

September 2, 2021

Ziaur Rahman, Manager
Surface Design and Construction
Department of Infrastructure
Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Via Email Ziaur_Rahman@gov.nt.ca

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Re: Boreal Caribou (Todzı) Final Habitat Offset Plan, Tlıcho All-Season Road

Dear Mr. Rahman:

The Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) has a mandate for wildlife, plants, forests, and protected areas in Wek'èezhìi and adheres to the principles and practices of conservation in fulfilling its duties. The Board makes decisions and recommendations on an ecosystemic basis using Tłįchǫ knowledge, science, and expert opinion. At its recent September 2021 meeting, the Board reviewed the *Tlicho All-Season Road Boreal Caribou (Todzi) Final Habitat Offset Plan*, which was submitted by the Department of Infrastructure (INF), Government of the Northwest Territories as a wildlife management proposal on July 16, 2021.

The WRRB understands that the main objective of the todzi habitat offsets is to compensate for residual effects on todzi or those effects that remain following the implementation of the mitigation measures proposed for the Tłįcho All-Season Road. Further, the Board understands that INF proposes to implement this plan in a phased approach. The Implementation Plan, which will pilot the restoration approaches outlined in the plan, focusses on restoring linear features that will require further collaboration to include important Tłįcho Knowledge to identify which specific linear features can be restored. As such, the WRRB approves the Tłįcho All-Season Road Boreal Caribou (Todzi) Final Habitat Offset Plan as presented (Motion #781-01-09-2021).

As the todzi habitat offsets timelines involve 2026 and beyond, the WRRB reminds INF to ensure that funding allocated to this program continues to be available as the Tłįcho All-Season Road moves from construction phase into operation and maintenance phase.

The Board looks forward to working with INF and other stakeholders to adaptively manage the todzi habitat offsets program. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (867) 873-5740 or ipellissey@wrrb.ca.

Sincerely,

Joseph Judas Chair Cc Benjamin Bey, Environmental Analyst – Environment Affairs, Design & Technical Services Infrastructure, GNWT

Laura Duncan, Tł₁ch₀ Executive Officer Tł₂ch₀ Government