



February 5, 2010

Lance Schmidt
Regional Superintendent, North Slave
Environment and Natural Resources
Government of Northwest Territories
Yellowknife, NT
Email: lance_schmidt@gov.nt.ca

Via Email

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

Dear Mr. Schmidt,

The Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) is in the process of reviewing materials provided on the above referenced management proposal for permitting the use of bait in outfitted hunts of black bear. We commend your Department's efforts in conforming with the Board's guidance on information requirements for these types of proposals.

In reviewing the proposal, we identified areas where we require clarification or supporting documentation. These are listed below:

- The permit from last year required the operator to provide bait station records and biological samples (terms 17 and 18). Can you please provide these records and documentation of the samples?
- While the inspection reports did not lead to any identified infractions, were there any aspects of the operation that were altered according to advice or suggestions from the Department before or during the period of operation?
- The applicant requests for "the types of baits to be negotiated". In the Draft permit terms and conditions, term #7 restricts the types of baits to "un-processed fats and meat, oats, corn, fish and fish parts and other natural foods normally found in the nature of the surrounding area". Does term #7 indicate that the types of bait will not be negotiated with the applicant either before or after the permit is issued?
- In response to many concerns raised by stakeholders during the preliminary screening, ENR has committed to conducting a literature review to support the development of a Black Bear Management Plan. Could you please provide a timeframe and outline for how this process will be undertaken and completed?

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- We note some permit terms and conditions have changed from last year. These include:
 - a. The requirement to harvest only lone bears
 - b. The types of biological samples taken and provided to ENR

Please provide rationale for these changes.

- A grievance was brought to our attention by a camper that had an encounter with a bear at one of the bait stations during the 2009 period of operation. It was indicated that a report was filed with the Department. As public safety related to this proposal has been a main concern of the Board and Tłıchǫ government over the past several years, would you please provide a copy of this report, if possible?

We appreciate your attention to this matter and request a response by February 11, 2010. We recognize that this timeframe is tight but in the interest of an expedient review of this proposal and providing certainty to the applicant, we require the information prior to the Board's next meeting, February 15-16, at which it will make a recommendation on the proposal.

Sincerely,



Grant Pryznyk
Interim Chair

Cc Sarah True
Environmental Assessment Coordinator, ENR

Eddie Erasmus
Director of Lands, Tłıchǫ Government