



October 21, 2009

Hon. Michael Miltenberger
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Grand Chief Joe Rabesca
Tłı̨chǫ Government
Box 412
Behchokò, NT X0E 0Y0

Dear Sirs:

Joint Bathurst Caribou Management Proposal

As follow-up to our letter of August 28, 2009, we are providing you with guidance on the contents of a Bathurst Caribou Management Proposal. The WRRB suggests the proposal under development by your governments include the consideration of but not necessarily be limited to, the following elements, keeping in mind the need for immediate actions and solutions to alleviate the current apparent decline in Bathurst caribou:

- suggested limits to and allocation of harvest;
- sex ratio of such harvest;
- no hunting zones/corridors and/or delineation of harvesting areas;
- requirement and methods for tracking and reporting of harvest;
- contribution of predation;
- habitat protection (including forest fire suppression);
- land use restrictions;
- alternate food sources for subsistence harvesters;
- monitoring and assessment of proposed actions including appropriate methods and timeframe over which results are expected;
- policies and procedures for voluntary and enforcement compliance; and,
- a timeline for development and implementation of management actions, including regulatory changes if needed.

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These elements should be presented in sufficient detail with supporting documentation, where applicable, for the Board to have a full understanding of the rationale supporting the consideration of the elements and any related proposed actions. We also refer you to Section 2, "Content of a Proposal", in the Draft Interim Rule provided to you August 26, 2009 as further guidance on the types of information required in any management proposal brought before the Board.

We would like to emphasize the need to demonstrate consultation efforts undertaken in the preparation of the proposal and the results of such consultation. This should include all aspects of the public including Tłıchǫ citizens, First Nations, Northwest Territories residents and others.

Wood Bison proposal

The Board further advises that it is prepared to consider a management proposal for Wood Bison concurrently with the Bathurst caribou proposal as a means to consider the increased opportunities for harvest of wood bison to partially replace caribou. Such a proposal could provide the rationale and support for implementation of the "immediate actions" put forward in the Government of Northwest Territories Draft Wood Bison Management Strategy.

If you have any questions with respect to the above, please do not hesitate to call our office at 873-5740.

Sincerely,



Grant Pryznyk
Interim Chair

c.c. Mr. John B. Zoe
Tłıchǫ Executive Officer
Tłıchǫ Government

Ms. Bertha Rabesca-Zoe
Legal Counsel for Tłıchǫ Government

Mr. Eddie Erasmus
Director, Lands Department
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Mr. Gary Bohnet
Deputy Minister, Environment and Natural Resources
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Mr. Lance Schmidt
Regional Superintendent, Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories

Ms. Susan Fleck
Director Wildlife Division, Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories