

Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley



October 1, 2021

Lisa Worthington
Wildlife and Fish Division
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Government of the Northwest Territories
P.O. Box 1320
Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9

Sent via email

RE: Land and Water Board comments the draft *Interim Wek'èezhìi Boreal Caribou Range Plan*

Dear Lisa Worthington,

The Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley, or the Boards (Gwich'in, Mackenzie Valley, Sahtu, and Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Boards), would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft *Interim Wek'èezhìi Boreal Caribou Range Plan* (the draft Plan). The Boards recognize the collaborative effort that has gone into the development of the Plan and would like to take this opportunity to applaud its progress.

The Boards comments on the draft Plan are largely editorial in nature and are attached in the supplied Excel spreadsheet. Noting that implementation of the draft Plan relies largely on Section 95 of the *Wildlife Act* and the use of the Wildlife Monitoring and Management Plan (WMMP), at least until regulations under Section 93 are developed, the Boards will continue to work with Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) to facilitate your review of WMMPs through the use of the Boards' Online Review System. The Boards recommend that, whenever possible, an early determination by the Minister for the requirement of a WMMP for a project will assist in helping the Boards determine what conditions are required. The Boards further recommend that ENR ensure that the WMMP guidance for proponents is updated to reflect that a WMMP will be required by default for any project proposed in an Enhanced or Intensive management area.

The draft Plan proposes the use of the Boards' application review process to ascertain whether or not a project application adheres to the Plan's management actions and will require additional information in applications to the Boards. This may require updates to Board guidance in what is required in an application as well as determinations of an application's completeness. **The LWBs strongly encourage GNWT staff to engage with Board staff on these proposed new application requirements as soon as possible.**

The Boards look forward to further engaging in the process as the discussion progresses. Again, we would like to thank the GNWT for this opportunity to review the draft Plan. Please feel free to contact Sarah Elsasser at selsasser@wlwb.ca or (867) 446-5963 should you require more information.

Sincerely,



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