



February 17, 2021

Brett Elkin, Acting ADM, Operations
Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

Via Email
Brett_Elkin@gov.nt.ca
tammysteinwand@tlicho.com

Tammy Steinwand-Deschambeault
Tłıchǫ Government
Box 412
Behchokò, NT X0E 1Y0

Re: WRRB Dìga Reasons for Decision Report – Clarification & Extension

Dear Mr. Elkin and Ms. Steinwand-Deschambeault:

On August 25, 2020, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and Tłıchǫ Government (TG) submitted a revised joint management proposal, entitled “*Revised Joint Proposal on Management Actions for Wolves (dìga) on the Bathurst and Bluenose-East Barren-ground Caribou (ᓃᓃᓃᓃ) Herd Winter Ranges: 2021 – 2024*” to the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB).

On September 4, 2020, the WRRB gave notice that following an initial assessment of the Revised Proposal, the Board determined that a Level 2 review was appropriate, as per its Rule for Management Proposals. The Board conducted its proceeding and closed the record on October 23, 2020. The Board submitted its final *Dìga* (Wolf) Reasons for Decision Report on January 8, 2021 to the GNWT and TG.

On February 3, 2021, TG and GNWT sent a request for the following:

- 1) Provide an indication of what alternative method(s) outlined in the Wolf Technical Feasibility Assessment would be supported to supplement ground-based harvest if removal targets are not met.
- 2) Provide an extension to respond to the Dìga Reasons for Decision Report from February 19, 2021 to March 12, 2021.
- 3) Participate in a meeting of technical staff to help inform TG and GNWT responses to the recommendations, in particular #1-2020, #7-2020, #15-2020, and #17-2020.

The WRRB met and discussed GNWT and TG's requests during their board meeting on February 10-11, 2021. As such, the Board provides the following response:

- 1) Without a management proposal, the WRRB is not prepared to provide an opinion on alternative dìga management method(s) outlined in the Wolf Technical Feasibility Assessment. This request does not allow the Board to conduct its process as set out in its

Rule for Management Proposals, i.e., collect and review information posted to a public registry, including public input. As noted in Recommendation #7-2020, based on an assessment of evidence during the annual review of the program, the WRRB would consider a management proposal of other methods of diga removal.

- 2) The WRRB approves the requested extension for GNWT and TG to provide a response to the Diga Reasons for Decision Report from February 19, 2021 to March 12, 2021.
- 3) The WRRB is willing to have its staff and technical experts participate in a positive exchange with GNWT and TG technical staff to clarify the intent of recommendations and rationale only from the Diga Reasons for Decision Report. The Board staff will look forward to confirming a date for the discussion.

The WRRB looks forward to continued collaboration with the GNWT and TG on Ɂekwò and diga management. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact our office at (867) 873-5740 or jpellissey@wrrb.ca.

Sincerely,



Joseph Judas
Chair

Enclosure

Cc Erin Kelly, Deputy Minister, ENR
Heather Sayine-Crawford, Acting Director, Wildlife Division, ENR
Bruno Croft, Superintendent, North Slave Region, ENR
Laura Duncan, Tłchq Executive Officer, TG
Michael Birlea, Manager, Culture and Lands Protection, TG