

December 21, 2009

Kerri Garner  
Lands Regulator, Lands Protection  
Tłı̨cho Government  
Box 412  
Rae-Edzo, NT X0E 0Y0

**RE: Bear Baiting Operation – True North Safaris Ltd. (NS2010GWP001)**

Environment & Natural Resources (ENR) North Slave Regional Office would like to thank you for your letter dated November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and subsequent email dated November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 that gave clarification. In order to make our final Preliminary Screening (PS) decision, we have conducted an assessment of the activity by analyzing concerns with respect to the General Wildlife Permit application.

**1. *Assessment of other bear baiting occurring in the territory.***

- No other bear baiting operations occurring in the NWT.

**2. *Short and long term implications of bear baiting and hunting on black bear populations in the NWT.***

- ENR will be conducting a literature review as a background for the Black Bear Management Plan, which will include information of short and long term implications of baiting/hunting and monitoring. ENR will share the report with the Tłı̨cho Government.

**3. *Public Safety Concerns as well as safety of guides and sport hunters.***

- ENR has prepared a draft set of terms and conditions. ENR feels that the concerns Tłı̨cho Government has provided can be mitigated within the proposed terms & conditions of the permit.

***The Permittee shall*** ensure that bait stations are not established within 500m of any parks, Highway #3, public roads (including Lac La Martre Old Winter Road), trails, camps, buildings, commercial

wood cutting areas, leased lands or private lands (including Tli Cho Lands) or other areas of known human activity.

***The Permittee shall*** ensure that each bait station is approved by a Renewable Resource Officer as directed by the Regional Superintendent.

***The Permittee shall*** ensure that each bait station has posted a readily visible warning signs made of durable material that is not less than 8" x 12" on which clearly and legibly states the following information:

1. WARNING! Bear Bait Station in the vicinity
2. Permit #: (GW \_\_\_\_\_)
3. Contact: (Outfitter's Number)...for more information

***The Permittee shall*** ensure that each bait site is posted with signs on all approaches to the site that warn other people of the presence of the bait site.

***The Permittee shall*** post signs within 200m of the bait sites, but no closer than 100m.

***The Permittee shall*** maintain a record of information for the following:

1. What baits were used at each bait station
2. Number, location, sex, age class of bears harvested
3. Carcass (not used for bait) disposal that is at least 1000m from any human activity.

And provide the record of information to the ENR North Slave Regional Office by July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**4. *Concern of increased activity along highway corridors.***

- No new access created for this activity.

**5. *Mitigation strategies for potentially orphaned bear cubs.***

- ENR feels that the concern can be mitigated within the proposed terms & conditions of the permit.

***The Permittee shall*** harvest male bears only.

**6. Human habituation of bears due to the use of bait overall.**

- ENR feels that the concern can be mitigated within the proposed terms & conditions of the permit.

**The Permittee shall** ensure that the bait consists only of unprocessed fats and meat, oats, corn, fish and fish parts and other natural foods normally found in the nature of the surrounding area, North Slave Region.

**7. ENR and WRRB staffing and resources to monitor and enforce this potentially increasing industry.**

- Both ENR and WRRB will be involved with the inspections.

**8. Overall implication for ENR policy on wildlife baiting.**

- The proposed activity is allowed under the Wildlife Act if the proper permits for a General Wildlife Permit are obtained.

**9. Agreement on source of bear bait used by WRRB and with the support of Tłıcho Government.**

- ENR feels that the concern can be mitigated within the proposed terms & conditions of the permit.

**The Permittee shall** ensure that the bait consists only of unprocessed fats and meat, oats, corn, fish and fish parts and other natural foods normally found in the nature of the surrounding area, North Slave Region.

As per Section 126(2c) of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA), the Tłıcho Government, in the case of a development to be carried out wholly or partly in the part of Monfi Gogha De Niitlee in the Northwest Territories or a development that might have an impact on the environment in that part, has the ability to refer to an EA.

ENR has completed an assessment and determined that the application for a General Wildlife Permit to bait black bears, not be referred to an Environmental Assessment (EA) as per Section 126 (2a), as the development of a Black Bear Management Plan and the proposed Terms & Conditions will mitigate these concerns.

As per Section 126(3) of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA), the decision and reasons for the decision will be sent to the Mackenzie Valley

Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) for their review and to make a decision as to whether it should be referred to EA on its own motion.

After MVEIRB has completed their review and if it is determined that the application will not be referred to an EA, a management proposal will be sent to the Wek' èehzìi Renewable Resource Board (WRRB), by January 2010. A final decision about issuing a permit will be made by the Superintendent under the Wildlife Act.

If you have questions or concerns please contact Sarah True, Regional Environmental Assessment Coordinator, North Slave Regional Office at (867) 873-7443 or email [sarah\\_true@gov.nt.ca](mailto:sarah_true@gov.nt.ca).

Sincerely,

Lance Schmidt  
North Slave Regional Superintendent  
Environment & Natural Resources

CC.  
Gary Jaeb  
True North Safaris Ltd.

Vern Christensen  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB)