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Wildlife Research Permit Application – Boreal Caribou Monitoring Program for the Tłıchǫ All-Season Road (TASR) Project 2027-31

As per section 12.5.1 of the Tłıchǫ 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 program are to monitor the response of boreal caribou to the TASR, monitor tǫdzı (boreal caribou) population abundance and demographic characteristics, continue GPS-collar monitoring of tǫdzı, compare monitoring response across the pre-construction, construction, and operational periods, and contribute to the assessment of cumulative effects on tǫdzı.

The proposed surveys, occurring from January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2031, involves the following:

- Deploy up to 10 GPS collars on tǫdzı in the TASR study area and up to 3 GPS collars on tǫdzı in the northern portion of the Mackenzie study area annually;
- Conduct an aerial tǫdzı classification survey in late winter each year (collared moose will also be classified in 2027);
- Investigate mortalities of collared animals to determine cause of death and opportunistically collect and analyze biological specimens;
- For up to 5 collared tǫdzı per year, add acoustic and accelerometer devices on their collars, which will detach after 5 months. These will record calf survival, feeding, nursing, and resting patterns;
- Conduct aerial transects for the 2027 abundance survey to identify locations of tǫdzı tracks and cratering sites; and,
- Collect tǫdzı fecal pellets. Fecal pellets will be swabbed for DNA in the North Slave lab and will be sent for analysis and identification at a wildlife genetics lab.

The WRRB has no concerns with the project as presented in your application. The WRRB requests that results be provided to the Board upon completion of work. The Board also requests a copy of the field report upon completion of each collaring season.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jody Pellissey".

Jody Pellissey
Executive Director

Cc Seth Bohnet, Superintendent, North Slave Region
 Environment & Climate Change, GNWT

Stephanie Behrens, Manager, Lands Protection and Renewable Resources
Department of Culture and Lands Protection, Tłıchǫ Government