

September 4, 2020

Hon. Shane Thompson, Minister
Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Email: Shane_Thompson@gov.nt.ca

Via Email
Shane_Thompson@gov.nt.ca
georgemackenzie@tlicho.com

Grand Chief George Mackenzie
Tłıchǫ Government
Box 412
Behchokò, NT X1A 1Y0
Email: georgemackenzie@tlicho.com

Re: 2021-2024 Dìga Revised Joint Management Proposal

Dear Minister Thompson & Grand Chief Mackenzie:

On January 31, 2020, Environment & Natural Resources (ENR), Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and Tłıchǫ Government (TG) submitted a joint management proposal, entitled *“Joint Proposal on Management Actions for Wolves (dìga) on the Bathurst and Bluenose-East Barren-ground Caribou (ᑭᑭᑭᑭ) Herd Winter Ranges: 2020 – 2025”* (“the Proposal”) outlining proposed management actions for dìga in Wek'èezhì, including aerial shooting. Following an initial assessment of the Proposal, the WRRB determined that a Level 2 review was appropriate. Therefore, on March 2, 2020, the Board established a proceeding and an online public registry.

On March 9, 2020, after hearing from the GNWT and TG, the WRRB held an emergency meeting and revised the procedure to be used to review the Proposal. The WRRB decided to amend its procedure for the review of the 2020 dìga management actions as proposed in the dìga joint management proposal to a Level 1 review. The Board decided to treat the 2020 dìga management actions as a pilot project only, and, as such, approved the proposed 2020 dìga management actions in the Proposal.

The Board requested that the GNWT and TG resubmit the dìga management actions proposed for 2021-2024 in the Proposal for a Level 2 review with the inclusion of lessons learned from the implementation of the 2020 management actions as well as a technical assessment and a plain-language summary. On August 25, 2020, GNWT and TG submitted a revised joint management proposal, entitled *“Revised Joint Proposal on Management Actions for Wolves (dìga) on the Bathurst and Bluenose-East Barren-ground Caribou (ᑭᑭᑭᑭ) Herd Winter Ranges: 2021 – 2024”* (“the Revised Proposal”).

.../Page 2

During its meeting on August 26-27, 2020, the WRRB reviewed the 2021-2024 dig joint management proposal and considered it complete. As such, the Board determined that a Level 2 review is appropriate, as per its Rule for Management Proposals (Motion #707-26-08-2020). The Board considers the establishment of a Level 2 proceeding to be sufficient to serve the public interest.

Attached is a comprehensive revised work plan, which identifies the scope and anticipated timelines of the Board's Level 2 proceeding. The public comment period will remain open until October 23, 2020. Please note that, on or before October 16, 2020, the Board will review this work plan and make a determination as to whether a public hearing will be required to ensure sufficient consultation.

Finally, the WRRB notes that the *Wildlife Pathologist's Final Report on the Necropsy of Wolves Taken by Aerial Removal* was not submitted with the revised joint management proposal. The report is essential for the Board to be able to determine humaneness of the pilot project. As such, all timelines identified in the revised work plan are subject to change if the report is not received by October 1, 2020.

Please note that these documents will be added to the public registry: <https://www.wrrb.ca/public-information/public-registry>. If there are any questions, please contact our office at (867) 873-5740 or jpellissey@wrrb.ca.

Sincerely,



Joseph Judas
Chair

Attachment

Cc Dr. Erin Kelly, Deputy Minister, ENR-GNWT
Brett Elkin, A/Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations, ENR-GNWT
Karin Clark, A/Director, Wildlife Division, ENR, GNWT
Bruno Croft, Superintendent, North Slave Region, ENR-GNWT
Laura Duncan, Tłchq Executive Officer, TG
Tammy Steinwand-Deschambeault, Director, Culture and Lands Protection, TG
Michael Birlea, Manager, Culture and Lands Protection, TG