



# Tłıchq All Season Road Project

Mackenzie Valley Review Board

EA1617-01 Whatı Public Hearing November 16, 2017 (Day 2)

Government of  
Northwest Territories



# Wildlife

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# Assessment Summary

- Provided precautionary and ecologically relevant impact predictions
- Considered TK from the area about wildlife VCs, mitigation, and wildlife distribution (PR#28)
- Identified mitigation and evaluated its effectiveness



# Assessment Summary

- Addressed uncertainty through a precautionary approach
- Included reasonably foreseeable development
- Limit new habitat loss, small increase in fragmentation of populations
- No strong mechanism causing a long-term or irreversible change in reproduction or survival rates



# Additional Analyses Completed

Based on recommendations, additional information was considered for the assessment:

- Fragmentation metrics for boreal caribou (IR responses)
- Historical caribou harvest data (IR responses)
- Consideration of other boreal caribou study areas (IR responses)
- Analysis of habitat metrics in the Wek'èezhìi area (IR responses)
- Frequency of barren-ground caribou presence near TASR (PR#189, PR#190, IR responses)
- Recent collared boreal caribou movements (PR#199)
- Literature reviews of road effects (PR#192)
- Consideration of ECCC bird data (PR#175)

Additional information supported the assessment was conservative and the ASR conclusions about residual effects.



# Project Mitigation

- Project Environmental Monitors will be hired during construction
- Corridor Working Group is proposed
- Predominantly follows existing disturbance (development and fire), which limits new disturbance
- Traffic volume and speed will be low, which will limit sensory disturbance and mortality risk
- WMMP that considers feedback (PR#192) and includes adaptive management





# Project Mitigation

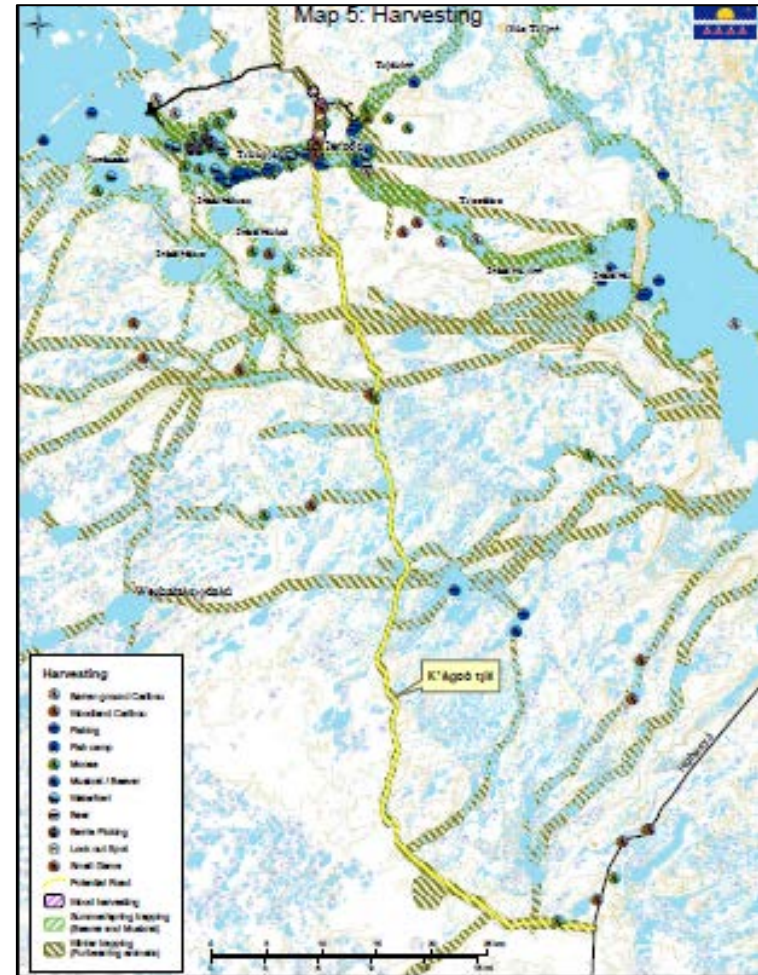
- New Renewable Resources Officer stationed in Whatì
- Move the winter checkpoint station to the TASR route
- Monitoring for species at risk during construction, including quarries
- Avoid clearing vegetation during migratory bird nesting
- Regular reporting of wildlife monitoring (weekly, annual, comprehensive reporting, and immediate when necessary)
- Coordinate ENR wildlife monitoring with construction activity
- Increase mitigation during sensitive seasons for wildlife



# Traditional Harvest

Traditional harvest occurs in the area surrounding the Project for:

- Boreal caribou
- Barren-ground caribou
- Moose
- Furbearers and other game
- See PR#28, PR#90, PR#96, PR#97, PR#98, PR#123







# Boreal Caribou

- NT1 Range is appropriate scale
- Undisturbed habitat above but near threshold at Base Case
- Added disturbances not in the ECCC baseline
- ECCC revisiting threshold relationship in light of stable SK1 population with less than 60% undisturbed (3% development)
- Like SK1, NT1 also has low development disturbance (9% development)
- WMMP includes adaptive management





# Barren-ground Caribou

- Lines of evidence, including TK, support assessment was precautionary
- Project will improve road access for harvest in the region, but north of Whatì will still require use of the existing winter road system
- There are current harvest management actions to limit harvest of barren-ground caribou
- New Renewable Resources Officer stationed in Whatì will patrol the road
- New winter checkpoint station on the TASR route
- Extend the season for aerial patrols for the Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Management Zone if needed





# Wildlife-vehicle Collisions

- Collision reports for Highway 3 indicate caribou collisions are extremely rare despite higher traffic volume and speed
- TASR will have lower traffic volume and speed than Highway 3







# Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan

- Includes mitigation and monitoring for construction and operation
- GNWT has revised to include suggestions following engagement (PR#209, PR#213)
- GNWT has committed to continue engagement on the WMMP beyond the EA process, and WMMP will be approved by ENR
- Reporting of wildlife monitoring will be weekly and annually, and immediately where necessary
- Annual reporting will consider available information from traditional knowledge
- Adaptive management is integrated into the Plan



## Environmental Assessment Conclusions

- Assessment was precautionary and appropriate for meeting the TOR
- Limited new habitat loss, small increase in fragmentation of populations
- No strong mechanism causing a long-term or irreversible change in reproduction or survival rates
- WMMP includes mitigation, monitoring, mitigation audit and adaptive management



# Following the Environmental Assessment

- The WMMP will go through further consultation and will require approval
- There will be regular public reporting of construction-phase wildlife monitoring and yearly public reporting of operation-phase wildlife monitoring
- Corridor working group may make suggestions



# Questions?

