

2007-01-15

Mr. Alphonse Nitsiza
Chair
Wek' eezhii Renewable Resources Board
4804 SCHOOL DRAW AVENUE
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2T7

Dear Mr. Nitzisa:

Proposal on Bathurst Caribou Herd Management Actions

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources submitted a proposal to the Board on December 15, 2006. The Department sought direction as soon as possible on a number of proposed actions identified in the Bathurst Caribou Management Plan and discussions that took place at the December 4-6, 2006 workshop on that plan held in Yellowknife.

Our understanding from your meeting of December 20, 2006 is that the Board will undertake a public hearing process to consider any actions with respect to the Bathurst Herd. We appreciate that it will take some time for the Board to carefully consider all the information prior to providing any recommendations.

The Barrenground Caribou Outfitters Association has asked that we provide some certainty for the 2007 season as they have marketing plans that they are currently undertaking and they have sold a number of hunts for the 2007 season. They would also like an indication of available tags for 2008.

Given that the Board plans to undertake the process outlined above, we have decided, on an interim basis, to set the available Big Game hunting tags for Barren Ground Caribou in Unit "R" at a total of 750 tags for 2007. The two-tag system and the pool per the current regulations will remain in place for the 2007 season pending a recommendation from the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB). We will change the regulations currently set at 1163 tags for non-Hunters and Trappers Association (HTA) Licences and 396 tags for HTA Licences to 750 tags for all ten licences. Tags will be available to individual outfitters on a ratio based on the number of tags issued in 2006.

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We anticipate a recommendation from the WRRB prior to June 2007. At that time we will be able to return to the Association with firm numbers for the 2008 hunting season. Our decision on the number of tags available for 2008 and future years will be based on recommendations from the WRRB. We look forward to working with the Board on this and other very important wildlife related matters.

Sincerely,



Michael Mcleod
Minister

C The Honourable Joseph L. Handley
Premier

The Honourable Brendan Bell
Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment

BAILEY/marin
January 8, 2007
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