



August 6, 2020

Ms. Jody Pellissey, Executive Director
Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board
4504 49TH AVENUE
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 1A7

Dear Ms. Pellissey:

Management Proposal for amendments to the *Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou (Kòk'èetì Ekwò)* Management Zone Regulations

The Tłıchǫ Government and Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories, as per the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board *Rule for Management Proposals*, would like to inform you of the intent to amend the *Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Management Zone Regulations* (Mobile Zone) under the *Wildlife Act* to maximize our collective protection efforts on Bathurst caribou (Kòk'èetì Ekwò).

As you know over the last 30 years, the Bathurst caribou (Kòk'èetì Ekwò) herd has declined by more than 98 per cent despite extensive conservation efforts to promote herd recovery. One action was the creation of the Mobile Zone. This zone changes weekly and is based on collared caribou information. While the zone has never overlapped with other ecotypes of caribou like Boreal Caribou (Tqdzì), we must ensure the zone can be applied wherever it is needed, and apply to any type of caribou found within it (see the map illustration below and the attached presentation for additional information). Changing the regulation by removing the term “barren-ground” will make it apply to all types of caribou.

This action affirms the commitment to ensure the conservation of Bathurst caribou (Kòk'èetì Ekwò).

Our hope is to have all Mobile Zone regulation processes complete for the upcoming winter hunting season.

We appreciate your consideration of these matters and appreciate your ongoing support for barren-ground caribou conservation. We look forward to providing you with the outcomes of the Environment and Natural Resources consultation on this effort after September 4, 2020.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Ms. Tammy Steinwand
Director, Culture and Lands Protection
Tłıchq Government
Behchokò, NT
TammySteinwand@tlicho.com



Karin Clark
A/Director, Wildlife and Fish
Environment and Natural Resources
Yellowknife, NT
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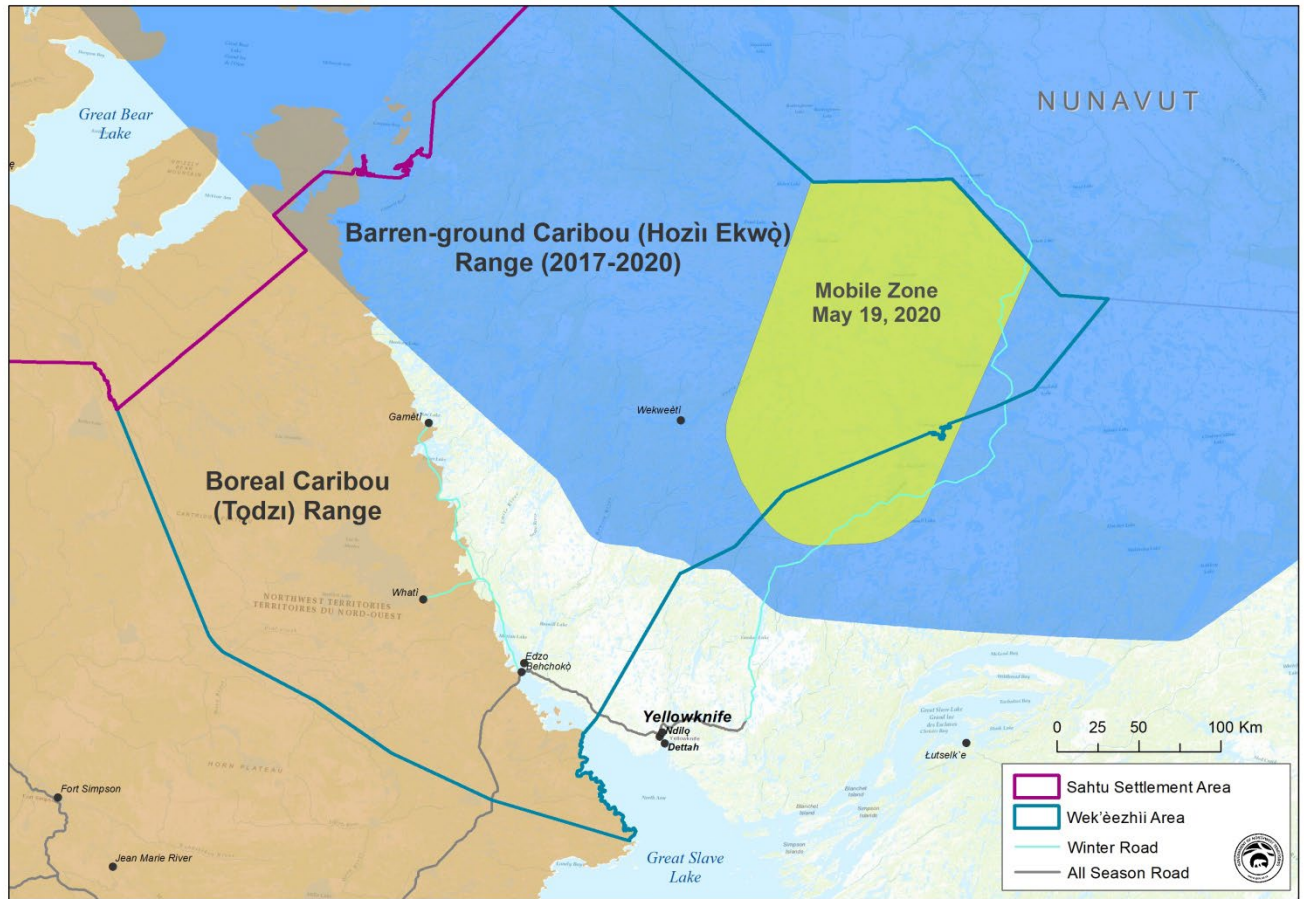
ATTACHMENT: Amendment to the Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Management Zone Regulations
PowerPoint presentation

c. Michael Birlea
Manager, Lands Protection and Renewable Resources
Tłıchq Government

Rob Gau, Manager Biodiversity Conservation
Environment and Natural Resources

Bruno Croft, Superintendent, North Slave Region
Environment and Natural Resources

Brett Elkin, A/Assistant Deputy Minister
Environment and Natural Resources





Amendment to the *Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Management Zone Regulations*

Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Tłıchǫ Government
submission to the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board

06 August 2020

Government of
Northwest Territories

- This presentation is part of the consultation package for a proposed government action by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) to amend the *Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Management Zone Regulations*.
- This action is also in preparation for the required submission to the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) under their policy *Rule for Management Proposals*.

Presentation Outline

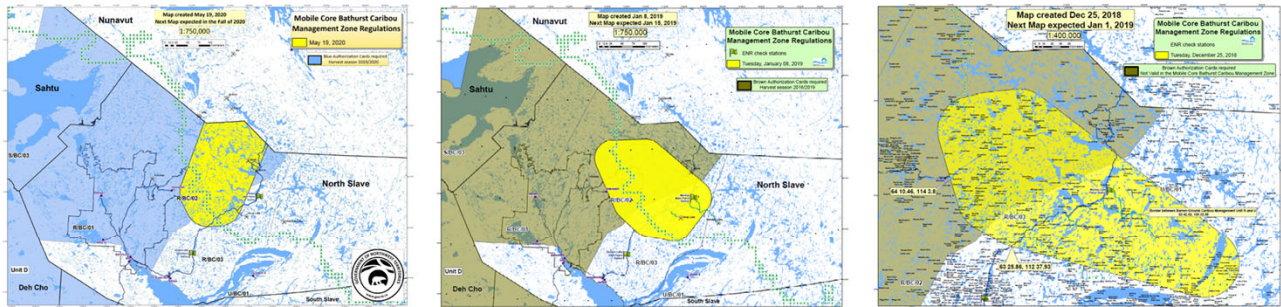
- What is the Mobile Zone?
- Issue
- Next Steps
- Contact Information



This presentation will cover:

- What the **Mobile Zone** is and how it currently works
- The issue that needs to be fixed in regulation
- What the planned next steps are
- How to contact us

What is the Mobile Zone?

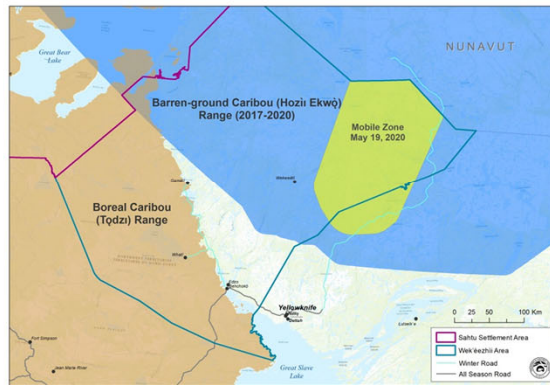


The **Mobile Zone** changes over time and is the area where hunting barren-ground caribou is not allowed to help conserve Bathurst caribou (Kòk'èetì Ekwò)



- In collaboration with the Tłıchó Government and the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board, and after public engagement and s.35 consultation with Indigenous Government Organizations, ENR enabled the *Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Management Zone Regulations* as a wildlife management area to prohibit all hunting of barren-ground caribou under the *Wildlife Act*, and help conserve the Bathurst caribou (Kòk'èetì Ekwò) herd.
- This **Mobile Zone** (yellow on the map) is “mobile” because it changes over time based on the locations of Bathurst caribou (Kòk'èetì Ekwò) collar locations.
- This **Mobile Zone** is the area where barren-ground caribou (Hozìì Ekwò) harvesting is prohibited.

The issue: regulation change to make the Mobile Zone apply to all caribou



- While the **Mobile Zone** has never overlapped with other types of caribou, this change is needed to ensure conservation efforts continue for Bathurst caribou (Kòk'èetì Ekwò)



- Over the last 30 years, the Bathurst caribou (Kòk'èetì Ekwò) herd has declined by more than 98 per cent despite extensive efforts from all wildlife co-management partners to support caribou conservation and promote herd recovery.
- The **Mobile Zone** changes weekly and is based on collared caribou information. The zone has never overlapped with other ecotypes of caribou like Boreal Caribou (Tòdzì) but we must ensure the zone can be applied wherever it is needed, and apply to any type of caribou found within it.
- Should the **Mobile Zone** ever overlap with range of Boreal Caribou (Tòdzì) in the future ENR would not be able to make a regulation change in time.
- Changing the regulation, by removing the term “barren-ground”, will make it apply to all types of caribou.
- This will maximize conservation protection efforts, and affirm all commitments to do everything possible to ensure Bathurst caribou (Kòk'èetì Ekwò) are available for future generations.

Next Steps

- Section 35 consultation underway.
- A Management Proposal to the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board as per their *Rule for Management Proposals*.
- The regulation amendment will be created to remove the term “barren-ground” from Sections 1, 2(1), and 2(2).
- ENR will work with the WRRB following sections 12.5.1 and 12.5.4 of the *Tlicho Agreement* for support of the regulation.
- Planned implementation is the upcoming winter hunting season.



- Formal s.35 consultation is underway. ENR will let the WRRB know if potential adverse impacts of the Mobile Zone regulation amendments on asserted or established Aboriginal and/or treaty rights are shared with us.
- Following the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) *Rule for Management Proposals*, this presentation accompanies joint ENR/Tłıchǫ Government letter to form a Management Proposal for this proposed amendment.
- ENR will work with the Department of Justice to amend the regulation whereby Sections 1, 2(1), and 2(2) of the regulation remove the term “barren-ground”.
- Once the amendment is drafted, ENR will contact the WRRB as per sections *Tlicho Agreement* 12.5.1; 12.5.4 for support.

For more information:

www.enr.gov.nt.ca

Email:

wildlife@gov.nt.ca



Thank you for your continued commitment to the conservation of the Bathurst barren-ground caribou herd.