

February 16, 2020

Alicia Kelly
Manager, Wildlife Research and Monitoring
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 900, Fort Smith, NT
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VIA email: Alicia_Kelly@gov.nt.ca

Wildlife Research Permit Application – Mackenzie Bison Collaring Program 2021

Dear Ms. Kelly:

As per section 12.5.1 of the Tłı̨ch̨ 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 Collaring Program are to fulfil a key action of the *Mackenzie Bison Management Plan* by addressing knowledge gaps, identifying critical habitat for wood bison, locating bison for anthrax and population surveys, and understanding habitat use.

The proposed collaring deployment, scheduled for February 1 to March 31, 2021, occurring within the Mackenzie Bison Range, involves the following:

- 6-year collars, which must be removed by recapture;
- 20 adult female collars maximum;
- Ground (by road) or helicopter captures may occur; and,
- Capture will occur by netgunning.

The WRRB has no concerns with the project as presented in your application, assuming ENR's pending Wildlife Care Committee Permit (WCC) application is successful. If ENR fails to acquire a WCC permit, then the Board would not approve the Wildlife Research Permit.

The WRRB is in support of the permit as written, and additionally approves the use of 6 more collars (up to a total of 26 collars) (Motion #741-04-12-2020). The WRRB requests that it receives a copy of the WRP Amendment if it is applied for, but this letter may serve as approval if there are no other changes to the application. The WRRB requests 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,



Jody Pellissey
Executive Director

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

Michael Birlea, Manager
Culture and Lands Protection, Tłıchǫ Government