

Government of Gouvernement des Northwest Territories Territoires du Nord-Ouest

BY EMAIL

July 4, 2025

Mark Cliffe-Phillips
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
200 Scotia Centre
PO BOX 938
YELLOWKNIFE, NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mark Cliffe-Phillips:

Government of the Northwest Territories' 2024 Annual Environmental Assessment Measures report for the Tłįchǫ All-Season Road Project (EA1617-01)

On behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), we are pleased to provide the GNWT's 2024 annual environmental assessment measures report (the Annual Report) for the Tłįchǫ All-Season Road Project, now referred to as the Tłįchǫ Highway. The Annual Report describes the implementation of measures directed to the developer (Measure 14-1) and to the GNWT (Measure 14-2), as required by EA1617-01. Where the measures are directed to the developer, the Department of Infrastructure (INF) has provided the response; where the measures are directed to the GNWT or specific departments within the GNWT, departments with mandates related to the measure have provided the response.

The Annual Report lists all measures as included in the recommendation adopted by the responsible ministers and Tłįchǫ Government and summarizes GNWT actions for the calendar year 2024, along with links to relevant documents. Suggestions from EA1617-01 directed to the developer or the GNWT are being considered as appropriate and are not captured in the Annual Report.

Should the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board or any parties have any questions, please contact Nancy Njerere, Project Assessment Analyst, Project Assessment Branch, Environment and Climate Change, at Nancy_Njerere@gov.nt.ca or (867) 767-9180 Ext. 53040, or Benjamin Bey, Environmental Analyst, Department of Infrastructure, at Benjamin_Bey@gov.nt.ca or by phone at (867) 767-9083 Ext. 31058.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Seale

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Director

Impact Assessment and Security Management

Environment and Climate Change

Ziaur Rahman Manager Surface Design

and Construction
Infrastructure

Attachment





2024 ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT MEASURES REPORT

TŁICHQ HIGHWAY (TŁICHQ ALL-SEASON ROAD PROJECT) (EA1617-01)

SUBMITTED TO Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

July 3, 2025

Thcho All-Season Road: GNWT Annual Environmental Assessment Measures Report

This tabular report summarizes the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) 2024 performance on the Tłįchǫ All-Season Road (TASR, the Project) environmental assessment measures (EA1617-01). Reporting is made on behalf of the GNWT, both as the developer (Measure 14-1) and as Government and Regulatory Authorities (Measure 14-2). For reference, the reporting period spans from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

The measures that stipulate annual reporting be provided to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) are as follows:

| M | EASURE | MEASURE SPECIFICS |
|---------------|---|--|
| Adaptive mana | gement, follow-up, an | d monitoring |
| Measure 14-1 | Annual reporting from the developer | To demonstrate how measures are being implemented and to evaluate the effectiveness of the developer's efforts to prevent or minimize impacts on the environment, the developer will, throughout all phases of the development, prepare an annual report on the implementation of measures. The report will address the measures that the developer is responsible for and will: |
| | | a) describe the actions, including actions implemented through adaptive management, being undertaken to implement the measures; and, b) evaluate how effective the implementation actions are in reducing or avoiding the impact (considering the results of monitoring programs and adaptive management frameworks). Where applicable, provide references to further information contained in other management plans or monitoring reports. |
| | | The developer will provide its annual report to the Review Board one year from the date of the final approval of this <i>Report of Environmental Assessment</i> , and annually thereafter. |
| Measure 14-2 | Annual reporting from government and regulatory authorities | |
| | | a) describe the actions being undertaken to implement the measures or the part(s) of the measures for which the regulatory authority or government is responsible; and, |
| | | b) explain how these actions, including those implemented through adaptive management, fulfill the intent of the EA measures, including consideration of the following questions: |
| | | i. How are implementation actions addressing a likely significant adverse impact on the environment? ii. How effective are implementation actions at reducing or avoiding the impact or its likelihood? |
| | | Government and regulators are only responsible for reporting on the implementation actions they take, not actions taken by the developer. For example, if a regulator does not issue an authorization, provide direction to the developer, approve a management plan, or take other actions that relate to an EA measure(s) in a given year, the regulator will not need to submit a report for that year. |
| | | The governments and regulators will provide their annual reports to the Review Board one year from the date of the final approval of this <i>Report of Environmental Assessment</i> , and annually thereafter. |

DESCRIPTION OF HOW MEASURES ARE BEING SATISFIED AND UNDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 OR 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE

| | MEASURE | | MEASURE SPECIFICS | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Community well- | being | | | |
| Measure 5-1 | Developer's support of monitoring and adaptive management of adverse health and well-being impacts Part 1 Monitor adverse health and well-being impacts to the Community of Whatì Part 2 Reporting Part 3 Adaptive management and reevaluation | To inform mitigation of significant cu developer will support the Tłıcho Go impacts of the Project on the health a • the anticipated initial spike in ha • traffic accidents on the road; • change in safety of young women | h and well-being impacts to the Community of Whati imulative and project-specific adverse impacts on the health and well-being of the Community of Whati, the vernment and Community Government of Whati in the monitoring and evaluation of direct and indirect and well-being of the Community of Whati. These will include: rmful behaviours associated with increased access to drugs and alcohol; and other vulnerable groups; and, and other vulnerable groups; and, and availability of country foods in Whati. Monitoring will meet the requirements of Appendix C. | |
| | evaluation | 5-1, Part 2: Reporting The developer will support the Tłıcho Government and Community Government of Whati in preparing an annual progress report on their efforts to mitigate impacts on health and well-being to the Community of Whati. 5-1 Part 3: Adaptive management and re-evaluation The developer, in collaboration with the Tłıcho Government and Community Government of Whati, will support the adaptive management of health and well-being impacts, following guidance in | | |
| | | Appendix B. The developer will support the Tłıche management described in this measu EASURE IS BEING SATISFIED AND UN | o Government and Community Government of Whatì, in the monitoring, engagement, reporting and adaptive are for each year of construction and for a minimum of ten years of Project operations. IDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE | |
| - | CEMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL ON MEASURE PR | | JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS | |
| 5-1 Part 1: Moni The developer co Territories (GNW | toring adverse health and well-being impaint ntinues to provide funding for a position with (T) for the development of a monitoring and the road. This funding continues until March 31 | cts to Whatì: nin the Government of the Northwest ad adaptive management framework | This Measure is directed to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1 5-1 Part 1: Monitoring adverse health and well-being impacts to Whati: The developer continues to provide funding for a position within the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) for the development of a monitoring and adaptive management framework associated with the Tlicho Highway. This funding continues until March 31, 2027. | |
| associated with the road. This funding continues until March 31, 2025. 5-1 Parts 2 and 3: Reporting and adaptive management: The developer has committed to financial support for the Tłıcho Government (TG), the Community Government of Whati (CGW), the Community Government of Behchoko (CGB), and the Tłıcho Community Services Authority (TCSA) alongside the GNWT-HSS for reporting up until 2024/2025. | | of Behchokò (CGB), and the Tł ₁ cho SS for reporting up until 2024/2025. | 5-1 Parts 2 and 3: Reporting and adaptive management: The developer is providing financial support for the Tłįcho Government, the Community Government of Whati (CGW), the Community Government of Behchoko (CGB), and the Tłįcho Community Services Authority (TCSA) alongside the Department of Health and Social Services (GNWT-HSS) for reporting up until 2026/2027. The developer is including social and health issues in the Corridor Working Group | |

addition to the existing health and well-being working group that implements Measures 5-1 and 5-2.

The Department of Health and Social Services, along with the departments of Justice, Education, Culture and Employment, and the NWT Bureau of Statistics work closely with the Tłįchǫ Government to share data that supports the development of materials that the Tłįchǫ Government can share with their communities to help identify if there are impacts from the Tłįchǫ Highway. These materials are a collaboration between multiple agencies to develop, monitor and collect important health and well-being indicators and are prepared and finalized with the Tłįchǫ Highway Socio-Economic Working group. One of the goals of the materials are to identify trends in indicators, and then to work together to identify if any additional actions are required to help mitigate for any negative trends.

(CWG) discussions in addition to the existing Health and Well-being Working Group that implements Measures 5-1 and 5-2. The CWG did not meet during the reporting period due to availability and scheduling conflicts.

GNWT-HSS, along with the departments of Justice (GNWT-JUS) and Education, Culture and Employment (GNWT-ECE), and the NWT Bureau of Statistics, work closely with the Tłįchǫ Government. Together, they share data that supports the development of materials that the Tłįchǫ Government can distribute within their communities. This collaboration aims to determine impacts from the Tłįchǫ Highway, and to identify programs and opportunities that provide support for areas of concern or interest. These materials are a collaboration between multiple agencies to develop, monitor, and collect important health and well-being indicators and are prepared and finalized with the Tłįchǫ Highway Socio-Economic Working Group (SEWG). The SEWG met quarterly in 2024. One of the goals of the materials is to identify trends in indicators, and then to work together to identify any additional actions that are required to help mitigate any negative trends.

In 2024, the Tłıcho Government, with support from the GNWT, produced a series of thematic posters to report on some of the monitoring activities and results to date using data gathered up until 2024. The posters explain both the impacts of the construction of the road on Tłıcho communities and the mitigative actions designed to address them. The reports dated February 5, 2025, are now available to the public.

| | MEASURE | MEASURE SPECIFICS | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| Community well- | being | | | | |
| Measure 5-2 | Thicho monitoring, engagement and reporting of adverse health and wellbeing impacts Part 1 Tłįcho monitoring of adverse health and wellbeing impacts Part 2 Public engagement Part 3 Reporting | of the developer, will establish and implement a framework to monitor and evaluate health and well-being impacts associated with the road, and will adaptively manage health and well-being impacts as described in Measure 5-1 and following guidance in Appendices B and C, for each year of construction and for a minimum of ten years of operations. | | | |
| | | 5-2. Part 2: Public engagement The Tłįcho Government, Government of the Northwest Territories, Tłįcho Community Services Agency and Community Government of Whatì, with the participation of the developer and the P3 operator, will meet with the residents of Whatì at least once per year to discuss: a) priority health and well-being impacts at the individual, family and community level related to the Project; b) the effectiveness of programs or mitigations used to address these impacts; and, c) the need to adjust programs or implement additional mitigations. 5-2. Part 3: Reporting The Tłįcho Government, Government of the Northwest Territories, Tłįcho Community Services Agency and Community Government of Whatì, with the support of the developer, will prepare and make publicly available an annual progress report on their efforts to mitigate impacts on health and well-being to the Community of Whatì. The report will describe engagement, current management and plans for future adaptive management. The findings of the report will be presented to the residents of Whatì, provided to the Whatì Inter-Agency Committee and provided to the Tłįcho All-Season Road | | | |
| | DESCRIPTI | Corridor Working Group (see Measure 14-3). | UNDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE | | |
| JANUARY 1 – DEC | EMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL 0 | | JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS | | |
| This Measure is | directed at the Tłįcho Gove | ernment, TCSA and whole of the GNWT (with g reported on under both Measures 14-1 and | This Measure is directed at the Tł ₁ ch ₂ Government, TCSA, and the whole of the GNWT (with support of the developer). As such, it is being reported on under both Measures 14-1 and 14-2. Reporting under Measure 14-1 | | |
| Reporting under Measure 14-1 a) The developer funded one position in the GNWT-HSS to support the coordination of this work from late 2019 onwards. GNWT provides funds to support work on Measure 5-1 and 5-2 up until 2024/25; GNWT-HSS and the developer are working to solidify longer term funding to support the monitoring framework and socio-economic work undertaken by the Socio-economic Working Group. | | | a) The developer continues to fund one position in the GNWT-HSS to support the coordination of this work. GNWT will provide funds to support work on Measure 5-1 and 5-2 up until 2026/27; GNWT-HSS and the developer are working to solidify longer-term funding to support the monitoring framework and socioeconomic work undertaken by the SEWG. b) Currently, work is ongoing to identify trends in indicators being monitored for health and well-being that might be associated with the Tłįchǫ Highway. Multiple events, such as COVID-19 and the resulting | | |

b) Currently, work is ongoing to identify trends in indicators being monitored for health and well-being that might be associated with the Tłįcho Highway. Multiple events such as COVID-19 and the resulting restrictions, followed by forest fires and evacuations have likely contributed to concerning trends in mental health and wellbeing indicators which may require mitigation. In order to mitigate for changes in these indicators, implementation of adaptive management strategies is the next step for the Tłįcho Highway Socio-Economic Working Group. Accordingly, the Working Group will identify which indicators are trending negatively and work together to determine possible mitigations. It is currently too early to determine with confidence the effectiveness of implementation.

Some examples of work that has been undertaken in the Tłįchǫ region recently includes the following:

- In response to the ongoing Syphilis outbreak in the NWT, the GNWT has sent 27,000 condoms and 35 condom dispensers to the Tłįchǫ region since March 2023 as surge programing. Thirteen condom dispensers were sent to Behchokǫ, ten to Gamètì, six to Wekweètì, and six to Whatì. Condom dispensers were also distributed to other regions in the NWT.
- In response to the ongoing opioid crisis, the Health Promotion Division of GNWT has sent over 70 naloxone kits to the Tłįchǫ region as part of GNWT's surge response activities since 2023.

Reporting under Measure 14-2

- a) The Tłįchǫ Government, Government of the Northwest Territories, Tłįchǫ Community Services Agency (TCSA), Community Government of Whatì (CGW) and Community Government of Behchokǫ (CGB) (members of the Tłįchǫ Highway Socio-Economic Working Group) have completed a second year of monitoring road operations. The working group has completed two progress reports and/or informative posters for the Tłįchǫ leadership. Community engagement on the results is the anticipated next step.
- b) Preliminary findings indicated that the initial spike in harmful behaviours and adverse effects that was predicted in the EA occurred, but some indicators may be starting to move towards levels observed prior to the construction of the Tłįchǫ Highway. Work is ongoing to help mitigate those impacts, and then monitor to see if the behaviours return to pre-road construction levels. The working group has been focused on continuing to identify priority health and well-being indicators and effects and developing an action-focused adaptive management approach. With more time, it is hoped that the working group will be able to assess the effectiveness of implementation with more confidence.

restrictions, followed by forest fires and evacuations, have likely contributed to concerning trends in mental health and wellbeing indicators, which may require mitigation. Accordingly, the SEWG will identify which indicators are trending negatively and work together to determine possible mitigations. The effectiveness of implementing mitigation strategies is being monitored year over year to assess how these mitigation programs are influencing trends. Some examples of work that has been undertaken in the Thcho region recently include the following:

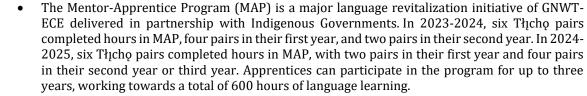
- In addition to the actions listed in 2023 reporting, over the past two fiscal years, the GNWT has also conducted training for 22 Community Health Representatives, other professionals and paraprofessionals in the Tł₁cho region on point-of-care syphilis testing.
- In response to the ongoing opioid crisis, the Health Promotion Division within the GNWT provided overdose prevention training to the Tłıcho and other regions of the NWT. The training included harm reduction messaging, Naloxone training, and introductions to the fentanyl test strips that can be used to test illicit drugs for fentanyl before use.

To mitigate the effects of the increased use of illicit drugs in Tłįcho region, GNWT-JUS took a number of actions. These include:

- Making presentations at the Community Justice Symposium in February 2024, to raise awareness about illicit drugs in the NWT and the activities of the RCMP's G Division Crime Reduction Unit.
- The Tłıcho Government's Community Justice coordinator, a position funded by GNWT-JUS, conducted one youth all-nighter with a focus on drug and alcohol awareness and one for drunk driving.
- Partnering with the GNWT Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) and the
 Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (OCPHO), to bring the Odd Squad Production to some
 NWT communities, including Behchoko, to provide drugs and gang awareness training to youth
 in the community.
- Providing partial funding for the Behchokò Youth Centre

The GNWT also supported and participated in community engagement activities conducted by the Tłįchǫ Government with residents of Behchokǫ̀ and Whatì, focusing on the impacts of the Tłįchǫ Highway. Some examples include:

• The GNWT-ECE continues to work with the Tłįchǫ Government to support Indigenous languages revitalization. The GNWT has signed a three-year contribution agreement (2024-2027) with the Tłįchǫ Government, providing a total of \$1,839,000 over three years. Through this agreement, the Tłįchǫ Government receives \$613,000 per year to deliver Indigenous language programs. This funding is provided through the *Canada-NWT Agreement on Indigenous Languages* 2024-2027. The Tłįchǫ Government received \$613,000 in 2023-2024 as part of the 2022-2024 agreement.



• The Tłıcho Government, in collaboration with their consultant, Firelight, and the GNWT, will release a report on their ongoing work to assess and address the impacts of the road in Behchokò and Whatı in 2025.

Reporting under Measure 14-2

- a) In 2024, the Tłįchǫ Government, GNWT, TCSA, CGW, and CGB (members of the SEWG) have completed a third year of monitoring road operations. The SEWG has completed three progress reports and/or informative posters for the Tłįchǫ leadership. Community engagement on the results is the anticipated next step.
- b) Preliminary findings indicated that the initial spike in harmful behaviors and adverse effects that was predicted in the EA occurred, but some indicators may be starting to move towards levels observed before the construction of the Tłįchǫ Highway. Due to the timing of the first year of road work, it has also been difficult to separate this spike from other significant socio-economic changes experienced throughout the territory that have been associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Work is ongoing to help mitigate those impacts and then monitor to see if the behaviors return to pre-road construction levels. The SEWG has been focused on continuing to identify priority health and well-being indicators and effects and developing an action-focused adaptive management approach. With more time, it is hoped that the SEWG will be able to assess the effectiveness of implementation with more confidence.

| MEASURE | | MEASURE SPECIFICS | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Community wel | l-being | | | | |
| Measure 5-3 Safety of young women in relation to work camps | | To mitigate the Project's impact on the physical and mental health and safety of women, the developer has required that the successful P3 operator has gender appropriate and gender-specific policies in place that promote a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for women at work and in communities near work camps. The developer will consult with the Tłįchǫ Government and Community Government of Whatì in establishing core elements of these policies. | | | |
| | DESCRIPTION OF HOW ME | <u> </u> | UNDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE | | |
| JANUARY 1 – DI | ECEMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL ON MEASURE PR | | JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS | | |
| This measure is | directed to the developer, reporting under M | leasure 14-1 | This measure is directed to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1 | | |
| a) Women were not employed as part of the Tłıcho Highway Maintenance work force during the reporting period. However, the policies developed to ensure safety of young women are still in place and will be applicable to women whenever they are employed. b) Not applicable for the reporting period | | ped to ensure safety of young | a) Women were not employed as part of the Tłįcho Highway Operations and Maintenance workforce during the reporting period. However, the policies developed to ensure the safety of young women are still in place and will be applicable whenever women are employed. b) Not applicable to the reporting period due to (a) above. | | |

| | MEASURE | MEASURE SPECIFICS | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Community well-being | | | | | |
| Measure 5-4 | Employee awareness training and policies | | | work environment, the developer will ensure that the P3 operator: | |
| | | • | | t that prevents assault, harassment and racism. | |
| | | | • | cy for racial or sexual discrimination; and, | |
| | | 1 2 | • | g course designed to promote cultural and gender awareness. | |
| | | | | raining materials, in consultation with the Tłįchǫ Government and the Tłįchǫ Community Services | |
| | | | | ease risks of sexual assaults on Aboriginal women. The developer, the Tłįchǫ Government and the | |
| | | Tłicho Community Services Agend | ncy will coordinate course delivery. The developer will fund the training course. | | |
| | DESCRIPTION OF HOW ME | EASURE IS BEING SATISFIED AND | UNDER | WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE | |
| JANUARY 1 - D | ECEMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL ON MEASURE PR | OGRESS | JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS | | |
| This measure is | directed to the developer, reporting under M | leasure 14-1 | This measure is directed to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1 | | |
| a) No chang | a) No change from the <u>2020-2021 response</u> . | | | No change from the 2020-2021 response. | |
| b) No change from 2022-2023 response: No incidents of racial or sexual discrimination, sexual assault or harassment were reported during the 2022-2023 reporting period nor have any incidents been reported since the commencement of construction on September 2, 2019. | | b) | There were no changes to the <u>2022-2023 response</u> : No incidents of racial or sexual discrimination, sexual assault, or harassment were reported during the reporting period, nor were there any incidents reported since the commencement, during, and after completion of construction in November 2021. | | |

| MEASURE | | MEASURE SPECIFICS | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Community we | ell-being | | | | |
| Measure 5-5 | Community engagement and grievance | The developer will hold public engage | ment sessions with the Communities of Whatì and Behchokò to discuss project-related community concerns. | | |
| | mechanisms | | | | |
| | | | ance mechanism and a community grievance mechanism that allow individuals and communities to raise concerns | | |
| | | in a timely and open manner. These w | rill be in place before the start of Project construction. | | |
| | DESCRIPTION OF HO | W MEASURE IS BEING SATISFIED ANI | D UNDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE | | |
| JANUARY 1 – I | DECEMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL ON MEASUF | RE PROGRESS | JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS | | |
| This measure | is directed to the developer, reporting un | der Measure 14-1 | This measure is directed to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1 | | |
| a) Following completion of construction of the road in 2021/22, and with no active and functional work camp, this requirement is no longer applicable.b) Not applicable. | | | a) Following the completion of construction of the road in 2021/22, and with no active and functional work camp, this requirement is no longer applicable.b) This requirement is no longer applicable due to (a) above. | | |
| | | | | | |

| MEASURE | | | MEASURE SPECIFICS |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Community we | ll-being | | |
| Measure 5-6 | Include Behchokò in accident response | | ritories will develop and implement an effective ground ambulance and highway rescue action plan along the |
| | planning | | tion with the Tłįchǫ Government (TG), Tłįchǫ Community Services Agency (TCSA), Community Government of |
| | | Whatì, and Community Government o | f Behchokỳ. |
| | DESCRIPTION OF HO | W MEASURE IS BEING SATISFIED and | UNDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE |
| JANUARY 1 – D | ECEMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL ON MEASUR | E PROGRESS | JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS |
| This measure is directed to the GNWT, reporting under Measure 14-2 | | Measure 14-2 | This measure is directed to the GNWT, reporting under Measure 14-2 |
| a) No change from the 2021-2022 response.b) No change from the 2021-2022 response. | | | a) No change from the 2021-2022 response.b) No change from the 2021-2022 response. |

| MEASURE | | MEASURE SPECIFICS | | | | |
|----------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Community well-being | | | | | | |
| Measure 5-7 | Prioritize Northern hiring | The developer will prioritize Northern hiring, and Tłįchǫ citizen hiring in particular, in its contract with | | | | |
| | the P3 operator. | | | | | |
| _ | DECCRIPTION OF HOW MEACURE IS DEING CATISFIED AND HAD | ED WHICH MEACHDE (14.1 or 14.2) THE DEDODT IC DEINC MADE | | | | |

DESCRIPTION OF HOW MEASURE IS BEING SATISFIED AND UNDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS

This measure is directed to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1

- a) No change from 2022-2023 response.
- b) The developer prioritized Northern hiring and actively hired Tłıcho residents during the January 2023- December 2023 reporting period. Tłıcho workers are made up of Tłıcho residents including Tłıcho Investment Corporation (TIC) approved workers.

Number and Percentage of Tł ${\rm 1}$ ch ${\rm 0}$ and Northern Workers between September 2022 and July 2023

| Month of Year | Total Work ers on Proje ct | Tłįchǫ/Behch okò Residents + TIC- Approved Workers | % of Tłįchǫ/Behcho kòৃ Residents +TIC- Approved Workers | Nort hern Resi dent s | % of Norther n Residen ts |
|------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Jan - 2023 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| Feb - 2023 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| Mar - 2023 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| April -2023 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| May - 2023 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| Jun - 2023 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| July - 2023 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| Aug - 2023 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| Sept - 2023 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| Oct - 2023 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| Nov - 2023 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| Dec - 2023 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |

This measure is directed to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS

- a) There were no changes to the 2022-2023 response for the reporting period.
- b) The developer prioritized Northern hiring and actively hired Tłįchǫ residents during the January-December 2024 reporting period. Tłįchǫ workers are made up of Tłįchǫ residents, including Tłįchǫ Investment Corporation (TIC) approved workers.

Number and Percentage of Tłįchǫ and Northern Workers between January 1- December 31, 2024

| Month of Year | Total Workers on Project | Tłįchǫ/Behchokò Residents + TIC- Approved Workers | % of Thcho/Behchokò Residents +TIC- Approved Workers | Northern Residents | % of Northern Residents |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jan - 2024 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| Feb - 2024 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| Mar - 2024 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| Apr -2024 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| May - 2024 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| Jun - 2024 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| July - 2024 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| Aug - 2024 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| Sept - 2024 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| Oct - 2024 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| Nov - 2024 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |
| Dec - 2024 | 6 | 6 | 100% | 0 | 0% |

| | MEASURE | | MEASURE SPECIFICS |
|---|--|---|---|
| Boreal caribou | | | |
| Measure 6-1 | Implementation of the Recovery Strategy for the Boreal Caribou in the NWT, and required range plans, for boreal caribou affected by the Project Part 1 Develop and implement range plans Part 2 Information and adaptive management requirements | the Recovery Strategy for the Boreal where boreal caribou (todzi) may ex The range plan(s) will be developed range plan for the North Slave portion Thicho Agreement a minimum of 90 of The GNWT will work collaboratively manage habitat to achieve the habitat applicable Aboriginal groups as required to the area identified by the range processory Strategy for the Boreal Care monitoring to determine popular | plement a range plan for boreal caribou (todzi) in the North Slave portion of the NT1 range, as required by Caribou in the NWT. The GNWT-ENR will also develop and implement a range plan for any other region perience impacts related to the Project. Collaboratively with Aboriginal groups and co-management partners. GNWT-ENR will complete and submit a n of the NT1 range to the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board for review under section 12.5.1 of the lays before the Project is opened for public use. With the Tłicho Government, and other relevant Aboriginal and federal land management authorities to it disturbance threshold set out in this range plan to the greatest extent possible. The GNWT will consult with lired. Emanagement requirements Dolan(s) in measure 6-1, part 1 the following must be included in the development and implementation of the ibou in the NWT or range plan(s): tion trends, abundance and distribution; esholds and triggers to inform adaptive management; g; levels; |
| | | thresholds for each range plannimonitoring predator population Monitoring will meet the requirement | including densities, movements and predation rates. ats of Appendix C. GNWT-ENR will work with the developer to adaptively manage Project impacts on boreal |
| | | caribou (tǫdzı) (following guidance i | |
| | | | DER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE |
| | ECEMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL ON MEASURE PR | | JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS |
| This measure is directed to the GNWT-ECC, reporting under Measure 14-2 | | Measure 14-2 | This measure is directed to the GNWT-ECC, reporting under Measure 14-2 |
| a) 6-1 Part 1: Develop and implement range plans: On December 09, 2021, the Wek'èezhìı Renewable Resource Board (WRRB) notified ENR (now Environment and Climate Change [ECC]) that they had approved the interim range plan. The final interim Wek'èezhìì range plan is available at: https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/sites/ecc/files/resources/attachment a final interim wekeezhii bcr | | oved the interim range plan. The final | a) 6-1 Part 1: Develop and implement range plans: The Wek'èezhìi working group (WG) continued to work in 2024 on completing the full Wek'èezhìi Boreal Caribou Range Plan (Wek'èezhìi range plan). On March 21, 2024, the WG met to review the management class map and revisit previous decisions regarding Basic, Enhanced and Intensive management classes. Along with a discussion about potential offsetting guidelines that GNWT was preparing, the WG discussed how the Southern NWT WG is treating protected areas as a fourth |

p public release feb20 22.pdf

Since then, the working group has met several times to refine the plan and map using results of Traditional Knowledge Community Mapping workshops, led by Indigenous partners, and updated caribou location data. A final Wek'èezhìì range plan is anticipated for early 2025.

The GNWT is working collaboratively with the Tłįcho Government, and other relevant Indigenous and federal land management authorities to manage habitat to achieve the habitat disturbance threshold set out in the interim Wek'èezhìı range plan to the greatest extent possible.

6-1 Part 2: Information and adaptive management requirements:

The information below highlights activities undertaken to fulfil the requirements of the environmental assessment measure. Additional information on actions undertaken in 2023 to implement the TASR Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) can be viewed at:

https://registry.mvlwb.ca/Documents/W2020L8-0001/W2020L8-0001%20-%20TASR%20-%20Annual%20Report%20-%202023%20-%20May%2031_24.pdf

Monitoring to determine population trends, abundance, and distribution [of boreal caribou]

- ECC initiated a boreal caribou monitoring program in the North Slave region focused on the TASR corridor in March 2017, with the deployment of 20 GPS collars on adult female caribou. Additional collars were deployed in subsequent years to replace collars scheduled to drop off, any mortalities, any premature collar releases, and to bring the target sample size up to 30 collars.
- Seven collars were deployed in February-March 2023.
- Six collars deployed in 2019 released as scheduled in March 2023 and were retrieved during the spring classification survey.
- There were 34 active collars in the TASR study area as of December 2023, with no collars scheduled to drop in early 2024.
- GNWT-ECC intends to maintain the number of collared females within the TASR (North Slave Tłıcho Highway) study area at 30 individuals annually for at least 5 years during the operational period of the road to obtain more precise estimates of female survival. The current sample size is higher than 30 because 18 collars are scheduled to drop in April 2025, and it is better to replace those collars over multiple years rather than in a single year.
- Annual survival rates of collared female caribou, as well as spring classification surveys used to estimate calf: cow ratios conducted in February or March each year, are used to estimate annual rates of population trend (λ =adult female survival/[1- female calf recruitment]) following Latham et al.'s (2010) modification of Hatter and Bergerud's (1991) equation.

management class in their range plan. This same approach was proposed to the Wek'èezhìi WG. The WG members indicated they would discuss this first with their respective leadership and members/communities and report back at the next meeting. GNWT-ECC committed to preparing a draft map including a protected area management class, for the WG to discuss at the next meeting.

The WG met again on June 27, 2024. GNWT-ECC had produced a draft map that contained slightly altered percentages (by 2.9%) of the management classes from the interim range plan, which would allow for protected areas to be included in the map. The WG members said they would meet with their communities over the summer to discuss these new percentages and the potential for a protected areas management class. It was also decided that in the fall, the Tłįchǫ Government would present their members' findings to GNWT-ECC so that GNWT- ECC could create a revised map that integrated the most recent Traditional Knowledge (TK) from the communities.

The communities' feedback and traditional knowledge was presented again by Tł_cho Government at a WG meeting on December 18, 2024. This was the final WG meeting before the Wek'èezhìı range plan goes for public review. Integrating the TK gathered from Tł_cho communities, the Wek'èezhìı WG agreed to have a protected areas management class and added some very minor edits to the map. This became the final draft map for the full Wek'èezhìı range plan. It was sent to the WG for approval in early 2025 and a public review of the range plan is expected to take place in summer 2025.

6.1 Part 2: Information and adaptive management requirements:

The information below highlights activities undertaken to fulfil the requirements of the environmental assessment measure. Additional information on actions undertaken in 2024 to implement the TASR Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) can be viewed at: https://lwb-registry-867.s3.ca-central-1.amazonaws.com/Documents/W2020L8-0001/W2020L8-0001%20-%20TASR%20-%20Annual%20Report%20-%202024%20-%20May%2030_25.pdf

Monitoring to determine population trends, abundance, and distribution [of boreal caribou]:

- Ten GPS collars were deployed in February 2024.
- There were 39 active collars in the TASR study area as of December 2024, with 17 collars scheduled to drop in April 2025. Five new collars will be deployed in 2025.
- The 2024 spring classification survey took place between February 26-28, 2024. Table 6.1a below provides the annual adult female survival rate, calf: cow ratios and population trend index for the first seven years of the monitoring program. To date, GNWT-ECC has observed high annual female survival rates, and an increasing population trend in all years, with the lowest population trend index in 2021-22.
- No boreal caribou abundance surveys took place in 2024.
- Table 6.1a. Adult female survival and calf: cow ratios are used together to estimate the annual population growth rate, or lambda (λ). A value of 1.0 indicates a stable population; a value less than 1 indicates a declining growth rate; values higher than 1 indicate an increasing growth

- The 2023 spring classification survey took place March 3-5, 2023. Table 6.1a below provides the annual adult female survival rate, calf: cow ratios and population trend index for the first six years of the monitoring program. To date ECC has observed high annual female survival rates, and an increasing population trend in all years, with the lowest population trend index in 2021-22.
- No boreal caribou abundance surveys took place in 2023.
- Table 6.1a. Adult female survival and calf: cow ratios are used together to estimate the annual population growth rate, or lambda (λ). A value of 1.0 indicates a stable population; a value less than 1 indicates a declining growth rate; values higher than 1 indicate an increasing growth rate.

| YEAR (APRIL 01- MARCH 31) | ADULT FEMALE SURVIVAL | CALF:COW RATIO | POPULATION TREND (LAMBDA) |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| 2017-18 | 0.95 | 32.6 : 100 | 1.10 |
| 2018-19 | 1.00 | 37.2 : 100 | 1.19 |
| 2019-20 | 0.97 | 26.2 : 100 | 1.09 |
| 2020-21 | 0.96 | 31.0 : 100 | 1.11 |
| 2021-22 | 0.89 | 27.3 : 100 | 1.01 |
| 2022-23 | 0.92 | 33.2 : 100 | 1.07 |

<u>Determination of population thresholds and triggers to inform adaptive management</u>

• Population thresholds and triggers have not been defined for the region. Instead, regional habitat disturbance thresholds which are tied to the likelihood of population self-sustainability have been defined in the NWT range planning framework (<u>A Framework for Boreal Caribou Range Planning</u>).

Harvest monitoring and reporting

- The Tłįcho Government developed a proposal for a monitoring program to address Measures 7-1 and 9-1 of the Report of Environmental Assessment (EA). In August 2020, GNWT-INF committed funds to support the Tłįcho Government to undertake this program. Measure 9-1 relates to the development of a non-mandatory harvest monitoring and reporting program. The information from this program will provide information that will also support implementation of Measures 6-2 and 7-2, as well as inclusion of traditional knowledge as required by Measures 9-3 and 10-2.
- In addition to the program led by the Tłįcho Government, GNWT-ECC Renewable

rate.

| YEAR (APRIL 01- MARCH 31) | ADULT FEMALE SURVIVAL | CALF:COW RATIO | POPULATION TREND (LAMBDA) |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 2017-18 | 0.95 | 32.6 : 100 | 1.10 |
| 2018-19 | 1.00 | 37.2 : 100 | 1.19 |
| 2019-20 | 0.97 | 26.2 : 100 | 1.09 |
| 2020-21 | 0.96 | 31.0:100 | 1.11 |
| 2021-22 | 0.89 | 27.3 : 100 | 1.01 |
| 2022-23 | 0.92 | 33.2:100 | 1.07 |
| 2023-24 | 0.92 | 33.9:100 | 1.07 |

Determination of population thresholds and triggers to inform adaptive management

Population thresholds and triggers have not been defined for the region. Instead, regional
habitat disturbance thresholds which are tied to the likelihood of population selfsustainability have been defined in the NWT range planning framework (<u>A Framework for Boreal Caribou Range Planning</u>).

Harvest monitoring and reporting

- The Tłıcho Government developed a proposal for a monitoring program to address Measures 7-1 and 9-1 of the Report of Environmental Assessment. In August 2020, GNWT-INF committed funds to support the Tłıcho Government to undertake this program. Measure 9-1 relates to the development of a non-mandatory harvest monitoring and reporting program. The information from this program will provide information that will also support implementation of Measures 6-2 and 7-2, as well as inclusion of traditional knowledge as required by Measures 9-3 and 10-2.
- In 2024, the Tłįchǫ Government finalized the voluntary harvester reporting program, including the creation of both physical and digital forms for harvesters to report their Tłįchǫ Highway harvests. Participation has been incentivized through a monthly gas gift card draw and information on the reporting program has been widely shared through the Tłįchǫ Government social media, two new road signs on the Tłįchǫ Highway (one in each direction), and distribution of informant pamphlets at the 2024 Tłįchǫ Research Expo and the Tłįchǫ Government offices. Harvester interviews in Behchokǫ and Whatì were also completed in 2024. Local active and previously active hunters and trappers were interviewed to collect information on their harvesting activities along the Tłįchǫ Highway and surrounding areas to determine the factors that influence harvesting success and how that has changed over time.

Resources Officers (RROs) from Whatı and Behchokò conducted an estimated 75 patrols on the Tłıcho Highway in 2023.

The number of estimated patrols was fewer than in 2022 for several reasons. There was a higher focus on monitoring the Tłıcho Highway during first year the road was open to the public. There were also increased patrols associated with the timber licenses that were issued along the Tłıcho Highway for the first time in 2022. In 2023, the number of patrols was also lower due to the 2023 wildfire season, and the resulting wildfire response and community evacuations that pulled RROs into other duties. Typically, the highest frequency of RRO patrols is late August to mid-October when hunting seasons open and people are cutting firewood, however, RROs had additional wildfire-related duties until mid-October 2023.

<u>Determining sustainable harvest levels</u>

a) See Measure 6-2 regarding activities related to determination of sustainable harvest levels.

Identifying critical habitat

• This action is complete. See 2021 reporting. GNWT-ENR completed a range-wide (NT1) habitat selection analysis (resource selection functions) project using boreal caribou collar data from across the NWT to model and generated predictive maps of boreal caribou habitat selection during different seasons (NWT CIMP Project #202). The predictive habitat selection maps are being used to assist with identifying important areas for boreal caribou to support range planning and were also used in the draft TASR habitat offset plan for boreal caribou.

Ongoing habitat disturbance monitoring

- ECC measures and updates fire disturbance on an annual basis and contributes this data to the National Burn Area Composite (NBAC) and Canadian National Fire Database (CNFDB) datasets maintained by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). ECC uses a combination of the NBAC (1986-2020) and CNFDB (pre-1986) datasets to calculate fire disturbance within the NWT boreal caribou range.
- Including fire polygons from the 2023 fire season, the NT1 range as a whole had 24% fire disturbance (≤40 yrs old; 1984-2023), 10% human disturbance (including 500 m buffer; data current to 2020 [source ECCC]) and 32% total disturbance. At the end of 2023, the Wek'èezhìı portion of the boreal caribou range had 33% fire disturbance (≤40 yrs old; 1984-2023 fires), 1% human disturbance (including 500 m buffer; data current to 2020 [source ECCC]), and 33% total combined fire/human disturbance. These regional numbers include the footprint of the cleared right of way of the TASR project that was visible on 2020 satellite imagery used by ECCC (road alignment and borrow sources plus a 500 m buffer).

- The Tłıcho Government is preparing a report summarizing the findings of these harvester interviews for distribution to the GNWT in 2025 Q1.
- In addition to the program led by the Tłįchǫ Government, GNWT-ECC Renewable Resources Officers (RROs) from Whatì and Behchokò conducted 26 patrols on the Tłįchǫ Highway in 2024. Formal patrols were conducted from May to December. No formal patrols were conducted from January to April, as RROs from the region were actively involved in monitoring the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road (TCWR). However, the RRO from Whati did drive the Tłįchǫ Highway when transiting to and from shifts on the TCWR, providing some informal patrols at that time of year. Typically, the highest frequency of RRO patrols along the Tłįchǫ Highway is late August to mid-October when hunting seasons open and people are cutting firewood. Some compliance checks for timber harvesting permits were conducted between June to October. RROs were not called out to respond to any wildlife-vehicle collisions along the Tłįchǫ Highway in 2024. There was one report of bison north of the La Martre River bridge, around km 80, as well as a muskox observed at km 70. RROs were called out to deter a bear from an existing cabin around km 6.

Determining sustainable harvest levels

• See Measure 6-2 regarding activities related to determination of sustainable harvest levels.

Identifying critical habitat

• This action is complete. See 2021 reporting. GNWT-Environment and Natural Resources (GNWT-ENR; now GNWT-ECC) completed a range-wide (NT1) habitat selection analysis (resource selection functions) project using boreal caribou collar data from across the NWT to model and generated predictive maps of boreal caribou habitat selection during different seasons (NWT CIMP Project #202). The predictive habitat selection maps are being used to assist with identifying important areas for boreal caribou to support range planning and were also used in the draft TASR habitat offset plan for boreal caribou.

Ongoing habitat disturbance monitoring

- GNWT-ECC measures and updates fire disturbance on an annual basis and contributes this data to the National Burn Area Composite (NBAC) and Canadian National Fire Database (CNFDB) datasets maintained by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). GNWT-ECC uses a combination of the NBAC (1986-2023) and CNFDB (pre-1986) datasets to calculate fire disturbance within the NWT boreal caribou range.
- Including fire polygons from the 2023 fire season, the NT1 range as a whole had 24.7% fire disturbance (≤40 yrs old; 1984-2023), 10.11% human disturbance (including 500 m buffer; data current to 2020 [source ECCC]) and 32.2% total disturbance. Disturbance statistics current to 2024 for the NT1 range as whole cannot be provided until the NBAC dataset is updated to 2024. This ensures that fires within the Yukon territory portion of the NT1 range are included in the calculation. However, it was possible to update disturbance metrics for the

Disturbance mapping within 10 km of the Tłıcho Highway

- During the development of the Tłıcho Highway Boreal Caribou Habitat Offset Plan in 2021, using imagery dated prior to any Tłıcho Highway construction disturbance, GNWT-ECC began mapping the amount of existing disturbance on the landscape within 10 km of the proposed Tłıcho Highway alignment and the existing Highway 3 corridor. All existing disturbance was delineated at map scales between 1:5,000 and 1:1,000, where imagery was of sufficient resolution to do so. Spatial data attributes for the existing disturbance mapping were as follows:
 - Linear feature (roads, trails)
 - o Polygonal feature (landings, cutblocks, quarries)
 - o Old Airport Road (existing Old Airport route alignment)
 - o Hwy 3 (existing Highway 3 corridor including cleared right-of-way)
- In 2023, following construction, the as-built disturbance was mapped using the same methods as the pre-disturbance mapping (Associated Environmental 2023). GNWT-ECC mapped any new trails or disturbance that was visible in the imagery and coded these new disturbances separately from the as-built disturbance (to meet one of the monitoring requirements of Section 5.2.2 of the WMMP Access and Harvest Monitoring). Additional information on a change in imagery sources can be found in the 2023 Annual Report for the TASR Water Licence W2020L8-0001.

• Spatial data attributes for the as-built disturbance mapping were as follows:

| Disturbance | Area | Description |
|----------------|--------|--|
| Footprint | (ha) | |
| Туре | | |
| Tłįchǫ Highway | 549.97 | The total new disturbance, including quarries/borrow |
| As-Built | | sources, resulting from the Tłįchǫ Highway construction. |
| HWY 3 | 555.62 | Existing Highway 3 corridor including cleared right-of- |
| | | way. |
| Linear | 386.28 | All roads and trails existing pre-construction of the Tłįchǫ |
| Disturbance | | Highway |
| New trail | 0.30 | Any new trails created since construction began. |
| Old Airport Rd | 73.48 | Existing Old Airport Road route pre-construction of the |
| | | Tłįcho Highway. |
| Polygonal | 305.56 | All landings, cutblocks, quarries existing pre-construction |
| Disturbance | | of the Tłįcho Highway. |

• In total, the Tłıcho Highway cleared right of way and borrow sources resulted in 550 ha of new footprint development to previously undisturbed habitat. This was less than the estimated footprint of 784 ha in the Report of Environmental Assessment (page 1): "The estimated footprint of the proposed road corridor is approximately 564 hectares, with an

- Wek'èezhìi portion of the boreal caribou range using 2024 fire polygons for the NWT. After the 2024 fire season, there was 35.8% fire disturbance (≤40 yrs old; 1985-2024 fires), 1.01% human disturbance (including 500 m buffer; data current to 2020 [source ECCC]), and 35.8% total combined fire/human disturbance within the Wek'èezhìi portion of the boreal caribou range. These regional numbers include the footprint of the cleared right of way of the TASR project that was visible on 2020 satellite imagery used by ECCC (road alignment and borrow sources plus a 500 m buffer).
- The ESRI imagery used to map the as-built disturbance of the Tłįchǫ Highway in 2023 was current to August 2021. As of 2024, the ESRI imagery along the Tłįchǫ Highway has not been updated again. However, a side-by-side comparison was made to Google Earth imagery which is generally current to 2023 and 2024 along the Tłįchǫ Highway alignment, and no new features intersecting the Tłįchǫ Highway alignment were visible that were not already visible on the 2021 imagery. This suggests that there has not been an increase in new trails being created along the Tłįchǫ Highway since it has opened.

<u>Setting disturbance thresholds for critical habitat and, to the greatest extent possible, managing habitat towards meeting these disturbance thresholds for each range planning region</u>

• Disturbance limits and human disturbance management thresholds have been defined for each boreal caribou range planning region within the NWT Framework for Boreal Caribou Range Planning.

Monitoring predator populations including densities, movements and predation rates

- No additional predator population monitoring took place in 2024. As of the end of 2024 there is still one active wolf collar in the Tł₁ch₀ Highway area.
- b) The effectiveness of this measure cannot be determined until after the boreal caribou range plan for the Wek'èezhìı region is completed and fully implemented.

additional 220-hectare footprint estimated for the borrow sources and access roads (PR#7)."

As of 2023, new trails originating from the Tłıcho Highway were not extensive, based on the imagery available, and only 0.3 ha (2,968.5 m2) new trails were identified in the updated mapping. It appears that the new trail may have been used as access to water sources and it is not clear if these new trails were a component of construction or a result of other human activities. In reviewing the disturbance footprint data, GNWT-ECC noticed some minor disturbance features that were not captured in the dataset and based on the date of the underlying imagery (2021), it is likely that these features were associated with the Tłıcho Highway project. These additional features will be captured in the next annual reporting cycle.

Setting disturbance thresholds for critical habitat and, to the greatest extent possible, managing habitat towards meeting these disturbance thresholds for each range planning region

 Disturbance limits and human disturbance management thresholds have been defined for each boreal caribou range planning region within the NWT Framework for Boreal Caribou Range Planning.

Monitoring predator populations including densities, movements and predation rates

- As part of the TASR WMMP and a research program in partnership with Laval University (funded by the Sentinel North program), ECC deployed GPS collars on black bears in the study area between Fort Providence and Behchoko, and along the TASR corridor. The purpose of this program is to evaluate the influence of the TASR and Highway 3 on black bear movements and to assess predation rates of black bears on boreal caribou, moose and bison calves. The broader purpose of the Sentinel North project is to study food web dynamics between boreal caribou, moose, bison, wolves and bears and to understand how the food web is influenced by natural and human landscape disturbance as well as climate change. The black bear collars were equipped with a video camera to capture short video clips at regular intervals to document black bear predation events as well as to learn more about their behaviour and food habits.
- Seven black bears were captured and fitted with GPS collars in the study area in 2021 and two black bears were captured and fitted with GPS collars in 2022.
- Both bear collars deployed in 2022 were retrieved in 2023.
- One bear slipped its collar off at its den site in the spring, and the collar on the other bear released on schedule in July 2023. There were no collars on bears at the end of 2023.
- In 2022, GPS collars were used to begin monitoring wolves to assess predator movements. GPS collars allow for monitoring the movements, distribution and habitat selection of wolves, including their use or avoidance of the Tłįcho Highway and of other linear features. Wolf collars are programmed to release approximately 1.5 years after deployment.
- In March 2022, four wolves were captured and fitted with GPS collars (Telonics model

TGW4577-4) in the boreal caribou range of the North Slave area. Two of those collared wolves were still wearing active collars at the beginning of 2023 and both collars released on schedule in June 2023. An additional two boreal wolves (one male and one female from the same pack) were captured and fitted with GPS collars in March 2023, near the Highway 3 / Tłįchǫ Highway junction. The project objectives were to collar up to 5 wolves in the study area, but due to weather delays the crew was not able to spend time searching for additional wolf packs to deploy the remaining collars. Both of these collared wolves were still active at the end of 2023.

- There was no wolf abundance survey in 2023.
- b) The effectiveness of this measure cannot be determined until after the boreal caribou range plan for the Wek'èezhìı region is completed and fully implemented.

| | MEASURE | MEASURE SPECIFICS | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Boreal caribo | u | | |
| Measure 6-2 | Determine sustainable harvest levels for boreal caribou (tǫdzı) and implement measures to ensure harvest is sustainable if required | with the requirements of the Tłıcho Agreement, will determine sustainable harvest levels for boreal caribou in the North Slave portion of the NT1 range prior to the road being opened to the public. | |
| | | hunting corridor along the Project route. | in the region is kept within sustainable levels. Such measures may include the establishment of a no- |
| | DESCRIPT | , | DER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE |
| JANUARY 1 - | DECEMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL O | N MEASURE PROGRESS | JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS |
| JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS This measure is directed to the GNWT-ECC, reporting under Measure 14-2 a) As reported in previous years, population modeling to evaluate sustainable harvest levels using available demographic data from boreal caribou monitoring programs in the Dehcho, South Slave and North Slave regions was completed in 2020. Engagement on the report was conducted in 2021. Copies of the full report, plain language summary and fact sheet can be found at: https://www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/resources/gnwt boreal caribou population model report final bil 1.pdf https://www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/resources/plain lanugage summary boreal caribou u sustainable harvest re port sep2021 0.pdf https://www.gov.nt.ca/sites/ecc/files/resources/boreal caribou sustainable harvest fact sheet. pdf b) The actions taken to date outline the progress the GNWT-ECC has made in implementing this measure and has established a baseline understanding for sustainable harvest levels in the North | | modeling to evaluate sustainable harvest levels using ribou monitoring programs in the Dehcho, South Slave 020. Engagement on the report was conducted in 2021. Imary and fact sheet can be found at: sources/gnwt boreal caribou population model report sources/plain lanugage summary boreal caribo .pdf sources/boreal caribou sustainable harvest fact sheet. | This measure is directed to the GNWT-ECC, reporting under Measure 14-2 No updates for 2024. |
| Slave region | ons of the NT1 range. The effective | erstanding for sustainable harvest levels in the North eness of this measure cannot be determined until aparison against the baseline data | |

| MEA | MEASURE SPECIFICS MEASURE SPECIFICS | | MEASURE SPECIFICS |
|---|--|---|---|
| Boreal caribo | 1 | | |
| Measure 6-3 | Habitat offset and restoration plan | | plement a habitat offset plan. This plan will describe how the required habitat offset area will be per will collaborate with Tłıcho Government and the Wek'èezhiı Renewable Resources Board, and |
| | | The developer will make funding available to the parties to support this coapproved, the developer will operate in accordance with the plan. | onsultation and collaboration. The developer will submit a draft and a final plan as described below. Once |
| | | | ources Board a minimum of 30 days prior to commencement of construction. The developer will submit d for review under section 12.5.1 of the Tłįchǫ Agreement, as soon as possible, and no later than 90 days |
| | | a decision framework to prioritize restoration areas, mitigations, and a discussion of how any proposed mitigations or offsets align with the | offsets, including references to the research on which the decision framework was based; e Recovery Strategy for the Boreal Caribou in the NWT and range plans; |
| | | details of proposed ways to offset habitat disturbance including resto a description of the spatial scale of the proposed offset, the habitat qu a timeline for offsetting; | ration sites, mitigation measures, offsets, forest fire fighting policies, or habitat management approaches; ality and type, site specific restoration activities, and any challenges; |
| | | a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the total area of boreal ca a summary of consultation feedback that was integrated into the draf | ribou habitat proposed for restoration and the timeframe required for restoration; |
| | | a description of any Traditional Knowledge that was considered in th | |
| | | • a description of any resources provided to Aboriginal groups to suppoplan. | ort their involvement in the drafting of the final plan, and for any involvement in the implementation of the |
| | | DESCRIPTION OF HOW MEASURE IS BEING SATISFIED AND UNDI | ER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE |
| | | 2023, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS | JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS |
| This measure is primarily directed to the developer, but requires the involvement of GNWT-ECC. The developer and ECC worked collaboratively to provide the information as summarized below, reporting under Measures 14-1 and 14-2. | | ed collaboratively to provide the information as summarized below, | This measure is primarily directed to the developer but requires the involvement of GNWT-ECC. The developer and GNWT-ECC worked collaboratively to provide the information as summarized below, reporting under Measures 14-1 and 14-2. |
| a) During the reporting period, GNWT-ECC and GNWT-INF prepared and issued a Request for Proposal for the development of the Caribou Habitat Offset Implementation Plan. The development of the plan is expected to be completed in 2026. b) No change from the 2019-2020 response. | | Caribou Habitat Offset Implementation Plan. The development of the pland in 2026. | a) A contract was awarded to a consultant during the reporting period to develop the Caribou Habitat Offset Implementation Plan. October 28, 2024 (Behchokò) – An engagement session/workshop was organized for the Tłıcho Government. Local knowledge holders provided valuable input on the suitability of candidate areas identified for restoration as part of the habitat offsetting program. |

| • | October 29, 2024 (Yellowknife) – A second engagement session/workshop was organized for |
|---|--|
| | the North Slave Métis Alliance. Local knowledge holders provided valuable input on the |
| | suitability of candidate areas identified for restoration as part of the habitat offsetting program. |

- The Yellowknives Dene First Nation did not respond to the developer's request to engage, and therefore did not participate in the engagement sessions/workshops.
- A progress report has been prepared by the consultant following the engagement sessions.
- Currently, preparations are underway for field verification boots on the ground, to confirm the suitability of the candidate areas identified by the knowledge holders during the engagement sessions/workshops.
- Another engagement session/workshop is planned for October 2025, following the field verification activities.
- The final Implementation Plan is expected in the summer of 2026.
- b) The Caribou Habitat Offset Implementation Plan is currently being developed. Therefore, the effectiveness of the actions taken to implement this measure cannot be assessed for the reporting period.

| | MEASURE | | MEASURE SPECIFICS |
|--|---|---|--|
| Barren-groun | d caribou | | |
| Measure 7-1 | Incorporate Traditional Knowledge into monitoring of barren- ground caribou (2ekwò) | To improve and inform mitigation of significant adverse impacts to barren-ground caribou (?ekwò) resulting from increased access due to the Project, the developer will include Traditional Knowledge in barren-ground caribou (?ekwò) monitoring and management. Prior to operations, the developer will: a) support the Tłıcho Government in the design and implementation of a program that uses Tłıcho harvesters' traditional knowledge and methods to monitor the state of barren-ground caribou (?ekwò) winter habitat, during and after the construction of the Project; b) fund the implementation of the program in paragraph a); and, c) incorporate the findings of the program in paragraph a) into the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan while it is in place, and into any other barren-ground caribou (?ekwò) management if the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan is not extended. | |
| | DESCI | RIPTION OF HOW MEASURE IS BEING SATISFIED AND U | INDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE |
| • | DECEMBER 31, 2023, DETAI | | JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS |
| primarily dire | ected to the developer, but r | reporting under Measure 14-1: This measure is equires the involvement of GNWT-ECC. The y to provide the information as summarized below, | This measure is directed to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1. This measure is primarily directed to the developer, but requires the involvement of GNWT-ECC. The developer and ECC worked collaboratively to provide the information as summarized below, reporting under Measures 14-1 and 14-2. |
| harvesters (?ekwò) w Measure 7 • TH A re fo re cc m la • Ve TI of sp ar ar | traditional knowledge and ryinter habitat. The following -1 have occurred during the reach Tilli Deè Committee Meet meeting was held on October 1 is sults of ongoing monitoring war the measures, and identify is search programs occurring allowers about the amount of litt onitoring program will help und. Regetation Surveys The summer of 2023 was the this data after the Tłicho Highway becies abundance and composing at different distances from a darboreal lichen loads were | | a) The GNWT provides funding for the Tłıcho Government to implement a program that uses Tłıcho harvesters' traditional knowledge and methods to monitor the state of barren-ground caribou (2ekwò) winter habitat. The following activities related to this program implemented under Measure 7-1 have occurred during the reporting period: Thıcho Tılıì Deè Committee Meetings |
| • <u>O</u> | ngoing Monitoring | | No updates for 2024. |

Tłącho monitors continue to monitor the highway daily for wildlife and harvesting events. To enhance and automate data collection, monitors were trained on how to collect data on survey maps using an electronic device (iPad). With this methodology, data flow to an online repository allows for a better streamlined protocol. Wildlife observations continue to be reported quarterly.

<u>Dust Monitoring</u>

A dust monitoring program is currently underway. Two different dustfall collectors, a canister dust collector and a passive dust monitoring unit, are being used to monitor dust at different distances from the highway. Canister dust collectors are replaced monthly and sent to ALS laboratory for analysis. The passive dust collectors are replaced every three months and are sent to NRCan for analysis under the current Memorandum of Understanding between NRCan and the Tłįchǫ Government. This program has had some setbacks due to the 2023 summer wildfires and collecting protocols. Tłįchǫ Highway monitors were retrained in February 2024 on how to collect, replace, and handle the canisters and passive units for accurate results. A dustfall report will be completed once a year of data has been collected.

• Harvesting Program

Based on direction from the Tłįchǫ Tįliì Deè committee, the Tłįchǫ government is working on developing and implementing a comprehensive harvesting program. The program aims to interview Tłįchǫ community members who actively hunt on the land to understand how this activity has changed over time. The interviews will also address whether the Tłįchǫ Highway has impacted harvesting activities for community members and will provide a Traditional Knowledge perspective of the population size of key species. In addition to the interviews, the Tłįchǫ government is working on incentivizing voluntary reporting by harvesters. To do so, the Tłįchǫ government is working on social media and traditional media campaigns and reward programs to encourage harvesters to report their harvests.

- The GNWT has not received any requests to change the WMMP based on the results of the Tłįchǫ Government's program to monitor the state of barren-ground caribou (ekwò) winter habitat.
- b) The actions taken have been effective in establishing and implementing a vegetation and dust monitoring program to assess the state of barren-ground caribou (and boreal caribou) winter habitat along the road. However, whether the actions effectively contribute to the overall objective of the measure to improve and inform mitigation of significant adverse impacts to barren-ground caribou (2ekwò) resulting from increased access due to the Project cannot be assessed vet.

Ongoing Monitoring

In 2024, Tłįcho Highway Monitors continued to monitor the highway daily for wildlife and harvesting events. Data was collected via survey maps on a field tablet and stored in an online repository. Additional training with Monitors was held in March 2024 to ensure high-quality data collection.

Wildlife observations continue to be tracked and reported quarterly. The Tłıcho Government is preparing a comprehensive analysis of data and trends to date for distribution to the GNWT in 2025 Q1.

• Dust Monitoring

Tłąchǫ Highway Monitors were retrained in March 2024 on how to collect, replace, and handle the canisters and passive units for accurate results. The Tłąchǫ Government is preparing a technical memo with dustfall data from March 2024 to January 2025, which will be distributed to the GNWT in 2025 Q1.

Harvesting Program

In 2024, Tłıcho Government finalized the voluntary harvester reporting program, including the creation of both physical and digital forms for harvesters to report their Tłıcho Highway harvests. Participation has been incentivized through a monthly gas gift card draw and information on the reporting program has been widely shared through the Tłıcho Government G social media, two new road signs on the Tłıcho Highway (one in each direction), and distribution of informant pamphlets at the 2024 Tłıcho Research Expo and the Tłıcho Government offices.

Harvester interviews in Behchokò and Whatì were also completed in 2024. Local active and previously active hunters and trappers were interviewed to collect information on their harvesting activities along the Tłįcho Highway and surrounding areas to determine the factors that influence harvesting success and how that has changed over time. The Tłįcho Government is preparing a report summarizing the findings of these harvester interviews for distribution to the GNWT in 2025 O1.

b) The actions taken have been effective in establishing and implementing a vegetation and dust monitoring program to assess the state of barren-ground caribou (and boreal caribou) winter habitat along the road. However, whether the actions effectively contribute to the overall objective of the measure to improve and inform mitigation of significant adverse impacts to barren-ground caribou (?ekwò) resulting from increased access due to the Project cannot be assessed yet.

| | MEASURE | MEASURE SPECIFICS | |
|--------------|---|---|--|
| Barren-groun | nd caribou | | |
| Measure 7-2 | Barren-ground caribou mitigation and policy changes | To manage significant adverse impacts to barren-ground caribou (2ekwò) resulting from the Project, GNWT-ENR and Tłıcho Government, along with their comanagement partners in the Wek'èezhìı area, will: | |
| | Changes | a) complete the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan as soon as possible and prior to the expiry of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan; and, | |
| | | b) consider protecting barren-ground caribou (2ekwò) historic winter habitat from fires when determining where and when fires are fought, to offset effective habitat loss from the Project. | |
| | DESCRIPTION OF HOW MEASURE IS BEING SATISFIED and UNDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE | | |

JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS

This measure is directed to the GNWT-ECC and the Tłįchǫ Government, reporting under Measure 14-2

a) 7-2, Part a: complete the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan

plan pour laire de repartition des caribous de bathurst 2019.pdf

The Bathurst Caribou Range Plan (BCRP) was released on August 21, 2019. The BCRP was developed by a multi-stakeholder working group and will help decision-makers manage activities on the land in a way that supports the recovery of the Bathurst herd, while providing clarity on land use and access for developers, regulators and residents of the Northwest Territories (NWT). It includes guidance for managing the overall amount of disturbance on the land, as well as seven management tools to reduce and manage impacts to caribou and caribou habitat. Actions are currently underway to support implementation of the recommendations contained in the BCRP. The BCRP is available on ECC's website at https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/sites/ecc/files/resources/bathurst caribou range plan 2019 -

In 2022, GNWT-ECC finalized a draft Implementation Framework and Operational Guidance for the implementation of Mobile Caribou Conservation Measures (MCCMs). The Implementation Framework describes the intent of the MCCMs and how they would operate, whereas the Operational Guidance clearly sets out the methodology, monitoring, and reporting expectations for land use operators to implement MCCMs at their project site. In 2023, GNWT-ECC worked with Mountain Province Diamonds (Kennady North Regional Exploration Project), Rio Tinto (Diavik Diamond Mine), and Blue Star Gold Corp (Ulu Gold Project) to conduct pilot projects using the MCCMs. Mineral exploration at the Kennady North Regional Exploration Project was cancelled, but mineral exploration near Diavik Diamond Mine was completed in April/May 2023. Outcomes and feedback of the pilot project was provided by Rio Tinto. Blue Star Gold Corp provided data and feedback on the implementation of MCCMs for 2019-2022. Results of the pilot projects will be included in the draft Operational Guidance and will show how often caribou interacted with the sites, how long they resided nearby, what type of mitigation measures were triggered and for how long.

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS

This measure is directed to the GNWT-ECC and the Tłycho Government, reporting under Measure

14-2

a) 7-2, Part a: Complete the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan

The Bathurst Caribou Range Plan (BCRP) was released on August 21, 2019. The BCRP is available on ECC's website at

https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/sites/ecc/files/resources/bathurst caribou range plan 2019 -

plan pour laire de repartition des caribous de bathurst 2019.pdf

In 2024, GNWT-ECC started working with proponents to fully implement Mobile Caribou Conservation Measures (MCCMs) at their project sites. North Arrow Minerals Inc. (Loki Diamond Project), Blue Star Gold Corp. (Ulu Gold Project), and B2Gold (Back River Project) implemented the MCCMs during summer field operations and provided reporting to GNWT-ECC.

In 2024, GNWT-ECC rehired WSP to conduct interviews with Subject Matter Experts and incorporate the literature review as part of a draft report on best management practices for roads. The objective of the best management practices is to identify mitigation measures applied in the NWT (but also throughout the Arctic) used to avoid and/or minimize direct and indirect impacts of roads on barrenground caribou, as well as identify mitigation measures that are deemed effective as a best management practice either through mitigation monitoring or by expert opinion, including Indigenous knowledge. The draft best management practices will be finalized in 2025.

The 3-year funding proposal to further habitat conservation was submitted to Environment and Climate Change Canada was successful in 2024. Over the next 3 years, the Bathurst Caribou Advisory Committee will continue to identify key caribou habitat (such as water crossings and land bridges) within the annual range of Bathurst caribou to propose as conservation areas.

In 2023, GNWT-ECC hired WSP to conduct a literature review of industry reports and scientific articles on the impacts of roads on barren- ground caribou and the mitigation measures currently applied to mitigate these impacts. This literature review is part of a draft report on best management practices for roads. GNWT-ECC also hired Associated Environmental Consultants Inc. to draft guidelines for offsetting and compensatory mechanisms for both boreal caribou and barren-ground caribou habitat. This document will guide the application, design, implementation, and management of offsetting as a conservation tool for barren-ground caribou and boreal caribou in the NWT. In 2023, the Bathurst Caribou Advisory Committee (BCAC) held a workshop in January 2023 and agreed to a two-year workplan to identify key caribou habitat as conservation areas. GNWT-ECC supported Tłįcho Government, Athabasca Denesuline Néné Land Corporation, and Deninu Kųę´First Nation to continue their work on identifying key caribou habitat areas (such was water crossings and land bridges). A three-year funding proposal to further habitat conservation was submitted to Environment and Climate Change Canada and is pending approval.

7-2, Part b: consider protecting barren-ground caribou historic winter habitat from fires

The BCRP contains a recommendation to: "On an annual basis, identify large, strategically-located patches of forest in the central Bathurst winter range for the GNWT fire management "Values at Risk" database. Response to fires in these areas would be based on an analysis of the current fire load, fire environment, resource availability and similar considerations of the management options at the time of the fire event." ECC has been exploring ways to identify areas as values at risk for boreal and barren-ground caribou based on habitat selection models, areas identified as important habitat by communities, availability and location of fire management resources, and logistical constraints. ECC staff met in summer and fall 2019 to discuss different options and this work is ongoing. The Tłycho Government held a workshop to identify areas of critical winter habitat for boreal and barren-ground caribou and shared the spatial data from the workshop with ECC in late summer 2019. Priority areas for fire management for boreal caribou were identified in the interim Wek'èezhii plan in 2021. Priority areas were identified based on a late-winter habitat selection model and predictive map to target patches of highly selected habitat >60km² in size. These maps of key late-winter habitat patches were provided to GNWT-ECC Forest Management Division, along with the priority areas identified by Thcho Government in 2019 and the map of Basic, Enhanced and Intensive management areas defined in the interim range plan, for incorporation into their fire management decision mapping support tool called "SPARCS" (Spatial Precipitation and Risk Calculation System). Data for the 2022 reporting period was not available for the 2022 Annual Report, so information for both 2022 and 2023 are reported in this 2023 Annual Report.

2022 Wildfire Activity and Responses

In 2022, 80 fires were reported in the North Slave Region, with a total area burned of 201,750 ha. 2022 was a relatively average year for wildfire: the number of fires exceeded the 10-year average of

7-2, Part b: Consider protecting barren-ground caribou historic winter habitat from fires

2024 Wildfire Activity and Response

The wildfire season of 2024 saw a total of 52 fire instances within the boundaries of the North Slave Region, which is consistent with the 10-year average of 53 fires occurring annually within this Region. These fires burned a total of 317,631 hectares, which represents not quite double the 10-year average of 170,345 ha. Of these ignitions, 38 were started by natural causes (lightning), while 14 were reported to be human caused in origin. Most of these fires received a fire response of "being monitored" due to fire management resources being dedicated to protecting human life and property in other higher risk areas of the region, while the remaining 21 fires were "actioned" in some way by fire personnel or resources.

In 2024 a total of 12 fires burned within the Tłįchǫ Government Priority 1 Areas, with 6 occurring in the Taiga Shield ecozone and 6 within the Taiga Plains portion. The Tłįchǫ Government Priority 2 Areas saw 3 fires in total, with 2 burning in the Taiga Shield, and 1 in the Taiga Plains. Along with these Fire Protection Priority Areas, the Tłįchǫ Government has also identified Caribou Habitat of Cultural Importance, as well as Caribou Habitat in Forested Areas. In 2024, there were 2 fires that occurred in the Area of Cultural Importance. In the much larger Forested Habitat Area, there was a total of 16 fire instances. A total of 10 fires occurred in key late-winter habitat areas for boreal caribou. All were natural-caused fires (from lightning), and all were monitored response occurrences, once again largely due to fire management resources being dedicated to protecting human life and property in other higher risk areas of the region. Further details and maps of these fires are provided in the 2024 Annual Report for the TASR Water Licence (W2020L8-0001).

b) Part (a) of Measure 7-2 called for the completion of the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan as soon as possible to contribute to Measure 7-2's objective to manage significant adverse impacts to barrenground caribou (2ekwò) resulting from the Tłįcho Highway. The development and implementation of the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan (BCRP) will help address this impact as range plans are tools for decision-makers, developers and communities to help manage activities on the land in a way that supports caribou conservation. The effectiveness of the BCRP in managing significant adverse impacts to barren-ground caribou (2ekwò) resulting from the Tłįcho Highway cannot be assessed at this time.

Part (b) of Measure 7-2 directs GNWT-ECC, the Tłįcho Government and co-management partners in the Wek'eezhii area to consider protecting barren-ground caribou (zekwò) historic winter habitat from fires when determining where and when fires are fought, to offset effective habitat loss from the Project. Historic winter habitat of barren-ground caribou is a consideration in determining where fires are fought but there are several competing factors that must be considered, such as an analysis of the current fire load, fire environment, and resource availability at the time of the fire event, along with the prioritization of protecting human life and property. The complexities of determining what fire

57 fires, but the area burned was smaller than the 10-year average of 294,000 ha.

In total, 25 fires burned in areas identified by the Tłįchǫ Government as forested caribou habitat, burning a cumulative area of about 70,000 ha. This includes fires in areas that were identified as being within both forested habitat and another priority protection area. There were 12 fires that burned within Tłįchǫ Government fire protection priority 1 areas. Two fires occurred in areas identified by the Tłįchǫ Government as extreme priority caribou habitat of cultural importance. There was one fire that burned within Tłįchǫ Government fire protection area priority 2 areas.

All these fires were identified as being in caribou habitat, but all received a fire response of 'being monitored' as fire-fighting resources were dedicated to protecting human life and property in other higher risk areas of the region.

An additional consideration in the Taiga Plains are areas identified as key late-winter boreal caribou habitat. Limited action was taken to protect some structures in the area of a fire between Whatì and Behchokò (ZF060). Limited action was taken on a fire on the west side of the north arm of Great Slave Lake (ZF009) to protect a cabin.

Additional information on individual fires, including maps, can be found in the <u>2023 Annual Report</u> for the TASR Water Licence (W2020L8-0001).

2023 Wildfire Activity and Responses

In 2023, 104 fires were reported in the North Slave Region, with a total area burned of 669,578 ha. Both the number of fires and the area burned significantly exceeded the 10-year averages of 62 fires and 351,821 ha. Many fires received a fire response of 'being monitored' as firefighting resources were dedicated to protecting human life and property in other higher risk areas of the region.

On the Taiga Shield, there were 11 fires that burned within Tłıcho Government fire protection priority 1 areas. On the Taiga Plains, there were 4 fires that occurred within Tłıcho Government fire protection priority 1 areas. There were 12 fires that occurred within Tłıcho Government priority 2 areas. Of those, two received suppression. ZF009 was 2.5 km northeast of Wekweètı and received suppression limiting its size to 60 ha. ZF050 started 10 km northwest of Wekweètı and received suppression limiting its growth to 33 ha.

b) Part a of Measure 7-2 called for the completion of the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan as soon as possible to contribute to Measure 7-2's objective to manage significant adverse impacts to barren-ground caribou (?ekwò) resulting from the Tłıcho Highway. The development and implementation of the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan (BCRP) will help address this impact as range plans are tools for decision-makers, developers and communities to help manage activities on the land in a way that

management action to take mean that protecting barren-ground caribou (zekwò) historic winter habitat from fires is often a lower priority when available resources are needed to protect human life and property.

supports caribou conservation. The effectiveness of the BCRP in managing significant adverse impacts to barren-ground caribou (2ekw\$) resulting from the Tłicho Highway cannot be assessed at this time.

Part b of Measure 7-2 directs GNWT-ECC, the Tłicho Government and co-management partners in the Wek'eezhii area to consider protecting barren-ground caribou (2ekw\$) historic winter habitat from fires when determining where and when fires are fought, to offset effective habitat loss from the Project. Historic winter habitat of barren-ground caribou is a consideration in determining where fires are fought but there are several competing factors that must be considered, such as an analysis of the current fire load, fire environment, and resource availability at the time of the fire event, along with the prioritization of protecting human life and property. The complexities of determining what fire management action to take mean that protecting barren-ground caribou (2ekw\$) historic winter habitat from fires is often a lower priority when available resources are needed to protect human life and property.

| Fish and w Measure 8- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| Measure 8- | 4 11 1 | | |
| | 1 Fisheries Management Plan | Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Tłįchǫ Government, with the support of the developer, will develop and implement a Fisheries Management Plan for fisheries in the project area. This will prevent significant adverse impacts from additional fishing pressure that will likely result from increased access via the Project. In designing the plan, Fisheries are Oceans Canada will engage with the Tłįchǫ Government, the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board, the Community of Whatì and other affected Aboriginal groups. Fisheries are Oceans Canada and the Tłįchǫ Government will submit the plan to the Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board for review under section 12.5.1 of the Tłįchǫ Agreement. | |
| | | As part of this plan, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Tłıcho Go a) Complete work to understand baseline fishery and harvest cond i. assessing yield and harvest; ii. identifying management issues; iii. establishing fisheries objectives; and, | |
| | | iv. clarifying management and stewardship arrangements. | |
| | | Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Tłįchǫ Government will prov comment on this plan. | ride opportunity for the working group (required by Measure 14-3) and other interested parties to review and |
| | | DESCRIPTION OF HOW MEASURE IS BEING SATISFIED AND | JNDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE |
| JANUARY 1 | 1 - DECEMBER 31, 202 | 3, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS | JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS |
| support of | the developer. As sucl | neries and Oceans Canada and the Tłįchǫ Government, with n, the GNWT is reporting under Measure 14-1, while the other ort(s), report under Measure 14-2. | This measure is directed to Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the TG, with the support of the developer. As such, the GNWT is reporting under Measure 14-1, while the other regulators will, in their own report(s), report under Measure 14-2. |
| inclu | uding two highway sign | tracted to design and print supplementary information materials s, one thousand Pamphlets, and one thousand Angler Diaries. The ady for use in the summer of 2025. | a) The following supplementary information materials were printed: Two highway signs for the sensitive ecosystem in the Whati Falls areas One thousand pamphlets. One thousand Angler Diaries. |
| b) No c | changes or updates since | e <u>2019-2020 response</u> . | Portions of the printed materials have been allocated to the Tłįchǫ Government, WRRB, and DFO for distribution to the public. The highway signs will be installed in the summer of 2025. |
| | | | b) The effectiveness of the actions taken to implement this measure cannot be assessed yet, as the implementation of the measure has not started. |

| | MEACHDE | | MEACUDE CRECIFICS |
|--|--|--|---|
| | MEASURE | | MEASURE SPECIFICS |
| Cultural well-b | | | |
| Measure 9-1 | Monitoring harvest and managing wildlife to maintain successful harvest Part 1 Aboriginal harvest monitoring and reporting program Part 2 Use monitoring to inform management | with the Tłıcho Government and Wek'èezhiı Renewable program. The harvest monitoring and reporting program will: a) focus on boreal caribou, barren-ground caribou and b) be community-based and involve collaboration betw c) involve Traditional Knowledge holders and harvested) report on wildlife harvesting numbers and trends from Government, Wek'èezhiı Renewable Resources Board | fectively inform management of wildlife populations in the area of the Project, GNWT-ENR will work together e Resources Board to develop and implement a non-mandatory Aboriginal harvest monitoring and reporting moose population trends in areas accessed by winter roads and trails from the Project; ween Tłıcho Government and the developer; rs in monitoring wildlife harvesting trends; and, om monitoring checkpoints and/or other harvest monitoring methods annually to the Tłıcho d, GNWT-ENR and other wildlife co-management partners. |
| | рессы | 9-1, Part 2: Use monitoring to inform management GNWT-ENR, in collaboration with the Tł ₁ ch ₀ Government based on the results of the monitoring above and the in Aboriginal harvesting of wildlife and report on monitoring | porting related to the project. The harvest monitoring will meet the requirements of Appendix C. ent and Wek'èezhìı Renewable Resources Board, will consider wildlife management actions and mitigations aformation collected by the GNWT's existing Resident Hunting Reporting Program, to help ensure sustainable ring results and management actions in the annual reviews of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan. JNDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE |
| ANIIADV 1 DI | ECEMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL O | | JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS |
| | | | |
| under Measure | | WRRB and the Tłįchǫ Government, reporting | This measure is directed at the GNWT-ECC, WRRB and the TG, reporting under Measure 14-2 |
| | | toring and reporting program | a) 9-1, Part 1: Aboriginal harvest monitoring and reporting program The non-mandatory Aboriginal harvest monitoring and reporting program required by Measure 9-1 is being implemented by the Thehe Covernment. As noted in reporting for Measure 7.1, activities carried out by the |
| The non-mandatory Aboriginal ¹ harvest monitoring and reporting program required by Measure 9-1 is being implemented by the Tłįchǫ Government. As noted in reporting for Measure 7-1, activities carried out by the Tłįchǫ Government to implement this measure include: | | Government. As noted in reporting for Measure 7-1, | implemented by the Tłįchǫ Government. As noted in reporting for Measure 7-1, activities carried out by the Tłįchǫ Government to implement this measure include: • <u>Tłichǫ Tլlıì Deè Committee Meetings</u> The annual Tłįchǫ Tլlıì Deè Committee meeting was held on December 4-5, 2024. The purpose of the annual meetings is to share the results of ongoing monitoring work, decide if activities continue to |
| Ongoing Monitoring Tłącho monitors continue to monitor the highway daily for wildlife and harvesting events. To enhance and automate data collection, monitors were trained on how to collect data on survey maps using an electronic device (iPad). With this methodology, data flow to an online repository allows for a better streamlined protocol. Wildlife observations continue to be reported quarterly. Harvesting Program | | onitors were trained on how to collect data on survey ith this methodology, data flow to an online repository | be appropriate for the measures, identify other concerns, and share information about the other research occurring along the Tłįchǫ Highway. The 2024 Committee meeting focused on: 1. Discussion of recent wildfires and how climate change may be affecting wildfires in the region. 2. Reviewing the results of ongoing monitoring work (wildlife information collected by Tłįchǫ Highway Monitors and dustfall monitoring), concerns, and discussing if current monitoring activities are still appropriate for addressing the REA measures. |

¹ Ordinarily, the GNWT would use the term "Indigenous" in this context, however the term "Aboriginal" is used in this context as this is the term used for the original measure 2024 TASR Annual Environmental Assessment Measures Report for GNWT

Based on direction from the Tłįchǫ Tլlıì Deè committee, the Tłįchǫ government is working on

3. Discussion of dechita gojie / ejie (bison) and dechita gojie / ejie movements along the Tłįcho

developing and implementing a comprehensive harvesting program. The program aims to interview Tłıcho community members who actively hunt on the land to understand how this activity has changed over time. The interviews will also address whether the Tłıcho Highway has impacted harvesting activities for community members and will provide a Traditional Knowledge perspective of the population size of key species. In addition to the interviews, the Tłıcho government is working on incentivizing voluntary reporting by harvesters. To do so, the Tłıcho government is working on social media and traditional media campaigns and reward programs to encourage harvesters to report their harvests.

9-1, Part 2: Use monitoring to inform management

The information from the Aboriginal harvest monitoring and reporting program will provide information that will also support implementation of Measures 6-2, as well as inclusion of traditional knowledge as required by Measures 9-3 and 10-2. Future versions of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plans will be updated with any recommendations from the study.

With financial support from GNWT-INF, the Tłıcho Government has put in place a daily monitoring program with monitors patrolling the Tłıcho Highway, but there have not been any traditional knowledge recommendations for harvesting, mitigation, monitoring, or adaptive management for the reporting period.

b) The effectiveness of the actions taken to implement this measure cannot be assessed yet, as measure implementation is in the early stages.

Highway.

• Ongoing Monitoring

In 2024, Tłįcho Highway Monitors continued to monitor the highway daily for wildlife and harvesting events. Data was collected via survey maps on a field tablet and stored in an online repository. Additional training with Monitors was held in March 2024 to ensure high-quality data collection.

Wildlife observations continue to be tracked and reported quarterly. The Tłąchǫ Government is preparing a comprehensive analysis of data and trends to date for distribution to the GNWT in 2025 Q1.

• <u>Harvesting Program</u>

In 2024, the Tłıcho Government finalized the voluntary harvester reporting program, including the creation of both physical and digital forms for harvesters to report their Tłıcho Highway harvests. Participation has been incentivized through a monthly gas gift card draw, and information on the reporting program has been widely shared through the Tłıcho Government social media, two new road signs on the Tłıcho Highway (one in each direction), and distribution of informant pamphlets at the 2024 Tłıcho Research Expo and Tłıcho Government offices.

Harvester interviews in Behchok $\hat{\rho}$ and Whati were also completed in 2024. Local active and previously active hunters and trappers were interviewed to collect information on their harvesting activities along the Tłįch $\hat{\rho}$ Highway and surrounding areas to determine the factors that influence harvesting success and how that has changed over time. The Tłįch $\hat{\rho}$ Government is preparing a report summarizing the findings of these harvester interviews for distribution to the GNWT in 2025 Q1.

9-1, Part 2: Use monitoring to inform management

The information from the Aboriginal harvest monitoring and reporting program will provide information that will also support implementation of Measures 6-2, as well as inclusion of traditional knowledge as required by Measures 9-3 and 10-2. Future versions of the WMMP will be updated with any recommendations from the study.

With financial support from GNWT-INF, the Tłįchǫ Government has put in place a daily monitoring program with monitors patrolling the Tłįchǫ Highway, but there have not been any traditional knowledge recommendations for harvesting, mitigation, monitoring, or adaptive management for the reporting period.

b) The effectiveness of the actions taken to implement this measure cannot be assessed yet, as measure implementation is in the early stages.

| MEASURE | | | MEASURE SPECIFICS | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| Cultural well-b | Cultural well-being | | | |
| Measure 9-2 | | | | well-being of Tłįchǫ residents, the developer will require that the P3 operator has culturally |
| | and communities | | | lose set out by the Tłįchǫ Government, GNWT departments and federal government. The P3 operator |
| | | will have policies and programs in place for em | ployee | cultural orientation, approved by the Tłįchǫ Government, for all non-Tłįchǫ workers, including |
| | | awareness of special cultural norms and practic | ces. | |
| | DESCRIPTION | I OF HOW MEASURE IS BEING SATISFIED AND U | JNDER | WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE |
| JANUARY 1 – I | DECEMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL ON ME | EASURE PROGRESS | JANU | ARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS |
| This measure i | This measure is directed to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1 | | This | measure is directed to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1 |
| a) No change | a) No change from the <u>2020-2021 response</u> . | | a) | During construction, the developer created and implemented an employee cultural safety training program in consultation with the Tłycho Government and the TCSA. This program was successful and |
| b) The actions taken to implement this measure appeared to have been effective. For the reporting period, and since the commencement of construction activities on September 2, 2019, there were | | | effective as indicated in the <u>2020-2021 response</u> . Currently, there are no active camps, therefore, the program was not implemented during the reporting period. | |
| no reported | no reported incidences of cultural insensitivity or cultural discrimination | | b) | There were no reported incidences of cultural insensitivity or cultural discrimination for the reporting period. |

| M | MEASURE SPECIFICS MEASURE SPECIFICS | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| Cultural well-b | eing | | | | |
| Measure 9-3 | Include Traditional Knowledge from all relevant groups | To mitigate impacts from the Project to culture and harvesting, the developer will incorporate Traditional Knowledge into the Project design and management from all Aboriginal groups that traditionally use the area. The developer will: | | | |
| | | a) support the collection of Traditional Knowledge related to | traditional use, and compile it with information already acquired; | | |
| | | b) thoroughly consider any Traditional Knowledge that is ma | ade available, and, where applicable, incorporate Traditional Knowledge into Project design, mitigations, | | |
| | | monitoring and adaptive management; and, | | | |
| | | c) do this in a culturally-appropriate way that respects applic | | | |
| | | The GNWT-ENR and Wek'èezhìı Land and Water Board will o | The GNWT-ENR and Wek'èezhìı Land and Water Board will consider these findings in the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan and in permitting. | | |
| |] | DESCRIPTION OF HOW MEASURE IS BEING SATISFIED AND | UNDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE | | |
| JANUARY 1 – D | JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS | | JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS | | |
| findings in the | This measure is directed primarily to the developer, but requires GNWT-ECC to consider the findings in the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) and in permitting. As such, it is being reported on under both Measures 14-1 and 14-2. | | This measure is directed primarily to the developer, but requires GNWT-ECC to consider the findings in the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) and in permitting. As such, it is being reported on under both Measures 14-1 and 14-2. | | |
| Reporting und | Reporting under Measure 14-1 | | Reporting under Measure 14-1 | | |
| | a) No change from 2022-2023 response. | | a) No change from the <u>2022-2023 respons</u> e. | | |
| b) No change from the <u>2019-2020 response</u> . | | ponse. | b) No change from the <u>2019-2020 response</u> . | | |

Reporting under Measure 14-2

- a) GNWT-ECC has not received or been made aware of any new Traditional Knowledge reports or findings during the reporting period that could have been incorporated into the TASR WMMP, which was last circulated for public review in January 2023 and approved by the WLWB and ECC on October 16, 2023 and February 19, 2024, respectively.
- b) Not applicable as this measure is primarily directed to the developer.

Reporting under Measure 14-2

- a) Part C of Measure 9-3 is directed at GNWT-ECC. GNWT-ECC has not received or been made aware of any new TK reports or findings during the reporting period that could have been incorporated into the TASR WMMP, which was last circulated for public review in January 2023 and approved by the WLWB and GNWT-ECC on October 16, 2023, and February 19, 2024, respectively.
- b) There were no adaptive management measures implemented during the reporting period.

| MEASURE | | MEASURE SPECIFICS | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Species at risk an | d wildlife, other than caribou | | | |
| Measure 10-1 | Bird species at risk and migratory | 10-1, Part 1: Pre-construction bird surveys | | |
| | bird data, mitigation, monitoring | The developer will conduct pre-construction field surveys of bird species at risk and migratory birds prior to disturbing potential habitat, including any | | |
| | and adaptive management | clearing of the right-of way, quarry sites, camps, access routes, or other project infrastructure. The developer will consult with Environment and Climate | | |
| | Part 1 Pre-construction bird | Change Canada (ECCC) and GNWT-ENR about methods and timing for a field survey(s). The developer will conduct the survey using methods derived from peer-reviewed scientific literature and best practices. | | |
| | surveys | peer-reviewed scientific literature and best practices. | | |
| | Surveys | 10-1, Part 2: Mitigation | | |
| | Part 2 Mitigation | The developer will use the results from surveys in 10-1 Part 1 to inform mitigations. The mitigations will help protect bird species at risk and migratory birds | | |
| | | and ensure habitats and nesting sites are protected. For all project-related infrastructure and activities during the construction and operations phase, the | | |
| | Part 3 Monitoring and reporting | developer will: | | |
| | B . () | a) use the information from the survey(s) to inform and adjust proposed mitigations; | | |
| | Part 4 Adaptive management | b) implement mitigations as described in its commitments table and its Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan; | | |
| | | c) implement additional mitigations to eliminate or reduce impacts, if warranted based on surveys; d) halt all disruptive activities, in consultation with ECCC, in an area if nests or young are discovered; and; | | |
| | | e) determine and implement, in consultation with ECCC and GNWT-ENR, appropriate species-specific buffer zones or setbacks, until the young have naturally | | |
| | | and permanently left the vicinity of the nest taking into consideration the intensity of the disturbance and the surrounding habitat. | | |
| | | 10-1, Part 3: Monitoring and reporting | | |
| | | The developer will: | | |
| | | a) implement monitoring in section 5 and Appendix C of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan and Chapter 14 of this report; | | |
| | | b) monitor nests using non-intrusive search methods at quarry sites immediately prior to commencing any disruptive activities during the nesting period; and, c) report weekly and annually as described in section 6 of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan, including findings of baseline surveys in 10-1 | | |
| | | Part 1. Monitoring will meet the requirements of Appendix C. | | |
| | | Ture 1. Nomeoring win infect the requirements of Appendix 6. | | |
| | | 10-1, Part 4: Adaptive management | | |
| | | The developer will implement adaptive management as described in section 6 of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan and following guidance in | | |
| | Appendix B of this report. | | | |
| | DESCRIPTION O | F HOW MEASURE IS BEING SATISFIED AND UNDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE | | |

| JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS | JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS |
|---|--|
| This measure is directed to the developer, but requires the developer to consult with ECCC | This measure is directed to the developer, but requires the developer to consult with ECCC and GNWT- |
| and GNWT-ENR. As such, it is being reported on by GNWT under both Measures 14-1 and | ENR. As such, it is being reported on by GNWT under both Measures 14-1 and 14-2. |
| 14-2. | |
| | |
| | Reporting under Measure 14-1 |
| Reporting under Measure 14-1 | a) No change from <u>2022-2023 response</u> . |
| a) No change from 2022-2023 response. | |
| | b) No change from the <u>2019-2020 response</u> . |
| b) No change from the <u>2019-2020 response</u> . | |
| | Reporting under Measure 14-2 |
| Reporting under Measure 14-2 | a) GNWT-ECC was not consulted on appropriate species-specific buffer zones or setbacks for bird species at |
| a) GNWT-ECC was not consulted on appropriate species-specific buffer zones or setbacks for bird | |
| species at risk and migratory birds. As to the GNWT-ECC's knowledge, no active bird nests | reported by the developer during the reporting period. |
| were encountered or reported by the developer during the reporting period | |
| b)Not applicable as this measure is primarily directed to the developer. | b) There were no adaptive management measures implemented during the reporting period. |
| | |
| | |

| Part 2 WMMP update during permitting Aboriginal groups that harvest in the area, in developing an updated Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan. Monitoring will meet the requirement during permitting Part 3 Appual review When updating the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan, the developer will, where appropriate, include Traditional Knowledge from all Aborig | Government and nts of Appendix C. | |
|--|---|--|
| Management and Monitoring Plan approval, annual review and reporting Part 1 WMMP update prior to permitting Part 2 WMMP update during permitting Part 3 Annual review of the WMMP during Part 3 Annual review of the WMMP during Part 3 Annual review of the WMMP during | Government and of Appendix C. | |
| prior to permitting Part 2 WMMP update during permitting Part 3 Annual review of the WMMP during Part 3 MMP during Part 3 Annual review of the WMMP during Part 4 MMP during Part 5 WMMP during Part 5 WMMP updated developer will involve Environment and Climate Change Canada, GNWT-ENR, Wek'èezhù Renewable Resources Board, Tłįcho (Aboriginal groups that harvest in the area, in developing an updated Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan updated Wildlife Management and Monitori | nts of Appendix C. | |
| operations. The Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan will require that construction activities, including clearing, consider sensitive wildlife periods, for example periods of migratory birds. 10-2. Part 3: Annual review of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan during construction and operations GNWT-ENR will require annual public review of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan and make publicly viewable: • recommendations from parties; • responses on how recommendations were incorporated; and, | 10-2. Part 2: Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan update during permitting During permitting, the developer will involve Environment and Climate Change Canada, GNWT-ENR, Wek'èezhìı Renewable Resources Board, Tłţchǫ Government and Aboriginal groups that harvest in the area, in developing an updated Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan. Monitoring will meet the requirements of Appendix C. When updating the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan, the developer will, where appropriate, include Traditional Knowledge from all Aboriginal groups that harvest in the area on ways to mitigate, monitor, and adaptively manage impacts from the Project to wildlife. The Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan will be updated based on the results of available surveys and monitoring, such as caribou, bird (Measure 10-1), and moose surveys. The Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan will require that construction activities, including clearing, consider sensitive wildlife periods, for example nesting periods of migratory birds. 10-2. Part 3: Annual review of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan during construction and operations GNWT-ENR will require annual public review of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan and make publicly viewable: • recommendations from parties; • responses on how recommendations were incorporated; and, | |
| • reasons for recommendations which were not incorporated. DESCRIPTION OF HOW MEASURE IS BEING SATISFIED AND UNDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE | | |
| JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS | | |
| This measure is directed primarily to the developer but requires GNWT-ECC involvement. As such, it is being reported on under both Measures 14-1 and 14-2. This measure is directed primarily to the developer but requires GNWT-ECC involvement. As being reported on under both Measures 14-1 and 14-2. | nent. As such, it is | |
| Reporting under Measure 14-1 Reporting under Measure 14-1 | | |
| a) 10-2, Part 1: Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan update prior to permitting: This portion of the measure was completed in the last reporting period and remains the same. a) 10-2, Part 1: Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan update prior to permitting: This the measure was completed in the last reporting period and remains the same. | ng: This portion of | |
| 10-2, Part 2: Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan update during permitting: This portion of the measure was completed in the last reporting period and remains the same. 10-2, Part 2: Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan update during permitting the measure was completed in the last reporting period and remains the same. | ng: This portion of | |
| 10-2, Part 3: Annual review of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan during 10-2, Part 3: Annual review of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan during | sing construction | |

construction and operations:

Version 6.0 of the WMMP was submitted to the WLWB and ECC on January 20, 2023, respectively to commence the public review process. Version 6.0 was posted to the WLWB's Online Review System (ORS) for public comments. Following the public comment period, Version 6.1 was submitted to the WRRB on April 13, 2023, for their review and approval. The WRRB approved Version 6.1 on May 26, 2023. On June 12, 2023, Version 6.2 was submitted to GNWT-ECC and WLWB for a final approval.

b) No change from the 2019-2020 response.

Reporting under Measure 14-2

- a) **10-2, Part 1: Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan update prior to permitting:** This portion of the measures has been completed and there is no change to the previous reporting.
 - **10-2, Part 2: Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan update during permitting:** This portion of the measure has been completed and there is no change to the previous reporting.
 - **10-2, Part 3: Annual review of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan during construction and operations:** The WMMP Version 6.0 was submitted to the WLWB and ECC on January 20, 2023, respectively to commence the public review process. Version 6.0 was posted to the WLWB's Online Review System (ORS) for public comments. Following the public comment period, Version 6.1 was submitted to the WRRB on April 13, 2023, for their review and approval. The WRRB posted Version 6.1 to their website for public comments. The public comment period ended on May 15, 2023, and the WRRB indicated its approval of Version 6.1 on April 13, 2023. Version 6.2 was submitted to the WLWB and ECC on June 12, 2023 for final approval. Version 6.2 of the WMMP was approved by the WLWB and ECC on October 16, 2023 and February 19, 2024, respectively.
- b) The annual review process provided parties the opportunity to incorporate new information into the plan and recommend changes to the plan or to identify areas where implementation of the plan may have been deficient. No substantive changes were proposed by parties in 2023. Minor changes were made to the WMMP, and those changes are documented in the Plan Maintenance and Control section of the WMMP.

and operations: A public review of the WMMP was not conducted in 2024, as GNWT-ECC was working to finalize the comprehensive WMMP report for the construction phase of the TASR project. GNWT-ECC intends to initiate the next public review of the WMMP when the construction phase WMMP report is also ready for review. This will allow for the next WMMP review to be informed by the results of monitoring programs conducted during the construction phase. These two reviews will take place in 2025.

No change from the <u>2019-2020 response</u>.

Reporting under Measure 14-2

- a) **10-2, Part 1: Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan update prior to permitting:** This portion of the measures has been completed, and there is no change to the previous reporting.
 - **10-2, Part 2: Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan update during permitting:** This portion of the measure has been completed, and there is no change to the previous reporting.
 - **10-2, Part 3: Annual review of the Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan during construction and operations:** A public review of the WMMP was not conducted in 2024, as GNWT-ECC was working to finalize the comprehensive WMMP report for the construction phase of the TASR project. GNWT-ECC intends to initiate the next public review of the WMMP when the construction phase WMMP report is also ready for review. This will allow for the next WMMP review to be informed by the results of monitoring programs conducted during the construction phase. These two reviews will take place in 2025.
- b) The annual review process provided parties the opportunity to incorporate new information into the plan and recommend changes to the plan or to identify areas where implementation of the plan may have been deficient. No substantive changes were proposed by parties during the most recent review in 2023. Minor changes were made to the WMMP, and those changes are documented in the Plan Maintenance and Control section of the WMMP.

| MEAS | MEASURE | | MEASURE SPECIFICS | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Permafrost | 'ermafrost | | | |
| Measure 11-1 | Permafrost Management Plan | To minimize permafrost degradation and prevent associated significant adverse impacts on the environment from the Project during construction and operation of the Project, the developer will develop and implement a permafrost management plan for construction and maintenance of the Project. The plan will be submitted for review and approval to the Wek'èezhìı Land and Water Board prior to construction. This plan will include monitoring (following the requirements in Appendix C) and adaptive management (following the requirements in Appendix B). It will incorporate the recommendations made by Natural Resources Canada during the environmental assessment process as well as recommendations from the working group (Measure 14-3). The developer will incorporate any relevant information from the permafrost management plan into ongoing monitoring and adaptive management during Project operations. DESCRIPTION OF HOW MEASURE IS BEING SATISFIED AND UNDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE | | |
| | | | | |
| JANUARY 1 – I | DECEMBER 31, | 2023, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS | JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS | |
| a) No action was taken during the reporting period. GNWT-INF is evaluating if there are any hot-spots where the thermistors should be replaced. | | ring the reporting period. GNWT-INF is evaluating if there are any hotstors should be replaced. | This measure is directed to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1 a) No action was taken during the reporting period, as most of the thermistors were destroyed and may need replacement. b) There was no change from the 2019-2020 response. | |
| b) There was no change from the <u>2019-2020 response</u> . | | om the <u>2019-2020 response.</u> | | |

| MEASURE | | MEASURE SPECIFICS | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Adaptive managemen | ent, follow-up, and monitoring | | | |
| | | To demonstrate how measures are being implemented and to evaluate the effectiveness of the developer's efforts to prevent or minimize impacts on the environment, the developer will, throughout all phases of the development, prepare an annual report on the implementation of measures. The report will address the measures that the developer is responsible for and will: | | |
| | b) evaluate how effective the implementation actions are in reducir | a) describe the actions, including actions implemented through adaptive management, being undertaken to implement the measures; and, b) evaluate how effective the implementation actions are in reducing or avoiding the impact (considering the results of monitoring programs and adaptive management frameworks). Where applicable, provide references to further information contained in other management plans or monitoring reports. | | |
| | The developer will provide its annual report to the Review Board one year from the date of the final approval of this Report of Environmental Assessment, and annually thereafter. | | | |
| | | UNDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE | | |
| | MBER 31, 2023, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS | JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS | | |
| This measure is direc | cted to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1 | This measure is directed to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1 | | |
| | ement from the developer falls under the Environmental Assessment (EA) comprises of the following EA Measures: | The reporting requirement from the developer falls under the Environmental Assessment (EA) Measure 14-1, which comprises of the following EA Measures: | | |
| 1. Measure 5-1 | | 1. Measure 5-1 | | |
| 2. Measure 5-2 | | 2. Measure 5-2 | | |
| 3. Measure 5-3 | | 3. Measure 5-3 | | |
| 4. Measure 5-4 | | 4. Measure 5-4 | | |
| 5. Measure 5-5 | | 5. Measure 5-5 | | |
| 6. Measure 5-7 | | 6. Measure 5-7 | | |
| 7. Measure 6-3 | | 7. Measure 6-3 | | |
| 8. Measure 7-1 | | 8. Measure 7-1 | | |
| 9. Measure 8-1 | | 9. Measure 8-1 | | |
| 10. Measure 9-2 | | 10. Measure 9-2 | | |
| 11. Measure 9-3 | | 11. Measure 9-3 | | |
| 12. Measure 10-1 | | 12. Measure 10-1 | | |
| 13. Measure 10-2 14. Measure 11-1 | | 13. Measure 10-2 14. Measure 11-1 | | |
| 14. Measure 11-1 15. Measure 14-1 | | 14. Measure 11-1 15. Measure 14-1 | | |
| 15. Measure 14-1 16. Measure 14-3 | | 15. Measure 14-1 16. Measure 14-3 | | |
| 16. Measure 14-3 17. Measure 14-4 | | 16. Measure 14-3 17. Measure 14-4 | | |
| 17. Measure 14-4 | T . | 17. PICASUIC ITT | | |

| | MEASURE | MEASURE SPECIFICS | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Adaptive man | nagement, follow | ow-up, and monitoring | | |
| Measure 14-2 | Annual reporting from government and regulatory authorities | To help evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures for the protection of the environment, each regulatory authority or government that is wholly or partly responsible for implementation of any measure in this <i>Report of Environmental Assessment</i> will prepare an annual report on implementation of measures. The report will: | | |
| | | | UNDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE | |
| JANUARY 1 – I | DECEMBER 31, 2 | 023, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS | JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS | |
| | is directed to the ting under Measi | e regulatory authorities and/or governments, including the ire 14-2 | This measure is directed to the regulatory authorities and/or governments, including the GNWT, reporting under Measure 14-2 | |
| and Regulatory Au 1. Measu 2. Measu 3. Measu 4. Measu 5. Measu | thorities: ure 5-2 ure 5-6 ure 6-1 ure 6-2 ure 6-3 ure 7-2 ure 8-1 ure 9-1 ure 9-3 ure 10-1 ure 10-2 | er the reporting requirements of Measure 14-2 for the Government | The following Measures fall under the reporting requirements of Measure 14-2 for the Government and Regulatory Authorities: 1. Measure 5-2 2. Measure 5-6 3. Measure 6-1 4. Measure 6-2 5. Measure 6-3 6. Measure 7-2 7. Measure 8-1 8. Measure 9-1 9. Measure 9-3 10. Measure 10-1 11. Measure 10-2 12. Measure 14-2 | |

| Adaptive management, follow-up, and monitoring Measure 14-3 Measure 14-3 Project working group The developer will establish the Tłįcho All-Season Road Corridor Working Group by: funding the Tłįcho Government, Wek'èezhin Renewable Resources Board, Yellowknives Dene First Nation and North Slave Métis Alliance to participate in twice annual working group meetings, one of which will annually take place in What; requiring the participation of the P3 operator; and, inviting Tłįcho Elders to participate. The developer will make meeting minutes publicly available. The developer will maintain the working group throughout the Project construction phase and for five years of Project operations, unless an extended term is agreed to by: DESCRIPTION OF HOW MEASURE IS BEING SATISFIED and UNDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS This measure is directed to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1 The Tłicho All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (CWG) was formed in May 2019. It is made up of representatives from the following interested parties: The Tłicho Government Yellowknives Dene First Nation and North Slave Métis Alliance Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Community Government of Whati Community Government of Whati Community Government of Behchokò Wek'èezhin Renewable Resources Board The Geveloper vill make meeting minutes publicly available. The developer will make meeting minutes publicly a | MEASURE | | MEASURE SPECIFICS | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| Measure 14-3 Project working group working group by: • funding the Tłţchę Government, Wek'èezhin Renewable Resources Board, Yellowknives Dene First Nation and North Slave Métis Alliance to participate in twice annual working group meetings, one of which will annually take place in Whati; • requiring the participation of the P3 operator; and, • inviting Tłţchę Elders to participate. The developer will make meeting minutes publicly available. The DESCRIPTION OF HOW MEASURE IS BEING SATISFIED and UNDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS This measure is directed to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1 a) The Tłţcho All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (CWG) was formed in May 2019. It is made up of representatives from the following interested parties: The Tłţcho Government Yellowknives Dene First Nations North Slave Métis Alliance Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Community Government of Whati Community Government of Behchokò Wek'èezhin Renewable Resources Board | | | MEASURE SPECIFICS | | |
| JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2023, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS This measure is directed to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1 a) The Tłįchǫ All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (CWG) was formed in May 2019. It is made up of representatives from the following interested parties: • The Tłįchǫ Government • Yellowknives Dene First Nations • North Slave Métis Alliance • Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre • Community Government of Behchokǫ • Wek'èezhìn Renewable Resources Board JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS This measure is directed to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1 a) The Tłįchǫ All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (CWG) was formed in May 2019. It is more representatives from the following interested parties: • The Tłįchǫ Government • Yellowknives Dene First Nations • North Slave Métis Alliance • Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre • Community Government of Whati • Community Government of Behchokǫ • Wek'èezhìn Renewable Resources Board | Measure 14-3 Project working | Project working group The developer will establish the Tłįchǫ All-Season Road Corridor Working group funding the Tłįchǫ Government, Wek'èezhìı Renewable Resource working group meetings, one of which will annually take place ir requiring the participation of the P3 operator; and, inviting Tłįchǫ Elders to participate. The developer will make meeting minutes publicly available. The developer will maintain the working group throughout the Projection | The developer will establish the Tłıcho All-Season Road Corridor Working Group by: funding the Tłıcho Government, Wek'èezhìı Renewable Resources Board, Yellowknives Dene First Nation and North Slave Métis Alliance to participate in twice annual working group meetings, one of which will annually take place in Whati; requiring the participation of the P3 operator; and, inviting Tłıcho Elders to participate. The developer will make meeting minutes publicly available. The developer will maintain the working group throughout the Project construction phase and for five years of Project operations, unless an extended term is agreed to by parties. | | |
| This measure is directed to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1 a) The Tłıcho All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (CWG) was formed in May 2019. It is made up of representatives from the following interested parties: • The Tłıcho Government • Yellowknives Dene First Nations • North Slave Métis Alliance • Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre • Community Government of Whatì • Community Government of Behchoko • Wek'èezhìı Renewable Resources Board This measure is directed to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1 a) The Tłıcho All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (CWG) was formed in May 2019. It is more representatives from the following interested parties: • The Tłıcho Government • Yellowknives Dene First Nations • North Slave Métis Alliance • Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre • Community Government of Whatì • Community Government of Behchoko • Wek'èezhìı Renewable Resources Board | IANHADV 1 DECEMBED 24 1 | | | | |
| a) The Tłįchǫ All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (CWG) was formed in May 2019. It is made up of representatives from the following interested parties: b. The Tłįchǫ Government c. Yellowknives Dene First Nations d. North Slave Métis Alliance d. Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre d. Community Government of Whatì d. Community Government of Behchokǫ d. Wek'èezhìı Renewable Resources Board a) The Tłįchǫ All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (CWG) was formed in May 2019. It is mare representatives from the following interested parties: d. The Tłįchǫ All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (CWG) was formed in May 2019. It is mare representatives from the following interested parties: d. The Tłįchǫ All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (CWG) was formed in May 2019. It is mare representatives from the following interested parties: d. The Tłįchǫ All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (CWG) was formed in May 2019. It is mare representatives from the following interested parties: d. The Tłįchǫ All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (CWG) was formed in May 2019. It is mare representatives from the following interested parties: d. The Tłįchǫ All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (CWG) was formed in May 2019. It is mare representatives from the following interested parties: d. The Tłįchǫ All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (CWG) was formed in May 2019. It is mare representatives from the following interested parties: d. The Tłįchǫ All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (CWG) was formed in May 2019. It is mare representatives from the following interested parties: d. The Tłįchǫ All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (CWG) was formed in May 2019. It is mare representatives from the following interested parties: d. The Tłįchǫ All-Season Road Corridor Working (CWG) was formed in May 2019. It is mare representatives from the following interested | | | | | |
| Environmental and Climate Change (ENR and Lands prior to April 1, 2023) Department of Infrastructure Department of Finance Fisheries and Oceans Canada Environment and Climate Change (ENR and Lands prior to April 1, 2023) Department of Infrastructure Department of Finance Fisheries and Oceans Canada Environment and Climate Change (ENR and Lands prior to April 1, 2023) Department of Finance Fisheries and Oceans Canada Environmental and Climate Change (ENR and Lands prior to April 1, 2023) Department of Finance Fisheries and Oceans Canada Environmental and Climate Change (ENR and Lands prior to April 1, 2023) Department of Finance North Star Infrastructure Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board | a) The Thcho All-Season Road Corridor Working Group (CWG) was formed in May 2019. It is made up of representatives from the following interested parties: The Thcho Government Yellowknives Dene First Nations North Slave Métis Alliance Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Community Government of Whatì Community Government of Behchokò Wek'èezhìn Renewable Resources Board Wek'èezhìn Land and Water Board Environmental and Climate Change (ENR and Lands prior to April 1, 2023) Department of Infrastructure Department of Finance Fisheries and Oceans Canada Environment and Climate Change Canada North Star Infrastructure Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (New addition) Due to the wildfires and the evacuation orders in 2023, the Corridor Working Group was unable to meet during the reporting period. Instead, the meeting was held on January 29, 2024 in | | representatives from the following interested parties: The Tłįchǫ Government Yellowknives Dene First Nations North Slave Métis Alliance Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Community Government of Whati Community Government of Behchokǫ Wek'èezhiı Renewable Resources Board Wek'èezhiı Land and Water Board Environmental and Climate Change (ENR and Lands prior to April 1, 2023) Department of Infrastructure Department of Finance Fisheries and Oceans Canada Environment and Climate Change Canada North Star Infrastructure Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Due to scheduling difficulties by the communities, no CWG meeting was held during the reporting period. | | |

| | MEASURE | MEASURE SPECIFICS | |
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| Adaptive management, follow-up, and monitoring | | | |
| Measure 14- | P3 operator agreement | To ensure that all applicable and relevant commitments of the developer and measures directed at the developer are carried out during the construction and | |
| 4 | | operation phases of the Project, the developer will formalize and include these commitments and measures in its final contract with the P3 operator. | |
| DESCRIPTION OF HOW MEASURE IS BEING SATISFIED and UNDER WHICH MEASURE (14-1 or 14-2) THE REPORT IS BEING MADE | | | |
| MAY 1, 2022- | APRIL 31, 2023, DETAIL ON MEASU | JRE PROGRESS | JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2024, DETAIL ON MEASURE PROGRESS |
| This measure | is directed to the developer, report | ing under Measure 14-1 | |
| | | | This measure is directed to the developer, reporting under Measure 14-1 |
| The reporting details for Measure 14-4 remain identical to <u>last year's report</u> . | | ical to <u>last year's report</u> . | |
| | | | The reporting details for Measure 14-4 remain identical to <u>last year's report</u> . |

| Various Acronyms: | GNWT = Regulatory Authority/Responsible Minister | RRO = Renewable Resource Officer |
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| AE = Associated Engineering | GNWT- HSS = Department of Health and Social Services | SEWG = Tłįcho Highway Socio-Economic Working Group |
| BCRP = Bathurst Caribou Range Plan | GNWT-ECC = Department of Environment and Climate Change | TASR = Tłįcho All-Season Road |
| CGW = Community Government of Whati | GNWT-ECE = Department of Education, Culture and Employment | TCSA = Tłįcho Community Services Agency |
| CIMP = Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program | GNWT-JUS = Department of Justice | TCWR = Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road |
| CNFDB = Canadian National Fire Database | INF = Department of Infrastructure | TIC = Tłįcho Investment Corporation |
| Developer = GNWT-INF with NSI (P3 Contractor) where applicable | MACA = Department of Municipal and Community Affairs | TK = traditional knowledge |
| DFO = Fisheries and Oceans Canada | MAP = Mentor-Apprentice Program | WG = working group |
| ECCC = Environment and Climate Change Canada | MCCMs = Mobile Caribou Conservation Measures | WLWB = Wek'èezhìı Land and Water Board |
| ENR = GNWT – Environment and Natural Resources | NBAC = National Burn Area Composite | WMMP = Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan |
| GAHR = Ground Ambulance Highway Rescue | NSMA = North Slave Métis Alliance | WRRB = Wek'èezhìı Renewable Resources Board CGB = Community |
| GNWT = Government of Northwest Territories | OCPHO = Office of the Chief Public Health Officer | Government of Behchokò |
| | REA = Report of Environmental Assessment | YKDFN = Yellowknives Dene First Nation |
| | | |