

June 4, 2021

Robert Mulders, Wildlife Biologist, Carnivores/Furbearers
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Email: Robert_Mulders@gov.nt.ca

Via Email
Robert_Mulders@gov.nt.ca

**RE: Wildlife Research Permit Application – Request to Amend Wildlife Research Permit
#WL500830 – Wolf Collaring**

Dear Mr. Mulders:

The Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) has reviewed your above entitled Wildlife Research Permit (WRP) Application and understands that the objectives are to 1) determine how *Diga* (wolves) travel among *ʔekwò* (barren-ground caribou) on their winter ranges, 2) determine broader *diga* movement patterns across *ʔekwò* ranges on an annual and multi-year basis, 3) determine fidelity of *diga* to den sites and *ʔekwò* herd ranges, and 4) assist in the evaluation of *diga* management actions in the NWT. The wolf collaring locations will be on the *Kòk'èetì ekwò* (Bathurst caribou) and *Sahti ekwò* (Bluenose-East caribou) herd winter ranges as well as the Beverly/Ahiak *ekwò* herd winter range when distributed in the North Slave Region.

The proposed research, scheduled between June 2021 and June 2025, involves the following:

- Deploy up to 30 Telonics satellite collars (10 collars each associated with the *Kòk'èetì*, *Sahti*, and Beverly/Ahiak *ekwò* herds on their winter ranges);
- One wolf will be collared per pack with the breeding female preferred;
- Collaring will occur from January to April on *ʔekwò* herd winter ranges, June to July near active den areas, and late summer and during the fall on other areas of the range;
- Collaring will be conducted by a helicopter capture crew using a net gun, and potentially chemical immobilization, with handling time to be between 15-21 minutes per *diga*, as per the Wildlife Care Committee Wolf Standard Operating Procedures;
- Confirmation of sex and age as well as body and health condition sampling will be conducted during the collaring process;
- Trail cameras may be set up at select den sites as well as on the winter range and,
- New or refurbished collars will be deployed each year in cases where collars are lost to *diga* mortality or collar failure, in order to maintain a full contingent of 30 collars to support long-term monitoring.

The WRRB is concerned with the potential impacts of handling pregnant and lactating *diga* in June and July, as it is not recommended in the Wildlife Care Committee's (WCC) standard operating procedures. As such the WRRB would not support this amendment without approval from the WCC. The Board recommends that, in the future, ENR should be in possession of an active WCC permit before they apply for a WRP.

The WRRB is in support of the WRP application as presented pending WCC approval (Motion #772-25-05-2021). The WRRB requests results be provided to the Board upon completion of work.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Judas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" and last name "Judas" clearly distinguishable.

Joseph Judas
Chair

Cc Karin Clark, Manager
Wildlife Division, Environment & Natural Resources, GNWT

Michael Birlea, Manager
Lands Protection and Renewable Resources, Culture & Lands Protection, Tłıchǫ Government