

Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB)

Work Plan for Bluenose-East Caribou Herd Joint Management Proposal

Dated: January 18, 2016

Purpose of the Work Plan

To outline the processes and timelines to be followed for the Bluenose-East caribou herd joint management proposal. The Work Plan may be subject to revision.

Background

In June 2015, aerial reconnaissance, composition and photo surveys were conducted on the Bluenose-East caribou herd. The final breeding female and population estimates, available on December 2, 2015, indicate that the herd has continued to decline in population.

On October 27, 2015, the ?ehdzo Got'jnë Gots'ë Nákedí/Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (SRRB) and the WRRB signed a *“Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Collaborative Efforts for the Management of the Bluenose-East Caribou Herd”* (MOU). On December 15, 2015, Environment & Natural Resources (ENR), Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and Tłı̨chǫ Government (TG) submitted a joint management proposal, entitled *“Joint Proposal on Management Actions for Bluenose-East (BNE) Caribou 2016-2019”*.

Scope of the Proceeding

The primary objective of this Proceeding is to determine and/or recommend management actions for the Bluenose-East caribou herd in Wek'èezhìi, including a total allowable harvest and harvest allocation.

Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide the Work Plan throughout this Proceeding:

- The Board will act in the public interest (Sections 12.1.2, Tłı̨chǫ Agreement), including subsistence, resident, non-resident and commercial harvesters;
- The management proposal process shall have regard for the principles and practices of conservation and the importance of wildlife and its habitat to the Tłı̨chǫ First Nation well-being, way of life and land-based economy (Sections 12.1.5.a and 12.1.1, Tłı̨chǫ Agreement);
- The management proposal process shall take steps to acquire and use traditional knowledge as well as other types of scientific information and expert opinion (Section 12.1.6, Tłı̨chǫ Agreement);
- The management proposal process shall be carried out in a timely manner;
- The Board will review the joint management proposal and consider potential management actions based on evidence and rationale submitted by ENR, TG or any other Party;
- The Board will review the joint management proposal and consider potential management actions in order to meet the Board's mandate (mission) and applicable policies; and,
- The Board will implement the collaborative MOU between the SRRB and the WRRB to minimize duplication, increase consistency and ensure that management of the Bluenose-East caribou herd is as effective as possible.

Work Plan Objectives

The Work Plan is to achieve the following objectives:

- Compile a broad range of focused input through the Proceeding;
- Ensure adequate information is gathered to complete the management proposal process;
- Facilitate a thorough, inclusive and timely management proposal process; and,
- Determine and/or recommend management actions to conserve the Bluenose-East caribou herd.

Opportunities for Community Engagement

- The Board required ENR and TG to inform and engage with communities and Aboriginal organizations regarding the joint management proposal submission;
- The Board will include a notification(s) regarding the management proposal process in the newspaper, community radio (CBC, CKLB, CJCD, Taiga), Board website, including public registry and social media (Facebook);
- The Board will coordinate a technical session(s), if required, to address specific issues that require more focused review and discussion;
- The Board will hold a public hearing and attend the SRRB public hearing; and
- The Board will hold any other consultation or engagement activity that the Board considers appropriate.

Materials Circulated for Comment by Parties

During the course of this Proceeding, the Board, along with Staff assistance, will review all evidence filed by the Parties. These efforts are intended to identify issues or concerns which must be addressed in the joint management proposal and to resolve them, if possible, before the close of the Proceeding. This process allows Parties to address the proposed management actions for the Bluenose-East caribou herd in their presentations to the Board and to prepare arguments setting out their positions with respect to these provisions at the close of the Proceeding.

The Board is not bound by the contents of any of these draft materials and will make its decision at the close of the Proceeding on the basis of all evidence and arguments filed by all Parties.

Task	Responsible Party	Due Date (Date Completed)
Management Proposal Submitted	ENR & TG	(December 15, 2015)
Management Proposal deemed complete & Proceeding called	WRRB	(January 14, 2016)
Notice of Hearing	WRRB	January 18, 2016
Call for Party Status	WRRB	January 18, 2016
Round #1 Information Requests (Board only)	WRRB	January 18, 2016
Deadline for Party Status	All Parties	January 26, 2016
Deadline to respond to Round #1 Information Requests	ENR & TG	January 29, 2016
Round #2 Information Requests (Parties/Others/Board) (if required)	All Parties	February 5, 2016

Deadline to respond to Round #2 Information Requests (if required)	ENR & TG	February 12, 2016
Technical Sessions (if required)	All Parties	February 17 & 18, 2016
Prehearing Conference	All Parties	February 19, 2016
Deadline for Party Public Hearing presentations	All Parties	February 26, 2016
Deadline for ENR & TG Public hearing presentations	ENR & TG	February 26, 2016
SRRB Public Hearing	SRRB	March 1-3, 2016
WRRB Public Hearing	WRRB	March 15-17, 2016
Close Record	WRRB	March 24, 2016
Deadline for Party Final Written Arguments	All Parties	March 29, 2016
Deadline for ENR & TG Final Written Arguments	ENR & TG	April 1, 2016
Review evidence and determine/recommend management actions	WRRB	April 20-21, 2016
Prepare final Reasons for Decision	WRRB	May 6, 2016
Final Board review of Reasons for Decision	WRRB	May 11, 2016
Submit final determination/recommendations along with Reasons for Decision to ENR and TG	WRRB	May 16, 2016
Final Decision from ENR Minister	ENR Minister	Up to 90 days