DIVERSIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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BC OIL AND GAS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SOCIETY BOREAL CARIBOU TELEMETRY PROGRAM

FIXED-WING TELEMETRY MONITORING FLIGHT - JUNE 24-25, 2017

Date: June 30, 2017

Attention: Brian Thomson BC Oil and Gas Research and Innovation Society Victoria, BC

Executive Summary

On June 24-25, 2017, 108 boreal caribou collar frequencies and 14 wolf collar frequencies were scanned during a scheduled fixed-wing telemetry monitoring flight. Thirty unrecovered caribou collars not detected in the past 6 months and assumed to have exceeded their battery lives were not scanned.

Of the 108 caribou collars scanned, 103 were heard transmitting normal VHF signals, one was transmitting a mortality signal (SCEK186), and one was transmitting a double-pulse low-battery signal. The remaining 3 collars were not detected, including 1 VHF collar and 1 GPS/satellite collar believed to have recently exceeded their battery lives and 1 VHF assumed to be beyond detection range in the Northwest Territories.

Background

Between December 17, 2012 and March 31, 2016, 240 individual adult boreal caribou were radio-collared in British Columbia's boreal caribou ranges as part of the *British Columbia Boreal Caribou Implementation Plan* (BCIP). These radio-collars are monitored by fixed-wing telemetry flights conducted at regular intervals throughout the year. Information collected is used to identify caribou mortalities and estimate annual adult female survival rate and population trend.

On June 24-25, 2017, Diversified Environmental Services (DES) conducted a fixed-wing telemetry monitoring flight under contract to the BC Oil and Gas Research and Innovation Society (OGRIS; formerly the *Science and Community Environmental Knowledge Fund* [SCEK]) on behalf of the Research and Effectiveness Monitoring Board (REMB).

Objectives

The objective of the June 24-25, 2017 monitoring flight was to determine the approximate location and VHF beacon status of all boreal caribou and wolf radio-collars believed to be active in BC's boreal caribou ranges. These included caribou and wolf collars deployed on behalf of OGRIS (*hereafter*, SCEK collars), caribou collars deployed on behalf of the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO), and wolf collars deployed for a University of Alberta research program funded by Nexen Inc.

Methods

The monitoring flight was conducted using a Cessna 180 fixed-wing aircraft equipped with 1 outwardfacing directional antenna affixed to each wing strut. Collar frequencies were scanned using LotekTM STR 1000 and Lotek BioTracker telemetry receivers. The flight was conducted at 1,000-1,500 m above ground level at an average speed of 160 km/hr. The VHF beacon status of all detected collars was recorded on hard copy forms. In the case of VHF collars (Lotek LMRT4), status was recorded as either normal (60 pulses per minute [ppm]) or mortality mode (120 ppm), and a location (+/- 1 km) was recorded using a hand-held GPS unit. As GPS/satellite collars are programmed to log multiple daily locations with high precision, additional effort to obtain collar locations after VHF signal detection is not necessary. Therefore, waypoints for GPS/satellite collars were typically recorded at the location from which the collar was heard, with corrections for estimated bearing and distance, unless the VHF beacon status indicated a collar malfunction or mortality, in which case, more precise locations were obtained.

Results

During the June 2017 monitoring flight, 108 caribou collar frequencies were scanned, including 107 SCEK collars (55 Vectronic Vertex and 52 Lotek VHF) and 1 previously-deployed MFLNRO VHF collar. Thirty unrecovered collars assumed to have exceeded their battery lives were not scanned. In addition, 14 wolf collar frequencies were scanned during the flight, including 11 SCEK wolf collars (7 Lotek Iridium, 4 Lotek VHF) and 3 University of Alberta/Nexen collars (Lotek Iridium). Several unrecovered SCEK Iridium wolf collars assumed to have exceeded their battery lives were not scanned.

Results of the June 24-25, 2017 monitoring flight are presented in Table 1. Flight paths searched within and adjacent to each boreal caribou core habitat area are shown in Figure 1. Total flight line distance was 2,151 km. Of 108 caribou collar frequencies scanned, 103 were transmitting normal VHF signals, one was transmitting a double-pulse low-battery signal (Chinchaga GPS SCEK170b), and one was transmitting a mortality signal (Kotcho GPS SCEK170b). GPS data received subsequent to the June flight confirmed the suspected mortality of this animal.

VHF beacons of the remaining 3 caribou collars were not detected. These included one VHF collar suspected to have recently failed (Fortune VHF SCEK086), one GPS/Satellite collar suspected to have recently failed (Parker GPS SCEK238), and one VHF collar most recently located well into the Northwest Territories (Calendar VHF SCEK125).

Of the 14 wolf collar frequencies scanned during the June 2017 flight, only one normal VHF signal was detected. The remaining 13 wolf collars were not detected. These include 9 GPS/satellite collars whose GPS data transmissions ceased prior to the June monitoring flight and one that continues to transmit GPS data (BW038, Elleh Pack). No wolf mortality signals were detected.

There were no opportunities for First Nations field assistance on this monitoring flight.

Cordially,

Brad Culling, R.P. Bio Diversified Environmental Services Fort St. John, BC

ID	Species	Range	Core	Collar Type	Status	Date	Zone	East	North	Comments
SCEK112	Caribou	Calendar	Calendar	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/25/2017	10	633941	6639407	normal
SCEK113	Caribou	Calendar	Calendar	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/25/2017	10	621127	6618960	normal
SCEK120	Caribou	Calendar	Calendar	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/25/2017	10	596272	6636528	normal
SCEK122	Caribou	Calendar	Calendar	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/25/2017	10	617276	6677589	normal
SCEK123	Caribou	Calendar	Calendar	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/25/2017	10	602322	6625553	normal
SCEK125	Caribou	Calendar	Calendar	Lotek VHF	not heard	6/25/2017	10	n/a	n/a	VHF signal not detected; last heard in NWT
SCEK134	Caribou	Calendar	Calendar	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/25/2017	10	621238	6638595	normal
SCEK136b	Caribou	Calendar	Calendar	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/25/2017	10	611736	6609986	normal
SCEK137	Caribou	Calendar	Calendar	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/25/2017	10	625905	6644729	normal
SCEK146b	Caribou	Calendar	Calendar	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/25/2017	10	608051	6638967	normal
SCEK180	Caribou	Calendar	Calendar	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/25/2017	10	606167	6670922	normal
SCEK181b	Caribou	Calendar	Calendar	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/25/2017	10	613102	6611952	normal
SCEK183	Caribou	Calendar	Calendar	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/25/2017	10	595096	6626823	normal
SCEK126b	Caribou	Calendar	RRA-C	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/25/2017	10	593295	6654760	normal
SCEK107	Caribou	Calendar	RRA-D	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/25/2017	10	618972	6640821	normal
SCEK195	Caribou	Chinchaga	Etthithun	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	650260	6409033	normal
SCEK224	Caribou	Chinchaga	Etthithun	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	639302	6414246	normal
SCEK026b	Caribou	Chinchaga	Milligan	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	663008	6299407	normal
SCEK029	Caribou	Chinchaga	Milligan	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	648400	6329659	normal
SCEK032	Caribou	Chinchaga	Milligan	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	658025	6366205	normal
SCEK033b	Caribou	Chinchaga	Milligan	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	635194	6343759	normal
SCEK035	Caribou	Chinchaga	Milligan	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	625044	6360224	normal
SCEK036b	Caribou	Chinchaga	Milligan	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	616067	6367561	normal
SCEK041	Caribou	Chinchaga	Milligan	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	645862	6360122	normal
SCEK054	Caribou	Chinchaga	Milligan	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	647447	6348116	normal
SCEK057	Caribou	Chinchaga	Milligan	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	645505	6324600	normal
SCEK059	Caribou	Chinchaga	Milligan	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	623483	6344589	normal
SCEK060	Caribou	Chinchaga	Milligan	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	581240	6364559	normal
SCEK061	Caribou	Chinchaga	Milligan	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	661706	6339882	normal
SCEK196	Caribou	Chinchaga	Milligan	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	627935	6353516	normal
SCEK198	Caribou	Chinchaga	Milligan	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	641780	6304360	normal
SCEK201	Caribou	Chinchaga	Milligan	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	663973	6290280	normal
SCEK223	Caribou	Chinchaga	Milligan	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	638371	6332148	normal
SCEK226	Caribou	Chinchaga	Milligan	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	669947	6300103	normal
SCEK048	Caribou	Chinchaga	RRA-A	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	601537	6424902	normal
SCEK170b	Caribou	Chinchaga	RRA-A	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm double	6/24/2017	10	650027	6453520	double pulse
SCEK189	Caribou	Chinchaga	RRA-A	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	607811	6450909	normal
SCEK213	Caribou	Chinchaga	RRA-A	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	605882	6447006	normal
SCEK214	Caribou	Chinchaga	RRA-A	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	605581	6448784	normal
SCEK215	Caribou	Chinchaga	RRA-A	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	640252	6438637	normal
SCEK009b	Caribou	Fort Nelson	Fort Nelson	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	517320	6553407	normal
SCEK166	Caribou	Fort Nelson	Fort Nelson	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	518890	6545629	normal
SCEK007b	Caribou	Maxhamish	Capot-Blanc	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	449968	6538682	normal
SCEK066b	Caribou	Maxhamish	Capot-Blanc	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	451592	6564575	normal
SCEK076	Caribou	Maxhamish	Capot-Blanc	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	456016	6584410	normal

Table 1. VHF signal status and locatio	on of boreal caribou and wolf collars det	tected during the June 24-25, 2017OC	SRIS fixed-wing telemetry monitoring flight.

ID	Species	Range	Core	Collar Type	Status	Date	Zone	East	North	Comments
SCEK086	Caribou	Maxhamish	Fortune	Lotek VHF	not heard	6/24/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	VHF signal not detected
SCEK128	Caribou	Maxhamish	Fortune	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	523788	6630790	normal
SCEK129	Caribou	Maxhamish	Fortune	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	535345	6631553	normal
SCEK164	Caribou	Maxhamish	Fortune	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	536876	6626130	normal
SCEK177	Caribou	Maxhamish	Fortune	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	527901	6633719	normal
SCEK178	Caribou	Maxhamish	Fortune	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	539726	6625121	normal
SCEK205	Caribou	Maxhamish	Fortune	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	543543	6627243	normal
SCEK206	Caribou	Maxhamish	Fortune	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	540278	6626376	normal
SCEK208	Caribou	Maxhamish	Fortune	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	486496	6629243	normal
SCEK221	Caribou	Maxhamish	Fortune	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	533676	6630092	normal
SCEK062	Caribou	Maxhamish	Kiwigana	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	527610	6570228	normal
SCEK064	Caribou	Maxhamish	Kiwigana	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	516981	6577751	normal
SCEK168	Caribou	Maxhamish	Kiwigana	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	549820	6561705	normal
SCEK211	Caribou	Maxhamish	Kiwigana	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	523185	6566898	normal
SCEK231	Caribou	Maxhamish	Kiwigana	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	525404	6572063	normal
SCEK232	Caribou	Maxhamish	Kiwigana	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	522447	6565895	normal VHF; GPS data sporadic; last June 01
SCEK015	Caribou	Parker	Parker	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	492308	6521287	normal
SCEK016b	Caribou	Parker	Parker	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	478419	6511834	normal
SCEK194	Caribou	Parker	Parker	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	487424	6522917	normal
SCEK238	Caribou	Parker	Parker	Vectr-Vertex	not heard	6/24/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	VHF signal not detected; last data Apr 05, 17
SCEK049	Caribou	Prophet	Prophet	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	552212	6448300	normal
SCEK161b	Caribou	Prophet	Prophet	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	596174	6434196	normal
SCEK217	Caribou	Prophet	Prophet	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	556701	6449244	normal
SCEK019	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Clarke	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	569017	6506542	normal
SCEK020b	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Clarke	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	588385	6487091	normal
SCEK024	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Clarke	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	573332	6498026	normal
SCEK025	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Clarke	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	552877	6494260	normal
SCEK068	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Clarke	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	563421	6539439	normal
SCEK070	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Clarke	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	569677	6500840	normal
SCEK145	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Clarke	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/25/2017	10	593335	6548872	normal
SCEK148	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Clarke	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	589956	6447964	normal
SCEK149	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Clarke	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	567984	6499579	normal
SCEK150	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Clarke	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	596932	6481483	normal
SCEK152	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Clarke	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	560437	6498165	normal
SCEK156	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Clarke	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	536263	6498393	normal
SCEK157	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Clarke	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	574276	6502288	normal
SCEK193	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Clarke	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	565034	6504608	normal
SCEK218	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Clarke	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	555751	6543045	normal
SCEK220	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Clarke	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	604471	6480582	normal
SCEK239	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Clarke	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	545356	6493186	normal
SCEK240	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Clarke	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	565499	6494159	normal
SCEK103	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	East Kotcho	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/25/2017	10	635507	6561638	normal
SCEK105	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	East Kotcho	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/25/2017	10	640209	6576683	normal
SCEK088	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	North Kotcho	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/25/2017	10	629682	6556727	normal
SCEK089	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	North Kotcho	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/25/2017	10	606580	6590960	normal

Table 1 cont.	VHF signal status and 1	ocation of boreal caribou	and wolf collars de	tected during the June	24-25, 2017 OGRIS	fixed-wing telemetry	monitoring flight.

ID	Species	Range	Core	Collar Type	Status	Date	Zone	East	North	Comments	
SCEK090	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	North Kotcho	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/25/2017	10	n/a	n/a	normal; heard but not located.	
SCEK092	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	North Kotcho	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/25/2017	10	604732	6589237	normal	
SCEK097b	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	North Kotcho	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/25/2017	10	598765	6583739	normal	
SCEK100b	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	North Kotcho	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/25/2017	10	640320	6572373	normal	
SCEK186	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	North Kotcho	Vectr-Vertex	84 ppm	6/25/2017	10	597819	6569639	MORTALITY	
SCEK229	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	North Kotcho	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/25/2017	10	607413	6574141	normal	
SCEK230	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	North Kotcho	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/25/2017	10	584470	6592054	normal	
SCEK096	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Paradise	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	557537	6537617	normal	
BC1028	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Tsea	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	554194	6603844	normal	
SCEK079b	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Tsea	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	529848	6599214	normal	
SCEK082	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Tsea	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	555298	6601742	normal	
SCEK127	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Tsea	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	562515	6606260	normal	
SCEK131	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Tsea	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	555193	6596819	normal	
SCEK132	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Tsea	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	554932	6594796	normal	
SCEK233	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	Tsea	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	554815	6600637	normal	
SCEK091	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	West Kotcho	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/25/2017	10	604618	6581245	normal	
SCEK209	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	West Kotcho	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	512693	6575824	normal	
SCEK219	Caribou	Snake-Sahtaneh	West Kotcho	Vectr-Vertex	42 ppm	6/24/2017	10	561783	6608751	normal	
BW034	Wolf	Calendar	July	Lotek VHF	not heard	6/25/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	VHF not detected	
BW043nex	Wolf	Calendar	July	Lotek Iridium	not heard	6/25/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	VHF not detected; last data June 14, 16	
BW044nex	Wolf	Calendar	July	Lotek Iridium	not heard	6/25/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	VHF not detected; last data Apr 10, 16	
BW002	Wolf	Chinchaga	Big Arrow	Lotek VHF	60 ppm	6/24/2017	10	621596	6358914	normal	
BW053	Wolf	Chinchaga	Kahntah	Lotek Iridium	not heard	6/24/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	VHF not detected; no data since May 14, 17	
BW038	Wolf	Clarke	Elleh	Lotek Iridium	not heard	6/24/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	VHF not detected; GPS data normal	
BW039	Wolf	Clarke	Elleh	Lotek Iridium	not heard	6/24/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	VHF not detected; last GPS data Sep 29, 16	
BW040	Wolf	Clarke	Elleh	Lotek Iridium	not heard	6/24/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	VHF not detected; last GPS data Feb 13, 17	
BW032	Wolf	Fortune/Tsea	Petitot	Lotek VHF	not heard	6/24/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	VHF not detected	
BW049nex	Wolf	Fortune/Tsea	Petitot	Lotek Iridium	not heard	6/24/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	VHF not detected; last data Dec 22, 16	
BW036	Wolf	Maxhamish	Fortune	Lotek Iridium	not heard	6/24/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	VHF not detected; last GPS data Jan 20, 16	
BW024	Wolf	Snake-Sahtaneh	Kwokullie	Lotek Iridium	not heard	6/25/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	VHF not detected; last data Nov 17, 16	
BW026	Wolf	Snake-Sahtaneh	Kwokullie	Lotek VHF	not heard	6/25/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	VHF not detected	
BW052	Wolf	Snake-Sahtaneh	Kwokullie	Lotek Iridium	not heard	6/25/2017	n/a	n/a	n/a	VHF not detected; last data Nov 24, 16	

Table 1 cont. VHF signal status and location of boreal caribou and wolf collars detected during the June 24-25, 2017 OGRIS fixed-wing telemetry monitoring flight.

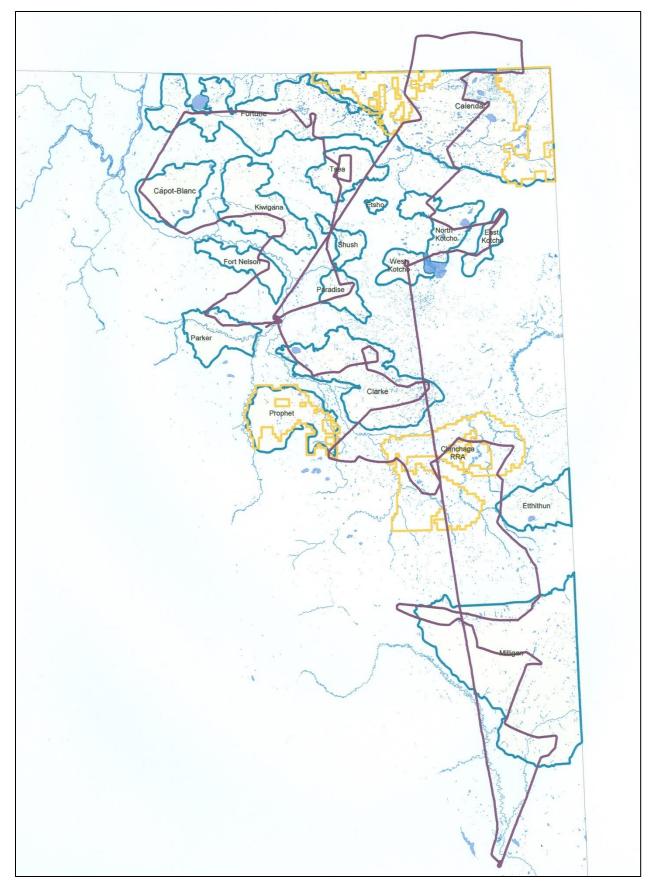


Figure 1. Flight paths flown during the June 24-25, 2017 OGRIS boreal caribou and wolf fixed-wing telemetry monitoring flight.