



Deadline for responses October 15, 2021

Information Request (IR) 2.1: *Tıch'ádıı hé Gots'edı – Caribou, Predators and Competitors*

2.1.1 The Conservation Picture: Caribou, People, Planning, and the Public Listening Session

Fort Good Hope and Tulıt'a IRs to all Parties

2. ENR and other Parties presenting scientific information at the Déłıne 2021 PLS are requested to prepare a glossary of terms with plain language definitions.

Not applicable - Dene Nation is not able to present at the Déłıne 2021 PLS.

3. Does the concept of conservation and modern western conservation institutions conflict with our Indigenous knowledge systems and practices, and infringe upon our collective rights as Indigenous peoples? If it does conflict, how does it conflict?

Dene Nation believes that inclusion of Dene knowledge systems and practices should be braided into the concept of conservation and modern western conservation institutions. Discussions with Dene and all Indigenous leaders, Elders, and youth should be included in the consultation process.

4. Do you think community conservation plans or the *Wildlife Act* affect our rights as Indigenous peoples?

Based on the signed Treaty 8 and Treaty 11, Dene peoples were to have access to the land to hunt, fish or trap. Dene Nation proposes that community conservation plans or the *Wildlife Act* should adhere to these fundamental principles.

5. Please share your knowledge about any caribou plans that have been developed outside the Sahtu region.

The Dene Nation has not developed any caribou plans.

Dene Nation is a collaborator on the Western Boreal Initiative (WBI), which is a collaborative research project being led by the Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC-CWS) and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan).

Dene Nation is engaging with its regional leadership, Elders, youth and technicians through regional workshops and meetings to raise awareness about the WBI project and its link to the ENR boreal caribou range planning initiative.

The objective of the Dene Nation project is gather advice and develop guidance for governments and other academic researchers on how to work with collaboratively with communities and Indigenous knowledge holders to ensure their Traditional Knowledge and teachings are appropriately considered and braided into initiatives involving caribou.

Dene Nation is aware that Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation has developed a barren-ground caribou management plan and that the Gwich'in communities developed a successful collaborative management plan for the Porcupine herd.

NWT Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) IR to Sahtú community Parties

6. What support can ENR provide in your planning work?

Dene Nation would appreciate if ENR can provide regular communication in the form of regional updates on their respective plans, processes, and progress when it pertains to boreal caribou range planning.

Dene Nation plans to invite representatives from ENR and ECCC to attend their regional workshops if there is support from the community members to do so.

SRRB IRs to all parties

7. As of the deadline for Round 2 IRs, it will have been eight months since Parties made submissions on the conservation picture (through Round 1 IR responses). Please provide updates on the status of caribou, people and planning.

To date, the goal of the Dene Nation project is to identify a protocol to meet with Dene Leadership to obtain approval to work with their Elders, youth and technicians to identify how their knowledge can be used to protect Boreal caribou and its critical habitat.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 concerns, the Dene Nation WBI workshop, which was to be held in Radeyili Ko in August, was postponed and will be rescheduled when the community is comfortable with holding a public forum. In addition, the WBI workshop planned for mid-October in the Gwich'in Settlement area for mid-October also has been postponed due to Covid-19. Each of these workshops are fully supported by the leadership of the respective regions.

2.1.3 Competitors

Tulít'a IRs to all Parties

4. Do you know if ʔəjire crossed Dəgho (Mackenzie River) or Sahtú Də (Bear River)?

Dene Nation cannot comment on Dene Knowledge shared by the communities without their consent.

5. How might ʔəjire impact shúhta goʔepé (mountain caribou) and doe (sheep) if they go into the mountains?

Dene Nation cannot comment on Dene Knowledge shared by the communities without their consent.

Information Request 2.2: Harvest Regulation

As described in the SRRB's July 7, 2021, Resumption Notice, the following questions arise from the Colville 2020 Public Listening session on *Sahtú Ragóʔa (Hunting Law) and Approaches to Wildlife Harvesting*.

2.2.1 Harvest Regulation Planning Toolkit

Note: the SRRB provided a draft Hıdó Gogha Sénégot's'ízá (Community Conservation Plan – CCP) Guide for review by Parties and the public on September 14, 2021. The deadline for comment on the CCP Guide is November 15, 2021.

SRRB IRs to all Parties

1. The SRRB provided a Harvest Regulation Planning Toolkit on January 15, 2021. What is missing from the toolkit?

Dene Nation is not in position to respond to this query.

2. Do you think any parts of the Toolkit should be changed?

Dene Nation is not in position to respond to this query.

3. Are there additional components that would be relevant for conservation planning for predators and competitors?

Dene Nation cannot comment on Dene Knowledge shared by the communities without their consent.

2.2.2 Stewardship Roles

SRRB IRs to all Parties

1. How is the stewardship role of a community that is a primary harvester of a certain caribou population different from the role of a community that might not have the same access to that caribou population?

Dene Nation is not in position to respond to this query.

2.2.3 ʔehdzo Got'ıne ʔ (Renewable Resources Council) Powers

SRRB IRs to all Parties

1. Describe the role of the local ʔehdzo Got'ıne ʔ (RRC) in your experience.

The local RRC has been helpful and supportive in the Dene Nation WBI Initiative and RRC members have been invited to workshop events. Dene Nation looks forward to the continued collaborative relationship with the local RRC.

2. How does the local ʔehdzo Got'ıne ʔ (RRC) manage harvesting?

Dene Nation is not in position to respond to this query.

3. How is the local ʔehdzo Got'ıne ʔ (RRC) accountable, and to whom it is accountable?

Dene Nation is not in position to respond to this query.

2.2.4 Hunter Education

SRRB IRs to all parties

2. Are there harvesters that come from other places to your community's harvesting area? What are the different kinds of harvesters? Describe any protocols for harvesters visiting your area. How do they learn about these protocols?

Dene Nation is not in position to respond to this query.

3. Do harvesters from your community go outside your community's harvesting area to harvest? Describe any protocols for visiting other areas. How do people learn about these protocols?

Dene Nation is not in position to respond to this query.