



VIA EMAIL

March 17, 2011

Grant Pryznyk, Interim Chair
Wek'èezhii Renewable Resource Board
Suite 102A, 4504 49th Ave.
Yellowknife, NT
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Dear Mr. Pryznyk:

RE: Joint Response - Recommendations Report on the Revised Joint Proposal

The Department of Environment & Natural Resources (ENR) and the Tł'cho Government (TG) received your letter dated January 28, 2011 regarding your request for further clarification on the ENR/TG joint response submitted to the WRRB on January 14th, 2011.

Please see the following responses to your requests:

• Implementation Plan

"The WRRB believes that it is imperative that the implementation plan be completed and implemented as soon as possible as harvesting is already ongoing in Wek'èezhii."

- The second draft of the implementation plan has been distributed to the Barrenground Technical Working Group (BGTWG). A sub-committee has been developed and will have a third draft ready for the BGTWG to review by March 31, 2011. The final Implementation plan will be ready for the Board by April 4, 2011.
- The BGTWG would like to remind everyone that caribou monitors were trained early December 2010 and that harvest has been monitored since then at the community level.

• Reinstatement of outfitted and resident harvesting within Wek'èezhii.

"The Board feels that this information will be important to discussions regarding the long term management of the Bathurst herd. Therefore , to provide direction and guidance for the management plan, ENR and TG should make public their position on this matter, Additionally, The WRRB requests clarification on the timeline for preparation and completion of this management plan and the anticipated process for stakeholder involvement."

- ENR and TG are very sensitive to outfitter and residents concerns surrounding the reinstatement of harvesting. Arriving at a long term harvest management approach accepted by all groups that have hunted the Bathurst herd will likely take some time, thus ENR and TG suggest that the reinstatement for outfitter and resident harvesting is best planned as a longer-term, multi-stakeholder Bathurst herd plan that is more comprehensive.

Assessment and revision of management actions

"While management actions, such as land use management, are longer term items which can be addressed in the management plan, shorter term actions, such as evaluation of the harvest monitoring program, should be addressed by the Technical Working Group as soon as possible."

- The Barrenground Technical Working Group (BGTWG) has been established and has developed a Terms of Reference and are holding bi-weekly meetings. An Implementation Plan is being developed which will incorporate the monitoring activities as described in the revised Joint Proposal from ENR/TG (Table 4, Pg. 21). Harvest data has already been collected by ENR/TG and provided to the WRRB. This process will continue in the future.

Harvest ratio of 85 bulls:15 cows

"...ENR and TG take all necessary measures, up to and including closure of all harvest, to not exceed the total cow target for the Bathurst herd."

- ENR/TG both agree with this statement and are already taking the appropriate measures to not exceed the cow target for the Bathurst caribou herd.

No harvester assistance and/or incentives provided to access caribou herds

"...ENR and TG take all necessary measures to monitor caribou harvest in adjacent herds."

- ENR/TG both agree with this statement and are already taking the appropriate measure to monitor caribou harvest on the adjacent herds.

Caribou harvest monitoring actions

"The WRRB requests clarification that the community based program identified in the response to Recommendation 40 will be developed and implemented under the Tlicho Knowledge Research and Monitoring Program or will it be a separately managed program."

- The Community based program described in response to recommendation 40 will be developed and implemented under the Tlicho Knowledge Research and Monitoring Program, not as a separate program.

Best Practices for mitigating effects on caribou

"...to provide direction and guidance for the management plan, ENR and TG, in discussion with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Nunavut, should begin identifying best practices as soon possible."

- As per the Framework for Action 2008-2012, Initiatives 4.3 Best Management Practices, Standards and Guidelines and 4.4 Managing Shared Wildlife Populations, ENR have already identified and committed to Action Items that relate to best management practices. (See Attached).

Land use plan for Wek'èezhìi

"Board...further recommends TG and ENR initiate discussions with Canada regarding land use planning for Wek'èezhìi, including the development of thresholds for industrial activity on barren-ground caribou range."

- Environment and Natural Resources and the Tlicho Government appreciate the WRRB's recommendation to initiate discussions with Canada regarding Land Use Planning for Wek'èezhìi. The Tlicho Government and Environment and

Natural Resources agree that Land Use Planning is an important component of renewable resource management in Wek'èezhii. Sections 22.5.1 and 22.5.3 of the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement offers two separate mechanisms for initiating Land Use Planning for Wek'èezhii. Both mechanisms will require the participation of the Tłı̨chǫ Government in the development of the plan. Currently the Tłı̨chǫ Government is undergoing a Land Use Planning Process for Tłı̨chǫ Lands as per section 22.5.2 of the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement. The Tłı̨chǫ Government would like to complete this process prior to beginning Land Use Planning for Wek'èezhii. Given the Tłı̨chǫ Governments wish to complete its Land Use Plan before beginning Land Use Planning for Wek'èezhii, Environment and Natural Resources feels that it would be inappropriate at this time to begin discussions with Canada on Land Use Planning for the Wek'èezhii.

Management proposal for wood bison

“...WRRB requests clarification on the timeline for preparation and completion of this management plan and the anticipated process for stakeholder involvement.”

- Through a co-management process, ENR has made a commitment to be a partner in the development of a 10-year management plan for each of the NWT wood bison populations. A joint proposal with other stakeholders will be submitted to the WRRB by the winter of 2010. Consultation will be determined through this process.

Please contact Roger Fraser, A/Superintendent, North Slave Region, ENR at (867) 920-6456 or email: roger_fraser@gov.nt.ca, or Mark Fenwick, Acting Lands Director, Lands Protection Department, Tłı̨chǫ Government at (867) 392-6381 Ext 301 or by email: markfenwick@tlicho.com, if you have additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Roger Fraser, A/Superintendent,
North Slave Region
Environment and Natural Resources



Mark Fenwick, Acting Director
Lands Protection
Tlicho Government