

December 15, 2022

Alicia Kelly, Tłıchq All- Season Road Environmental Assessment Biologist
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
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VIA email
Alicia_Kelly@gov.nt.ca

Re: Wildlife Research Permit Application – Boreal Caribou and Wolf Monitoring Program for the Tłıchq All-Season Road Project 202-2024

Dear Ms. Kelly:

As per section 12.5.1 of the Tłıchq 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 research and monitoring program are to 1) deploy up to 10 GPS collars on tǫdzı (boreal caribou) in the Tłıchq All-Season Road (TASR) study area and up to 3 GPS collars on tǫdzı in the northern portion of the Mackenzie study area; 2) deploy up to 5 GPS collars on dıga (wolf) in the North Slave portion of the tǫdzı range; 3) conduct an aerial tǫdzı classification survey in late winter 2023; 4) record calf and cow vocalizations to inform on calf survival and rumination; and, 5) investigate mortalities of collared animals to determine cause of death, and opportunistically collect and analyze biological specimens.

The proposed collaring deployment, scheduled between February 2023 and March 2023, occurring within the TASR study area and the Mackenzie and North Slave tǫdzı study areas, involves the following:

Tǫdzı:

- Cows will be targeted for collar deployment via helicopter with trained personnel;
- Information regarding the animal, capture location, group size and composition, duration of chase and handling time will all be recorded;
- Where possible, samples of blood, feces and hair will be taken from the animal prior to collar placement;
- Up to 5 acoustic and accelerometer recording devices attached to the collars, which will drop off after 5 months.

Dìga:

- The alpha male and female dìga of each pack will be targeted from a helicopter by netgun for collaring by trained personnel;
- Once secured, information regarding the animal, capture location, chase time, pack size, and overall health condition will be assessed and recorded;
- Samples of guard hair, whiskers, and blood will be taken prior to collar placement.
- On a case-by-case basis, immobilization drugs may be used.

The WRRB reviewed and discussed the wildlife research permit application during its recent December 2022 meeting. The Board has no concerns with the project and, as such, approves the application as presented, pending NWT Wildlife Care Committee approval (Motion #840-13-12-2022). If an NWT WCC is not acquired, the Board rescinds its approval for the research.

The Board asks to be contacted if there is any opportunity for Board or staff involvement in your work, and requests that upon completion of the field season an update will be provided to the Board.

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

Sincerely,



Jody Pellissey
Executive Director

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

Michael Birlea, Manager
Culture and Lands Protection, Tłıchq Government