



September 21, 2022

Allicia Kelly
Tłı̄chq̄ All- Season Road Environmental Assessment Biologist
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VIA email: Allicia_Kelly@gov.nt.ca

Wildlife Research Permit Application – Moose Ecology and Monitoring in the Mackenzie and Tłı̄chq̄ Highway Study Areas

Dear Ms. Kelly:

As per section 12.5.1 of the Tłı̄chq̄ 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) investigate how *dedii* (moose) use habitat in relation to *tq̄dzı* (boreal caribou) and *ejie* (wood bison), and how these species influence each other (Do *dedii* use habitat differently if *ejie* are present? Sentinel North project); 2) use *dedii* location data, along with other information, to model and predict the distribution and abundance of *dedii* in the future as the climate and habitat changes (Sentinel North project); 3) investigate *dedii* habitat use in relation to areas burned by wildfire; 4) investigate impact of Tłı̄chq̄ Highway on *dedii* movements and habitat use; 5) help validate new aerial survey methods (high resolution photos and infrared) that will be tested in the study area, and provide detectability correction factor for *dedii* in ENR aerial surveys; 6) determine timing and cause of death for adult female *dedii*; 7) learn more about *dedii* health; and, 8) determine calving and twinning rates of *dedii* in the study area.

The proposed collaring deployment, scheduled from January 2023 to December 2025, occurring west of Great Slave Lake and including the Mackenzie *ejie* range and the Mackenzie and North Slave (Tłı̄chq̄ All-Season Road) *tq̄dzı* study areas, involves the following:

- Deploy up to 20 GPS collars on adult female *dedii* in March 2023;
- *Dedii* will be captured by darting using established methods approved by the NWT Wildlife Care Committee. Animals health and anesthesia will be monitored;
- Health samples will be collected from *dedii* during collaring;
- Aerial surveys of collared *dedii* will be used to monitor twinning rates and calf recruitment; and,
- Stationary collars will be visited to do mortality investigations, whenever possible.

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, assuming ENR's pending Wildlife Care Committee Permit (WCC) application is successful. As such, the WRRB approves the wildlife research permit

application as presented, pending WCC approval (Motion #828-14-09-2022). If ENR fails to acquire a WCC permit, then the Board would not approve the Wildlife Research Permit.

The Board looks forward to receiving results from the upcoming field season and asks to be contacted if there is any opportunity for Board or staff involvement in your work. The WRRB requests that upon completion of the collaring program an update will be provided to the Board.

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 horizontal stroke at the end.

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