

Government of Gouvernment des Northwest Territories Territoires du Nord-Ouest

14 November 2024

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<u>Wildlife Research Permit Application for wolverine and grizzly bear density and distribution</u> <u>surveys for the proposed Lockhart All-Season Road project</u>

Please find attached a Wildlife Research Permit application to conduct surveys for wolverine and grizzly bear within the proposed Lockhart All-Season Road (LASR) project area. As the Wildlife Research Permit application form requests text be limited to < 100 words, an additional attachment is included that goes into details of the work that would not fit into the PDF form.

Surveys for wolverines will involve establishing 100 hair-snag stations, in 5 x 5 km grids surrounding the LASR project. Hair-snag stations will be surveyed four times (per year), before being disassembled for later use for grizzly bear hair-snagging surveys.

For grizzly bears, 100 hair-snag stations will be setup in $10 \times 10 \text{ km}$ grid squares in the LASR project area. Hair-snag stations will be surveyed four times (per year), prior to being disassembled. Hair-snag stations will be sampled for 2 years for a total of 200 sampling sites for both wolverine and grizzly bear.

Stations will be deployed by helicopter in winter (wolverine) and summer (grizzly bear) of 2025 and 2026, to gather abundance and distribution data. Hair samples collected from wolverine and grizzly hair-snags will be used to identify individual animals and their sex. Motion-detector trail cameras will be paired with hair-snag stations to capture images of predators who do, and do not engage with the bait station.

The results of these surveys will be used to support the upcoming environmental assessment and mitigation of potential impacts to wolverines and grizzly bears from the construction of the LASR.

Observers from your organization will be invited to participate in the surveys. This application is for a multi-year research permit for 5 years, in the event these surveys need to be repeated prior to construction of the LASR. A brief report summarizing results will be provided back to your organization after each survey.

A recommendation form is attached for your response. Please email this form to christopher_shapka@gov.nt.ca by December 20, 2024. If you have any questions or concerns,



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please contact me at (867) 767-9237 ext. 53074. We appreciate your ongoing support of cooperative wildlife monitoring and management.

Sincerely,

Chris Shapka

EA Biologist, Wildlife Division

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