

February 27, 2024

Tammy Steinwand-Deschambeault, Director
Culture and Lands Protection
Tłıchǫ Government
Email: Tammy.Steinwand@tlicheo.ca

Bruno Croft, Superintendent
Environment and Climate Change
Government of the Northwest Territories
Email: Bruno_Croft@gov.nt.ca

Via Email
Tammy.Steinwand@tlicheo.ca
Bruno_Croft@gov.nt.ca

Re: Request to Extend Joint Management Proposal for Sahtı (Bluenose-East) Ekwò Herd

Dear Ms. Steinwand-Deschambeault & Mr. Croft:

As per section 12.5.1 of the Tłıchǫ Agreement, the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) considered the above-mentioned extension request from July 1, 2024 to December 1, 2024, submitted by the Tłıchǫ Government (TG) and the Government of the Northwest Territories, (GNWT) on February 12, 2024. The short-term goals of the existing joint management proposal will be to continue to promote conditions that will allow for the continued recovery of the Sahtı Ekwò herd while working towards the longer-term goal of enabling a sustainable caribou harvest that meets the needs of Indigenous communities across the Sahtı herd's range.

Based on the WRRB's Rule for Management Proposals, the WRRB determined it should undertake a Level 1 review as only an extension was requested. Despite the requirement to submit a management proposal, at minimum, two weeks in advance of a Board meeting, the joint management proposal, dated February 9, 2024, was not received until February 12, 2024. As such, the WRRB was unable to post the joint management proposal extension request to the WRRB's website on the Management Proposals page for public review. However, during their recent February 2024 meeting, the Board noted that the extension was requested primarily to engage and consult with affected Indigenous governments and organizations to discuss management actions to be included in the next Sahtı Ekwò joint management proposal. As the WRRB believes this process will ensure the necessary public review occurs, the Board agreed to approve the request to extend the Sahtı Ekwò joint management proposal until December 1, 2024 (WRRB Motion #907-13-02-2024).

As such, the existing management and monitoring actions from the WRRB's 2019 Bluenose-East Caribou Proceeding are expected to continue and be implemented until December 1, 2024:

- *Harvest Management* – The total allowable harvest and harvest management actions remain unchanged, including continued expansion and implementation of the Tłıchǫ Ekwò Harvest Monitoring Program.
- *Predator Management* – Predator management actions remain unchanged.
- *Habitat & Land Use* – No new habitat or land use management actions are proposed.

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- *Education* – Education initiatives are ongoing.
- *Monitoring & Research* – Monitoring and management actions are unchanged.

In order for the Board to make a final Reasons for Decisions report available by December 1, 2024, the WRRB requests that a new joint management proposal be submitted by TG and GNWT for review by August 1, 2024. The Board expects this will allow sufficient time to meet the necessary timelines a proceeding will require in addition to the initial public review requirements, should the Board determine a proceeding is required. It should be noted that the Board may consider a need for revised timelines upon review and acceptance of the joint management proposal. The Board has attached its most up-to-date draft of its Rule for Management Proposals and Rules of Procedure as a reminder to TG and GNWT of the WRRB's process and timelines. Please note that the two sets of rules are currently being updated and final drafts will be available prior to the August 2024 submission.

The WRRB looks forward to continuing conversations with TG and GNWT and collaborating on implementation of the Sahti Ekwò management and monitoring actions. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our office.

Sincerely,



Joseph Judas
Chair

Attachments

Cc Michael Birlea, Manager, Lands Protection & Renewable Resources
Culture and Lands Protection, Tłıchq Government

Heather Sayine-Crawford, Director, Wildlife Management Division
Environment and Climate Change, Government of the Northwest Territories