



## WILDLIFE RESEARCH PERMIT APPLICATION FORM

If you are researching, observing, and/or handling wildlife in the Northwest Territories (NWT) you need to have the proper permits and licences. This applies to everyone, including government agencies, and is intended to avoid harm to NWT natural, social and cultural environments.

Your application must include:

- ✓ Cover letter, which includes:
  - Project title
  - One-line summary
  - Wildlife species that will be studied, observed or manipulated
  - Location of study area
  - Signature and contact information
- ✓ Completed permit application
- ✓ Signed recommendation form(s)
- ✓ Supporting notes and correspondence detailing consultation process

For further instructions and how to submit your application, go to: [www.ecc.gov.nt.ca](http://www.ecc.gov.nt.ca). If more space is required, please attach additional pages.

## FORMULAIRE DE DEMANDE DE LICENCE AUTORISANT LA RECHERCHE SUR LA FAUNE

Si vous faites des recherches sur la faune, de l'observation ou de la manipulation d'animaux de la faune aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest (TNO), vous devez détenir les licences et les permis appropriés. Cette mesure s'applique à tout le monde, y compris aux organismes gouvernementaux, et vise à éviter les dommages qui pourraient être causés aux milieux naturels, sociaux et culturels des TNO.

Votre demande doit comprendre :

- ✓ Une lettre de présentation indiquant :
  - Le titre du projet;
  - Un résumé d'une ligne;
  - Les espèces sauvages qui seront étudiées, observées ou manipulées;
  - L'emplacement de la zone d'étude;
  - Votre signature et vos coordonnées.
- ✓ La demande de licence dûment remplie.
- ✓ Le(s) formulaire(s) de recommandation signé(s).
- ✓ Les pièces justificatives et la correspondance décrivant en détail le processus de consultation.

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements sur la façon de présenter votre demande, accédez au site Web suivant : [www.ecc.gov.nt.ca/fr](http://www.ecc.gov.nt.ca/fr). Si vous avez besoin de plus d'espace, veuillez ajouter les pages nécessaires.

Check One / Cochez une seule réponse :  New Project / Nouveau projet  Ongoing Project / Projet en cours

Address: (Include name, phone number and e-mail)

Adresse : (Inclure votre nom, numéro de téléphone et adresse courriel)

Judy Williams and Brad Woodworth

P.O. Box 1320

Yellowknife, NT. X1A 2L9 [Judy\\_Williams@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Judy_Williams@gov.nt.ca) (867) 767-9237 Ext 53224

Sponsor(s): (Organizations supporting your work)

Commanditaire(s) : (organismes qui soutiennent votre travail)

GNWT, Environment and Climate Change, Wildlife Division

Funding Source(s): (Organizations providing financial help to work)

Source(s) de financement : (organismes qui vous apportent une aide financière)

GNWT, Environment and Climate Change, Wildlife Division

Additional Licences Required:

Licences supplémentaires requises :

NWT Wildlife Care Committee Permit for capture/collaring caribou.

Project Title: (10 words or less)

Titre du projet : (10 mots ou moins)

Collaring of Bathurst barren-ground caribou in fall (October) using net-gun captures

Rationale: (100 words or less)

Explication : (100 mots ou moins)

A number of monitoring actions are undertaken for barren-ground caribou herds in the North Slave region on an annual basis or at regular intervals to assess herd status and the effectiveness of management actions. In 2019 the Tłı̨chǫ Government (TG) and Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Environment and Climate Change (GNWT-ECC) proposed closer monitoring of the Bathurst herd given the large continuing decline found in the 2018 calving ground photo survey. The Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) approved the proposed monitoring. The increased monitoring included increasing the collar numbers to a maximum of 70 (50 cows, 20 bulls). Adequate numbers of collared Bathurst caribou are essential to implementing the mobile no-harvest zone in the winter as the zone is entirely defined by locations of Bathurst collared caribou. The collared caribou are also key to monitoring survival rates of adult caribou and to monitoring fidelity of Bathurst caribou to their calving ground; since 2018 collared Bathurst cows have shown high one-directional movements to the Beverly herd's distribution in June and this is a continuing concern for the herd's future. Collared caribou are the only way of tracking movement between herds.

Aerial net-gunning has been the standard method in the NWT for capturing barren-ground caribou for collaring and typically takes place in March when snow conditions, temperatures and hours of daylight are conducive to successful captures. However, in recent years (since about 2018), mixing of three barren-ground caribou herds on the winter range (Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Beverly) has created challenges for targeting particular herds for collar placement. This is particularly true for collaring Bathurst caribou due to extensive overlap with the much larger Beverly and Bluenose-East herds. The Beverly herd outnumbers the Bathurst herd by about 15:1 based on herd estimates of 6,800 Bathurst caribou in 2022 and 103,000 Beverly caribou in 2018. Based on the 2023 estimate of the Bluenose-East herd of 39,500, this herd outnumbers the Bathurst by about 6:1. Attempted captures of additional Bathurst caribou have largely resulted in greater numbers of Beverly and Bluenose-East collared caribou.

The number of collars on the Bathurst herd was below 30 as of March 2024. A further 35 collars were placed in March 2024 (25 females and 10 males), all targeting the Bathurst herd in areas having predominantly existing Bathurst collars. However, based on June (females) and July (males) locations of newly collared caribou, just 6 of the 25 females and none of the 10 males turned out to be Bathurst caribou. The remainder were found to be Bluenose-East caribou. As of September 1, there were 18 active Bathurst female collars and 6 males, well below the herd target of 50 female collars and 20 male collars.

An effort was made in July 2024 to position a GNWT-ECC field crew with boats at Contwoyto Lake to attempt to capture Bathurst caribou crossing the lake. Experience in recent years has shown that Bathurst, Beverly and Bluenose-East collared caribou are most likely to be separate in June and July, with mixing usually beginning in the fall or early winter. Previous experience in NWT, Nunavut and Alaska had shown that caribou captures at lakes or large rivers could be carried out with minimal stress to the caribou. Contwoyto Lake has been the heart of the Bathurst herd's summer range for many years, both when the herd was still much larger in the 1990s and in recent years (since 2018). Unfortunately, the existing Bathurst collared caribou were not within reach of the field crew and no collars were placed during this field operation.

As the attempts to collar Bathurst caribou in March and July 2024 had limited success, GNWT-ECC is proposing to capture Bathurst caribou in Fall 2024 (October-November). Since 2020, collar locations of Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Beverly caribou during the fall rut season (late October) have shown limited overlap, thus there is high potential to target Bathurst caribou at this time of year. The exact location of the captures will depend on where existing Bathurst collared caribou are at that time; the Yamba Lake area is a possible target area based on recent years.

Time Period: **October 15 to November 15, 2024**  
Durée :

Location and Nearest Community: *(Provide latitude and longitude if applicable)*  
Emplacement et collectivité la plus près : *(indiquer la latitude et la longitude, le cas échéant)*  
Exact location to be determined based on locations of collared Bathurst caribou in mid to late October. Approximately 65 deg N and 111 W (Yamba Lake area) based on recent years.

Species Studied: **Barren-ground caribou**  
Espèces étudiées :

Project Leader: **Judy Williams**  
Chef de projet :

Project Personnel: *(Include people who would actually do the work in the NWT, volunteers included)*  
Participants au projet : *(inscrire les personnes qui accompliraient le travail aux TNO, y compris les bénévoles)*

Other GNWT-ECC staff as needed.

Objectives: *(Please use point form)*

Objectifs : *(veuillez utiliser le style télégraphique)*

To deploy up to 40 collars on Bathurst cows (30) and bulls (10) from the Bathurst herd during the fall breeding season (mid-October to mid-November). New collars would be placed in areas having only existing Bathurst collared caribou nearby. Experience in recent years (since 2020) has shown that Bathurst collared cows and bulls have little overlap with Bluenose-East and Beverly collared caribou at this time of year and there should be areas with only Bathurst collars where the odds of capturing Bathurst caribou are high.

Methods: *(100 words or less) (Cite references, if applicable)*

Méthodes : *(100 mots ou moins) (veuillez citer vos références, le cas échéant)*

Satellite collars are programmed to transmit locations throughout the year. These locations are mapped weekly using GIS software and locations of the Bathurst herd as well as collars from the two neighbouring herds (Beverly and Bluenose-East). Collar locations are available every day or every 2 days. The target areas for placing collars on Bathurst caribou will have Bathurst collars only nearby. Based on locations of Bathurst collared caribou in late October 2021-2023, a potential site for an operating base is the Daring Lake Tundra Ecological Research Station near Yamba Lake.

No immobilizing drugs will be used and handling of caribou will comply with the NWT Wildlife Care Committee (NWTWCC) Caribou Capture Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). In late October it is likely that snow cover will be limited, unlike March when there are often 1-2 feet of snow on the ground. Temperatures are likely to be near freezing or a few degrees below 0C. The capture crew will take extra care to limit the likelihood of injuring caribou by avoiding rugged terrain, limiting chase times and where

practical, firing the net-gun at times when the target caribou has paused and is moving little, as opposed to caribou running at high speed. Bulls and cows should all have hard antlers (not in velvet), which limits the chance of injury to sensitive velvet antlers.

Current Consultation: *(List all contacts you have already consulted; append all recommendation forms to submission)*

Consultation actuelle : *(veuillez dresser la liste de toutes les personnes que vous avez déjà consultées et annexer à votre demande tous les formulaires de recommandation)*

Enhanced monitoring actions for the Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou, including collars and surveys, were originally implemented as part of joint management proposals from the Tłı̨chǫ Government and GNWT-ECC in 2019 that were reviewed and approved by the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board. Enhanced monitoring of the Bathurst herd will be extended until July 2025 as per the most recent Bathurst joint management proposal submitted by TG and GNWT-ECC to WRRB in December 2023. This wildlife research application proposing to collar Bathurst caribou in October-November 2024 will be sent to Deninu Kųę First Nation, Łutsël K'ę Dene First Nation, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, North Slave Métis Alliance, the Tłı̨chǫ Government, and WRRB.

Future Community Consultation: *(List anticipated consultation activities, e.g. posters, presentations, meetings, letters)*

Consultations de la collectivité à venir : *(veuillez dresser la liste de toutes les activités de consultation prévues, c'est-à-dire les affiches, les présentations, les rencontres, les lettres, etc.)*

Information collected will be shared with affected Indigenous Governments, Indigenous organizations, and communities at least once a year at the times and locations determined by community leaders and co-management boards. Updates on Bathurst caribou monitoring have occurred at annual status meetings of the Bathurst Caribou Advisory Committee (BCAC), most recently in December 2023.

Opportunities for Local Participation:

Possibilités de participation locale:

The helicopter-based caribou capture crew will be limited to the pilot, net-gunner and handler, each of whom has specialized skills and experience. The crew and equipment needed do not allow for an additional person in the helicopter.

Management or Recovery Plans: *(If your project is part of accepted wildlife management plans or recovery plans, list them as appropriate)*

Plans de gestion ou de rétablissement : *(si votre projet fait partie de plans de gestion de la faune approuvés ou de plans de rétablissement, veuillez en dresser la liste, s'il y a lieu)*

The 2020 Recovery Strategy for Barren-Ground Caribou under the NWT Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) recognizes the importance of adequate information about the status of herds and the value of further research on factors affecting caribou health and abundance. Barren-ground caribou are listed as Threatened under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* (excepting the Porcupine herd). This recovery strategy recognizes the importance of herd-specific management plans and sets overall goals for barren-ground caribou management in the NWT. Listing of barren-ground caribou under federal Species at Risk legislation is pending.

There is an overall management plan for the Bathurst herd developed by the BCAC in 2021, which calls for the kinds of monitoring actions proposed in this document. The herd was assessed by BCAC in 2022 and 2023 as being in the Critical Low phase (below 30,000 caribou) where monitoring is more intensive.

The satellite collars described above are identified in the joint Tłı̨cho Government and GNWT-ECC management proposals for the recovery of the Bathurst caribou herd that were approved by the WRRB over the period of 2019 to July 2025.

**Follow-up Report / Rapport de suivi**

Check One / Cochez une seule réponse :

Previously Submitted  
Envoyé précédemment

Attached  
En pièce jointe

Not Applicable  
Sans objet

**DECLARATION**

I declare that the information provided on this form is correct. I understand that it is an offence to give false or misleading information.

All personal information contained on this form is collected under the authority of the *Wildlife Licences and Permits Regulations* Section 11.(3) and is used for the purposes of assessing and processing your application request. If you have any questions in relation to the information collected on this form please contact the Information Coordinator by phone at 867-767-9237 ext. 53219, by email at [WildlifeCoordinator@gov.nt.ca](mailto:WildlifeCoordinator@gov.nt.ca), or by mail at PO Box 1320, Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9.

**DÉCLARATION**

Je déclare que les renseignements fournis dans le présent formulaire sont exacts. Je comprends que toute fausse déclaration ou déclaration trompeuse constitue une infraction.

Tous les renseignements personnels contenus dans le présent formulaire sont recueillis conformément au paragraphe 11(3) du *Règlement sur les permis et licences relatifs à la faune*, et sont utilisés aux fins de traitement et d'évaluation de votre demande. Pour toute question concernant les renseignements recueillis dans le présent formulaire, communiquez avec le coordonnateur de l'information par téléphone, au 867-767-9237, poste 53219, par courriel, à l'adresse [WildlifeCoordinator@gov.nt.ca](mailto:WildlifeCoordinator@gov.nt.ca), ou par courrier, au C. P. 1320, Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9.



**PLEASE PRINT FORM TO SIGN / VEUILLEZ IMPRIMER LE FORMULAIRE POUR LE SIGNER**

Applicant Signature / Signature du demandeur

Date (DD/MM/YYYY) (JJ-MM-AAAA)