

December 18, 2025

Rhona Kindopp, Director, Wildlife Management Division
Department of Environment & Climate Change
Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Email: Rhona_Kindopp@gov.nt.ca

Via Email
Rhona_Kindopp@gov.nt.ca
Tammy.Steinwand@tlicho.ca

Tammy Steinwand-Deschambeault
Director, Department of Culture and Lands Protection
Tłıchǫ Government
127 Donda Tili PO Box 412
Behchokò, NT. X0E 0Y0
Email: Tammy.Steinwand@tlicho.ca

Re: Government of the Northwest Territories and Tłıchǫ Government – Joint Proposal on Increased Harvest of Mackenzie Wood Bison

Dear Ms. Kindopp and Ms. Steinwand-Deschambeault :

At their recent December 2025 meeting, the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) discussed the Tłıchǫ Government (TG) and Department of Environment & Climate Change (ECC), Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) joint management proposal, entitled "*Government of the Northwest Territories and Tłıchǫ Government Joint Proposal on Increased Harvest of Mackenzie Wood Bison*", which proposes to increase the total allowable harvest (TAH) of Mackenzie Ejie (wood bison) to 60 tags per year, available for either sex.

The WRRB understands that, based upon the recommendation of the Mackenzie Bison Working Group (MBWG), it is proposed to increase the TAH from 40 bison, bulls only, to 60 bison of either sex for the Mackenzie ejie population, starting from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2030. This increase takes into consideration the recent Mackenzie ejie population estimate from 2023, the harvesting plan within the *Mackenzie Bison Management Plan*, and the *Recovery Strategy for Wood Bison (Bison bison athabasca) in the Northwest Territories*.

Further, the Board understands that while the hunting season for male ejie is currently year-round, cow harvest would only be open annually from September 1 to March 31. Therefore, as per Sections 12.5.1 and 12.5.4 of the Tłıchǫ Agreement, the WRRB approves the increase in the TAH for Mackenzie ejie as presented (Motion #1008-17-12-2025).

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The WRRB looks forward to continued collaboration with GNWT, TG, and MBWG 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', written in a cursive style.

Joseph Judas
Chair

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

Terry Armstrong, Bison Ecologist
Environment & Climate Change, GNWT

Stephanie Behrens, Manager, Lands Protection & Renewable Resources
Culture & Lands Protection, Tłıchǫ Government