



May 11, 2026

Terry Armstrong
Bison Ecologist, Wildlife and Fish Division
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 900, Fort Smith, NT
X0E 0P0

Wildlife Research Permit Application – Mackenzie Bison Population Monitoring

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

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 population monitoring program are to fulfil a key action of the *Mackenzie Bison Management Plan* by estimating abundance and monitoring herd composition, as well as monitoring for anthrax-related deaths and for brucellosis and tuberculosis in the population.

The proposed monitoring, scheduled for June 15, 2026 to June 14, 2028, occurring within the Mackenzie Bison Range, involves the following:

- Aerial surveys in winter to monitor herd abundance.
- Aerial surveys in summer to monitor calf, yearling, bull, and cow numbers, population abundance, anthrax, and vehicle related deaths.
- Monitoring the movements of already collared ejie (bison) to learn about habitat use, habitat selection, and home ranges
- Dead ejie may be sampled to test for the presence of tuberculosis, brucellosis, and other diseases, and to monitor genetic diversity.

The WRRB has taken a Level 1 review, as outlined in the Board's Rule for Management Proposals. The Board has no concerns with the project as presented in your application and asks that upon completion of each monitoring action an update will be provided to the Board. The Board suggests that audiloggers be included on ejie collars when they are next deployed, to allow more information to be gathered on these animals and their behaviour.

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". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jody Pellissey
Executive Director

Cc Karin Clark, Manager
Wildlife Division, Environment & Climate Change, GNWT

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