

May 12, 2022

Joanna Wilson, Wildlife Biologist (Species at Risk)  
Environment and Natural Resources  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

***Via Email***  
***Joanna\_Wilson@gov.nt.ca***

**RE: Bat Monitoring in the Northwest Territories**

Dear Joanna Wilson,

As per section 12.5.1 of the Tłı̄chǫ Agreement, the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) considers the above-mentioned Wildlife Research Permit application as a management proposal. The Board understands that the objectives of the monitoring program are to 1) monitor for the arrival of white-nose syndrome in the NWT and its impacts on bat populations; 2) monitor trends in bat populations, including changes in abundance and species distributions, and improve baseline data to detect future trends; 3) contribute NWT data to the North American Bat Monitoring Program (NABat) and continue testing and refining NABat protocols for the north; 4) contribute NWT data to research studies to learn more about bat ecology; 5) document and describe key habitat sites such as maternity colonies and hibernation sites, and improve species range maps; and 6) share information about bats and promote bat-friendly attitudes and practices.

The proposed research, scheduled for May 2022 to May 2027, in various locations in the South Slave, North Slave/Wek'èezhì, Dehcho, Sahtú, and Gwich'in regions involves the following:

- Conduct acoustic monitoring of bat presence and activity levels using ultrasound acoustic recording units;
- Continue long-term monitoring of bat maternity colonies in southern NWT for information on health, colony size, reproduction, and survival;
- Conduct emergence counts at bat colonies to estimate colony size (by counting the number of bats that exit the roost at night in summer);
- Count bats in hibernation sites and monitor for signs of white-nose syndrome;
- Conduct bat surveys (capturing bats with mist-nets, collecting information and samples, banding, and releasing them);
- Test bats and environmental samples for white-nose syndrome;
- Investigate reports that suggest key habitat sites such as overwintering sites or maternity roosts; and,
- Follow standard techniques and protocols to ensure that bats and their habitats are not harmed, including decontamination.

The WRRB has no concerns with the project as presented in your application. We encourage community members with local Tłıchq knowledge to participate in the monitoring program wherever possible. The WRRB asks that our office be contacted when there is opportunity for Board or staff involvement in your work. The WRRB requests that results be provided to the Board upon completion of work.

Please feel free to call us with any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jody Pellissey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Jody Pellissey  
Executive Director

Cc Bruno Croft, Superintendent,  
North Slave-ENR, GNWT

Michael Birlea, Manager,  
Culture and Lands Protection, Tłıchq Government