

Tłįcho Government

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2022-08-24

Mr. Joseph Judas, Chair Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board 4504 – 49th Avenue Yellowknife, NT X1A 1A7

Re: Letter of Support for the Regulation changes to the Wildlife Management Barren-ground Caribou Areas R/BC/02 and R/BC/03

Dear Mr. Judas,

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is proposing regulation changes to the Wildlife Management Barren-ground Caribou Areas R/BC/02 and R/BC/03 so that it better reflects current barren-ground caribou range use and facilitates compliance and harvest monitoring of the Beverly, Bluenose-East and Bathurst barren-ground caribou herds.

As indicated in the proposal submitted by GNWT, authorizations are used for the harvest of Bluenose-East caribou in R/BC/01 and R/BC/02 and no harvest restrictions for R/BC/03 which covers the winter range of the Beverly herd for which there is no conservation concerns. Recently, the Beverly herd has been moving westward into R/BC/02 where authorization is required of Aboriginal Harvesters and General Hunting Licence holders to legally harvest barren-ground caribou.

Tłįcho Government understands that the change will increase the northeastern portion of R/BC/03 allowing hunter access to the Beverly herd and for Renewable Resource Officers and Indigenous Guardians/Monitors to monitor compliance with conservation actions applied to Bluenose-East and Bathurst caribou with greater ease.

Tłįchǫ Government has reviewed the proposed changes and consulted with local harvesters to identify a border that works best while being out on the land and hunting. They determined that the new border should use features such as lake edges to provide reference points to better guide them in knowing where the boundaries are. As such, Tłįchǫ Government supports the proposed new boundary for R/BC/03 as presented in the management proposal submitted by GNWT.

Sincerely,

Tammy Steinwand-Deschambeault

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Director, Department of Culture and Lands Protection

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