



December 7, 2020

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Wildlife Research Permit Application – Boreal Caribou Collaring and Spring Classification Surveys for the Tłjchq All-Season Road (TASR) Project 2021

As per section 12.5.1 of the Tłjchq 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 program are to 1) monitor long term boreal caribou adult female survival and calf recruitment to track population trends in the TASR area; 2) assess the impact of the TASR on boreal caribou habitat use and movement; 3) monitor the distribution of boreal caribou and their seasonally preferred habitats and responses to fire and human disturbance; 4) relate demographic information to patterns of resource selection, caribou survival, and long-term environmental changes; 5) opportunistically collect and analyse biological specimens; and, 6) investigate known boreal caribou mortalities to determine cause of death, where possible.

The proposed collaring deployment and classification survey, scheduled for February 1 to March 31, 2021, occurring within the TASR Project area, involves the following:

- Deployment of up to 23 geofenced collars on adult cows in the TASR study area;
- Collars are programmed to automatically drop off;
- Tqdzı capture will occur with an experienced net-gunning crew;
- Biological samples may be collected as the opportunity is presented; and,
- March 2021 aerial classification survey on the proportion of calves that survived the winter.

The WRRB asks ENR to explore if they can monitor for changes in boreal caribou movement patterns in response to increased boreal caribou harvest once the TASR is open for public use.

The WRRB has no concerns with the project as presented in your application, assuming ENR's pending Wildlife Care Committee Permit application is successful. If ENR fails to acquire a WCC permit then the Board would not approve the Wildlife Research Permit. 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 requests that 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 that reads "Jody Pellissey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Jody Pellissey
Executive Director

Cc Bruno Croft, Superintendent
North Slave Region, Environment & Natural Resources, GNWT

Michael Birlea, Manager
Culture and Lands Protection, Tłıchǫ Government