

Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board Public Hearing Instructions

In November 2009, the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) received the Bathurst Caribou Joint Management proposal from the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and Tłı̨chǫ Government (TG). Based on Section 12.5.4 of the Tłı̨chǫ Agreement, the WRRB initiated a Proceeding related to the Joint Management Proposal. The Proceeding encompasses the entire Joint Management Proposal, including nine management actions and eleven monitoring actions. As a part of the overall Proceeding, the WRRB has decided to hold a public hearing, March 22-26, 2010 in Behchokò, NT, with a focus on the harvesting management actions (#1 to 5) of the Joint Management Proposal:

1. Eliminate all commercial meat tags held by Tłı̨chǫ and all other aboriginal communities. Status of allowing meat tags to be reconsidered after the 2012 calving ground photo census.
2. Eliminate all tags for outfitting for the hunting season starting in the summer of 2010 until 2012 included. Status of outfitting to be reconsidered after the 2012 calving ground photo census.
3. Eliminate all resident hunter harvest. Allocation of tags to resident hunters to be reconsidered after the results of the 2012 calving ground photo census.
4. **ENR RECOMMENDATION** Eliminate all harvest of Bathurst caribou females. Limited female harvest may be possible for experienced hunters on the Bluenose East and the Ahiak herds and assisted through a joint partnership with ENR/ITI. Numbers harvested to be discussed further and biologists would be part of the hunt to assess health and condition of caribou harvested. No harvest of cows would be allowed when herds are mixed together on the winter range. Instead a careful harvest of males is suggested. Location of caribou of various herds to be monitored by tracking satellite collared females and a no hunting zone could be established for the area where Bathurst collared animals are situated every season.
TŁĮCHǪ GOVERNMENT No restriction on female harvest.
5. **ENR RECOMMENDATION** A) Bull harvest only on all herds for Aboriginal harvesters (caribou with no antlers only in the winter). B) Only a limited number of bulls mixed with the Bathurst caribou cows will be available for harvest and the number will be regulated through a tag allocation system to avoid over-harvesting of the Bathurst herd bulls. Subject to changes if results of fall composition surveys reveal a low number of bulls in the herd. A low ratio of bulls to cows can be a concern for the health of the herd. Recommendation is to harvest Bluenose East and Ahiak caribou males in the fall. Again, mobile harvesting zones to be determined based on the seasonal distribution of collared caribou.
TŁĮCHǪ GOVERNMENT No restriction on male harvest.

Following the public hearing, the WRRB will review all information received during its Proceeding and make recommendations to the GNWT and TG related to the entire Joint Management Proposal.

Format of WRRB Public Hearing

- Opening remarks by the Co-Chairs
 - Presentation by GNWT followed by a question period.
 - Presentation by TG followed by a question period.
 - Presentation by technical witness followed by a question period.
 - Presentations by intervenors followed by a question period.
 - General public will be given an opportunity to speak at designated times.
 - Closing statements by intervenors, GNWT, TG, and the Co-Chairs.
 - Adjournment
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- GNWT will be given one hour to make their presentation followed by a three hour question period.
 - TG will be given three hours to make their presentation followed by a one hour question period.
 - Technical witness will be given 30 minutes to make her presentation followed by a 45 minute question period.
 - Intervenors will be given priority to speak. Each intervenor's presentation will be limited to 30 minutes, followed by a 15 minute question period. More than one person can deliver a presentation but the 30 minute time limit still applies. The WRRB cautions that presentations must be related to Actions #1-5 of the joint management proposal. ** In the interest of time, Shoshone Wilderness Adventures/Qaivvik Ltd/Caribou Pass Outfitters will be allowed to present once for 45 minutes, followed by a 30 minute question period.
 - Intervenors must provide a digital copy of their presentation and speaking notes to the WRRB by March 12, 2010. No new evidence may be submitted after March 12th; therefore, presentations may not be changed. Intervenors should provide 30 printed copies of their presentation to the Executive Director at the hearing. Copies of speaking notes will assist the interpreters and those preparing transcripts of the hearing.
 - Evening sessions will be for Tłıchǵ citizens and the general public to give 10 minute oral statements on a first come, first serve basis. There is no questioning during this time. A priority will be given to Tłıchǵ citizens.
 - Wednesday afternoon and Friday morning will be for registered general public to present for 15 minutes on a first come, first serve basis and, if time allows, the microphone will be open to the general public. There is no questioning during this time. General public wishing to present are asked to register at the door during the hearing, indicating preferred date of presentation. Registration will open at 9:30 a.m. on March 22, 2010.
 - All presentations and oral statements must avoid disparaging and disrespectful comments.

- Intervenor closing statements should be limited to 10 minutes and be used to clarify positions only. Proponents should limit their closing statements to 20 minutes.
- Following the adjournment of the hearing and after careful review of all of the information presented at the hearing, the WRRB will provide its recommendations to GNWT and TG by no later than May 31, 2010.
- All documents pertaining to the hearing can be found on the WRRB's public registry: www.wrrb.ca

For more information, please contact:

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