

Management Proposal

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| 1. Applicant Information | |
| <p>Project Title: Government of the Northwest Territories Proposal for Regulation changes to Wildlife Management Barren-ground caribou Areas R/BC/02 and R/BC/03</p> | |
| <p>Contact Person:</p> <p>Karin Clark A/Director, Wildlife and Fish Division Department of Environment & Natural Resources (ENR) Government of the Northwest Territories 5th floor Scotia Centre PO Box 1320 Yellowknife, NT. X1A 2R3 Phone: 867-767-9237 ext. 53... Fax: 867-873-0293 Karin_Clark@gov.nt.ca</p> | |

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| 2. Management Proposal Summary | |
| <p>Start Date: Fall 2022</p> | <p>Projected End Date: Indeterminate</p> |
| <p>Length:</p> | <p>Project Year ____ of ____</p> |
| <p>Provide a summary description of your management proposal (350 words or less).</p> <p>Barren-ground caribou from the Beverly herd do not currently have any harvesting restrictions for hunters exercising Aboriginal or treaty rights or General Hunting Licence holders. The Wildlife Management Barren-Ground Caribou Area that primarily applies to the Beverly herd, R/BC/03, needs an adjustment to better reflect areas used by the herd in recent years. This border adjustment requires changes to both Wildlife Management Barren-Ground Caribou Areas R/BC/02 and R/BC/03 to better reflect current barren-ground caribou range use, and facilitate compliance and harvest monitoring of barren-ground caribou from the Beverly, Bluenose-East, and Bathurst herds.</p> | |
| <p>Please list all permits required to conduct proposal.</p> <p>None</p> | |

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| 3. Background |
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Provide information on the affected wildlife species and management issue.

Under the *Wildlife Act* and associated regulations, Wildlife Management Zones are subdivided into smaller Wildlife Management Barren-Ground Caribou Areas that allow management actions to be applied based on range use by specific caribou herds. Wildlife Management Zone “R” includes part of the winter range use of the Bluenose-East, Bathurst and Beverly caribou, and has been subdivided into smaller Wildlife Management Barren-Ground Caribou Areas R/BC/01, R/BC/02, and R/BC/03 (Figure 1)

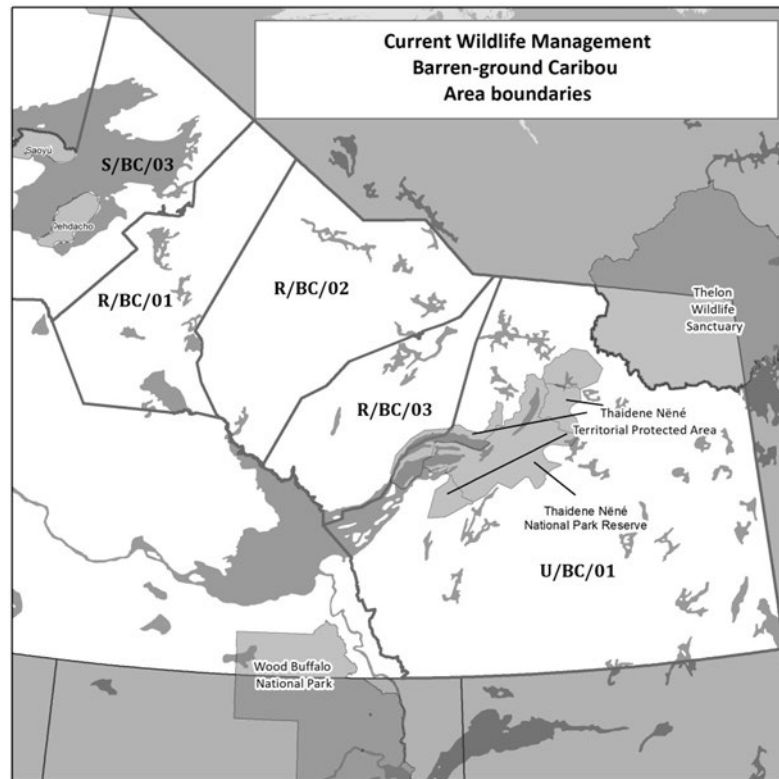


Figure 1 – Current boundaries for R/BC/01, R/BC/02 and R/BC/03.

The *Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Management Zone Regulations* specifically restricts all harvest of caribou within the Mobile Zone and may overlap portions of R/BC/01, R/BC/02 and R/BC/03 at any given time. The mobile zone is based on the location of collared Bathurst caribou, and is intended to avoid any harvest from the Bathurst herd.

Authorizations are used for the harvest of Bluenose-East caribou within R/BC/01 and R/BC/02. There are no harvest restrictions for Beverly caribou for hunters exercising Aboriginal or treaty rights or General Hunting Licence holders, and therefore no authorization required in R/BC/03.

In recent years the Beverly herd winter range has moved westward into R/BC/02 where authorization is required for Aboriginal Harvesters and General Hunting Licence holders to legally harvest barren-ground caribou.

4. Description of Proposed Management Action

Regulation amendments to the *Wildlife Management Zones and Areas Regulations* are the only change that will be needed. This will consist of specific metes and bounds corrections.

What are the desired outcomes of the proposed management action?

Increase areas and ease of access for Indigenous harvesters to lawfully harvest Beverly caribou, and support monitoring and conservation actions by Renewable Resource Officers, Indigenous Guardians and monitors as part of Bluenose-East and Bathurst caribou management.

What, if any, outcomes may be incidental to the management action?

There will be an increased need for education to make sure all harvesters know the appropriate boundaries to lawfully harvest barren-ground caribou in the area.

What monitoring, if any, will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the management action?

ENR suggests that effectiveness of the boundary change is best assessed by the Barren-ground Caribou Technical Working Group in their monthly discussions on harvest management of the Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Beverly caribou and also through the application of the Adaptive Management Framework on an annual basis.

5. Rationale for Proposed Management Action

Describe the purpose of your proposal and how it will address the management issue.

A proposed border change for Wildlife Management Barren-Ground Caribou Areas

R/BC/01, R/BC/02, and R/BC/03 will better reflect winter ranges that Beverly and Bathurst caribou currently use in the eastern portion of Wildlife Management Zone R, and western areas of the zone where Bluenose-East have been located during the winter in recent years. In turn, the revised boundaries would allow for the harvest of Beverly caribou in an enlarged R/BC/03 where no authorizations are required making enforcement easier on the ground for hunters, Renewable officers, and monitors.

The boundary change starting point would be the point on the current boundary closest to the western shore of Courageous Lake, following the western shore to the northern tip of Courageous Lake, northeast to the western end of Lac de Gras, north to the eastern end of Yamba Lake and continuing due north to the border with Nunavut (Figure 2).

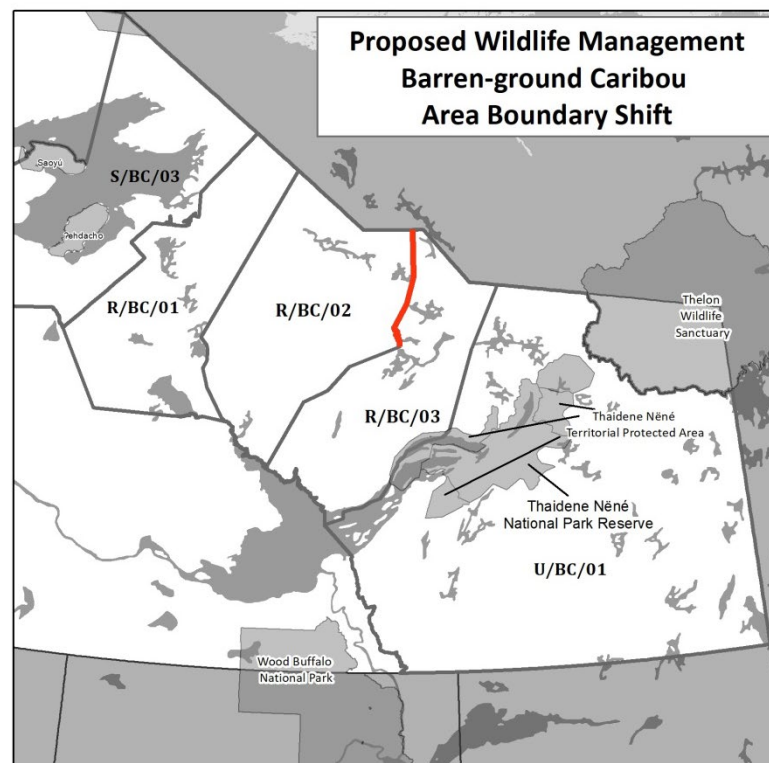


Figure 2 – Proposed boundary change for R/BC/02 and R/BC/03 shown in red.

The new border uses features such as lake edges to provide geographic references to assist hunters in being aware of the boundaries of the wildlife management areas while hunting.

Caribou collar location data for the previous three years shows that barren-ground caribou east of the new boundary and outside the Mobile Zone have been Beverly

caribou (Figure 3).

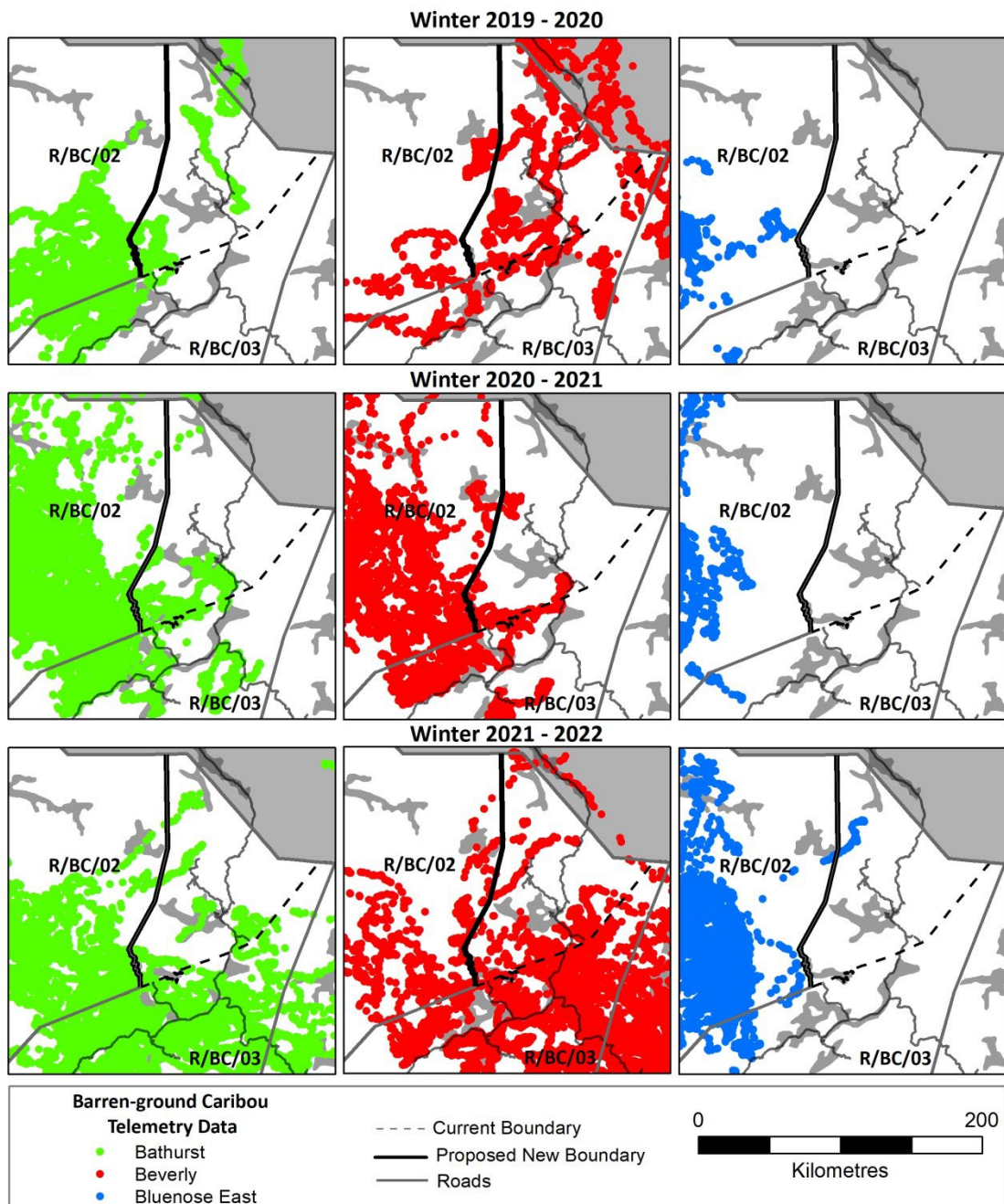


Figure 3 – Caribou collar location data from the winters of 2019/202 to 2021/22 showing distribution of Bathurst (green), Beverly (red) and Bluenose-East caribou (blue) relative to proposed (solid black) and current (dotted black) R/BC/03 boundary.

Describe alternatives to the proposed management action and reasons for why these were rejected.

An alternative is to leave the borders unchanged, but result in possible confusion in winters with high overlap of Beverly with Bathurst and Bluenose-east with respect to the application and use of authorization cards for Beverly and Bluenose-East barren-ground caribou.

6. Consultation

Describe any consultation undertaken in preparation of the management proposal and the results of such consultation.

Tłıchq Government has provided a letter of support which is attached to the proposal.

Section 35 consultation with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations has been initiated coincident with submission of this proposal.

7. Communications Plan

Describe the management proposal's communications activities and how the Tłıchq communities and all harvesters entering these new areas will be informed of the proposal and its results.

ENR will work with the Tłıchq Government on a public information campaign to ensure the public and perspective hunters know about the proposal and its planned implementation.

8. Relevant Background Supporting Documentation

List or attached separately to the submission all background supporting documentation, including key references, inspection/incident reports and annual project summary reports.

9. Time Period Requested

Identify the time period requested for the Board to review and make a determination or provide recommendations on your management proposal.

ENR would like to implement the change for the 2022/2023 winter harvest season if the Board can conduct a review and make a determination this fall.

10. Other Relevant Information

If required, this space is provided for inclusion of any other relevant project information that was not captured in other sections.

11. Contact Information

Contact the WRRB office today to discuss your management proposal, to answer your questions, to receive general guidance or to submit your completed management proposal.

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