

June 30, 2016

Sjoerd van der Wielen, Manager
Culture & Lands Protection
Tłı̄chǫ Government
Box 412, Behchokò, NT X0E 0Y0
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Via Email

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Bruno_Croft@gov.nt.ca

Bruno Croft, A/Superintendent
North Slave Region
Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Email: Bruno_Croft@gov.nt.ca

Re: Extension Request for Determinations #1-2016, #2-2016 and Recommendations #1-2016, #2-2016, #3-2016 – Bluenose-East Caribou Herd Joint Management Proposal

Dear Mr. van der Wielen and Mr. Croft:

The Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) would like to acknowledge receipt of the June 29, 2016 correspondence from the Department of Culture & Lands Protection, Tłı̄chǫ Government (TG) and the Department of Environment & Natural Resources (ENR), Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) requesting an extension for the implementation of Determinations #1-2016 and #2-2016, and Recommendations #1-2016, #2-2016, and #3-2016 from the Bluenose-East caribou herd Reasons for Decision Report, Part A from July 1, 2016 to August 1, 2016. The Board understands the rationale provided for the extension request is based on the extended submission date of the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board's (SRRB) final Bluenose-East caribou herd report. As the SRRB and WRRB have developed a cooperative framework and approach to ensure consistency and effectiveness of Bluenose-East caribou herd management, the Board accepts TG and ENR's request to extend the time for implementation to August 1, 2016.

Further, the WRRB recognizes the fiscal restraint the GNWT is facing, and that weekly aerial monitoring by ENR is not possible. While the Board is pleased to see that regular air and ground patrols will occur, and that regular patrol updates will be provided following each new air and ground-based patrol, throughout the winter, the WRRB requests that ENR also report on the monitoring and communication conducted as per the Compliance Program provided to the Board on April 22, 2016 (attached) as well as report on the success of performance indicators at the end of the harvest season.

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If you have any questions, please contact our office at (867) 873-5740 or jpellissey@wrrb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Grant Pryzyk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "P".

J. Grant Pryzyk
Chair

Attachment

Cc Hon. Wally Schumann, Minister, ENR
Ernie Campbell, Deputy Minister, ENR
Lynda Yonge, Director of Wildlife, ENR
Grand Chief Eddie Erasmus, TG
Laura Duncan, Tłı̄chǫ Executive Officer, TG

Environment and Natural Resources

ENR – North Slave Region

REPLY TO THE WRRB QUESTION AT PAGE 51-52 OF TRANSCRIPT, DAY 3, APRIL 8, 2016

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS & COMPLIANCE STRATEGIES

(SEPTEMBER 1, 2016-MARCH 31, 2017)

The WRRB has asked ENR to identify performance indicators or so that it can measure success of its compliance program. The following is a compliance plan for the operating period from September 1, 2016 – March 31, 2017 for the North Slave Region.

The plan will encompass communications, monitoring and patrols.

The Goal of ENR's compliance program is two- -fold:

- (i) To educate harvesters and other communities on the importance of complying with the *Wildlife Act* and hunting/harvesting in a responsible and law-abiding manner.
- (ii) To build a culture of trust between ENR and Tłjchq harvesters to achieve increased voluntary compliance with harvesters;

Monitoring:

The Tłjchq check station will be staffed by local Tłjchq Monitors in early January once the winter road is in) and run until the end of March or mid-April depending upon the road conditions.

ENR will continue to hire a Wildlife monitor for each of the Tłjchq communities and they will be posted in Gameti, Wha ti and Wekweeti during the winter season and during the fall if there is a fall hunt. Duration of employment for each monitor will depend on where the caribou are wintering and how long access will be open to hunters. These monitors will be working with an ENR Wildlife Officer whenever possible. In past years, a training plan and course has been developed and delivered to the monitors. This training plan and course will need to be adjusted to reflect issues that are relevant to wildlife enforcement today. ENR will also work with the Tłjchq Government to identify alternate monitors in each of the Tłjchq communities to provide relief for seasonal monitors at times. ENR will collaborate with the Tłjchq Government on a regular basis to discuss issues identified through the monitoring program.

The effectiveness of monitoring will be measured by improvements in the reporting to ENR and Tłjchq Government of where caribou have been seen and records of both successful and unsuccessful harvests.

Patrols

Patrols will be conducted on a weekly basis from December 1, 2016 through to April 30, 2017. It is anticipated that there will be at least two Officers in the Region patrolling each weekend throughout the winter season. Officers will also maintain a strong presence in communities during the weekdays and will correspond to activity level. ENR has a land travel protocol for all officers and monitors which is focused on ensuring their safety while in the field. ENR anticipates that it will be necessary to have two Officers from outside of the North Slave Region. These Officers will be required to spend a minimum of one week in the field. ENR will develop a field guide which will identify any local protocols and contacts which will be developed for each Tłjchq community to provide information for out of Region Officers.

ENR will conduct at least three fixed wing patrols throughout the hunting season to gauge activity, assess caribou locations and ensure compliance. The locations of these patrols will vary and be dependent on the location and movement of the caribou.

The effectiveness of patrols will be measured through such things as improvements in voluntary compliance and the reduction of incidents leading to prosecutions.

Communications and Education :

ENR will run newspaper ads and radio announcements commencing in December and continuing throughout the winter season to expand knowledge of any applicable harvesting restrictions. ENR will continue to deliver posters to the Tłjchq communities and post them at appropriate spots in each community in order to educate people on the harvest restrictions. Signage will continue to be placed along the trails informing of the need to have an authorization card to harvest and that it is a bull only harvest.

Workshops on “Sight your rifle” and “responsible harvesting” have been developed by the Tłjchq Government and ENR and will continue to be delivered to harvesters at the beginning of each harvest season.

ENR will set up regular community meetings throughout the winter to keep the public informed of any restrictions to harvesting caribou and to gather feedback from community members on issues facing harvesters and compliance issues.

The effectiveness of communication will be measured by the level of information and knowledge that people have when they stop at the check-points or otherwise deal with Officers who are on Patrols. ENR will also look at whether there is improved compliance with those who have completed programs like “Sight your rifle” and “responsible harvesting” versus individuals who have not completed programs.