



Tłıchǫ Government

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October 31, 2019

Mr. Joseph Judas, Chair
Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board
4504 49TH AVENUE
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 1A7

Dear Mr. Judas:

Re: Reasons for Decision Related to a Joint Proposal for the Management of the Kok'eeti Ekwo (Bathurst Caribou) Herd (the “Reasons for Decision”) – Initial Tłıchǫ Government response

Tłıchǫ Government acknowledges receipt of the Reasons for Decision sent on October 4, 2019. We have completed an initial review of the Reasons for Decision and we have concluded that despite the WRRB Rules for Management Proposals where a response can be expected within 42 days of receipt, an interim reply specific to section 7.7 of the Reasons for Decision is needed. We accept that this interim reply is a bit unusual and let me explain why we have sent this letter.

WRRB has, under section 7.7 of the Reasons for Decision, offered up a “different approach” to compliment the ongoing process of recommendation making and then party implementation, suggesting that it may be time for a deeper collaborative relationship among Tłıchǫ Government, GNWT and WRRB given the crisis in the continuing decline of the Kǫk'èetì ekwo:

Consequently, the WRRB is of the view that perhaps a different approach will be more effective. The Board believes that a more intensive application of an adaptive management framework is needed to capitalize on the Board's and government's collective efforts. Given the urgency of decisive management action for the Kǫk'èetì ekwo herd, it is the Board's opinion that an adaptive management framework would lead to more timely and effective management actions, which are essential to address the herd's decline.

-p.52, Reasons for Decision

Tłıchǫ Government notes that in the joint TG/GNWT response to Recommendation #9-2019 of the WRRB Reasons for Decision concerning the Sahti Ekwǫ (Bluenose-East) caribou herd, both Tłıchǫ Government and GNWT suggested that the two governments and the WRRB could collaboratively develop an adaptive management framework for the Sahti Ekwǫ herd, and that the WRRB take a lead role in developing this adaptive co-management process. It was also noted that this could include development of a meeting schedule and work plan by October 30, 2019.

While Tłıchq Government continues its review of the Reasons for Decision and prepares a response with GNWT and given the support for the adaptive management recommendation in the Sahtı Ekwò Reasons for Decision, we are of the view that immediate action is appropriate to explore the notion in section 7.7 of a more intensive application of an adaptive management framework. Tłıchq Government is interested in early collaborative discussion and engagement on developing approaches for implementing more effective adaptive management framework, which may be applicable for both Sahtı and Kòk'èetı Ekwò. To that end, Tłıchq Government will make its staff available, on an urgent basis, for meeting between TG, GNWT and WRRB on the subject. We would ask that WRRB coordinate such a meeting, and TG would welcome whatever format WRRB might choose to move forward, be it a three party discussion, a workshop, or a facilitated workshop. That meeting could combine both the Sahtı and Kòk'èetı Ekwò processes.

Tłıchq Government looks forward to an early reply from WRRB and from GNWT, copied below.

In Tłıchq Unity,



Grand Chief George Mackenzie
Tłıchq Government

- c. Dr. Joe Dragon, Deputy Minister
Environment and Natural Resources
GNWT