



December 13, 2019

James Hodson  
Manager, Environmental Assessment and Habitat ENR, Wildlife Division  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
P.O. Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9  
Phone: (867) 767-9237 ext. 53227

**VIA Email:**  
*james\_hodson@gov.nt.ca*

**RE: Wildlife Research Permit Application - Boreal caribou abundance surveys, boreal caribou collaring and wolf surveys: Tłjchq All-Season Road (TASR) Project**

Dear James Hodson,

The Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) has reviewed your above entitled Wildlife Research Permit application and understands that the objectives are to 1) conduct monitoring to determine the abundance of boreal caribou in the North Slave portion of the NT1 range, 2) deploy additional GPS-collars, if required, and, 3) undertake monitoring to assess predator population densities, movements and predations rates in the North Slave Study area. The caribou surveys are to be conducted within the North Slave region of the boreal caribou range, while the predator survey blocks include the TASR alignment with a reference area located over the boundary between the North Slave and the South Slave administrative regions.

As of December 13, 2019, the Board understands that there are currently 30 active collars, and any additional collars will not be deployed unless collars become inactive before March 31, 2020.

The proposed research, scheduled between February 15, 2020 and March 31, 2020, involves the following:

- Abundance surveys for boreal caribou are to be conducted in two phases:
  - Phase 1 will involve a fixed wing aircraft covering the entire study area of 26,300 km<sup>2</sup>. Survey lines will be 2 km apart with a survey speed of 150-185km/h and an altitude of 120-185m, advancing north to south. GPS locations of all boreal caribou sightings will be recorded in addition to any other wildlife or wildlife sign;
  - Phase 2 of the boreal caribou abundance survey will be conducted the day following the fixed-wing surveys. GPS locations will be intensively targeted in order to locate, count and classify boreal caribou into calves, yearlings, adult females and adult males. All observations of other wildlife and/or wildlife sign will be counted, and locations recorded;
- The deployment of GPS-collars in the event of a mortality or collar malfunction in order to maintain a total of 30 active collars;
- Predator surveys will be conducted with a fixed-wing aircraft, following a large snow. The study area will consist of two ~5000 km<sup>2</sup> blocks, one centered along the TASR alignment, and the other located southeast of highway 3 will serve as a reference block. Transects will be set at 3

km intervals. Observations of other wildlife during the predator surveys will be counted, and locations recorded.

As such, the WRRB has no concerns with the project as presented in your application. We appreciate that three community members with local traditional knowledge will be included in the survey. The Board asks that our office be contacted if there is any opportunity for Board or staff involvement in your 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 Joseph Judas, Chair, Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board  
Bruno Croft, Superintendent, North Slave, Environment & Natural Resources GNWT  
Michael Birlea, Manager, Lands Protection, Culture & Lands Protection, Tłı̨chǫ Government  
Marie Nietfield, Biologist, Environment & Natural Resources GNWT