

MAR 12 2010

Mr. Grant Pryznyk
Interim Chair
Wek'èezhii Renewable Resource Board
SUITE 102A, 4504 49TH AVE.
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 1A7

Dear Mr. Pryznyk:

Management Proposal on the Use of Bait for Spring Black Bear Hunts

Thank you for your letter dated February 25, 2010 requesting comments from Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) by March 12, 2010 regarding your initial position to the management proposal as noted in Motion #122-16-02-2010. ENR has reviewed each of these concerns and submits the following comments.

1. **“True North Safaris should speak with elders in Behchokò to inform them of the practice”**
 - a. Through the Preliminary Screening process there was a broad public review undertaken.
 - i. A letter was submitted by the Lands Protection staff of the Tłıchò Government. On November 12, 2009 which included a letter from elders that were interviewed on bear baiting. This was posted on the Wek'èezhii Renewable Resource Board (WRRB) website on January 26, 2010 (Tlıcho Government Comments) and a copy will be provided to proponent so they are aware of comments in the letter on traditional practices.
 - ii. Mr. Gary Jaeb had submitted a letter of support from an elder Mr. Edward Zoe on December 17, 2009. This was posted on the WRRB website on January 26, 2010. (Zoe Support Letter)
 - b. ENR will inform the proponent of the board's request to inform elders of the practice.

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2. **“Public safety concerns be alleviated using the proposed terms and conditions with appropriate monitoring of the activity (e.g. spot checks). The WRRB would like to have a Board member accompany ENR Renewable Resource Offices during inspections”**
 - a. ENR will address public safety concerns with the terms and conditions (attached) that were provided to the board on March 2, 2010 that were revised based on the board’s February 5, 2010 letter.
 - b. ENR will be conducting inspections to monitor this activity and ENR will continue to inform the WRRB when inspections are occurring so that the WRRB member may participate if they are available.
3. **“ENR commitment to a bear management plan to address long-term sustainability of bear populations and harvest. The WRRB cannot continue to support future applications without a plan.”**
 - a. As mentioned in the March 2, 2010 letter to the WRRB, ENR is conducting a literature review regarding approaches to black bear management plans and will provide this to the WRRB and Tłıchǫ Government in fall 2010, to obtain direction on WRRB involvement in preparing a black bear management plan.
4. **Item #17 of terms and conditions must be forwarded to the WRRB by no later than August 15, 2010, along with actual inspection reports and pictures.**
 - a. ENR provided a record of information that we have received from True North Safaris and inspection summaries to the WRRB by August 15, 2010. Inspection reports are confidential documents that may be used for investigations and cannot be shared. That said, this does not prevent a WRRB member who participates on an inspection from reporting on their observations.

ENR requests a response on the board’s final recommendations by March 19, 2010. If you have additional requests or questions please contact Mr. Fred Mandeville, Manager, North Slave Region, ENR at (867) 920-7019 or email: fred_j_mandeville@gov.nt.ca.

Sincerely,


Ernie Campbell
Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations

Attachment

- c. List Attached

Mr. Fred Mandeville
Manager, Wildlife and Environment, North Slave, ENR

Mr. Susan Fleck
Wildlife Director, ENR

Mr. Eddie Erasmus
Director, Lands Protection, Tłıchǫ Government

Mr. Gary Jaeb
True North Safaris

True North Safaris - Bear Baiting Operation (NS2010GWP001)

DRAFT TERMS & CONDITIONS

March 2, 2010

1. ***The Permittee shall*** not set baits more than 2 weeks prior to first hunt.
2. ***The Permittee shall*** ensure that all bait and containers used for bait are removed within 1 week after last hunt.
3. ***The Permittee shall*** provide North Slave Regional Office the coordinates of each bait station in writing within 48 hours of being established.
4. ***The Permittee shall*** not use cardboard and plastic at the bait stations.
5. ***The Permittee shall*** not use any container larger than 210L (45 gallons) for bait.
6. ***The Permittee shall*** ensure that the container used to hold bait is constructed in a manner that prevents a bear from becoming trapped and also prevents a bears from removing the bait and/or container from the established site location.
7. ***The Permittee shall*** ensure that the bait consists only of un-processed fats and meat, oats, corn, fish and fish parts and other natural foods normally found in the nature of the surrounding area, North Slave Region.
8. ***The Permittee shall*** ensure that bait stations are not established within 500m of any parks, Highway #3, public roads (including Lac La Martre Old Winter Road), trails, camps, buildings, commercial wood cutting areas, leased lands or private lands (including Tli Cho Lands) or other areas of known human activity.
9. ***The Permittee shall*** ensure that each bait station is approved by a Renewable Resource Officer as directed by the Regional Superintendent.
10. ***The Permittee shall*** ensure that each bait station has posted a readily visible warning signs made of durable material that is not less then 8" x 12" on which clearly and legibly states the following information:
 1. WARNING! Bear Bait Station in the vicinity
 2. Permit #: (GW _____)
 3. Contact: (Outfitter's Number)...for more information

True North Safaris - Bear Baiting Operation (NS2010GWP001)

11. **The Permittee shall** ensure that each bait site is posted with signs on all approaches to the site that warn other people of the presence of the bait site.
12. **The Permittee shall** post signs within 200m of the bait sites, but no closer than 100m.
13. **The Permittee shall** remove all warning signs when bait stations are removed.
14. **The Permittee shall** ensure that no hunter hunts at a bait station that has not been signed and reported in accordance with conditions #3, 8, 9, 10 and 11.
15. **The Permittee shall** harvest lone bears only.
16. **The Permittee shall** ensure that no more than 14 bears are harvested.
17. **The Permittee shall** maintain a record of information for the following:
 1. What baits were used at each bait station
 2. Number, location, sex, age class of bears harvested
 3. Carcass (not used for bait) disposal that is at least 1000m from any human activity.

And provide the record of information to the ENR North Slave Regional Office by July 15th, 2010.
18. **The Permittee shall** ensure the following samples, properly labelled, to be collected from each bear that was harvested and brought to the Regional ENR office (ENR will provide a form and sample kits to collect these samples):
 1. Pre-molar tooth or lower jaw to extract premolar (frozen)
 2. Piece of the muscle tissue (frozen)
 3. Proof of sex
 4. Depth of back fat
 5. Total body length (tip of nose to tip of tail)
 6. Body girth at chest
19. **The Permittee shall** ensure that a licensed guide is accompanying the hunter at all times as per the NWT Wildlife Act section 44.
20. **The Permit** is valid for the areas shown on the attached map.