



August 31, 2020

James Hodson, Manager
Environmental Assessment & Habitat
Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Email: James.Hodson@gov.nt.ca

Via Email
James_Hodson@gov.nt.ca

Re: Development of an “Interim” Boreal Caribou Range Plan for Wek'èezhì to Satisfy Measure 6-1, Part 1 of the Tłchq All Season Road Report of Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Hodson:

The Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board (WRRB) has a mandate for wildlife, plants, forests, and protected areas in Wek'èezhì and adheres to the principles and practices of conservation in fulfilling its duties. The Board makes decisions and recommendations on an ecosystemic basis using Tłchq knowledge, science, and expert opinion.

At its recent August 2020 meeting, the WRRB reviewed and discussed the timelines proposed by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) to complete the Wek'èezhì Boreal Caribou Range Plan. The WRRB understands that the completion of the Tłchq All Season Road (TASR) project has been accelerated by almost two years, which does not allow the GNWT to complete the boreal caribou range plan as per Measure 6-1, Part 1 of the Environmental Assessment for the TASR project (EA1617-01). Additionally, Covid-19 restrictions have delayed community meetings to gather Indigenous knowledge required to complete the range plan.

As such, the WRRB supports the draft timelines proposed for developing an interim and final Wek'èezhì Boreal Caribou Range Plan as presented (Motion # 715-27-08-2020). The Board reminds the GNWT that both the interim and final range plans must be submitted to the WRRB as a management proposal under Section 12.5.1 of the Tłchq Agreement.

The WRRB encourages the GNWT to conduct community meetings virtually, where possible. The Board looks forward to the Boreal Caribou Range Plan Working Group continuing its collaborative development of a Wek'èezhì Boreal Caribou Range Plan. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (867) 873-5740 or jpellissey@wrrb.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Judas".

Joseph Judas
Chair

Cc Lisa Worthington, Range Planning Biologist
Environment & Natural Resources, GNWT

Michael Birlea, Manager
Culture & Lands Protection, Tłıchǫ Government