



February 16, 2026

Jocelyn Zoe
Field Research Logistical Coordinator
Department of Culture and Lands Protection, Tłı̨chǫ Government
PO Box 412, Behchokǫ, NT X0E 0Y0

Re: Wildlife Research Permit Application - Tłı̨chǫ Highway Wildlife Monitoring Program

Dear Ms. Zoe;

As per section 12.5.1 of the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement, the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) considers the above-mentioned Wildlife Research Permit application as a management proposal. The Board understands that the Program was developed by the Tłı̨chǫ Government, with input from harvesters and Elders, to address concerns raised during the environmental assessment for the Tłı̨chǫ Highway regarding potential impacts on culturally significant and harvestable wildlife species.

The Board understands that the objectives of the program are to 1) monitor changes to the distributions of tǫdzi (boreal caribou), barren-ground caribou (hozìi ekwǫ), dedìi (moose), and ejie (wood bison) since the construction of the Tłı̨chǫ Highway, and 2) monitor changes to the habitats of these species since the construction of the Tłı̨chǫ Highway.

The research is proposed to occur along the Tłı̨chǫ Highway, from March 4, 2026 to March 31, 2031, and involves the following monitoring actions:

- Road surveys, during which monitors drive the highway to record wildlife observations and speak with harvesters;
- Pellet and track surveys conducted along transects perpendicular to the highway, including laboratory analysis of ungulate pellet samples;
- Dust collection using dust canisters positioned along transects to estimate dust volume and dispersal distance from the road;
- Drone surveys to characterize vegetation at broader spatial scales, with multiple flights conducted at varying altitudes; and,
- Vegetation surveys using quadrats to quantify vegetation species composition at increasing distances from the highway.

The WRRB has no concerns with the project as presented in the application and approves the Wildlife Research Permit application as written. The Board requests that results be provided upon completion of the work. Please feel free to contact the WRRB should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jody Pellissey
Executive Director

Cc Stephanie Behrens, Manager, Lands Protection & Renewable Resources
Department of Culture and Lands Protection, Tł'chǫ Government

Rhona Kindopp, Director
Wildlife Management, Environment & Climate Change, GNWT