORING SUMMARY 1991
Dempster Interpretive Centre

| SITE # | LOCATION | ACTIVITY |
|-----------|---|--|
| GYRFB3258 | Tombstone Valley Gorge | No raptor sightings |
| GYRFB2170 | Valley west of Jensen's Camp | No gyrfalcon sightings |
| NEST BOX | West side Moose Lake | Not occupied |
| NEST BOX | 3 km. south of Chapman Lake east of hwy. | Not occupied |
| NEST BOX | 1 km. south of where Blackstone curves east from hwy. | One dead Kestrel chick in tree opposite- nest predation suggested |
| BEFC3109 | north end of pass as Blackstone Valley narrows | Old nest and wash located, no eagle activity |
| GYRFC2329 | km 158 (100 Mile) | Gyr sited perching June 16, June 20 (2 Gyrs), July 16 then no further activity |
| PERFC2751 | Sapper Hill | Found nest July 20, assumed fledging between July 20 and Aug. 3- helicopter activity for some days around July 28 |
| PERFC2751 | Ogilvie Camp | Spotted Per perching July 20- helicopter activity, Aug. 10 Per perching near flag |
| PERFC2857 | Rampart | Spotted Pers June 17 in flight near mid section of cliffs- saw male perching July 5- found nest July 16 and banded 2 chicks at 35 days old- chicks fledged between July 20 and July 29 |

TABLE 6 Cont'd

RAPTOR MONITORING SUMMARY 1991
 Dempster Interpretive Centre

| SITE # | LOCATION | ACTIVITY |
|-----------|--|---|
| NEST BOX | Ramparts along snye on west side hwy. | June 17, one kestrel chick in nest- July 20 chick had fledged |
| PERFC3058 | Rampart b km 199 | No activity |
| NEST BOX | north of Rampart km. 207.5 east side hwy | July 5, 3 eggs in nest- July 20 nest vacant assume 3 K. chicks fledged |
| NEST BOX | angled rd. on east side hwy | June 17, 5 eggs in nest- June 21, 4 chicks- July 20, nest vacant assume 4 K. chicks fledged |
| PERFC2862 | Raven Rock | No activity |
| NEST BOX | north R. Rock | July 5, 4 K. chicks in nest- July 20, chick at nest box opening- July 29, nest vacant assume 4 chicks fledged |
| GEFC2866 | Km 214 | June 17 falcon flew over- July 29, eagle spotted perching near old nest |
| PERFC3074 | Churchward Hill | July 2, spotted 2 Pers flying and perching in cliff area- July 16, found nest and with 2 chicks- July 20, no further activity assumed 2 chicks fledged between July 2 and July 20 |
| NEST BOX | north of C. Hill | No activity |
| NEST BOX | km. 236 | June 1, nest platform unoccupied |
| NEST BOX | km. 238 Runway | No activity |

4.0 OTHER ACTIVITIES

Hiker Information and Registration

Tombstone Campground is a popular base for hikers (day hikers and multi-day backpackers). Some came well-informed with topographic maps or a copy of Lanz: Along the Dempster Highway, and others arrived expecting guidance from the Interpreters. Most made final route and destination choices on the basis of Interpreter information and weather conditions. For this reason, few had previously filed travel plans with Dawson RCMP, and most hikers going on trips lasting overnight or longer were eager to file Hiker Registration Forms at the Interpretive Centre. Hikers vehicles were often left in the common parking lot outside the Interpretive Centre, for convenience and security. We were not adequately prepared to provide the quality of service which we are certainly qualified to give. There is no mention of providing these services in the Contract Specifications.

Forms developed in a previous year were used (see Figure 3). In addition to the classes of information listed on the form, hikers were asked to list what emergency equipment they had with them (eg. 1st aid kit, extra day's food), and the colour of their backpacks and tents. This is consistent with backcountry user registration for Kluane National Park.

Hikers were all verbally informed that filing a hiker registration form did not guarantee them search/rescue if they were overdue: Dawson RCMP informed Interpreters that notification by an immediate relative was normally necessary before initiation of search and rescue.

Campground Management

Because Interpreters were present at the campground, they were often requested to perform campground management duties. These requests included:

- giving change for the campground fee box
- accepting campground fees when the box slot was blocked
- providing toilet paper for latrines during heavy-use periods
- asking noisy campers to turn down their radio
- providing split firewood

Not all requests were met (for instance, interpreters declined to handle campground fees), but the fact that they were repeatedly made points to a staffing situation that visitors find confusing.

FIGURE 3**HIKER REGISTRATION FORM
Dempster Interpretive Centre, 1991**Name(s): _____

_____Contact person: _____

Departure date/time: _____

Latest expected return time: _____

Intended hiking route: _____

_____Other notes: _____

Crisis Management

The Dempster Interpretive Centre is the only location between Klondike River Lodge (km.0) and Eagle Plains Lodge where motorists encounter Government representatives whose job is to inform and assist the public. The two Highways camps often appear deserted, and Highways employees are not perceived as sources of information or assistance. For this reason, Dempster Interpretive Centre staff are in the front line for receiving visitor reports of, and responding to, emergencies. This season the crises that tourists reported to Interpreters were:

- an automobile accident involving severe injury
- a poaching incident involving threat of bodily harm to a tourist
- a firearm mishandling incident
- a minor injury (dislocated thumb)
- a vehicle lock-out
- various automotive breakdowns and gas shortages

Since Interpretive Centre staff are not officially perceived as elements in the any emergency response system, no formal protocol has been established for the handling of these or similar incidents. This season, the radio provided to the Centre could reach Highways Tombstone Camp only, so Interpreters lacked effective communication. The lack of such a protocol and adequate communication was of ongoing inconvenience during highway closures caused by the June forest fire and the July road washout, when for several days at a stretch travellers looked to Centre staff for information.

An effective protocol would outline procedures for rapid and effective decision-making, communication, and action in response to emergencies. Agencies that could be consulted for assistance in establishing a protocol include, but are not restricted to, Dawson R.C.M.P., Dawson Nursing Station and Ambulance Service, Dawson Conservation Officers, Tombstone Highways Maintenance Camp, and Forest Service staff.

Tourist Information

A number of travellers requested travel information that is outside the mandate of the Centre to provide: for example, hotel prices and schedules/lists of attractions and services in Inuvik. Centre Interpreters answered these inquiries as fully as possible, with reference to the Centre's shelf collection of tourist information, which was updated with 1991 material.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 General

Hiker Information and Registration

We recommend that the Registration Form be revised by adding spaces to write the additional information outlined in Section 4.0.

Campground Management

We recommend that the Department reconsider the combining of the various contracts into one. The Interpretive Centre Contractor who is on site daily (or one of his/her staff) would then oversee the day to day operation of an integrated service at Tombstone Campground (Interpretive services, hiker information/registration, tourism information, campground registration, campground maintenance).

Crisis Management

We strongly recommend that an emergency protocol be established for Dempster Interpretive Centre staff and that a radio of sufficient power be provided so that staff can communicate with Dawson City authorities in emergency situations.

Radio

We also recommend the provision of an adequate radio so that Interpretive staff could place program advertisements in Dawson as events at the Centre change and make regular reports to Dept. staff.

Vehicle

In 1991, the contractor was required to supply a vehicle for project use. The vehicle was used for a variety of tasks, some of which are not outlined in the Contract Specifications but which are critical to the project's operation. These tasks included:

- travelling the Dempster Highway while conducting Raptor Research and researching venues for Guided Nature Hikes
- transporting heavy loads consisting of large display panels and other Centre equipment such as generator, fuel, cartons of pamphlets, boxes of books (during opening and closing the centre and best accomplished with a 3/4 ton pick-up)
- transporting empty and full propane bottles which must be transported upright in an open pick-up (fuel for the Interpretive Centre and living trailer)
- carrying passengers to and from guided hike locations (it has proven unrealistic for interpreters to deny rides in the project vehicle to interpretive hike participants without vehicles or whose vehicle cannot be used: a substantial number of recreational vehicle drivers are without the use of a vehicle if their companion does not wish to participate in a hike or who do not wish to lose the campsite they have chosen)

We strongly recommend that the Department of Natural Resources provide the project with a 3/4 ton pickup truck preferably a supercab.

Propane

The living trailer is well equipped and both the living and Interpretive trailers are in good repair. However, the arrangements for the delivery of full propane tanks and retrieval of the empties were not well established. The Interpreters should not be responsible for driving to get propane as this is part of the provision of the living accommodation, a responsibility of the Department. The contractor should not have to pay for a 1/2 day in which an Interpreter must go purchase propane and transport it back to the campground. Interpreters should only have to remove an empty cylinder and hook up a full one.

We recommend that a firm arrangement (perhaps a contract with the Klondike River Lodge) be made for propane to be available at all times.

5.2 Recommendations: Interpretive Centre/Events

*Display Development

We recommend that a permanent bear display be developed with some provision for change in a given year and as the season changes.

We recommend that a more extensive permanent display of the ecoregions be developed as this is the most important theme along the Dempster.

We recommend that a 2' X 4' sign be developed with text and photos to be placed above the gyrfalcon/ptarmigan case.

We recommend that the "Raptors" sign outside the Centre be redeveloped to include a list of the 17, the chronology of the Breeding Season, and other notes on raptor natural history.

We recommend that the Birds of the Dempster display be redeveloped, without raptors, to provide information on interesting bird nesting habits, use of habitat and migration.

We recommend that the "Woodland Wildflowers" display be changed to include all the flowers of the Tombstone area (with pressed specimens and using the more complete list we have).

*Brochure Handout Supply/Tourist Information

We recommend that the brochure inventory (List 3) be carefully reviewed in terms of the objectives of the D.I.C. and that a well thought out array of items be developed for the 1992 season.

*Travelogue

We recommend that the travelogue be at least desk-top published into an attractive and informative brochure.

We recommend that as soon as possible, points of interest signs of a uniform format and identity should be developed and placed in visible locations to clearly mark interpretive features relating to the travelogue.

***Library Development**

We recommend that the Interpreter Reference Collection be enhanced with materials on:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| -fire ecology | -tundra and taiga ecology |
| -bear biology and ecology | -wolf ecology (Dempster area) |
| -geology (popular works) | -Human History and Heritage Dempster (area) |

We recommend that the Public/Interpreter Reference Collection should be enhanced with:

Guild, Ben, 1979. The Alaskan Mushroom Hunter's Guide.
Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Publishing Company

Hall, Ed (Editor), 1989. People and Caribou in the Northwest Territories. Yellowknife: Department of Renewable Resources, Govt. of N.W.T.

5.3 Recommendations: Wildlife Monitoring/Raptor Research

We recommend that a ladder be provided for use in checking the nest boxes.

APPENDIX A

**VISITOR RECORD FORMS
Dempster Interpretive Program, 1991**

SEE LARGE RED BINDER

APPENDIX B
GUEST RECORD FORMS
Dempster Interpretive Program, 1991

SEE LARGE RED BINDER

APPENDIX C

WEEKLY SUMMARY REPORTS
Dempster Interpretive Program, 1991

SEE LARGE RED BINDER

APPENDIX D

**EVENT RECORD FORMS
Dempster Interpretive Program, 1991**

SEE LARGE RED BINDER

APPENDIX E

ADVERTISING POSTER
Dempster Interpretive Program, 1991

FINAL REPORT: DEMPSTER INTERPRETIVE CENTRE, 1991
TAIGA RESOURCE CONSULTANTS

Driving the Dempster?



Yukon

Renewable Resources

VISIT THE DEMPSTER HIGHWAY INTERPRETIVE CENTRE – Km 72.5

Featuring: NATURAL AND CULTURAL INTERPRE-
ATION, GUIDED HIKES AND EVENING
CAMPGROUND TALKS

Special Events: VISITING SCIENTISTS,
LOCAL STORYTELLERS, AND MORE

Open: 10 A.M. TO 8 P.M. DAILY

WATCH FOR THE ROVING HIGHWAY NATURALIST

APPENDIX F

**WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS BOARD
Dempster Interpretive Centre, 1991**

WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS BOARD
Dempster Interpretive Centre, 1991

| DATE | SIGHTING | COMMENT |
|---------|--|--|
| June 14 | Brant Pacific loon | pond, east side of highway |
| June 15 | Wolverine Grizzly Dall Sheep Goshawk Caribou Wheatear | pond as above nesting Engineer Creek flying 17 at beginning of pass near campground |
| June 16 | Grizzly Dipper Golden eagle N. wheatear Hoary marmots G.horned owl Merlin Cross fox Grizzly Grizzly, 2 black cubs | grazing and watching people nesting at side of hwy. nesting near hwy. pair near the "pit" during 3 near "pit" atop a spruce near D. turn-off in campground |
| June 17 | Grizzly This blonde grizzly sow June 19 with 2 dark cubs | grazing and sleeping blonde sow, cubs moved away digging by water 100 yds. off remained in the vicinity until and was sighted frequently. |
| June 18 | Lynx Dall sheep Red fox Moose cow, calf | chasing hare 6 at mineral lick swimming the Blackstone |
| June 19 | Wolverine Hare Red fox Grizzly | running Blackstone uplands in campground brush |
| June 20 | Moose cow, 2 calves Peregrine falcons Moose bull Other sightings washed | Eagle Plains |
| June 21 | Caribou | pair flying |
| June 22 | Black bear Red fox Moose: 2 cows, 1 bull | eating plants in marsh off by rain |
| June 23 | Grizzly bear Silver fox Caribou Ptarmigan Moose cow, 2 calves | 2 on ridge north of campground Eagle Plains Lodge cmpgrd. |
| | | Engineer Creek runway pecking just south of cmpgrd. |

WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS BOARD, Cont'd
Dempster Interpretive Centre, 1991

| DATE | SIGHTING | COMMENT |
|---------|--|---|
| June 23 | Grizzly sow, 3 cubs | 3 cubs: 2 blonde, 1 chocolate |
| June 24 | Moose cow, 2 calves | |
| Little | traffic (June 25, 26, 27) forest fire situation | and Board used for Notice of at corner |
| June 27 | Moose bull | on tundra near Jensen's |
| | Moose cow | along alpine stream |
| | Wolf | north of Eagle Plains |
| June 28 | Wolf | Engineer Creek |
| | Moose cow | |
| | Red fox, 2 kits | |
| | Grizzly | |
| | Red fox | |
| | Red fox | |
| June 29 | Moose cow | north of campground |
| | Dall sheep | corner |
| June 30 | Black bear | Engineer Creek |
| | Moose bull | eating garbage out off barrel |
| | Ptarmigan | walking in construction zone |
| | Dall sheep | |
| | Moose cow | |
| | Bald eagle | |
| | Golden eagle | |
| | Spruce grouse | |
| | Moose | Hart River Rd. |
| | Red fox | |
| | Dall sheep | |
| July 1 | Moose bull, cow | just north of cmpgrd. |
| July 2 | Moose | bull, cow, calf in willows |
| | Red throated loon | Chapman Lake |
| | Surf/white-winged | scoters in C. Lake |
| | Bonaparte gulls | " " |
| | Barrows goldeneye | " " |
| July 3 | Grouse | |
| | Hare | |
| | Moose cow, newborn | |
| July 4 | Caribou | |
| | Fox | |
| July 5 | Wolf | |
| | Moose | |
| | Eagle | |
| July 6 | Hoary marmot | |
| | Caribou | |

WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS BOARD, Cont'd
Dempster Interpretive Centre, 1991

| DATE | SIGHTING | COMMENT |
|---------|--|--|
| July 6 | Black bear Grizzly Moose Dall sheep Owls Dall sheep Bald eagle Moose | 2 sited by helicopter 3 " " " 25 " " " 4 " " " |
| July 7 | Gyrfalcon Dall sheep Hoary marmot Red fox Wolf Moose (2) Merlin | km. 353 |
| July 8 | Pouring rain, cold | |
| July 9 | Caribou Marten Eagle Wolf Grizzly Ptarmigan Red fox | brought 3 small birds to feed chicks at site # 8 no sightings reported in pass |
| July 10 | Moose Tundra swans Beaver Lesser yellow legs Sharp shined hawk | 2 seen 3 times at Moose Lake |
| July 11 | Wolves | one with a radio collar |
| July 12 | Red fox Red-throated loon | |
| July 13 | Red fox Grizzly Wolf Moose Moose Grizzly Ptarmigan Lesser yellow legs | young one moving south attacked fish cooler in cmpgrd. Lake near corner blonde sow |
| July 14 | Caribou Hare Black bear, cubs | just north of cmpgrd. |

WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS BOARD, Cont'd
Dempster Interpretive Centre, 1991

| DATE | SIGHTING | COMMENT |
|---------|---|--|
| July 14 | Golden eagle Wolf Red fox Hoary marmots Wheatears Water pipits Ptarmigan | |
| July 15 | No recorded sightings | |
| July 16 | Dall sheep Ptarmigan Porcupine Kestrel Wolf | Engineer creek lick on hwy. |
| July 17 | Owl Moose cow, 2 calves Red-throated loon | Eagle plains killed by truck north of eagle plains flying north crossing hwy. south of Henry's Blackstone uplands |
| July 18 | Red fox Ptarmigan Hare | |
| July 19 | Grizzly Snowy owl | looking for food flying through cmpgrd. |
| July 20 | Moose Grizzly, cubs Red fox | south of Eagle Plains |
| July 21 | Moose Caribou Upland plover Dall sheep | |
| July 22 | Moose cow, calf Smith's longspur Moose bull Red fox | |
| July 23 | Golden eagle Dall sheep Wolf | in willows near sheep lick Chapman Lake |
| July 24 | Ptarmigan Red fox Silver fox Dall sheep Ptarmigan Moose cow Dall sheep Red fox | 5 10, 9 adults, 1 lamb 2 kits |

WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS BOARD, Cont'd
Dempster Interpretive Centre, 1991

| DATE | SIGHTING | COMMENT |
|---------|--|-----------------------------------|
| July 25 | Grizzly, 2 cubs Dall sheep Red fox Bald eagle Wandering tattler Caribou | several km. south of lick area |
| July 26 | Moose Muskrat Jaegers Dall sheep Caribou Ptarmigan Hare Vole Beaver Mink Red fox Gyrfalcon Grizzly | Lake |
| July 27 | Grizzly Dall sheep Golden eagle Bald eagle Peregrine falcon Caribou Hare Wolves | Golden Sides "Pit" immature |
| July 28 | Dall sheep Caribou | pack of 5 |
| July 29 | Grizzly Harlequin ducks Dall sheep Black bear Snowy owl | |
| July 30 | Weasel Red fox Hare | 3 |
| July 31 | Arctic tern Golden eagle Red fox Porcupine Grizzly | 2 |
| | | Engineer Creek |

WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS BOARD, Cont'd
Dempster Interpretive Centre, 1991

| DATE | SIGHTING | COMMENT |
|---------|-----------------------|---|
| Aug. 1 | Very rainy | |
| Aug. 2 | Dall sheep | "Pit" |
| | Moose | 3 |
| | Wolverine | |
| Aug. 3 | Grizzly | |
| | Golden eagle | |
| | Northern harrier | |
| Aug. 4 | Caribou | 4 |
| Aug. 5 | No recorded sightings | |
| Aug. 6 | Red fox | |
| | Dall sheep | at lick |
| Aug. 7 | Wolf | |
| Aug. 8 | Dall sheep | 10 |
| | Caribou | 3 |
| Aug. 9 | Moose cow, calf | across K. River from cmpgrd. |
| Aug. 10 | Caribou | several sightings near cmpgrd. 800 at NWT Border |
| | Cross fox | |
| Aug. 11 | Brown bear | |
| | Grizzly | |
| | Caribou | |
| Aug. 12 | Caribou | |
| | Dall sheep | |
| | Caribou | reported hunting at Border |
| Aug. 13 | Hare | cmpgrd. |
| | Caribou | "Pit" |
| | Moose | |
| Aug. 14 | Moose | tracks |
| Aug. 15 | Wolves | 2 |
| | Otter | |
| | Ptarmigan | 6 |
| | Red fox | |
| | Caribou | |
| Aug. 16 | Bald eagle | Blackstone headwaters |
| | Hare | |
| | Northern harrier | |
| Aug. 17 | Grizzly | Sheep Mountain |
| | Wolverine | " " |
| Aug. 22 | Moose | 2 |
| | Grizzly | |
| | Hoary marmot | in a rock slide |
| | Caribou | |
| | Dall sheep | 2 |

**WILDLIFE SIGHTINGS BOARD, Cont'd
Dempster Interpretive Centre, 1991**

| DATE | SIGHTING | COMMENT |
|---------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Aug. 22 | Coyote | |
| Aug. 23 | Grizzly sow, 2 cubs | on hill across from cmpgrd. |
| Aug. 24 | Caribou | 5 on ridge above berry hill |
| Aug. 25 | Dall sheep | 12 |
| Aug. 27 | Moose cow | browsing in wetlands |
| Aug. 30 | Dall sheep | |
| | Ptarmigan | 2 |
| | Moose cow | ridge above K. River |
| | Muskrat | |
| Sept. 1 | Dall sheep | 11 at lick |
| | Dall sheep | |
| | Golden eagle | |

APPENDIX G

RAPTOR SITE SUMMARIES
Dempster Interpretive Centre, 1991

S E E B L U E B I N D E R

APPENDIX H

**LISTS AND INVENTORIES
Dempster Interpretive Centre, 1991**

**FINAL REPORT: DEMPSTER INTERPRETIVE CENTRE, 1991
TAIGA RESOURCE CONSULTANTS**

LIST 1
INVENTORY OF MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES PURCHASED
Dempster Interpretive Centre, 1991

| | |
|---|---|
| 8 | 3-ring binders |
| 20 | HB pencils |
| 1 box pens | 1 each of blue, black, red |
| 2 | pencils sharpeners |
| 12 | field notebooks |
| package | loose leaf paper recycled fibre |
| 6 | large felt pens (blue, black, red, green) |
| 1 package | erasable board markers |
| 1 package | poster paper |
| 1 roll | velcro strip |
| 1 pair | scissors |
| 1 roll | clear packing tape |
| rolls | scotch tape (invisible) |
| tubes | white paper glue |
| 5 sets | binder dividers and tabs |
| 25 | business size envelopes |
| 1 set | calligraphic pens |
| 1 | 3-hole punch |
| 1 | stapler |
| 4 | erasers (for pencil) |
| 2 | metal rulers (1 foot) |
| 2 boxes | plastic collection bags |
| 1 bag | luggage tag labels |
| assorted kitchen and cleaning supplies (dish soap, scouring pads) | |

LIST 2
PUBLIC REFERENCE LIBRARY INVENTORY
Dempster Interpretive Centre, 1991

FLORA

- Alaska Northwest Publishing Co.- Alaska Wild Berry Guide and Cookbook
- Petrides, G.- Trees and Shrubs (Peterson Field Guide Series)
- Stark, R.- Guide to Indian Herbs
- Trelawny, J.- Wildflowers of the Yukon, Alaska and Northwestern Canada (2 copies)
- Viereck, E.- Alaska's Wilderness Medicines: Healthful plants of the far north
- Vitt, D., J. Marsh and R. Bovey- Mosses, Lichens and Ferns of Northwest North America
- White, M. (ed.)- Alaska/Yukon Wild Flowers Guide
- Underhill, J.- Guide to Western Mushrooms

BIRDS

- Armstrong, R.- Guide to the Birds of Alaska
- Frisch, R.- Birds by the Dempster Highway
- Harrison, H.- A Field Guide to Western Birds' Nests (Peterson Field Guide Series)
- Robbins, C., B. Bruun and H. Zim- Birds of North America: A Guide to Field Identification (Golden Guide)

MAMMALS

- Herrero, S.- Bear Attacks: Their Causes and Avoidance
- Hoefs, M.- Ecological Investigation of a Population of Dall Sheep (Ovis dalli dalli) (In: Syesis, Vol. 12, supplement 1. 1979)
- Murie, O.- Animal Tracks (Peterson Field Guide Series)

LIST 2, cont'd
PUBLIC REFERENCE LIBRARY INVENTORY
Dempster Interpretive Centre, 1991

INSECTS

Tilden, J. and A. Smith- Western Butterflies (Peterson Field Guide Series)

GEOLOGY

Green, L.- Geology of Nash Creek, Larsen Creek and Dawson Map Areas, Yukon Territory (GSC Memoir 364)

Pough, F.- Rocks and Minerals (Peterson Field Guide Series)

GEOGRAPHY

Coutts, R.- Yukon Place Names

Lanz, W.- Along the Dempster: An Outdoor Guide to Canada's Northernmost Highway

Madsen, K. and G. Wilson- Rivers of the Yukon: A Paddling Guide

CULTURE

McClellan, C.- Part of the Land, Part of the Water: A History of the Yukon Indians

GENERAL

Aigner, J. (ed.)- Interior Alaska: A Journey Through Time. (on loan from Jack Schick)

HISTORY

Coates, K.- Canada's Colonies: A History of the Yukon and Northwest Territories

North, D.- The Lost Patrol

North, D.- The Mad Trapper of Rat River

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Herscovici, A.- Second Nature: The Animal Rights Controversy

**LIST 3
INVENTORY OF BROCHURES DISTRIBUTED
Dempster Interpretive Centre, 1991**

Yukon Mammal Series (to give out singly not in sets)
Reports- PCH- Status and Life History (1986)

- Wernecke Herd 1980-1982

Yukoners Views on Renewable Resources Management

The Future of Yukon's Renewable Resources- Discussion Paper
Yukon Conservation Strategy

*Regulations- Fishing 1991

- Hunting Regs. 1991 were not supplied to us ???

*Guide to Fish and Angling

Field Care of Game

Hunting Patterns- 1979-1986

*You Are in Bear Country

*Bear Aware

Bear Facts

No Trace Checklist

*Place Mat of Wildlife

*Yukon Conservation Society- Brochure Set

*Field Checklist of Birds

*Travellers Guide to Yukon Govt. Campgrounds

Road Maps (Yukon)

Herschel Island Territorial Historic Park

* Brochures now in short supply at Centre

LIST 4
INVENTORY OF EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES
Dempster Interpretive Centre, 1991

TOOLS/EQUIPMENT

- pencils sharpeners(2) hand held, crank type pencil sharpener(1)
- scissors (3 pairs)
- plant press
- calligraphic pens, drafting pen set
- 3-hole punch (2)
- stapler (2) and box of staples
- erasers (for pencil)
- metal rulers (1 foot) (2), drafting square
- 2 clipboards
- 60 day organizer calendar
- clock open/closed sign, larger open/closed sign
- artline cutting mat, olfa knife and blades
- drafting table -vinyl covered chair
- 4 bar stools
- mechanical broom, quick broom (electric)
- generator (stored in Whitehorse with J. Schick)
- 2 spotting scopes (stored in Whitehorse with D. Mossop)
- fire extinguisher
- movie screen

SUPPLIES

- HB pencils -assorted ball point pens (blue, black, red)
- large and small flip chart felt pens (blue, black, red, green)
- dry erase board markers
- coloured pencils
- highliter pens
- correction fluid
- poster paints -lettraset/lettrasign
- l.l. paper (3 holed) -poster paper -roll newsprint paper
- velcro strip - tacks and pins
- clear tape, clear plastic adhesive coating, spray coating
- masking tape -photo corners
- scotch tape (invisible) and dispenser
- flagging tape
- fine and coarse twine
- white paper glue, glue stick, spray adhesive
- plastic collection bags
- luggage tag labels (plain brown, coloured)
- assorted kitchen and cleaning supplies (dish soap, scouring pads)
- toilet paper