

December 1, 2025

Mr. Joseph Judas, Chair
Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board
4504 49TH AVENUE
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 1A7
jjudas@wrrb.ca

Dear: Mr. Judas,

Diga (Wolf) Management Action Extension

The Tłıchǫ Government (TG) considers continuing diga harvesting an important contribution to supporting the recovery of Sahtì (Bluenose-East) and Kòk'èetì (Bathurst) ekwò. For the 2025 winter harvesting season, TG submitted a one-year Management Proposal for Community-Based Diga Harvest, which was subsequently approved by the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB).

The Management Proposal for Community-Based Diga Harvest is set to expire on January 1, 2026. To continue implementing the program for this coming winter, TG is requesting to extend the implementation of the Management Proposal for Diga until June 1, 2026.

TG held a Caribou Gathering in May 2025; delegates at that gathering included Tłıchǫ elders and harvesters who recommended to continue implementing the Community-Based Diga Harvesting Program. Considering that TG has been implementing this program for six years, a concern was that if we stop harvesting diga now their numbers would increase as diga population reproduces rapidly. Also, the Community-Based Diga Harvest Program provides a key opportunity for Tłıchǫ to develop diga hunting and trapping skills and teach younger harvesters.

TG has taken a lead role to help in the recovery of the ekwò herds that we rely on, including diga harvesting over the last six years. Actions to reduce the number of diga on the winter ranges of the Sahtì (Bluenose-East) and Kòk'èetì (Bathurst) ekwò, combined with ongoing harvest restrictions, are aimed to improve ekwò survival and promote recovery for both herds. The proposed goal of TG's Community-Based Diga Harvest Program is to annually reduce the number of diga on the winter ranges of Sahtì and Kòk'èetì ekwò herds. Throughout the six years of running the Diga Harvesting Program, we have harvested a total of 126 diga (Table 1). The GNWT-ECC and TG plan on submitting Joint Management Proposals for the two herds in later in 2026, prior to the submission TG plans to consult with the Tłıchǫ communities to identify priority objectives that will help the recovery of the herds. TG will include in the Joint Management Proposals to continue their Community-Based Diga Harvest Program in the Joint Management Proposals for the Sahtì (Bluenose-East) and Kòk'èetì (Bathurst) ekwò if the Tłıchǫ elders and harvesters advise to do so. Hence, the request to extend this current proposal for 6-months.

Table 1 shows Tłıchǵ efforts in harvesting dıǵa, 2019 - 2025.

	# of Field Days	# of Hunters	Days Spent Hunting	Distance Travelled	Harvested Dıǵa
Year 1 – 2019/20	49	19	37	4484	3
Year 2 – 2020/21	66	15*	49	3839	32
Year 3 – 2021/22	31	12	21	3951	9
Year 4 – 2022/23	29	9	19	3778	15
Year 5 – 2023/24	17	8	17	5856	29
Year 6 – 2024/25	29	7	23	6384	38
Total					126

*affected by the COVID-19 outbreak

Continuing Traditional Dıǵa Harvesting Practices

For the upcoming winter season (January to April 2026), TG plans to continue the Dıǵa Harvesting program activities, focusing on the area around Mackay Lake. These efforts align with the cultural importance of maintaining the balance between dıǵa and ekwǵ, ensuring that the herds can thrive for future generations. As part of this initiative:

- We will apply traditional tracking methods to identify dıǵa activity around Wekweèti, and if there are available harvesters, we will make effort to hunt in that area for dıǵa
- A team of 3-4 hunters will be based on Mackay Lake and will apply traditional tracking methods to identify dıǵa activity as well as use the knowledge from the ekwǵ hunters.
 - The crew will continue harvesting efforts for 7-10 days.
 - If harvesting is successful, we will send out a second crew for another 7-10 days.
 - Harvesting techniques used will be based on shooting with a rifle.
 - The hunters will be lodged at the True North Safaris Lodge.
 - Hunting efforts will be made by day trips from the lodge.

Concluding remarks

TG remains committed to working together with all co-management partners across the NWT and Nunavut to support recovery of the ekwǵ herds. TG will continue to share updates about our Management Actions with co-management partners, and to the WRRB after the upcoming winter harvesting season

TG thanks the WRRB for their on-going commitment to co-management and look forward to receiving the Board's response and recommendation.

Sincerely,



Brett Wheler

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