



February 15, 2022

Judy Williams, Biologist (Ungulate Studies)
Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Email: Judy_Williams@gov.nt.ca

Via Email
Judy_Williams@gov.nt.ca

Re: Wildlife Research Permit application – Monitoring of the Bathurst, Bluenose-East, and Beverly Caribou Herds

Dear Ms. Williams:

As per section 12.5.1 of the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement, the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) considers the above-mentioned Wildlife Research Permit (WRP) application for monitoring activities on Bathurst, Bluenose-East, and Beverly Caribou Herds as a management proposal.

The WRRB understands the management proposal to include the following monitoring actions for May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023:

- The use of satellite collared caribou to facilitate the monitoring of movement and distribution of migrating caribou on a weekly basis;
- Deployment of approximately 45 collars total on the Bathurst, Bluenose-East, and Beverly herds with the objective to have a total of 70 collars on both the Bathurst and Bluenose-East herds and 50 on the Beverly herd;
 - 50 collars on cows and 20 on bulls for the Bathurst and Bluenose-East herds;
 - 30 collars on cows and 20 on bulls for the Beverly herd;
- Deployment of collars involves:
 - Net-gunning capture by helicopter (no immobilization drugs will be used);
 - A hired professional capture crew;
 - Handling of caribou to fasten collars;
 - No measurements taken except for blood, hair, and fecal samples to assess pregnancy status and for other testing and possible genetic studies; and,
 - Shooting or pithing an animal if it is critically injured;
- July 2022 calf:cow composition survey used to determine calf mortality;
- Late-winter calf survival/spring recruitment surveys (March-April 2023) to measure annual calf survival for the three herds, and to compare herd trends; and,
- Fall sex-ratio survey for all three herds (October 2022).

The WRRB has taken a Level 1 review, as outlined in the Board's Rule for Management Proposals. The WRRB has no concerns with the project as presented in your application and looks forward to

receiving results from the upcoming field season (Motion #806-08-02-2022). The Board asks to be contacted if there is any opportunity for Board or staff involvement in your work.

The WRRB requests that upon completion of each monitoring action an update will be provided to the Board. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Judas". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph Judas
Chair

Cc Michael Birlea, Manager
Culture and Lands Protection, Tłıchǫ Government

Heather Sayine-Crawford, Director, Wildlife
Environment and Natural Resources