

June 19, 2023

Karin Clark, Manager, Research & Management
Wildlife Management Division
Environment and Climate Change
Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Email: Karin_Clark@gov.nt.ca

Via Email
Karin_Clark@gov.nt.ca

Re: Mackenzie Wood Bison Population – Proposal for Harvest Season Extension

Dear Ms. Clark:

At its recent June 2023 meeting, the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) discussed the Department of Environment & Climate Change (ECC), Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) management proposal, entitled “*Proposal for Harvest Season Extension for Mackenzie Wood Bison*”, which proposes to extend the current harvest season of the Mackenzie *Ejìe* (wood bison) population to year-round harvest.

The WRRB understands that, based upon the recommendation of the Mackenzie Bison Working Group (MBWG), ECC proposes to extend the current harvest season of September 1 to March 15 for the Mackenzie *ejìe* population from July 1 to June 30. Currently, the total allowable harvest of 40 male *ejìe* is not being filled annually, due to cold weather and difficult travel conditions when the season is open. The MBWG recommended the increase in season to support harvesters and to address food security issues in light of restricted Kòk'èetì and Sahti Ekwò (Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou) harvest. Further, the Board understands that no other *ejìe* populations in the NWT have restricted seasons for harvest and, if harvest would ever become open to Mackenzie *ejìe* cows in the future, the harvest season would be open annually from September 1 to March 31.

Therefore, as per Sections 12.5.1 and 12.5.4 of the Tìhçq Agreement, the WRRB approves the harvest season extension of July 1 to June 30 for male Mackenzie *ejìe* as presented (Motion #878-16-06-2023).

The WRRB also reviewed the drafted amendment for the *Big Game Hunting Regulations*. As per Sections 12.5.1 and 12.5.4 of the Tìhçq Agreement, based upon the recommendations of the MBWG, the WRRB approves the amendment to extend the harvest season for the Mackenzie *ejìe* herd in the *Big Game Hunting Regulations* as presented (Motion #879-16-06-2023).

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The WRRB looks forward to continued collaboration with the GNWT and the Mackenzie Bison Working Group in the future. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (867) 873-5740 or jpellissey@wrrb.ca.

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 Heather Sayine-Crawford, Director, Wildlife Management Division
Environment & Climate Change, GNWT

Terry Armstrong, Bison Ecologist
Environment & Climate Change, GNWT

Tammy Steinwand-Deschambeault, Director
Culture & Lands Protection, Tłıchǫ Government

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