

# Management Agreement for Grizzly Bears in the Gwich'in Settlement Area

Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board Report 02-06

An Agreement between the:

Ehdiitat Renewable Resource Council (Aklavik)  
Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council (Fort McPherson)  
Nihtat Renewable Resource Council (Inuvik)  
Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council (Tsiigehtchic)  
Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board

### **Definitions:**

- (a) The species considered under this agreement is the grizzly bear (*Shih, Ursus arctos*).
- (b) The area covered by this agreement is the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA), as described in Appendix A of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA).
- (c) The people covered by this agreement are all people who hunt or kill grizzly bears in the GSA.
- (d) Subsistence hunting of grizzly bear is hunting by the Gwich'in of Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Inuvik, and Tsiigehtchic. This would also include any overlap agreements made between the Gwich'in and other land claim areas.
- (e) A resident hunter is either a non-beneficiary of the GCLCA or non-aboriginal person who has been a resident of the Northwest Territories for at least two continuous years.
- (f) A non-resident hunter is any person who is a resident of Canada, but not of the Northwest Territories.
- (g) A non- resident alien hunter is any person who is not a resident of Canada.
- (h) "cub" means a grizzly bear
  - (i) that is less than 1.4 m in length, measured from the tip of the nose in a straight line to the tip of the last vertebra in the tail.
  - (ii) the hide of which is less than 1.4 m in length, measured from the tip of the nose in a straight line to the tip of the skin of the tail, before being stretched or dried, or
  - (iii) the hide which is less than 1.6 m in length, measured from the tip of the nose in a straight line to the tip of the skin of the tail, after being stretched and dried.
- (j) Sustained yield means a level of harvest or kills which does not exceed the recruitment into the grizzly bear population.

### **Objectives:**

The main objectives of this management agreement are:

- (a) to maintain a healthy, viable population of grizzly bears in the GSA;
- (b) to manage the harvest of grizzly bears for sustained yield according to the best information available;
- (c) to provide maximum protection to female grizzly bears by protecting family groups and keeping the total harvest of females below 33% for the entire population within the GSA;

- (d) to encourage the wise use of grizzly bear products and by-products;
- (e) to involve grizzly bear hunters in grizzly bear research, management, and collection of harvest data;
- (f) to encourage the collection of adequate technical information and traditional knowledge on a timely basis to facilitate management decisions; and
- (g) to reduce the number of problem bear incidences and the need to destroy problem bears at camps.

**Regulations:**

**1 – Area**

- 1.1 This agreement applies to the hunting of grizzly bears within Management Unit G in the GSA. The five (5) grizzly bear Management areas in the GSA are described in section 8 and shown in the attached map.
- 1.2 The management areas will be open to Gwich'in beneficiaries, resident, non-resident, and non-resident alien hunting. Laws of general application will apply. This would also include any overlap agreements made between the Gwich'in and other land claim areas.

**2– Quota \ Allocation**

- 2.1 The allocation of grizzly tags will be based upon a three-year total of thirty-six (36). This combines the annual quota of twelve (12) for three consecutive years totaling thirty-six (36). The DRWED will distribute thirty-six tags (36) based upon a three-year rotation that commences in the 2002 – 2003 tag season. The tags will be given to the RRC's signatory to this agreement and used in the following management areas:

<b>Management Unit / Area</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Annual Quota</b>	<b>Three Year Allocation</b>
<b>G\GB\01</b> Richardson Mountains North	Ehdiitat RRC	Aklavik	2	6
<b>G\GB\02</b> Richardson Mountains South	Tetlit RRC	Fort McPherson	2	6
<b>G\GB\03</b> North of Mackenzie River	Nihtat RRC	Inuvik	2	6
<b>G\GB\04</b> South of Mackenzie River	Gwichya RRC	Tsiigehtchic	2	6
<b>G\GB\01-05</b> Management Unit G	GRRB*	Inuvik	4	12
<b>Total</b>			12	36

\* Tags will be held by DRWED.

- 2.2 Each RRC will allocate their tags for the management area as specified in Section 2.1. When RRC's allocate grizzly tags to non-beneficiaries, the Agreement for the Delegation of Responsibility to the Renewable Resource Councils for the Allocation of Grizzly Tags will apply. This agreement is between the RRC's, the GRRB, and the Minister of Resources Wildlife and Economic Development.
- 2.3 Tags may be specified for emergency kills, illegal kills, subsistence hunting, resident hunting, non-resident hunting, or non-resident alien hunting.
- 2.4 A RRC allocates tags for, emergency kills, illegal kills, resident hunting, non-resident hunting, or non-resident alien hunting. These tags will remain with the Renewable Resource Officer responsible for that community.
- 2.5 The RRC with prior approval from their membership may decide to either have their members first obtain a grizzly bear tag before hunting or decide to administer a Grizzly Bear Hunting Registration List. When using the registration list, it is the responsibility of the RRC to contact all registered hunters to inform them when there are no more available tags. This is important to ensure that there will not be an over harvest of grizzly bears within the management zone.
- 2.6 The twelve (12) tags not initially given to any specific RRC will be held by RWED. After consultation with the RRC's, the Board will specify how these tags will be allocated. Tags may be specified for emergency kills, illegal kills, subsistence hunting, resident hunting, non-resident hunting, or non-resident alien hunting.
- 2.7 All bears killed by people, including emergency kills, illegal kills, subsistence, and sport hunting must be accounted for under the quota and all bears shall receive a tag.
- 2.8 Any unused tags in the three-year allocation cycle will revert into credits that can be applied to any emergency and illegally killed bears that may occur in the next three-year cycle period. The first three-year cycle (2002 – 2005) will have available credits provided from the previous three years (1999 - 2002). All credits will be held and administered by the Board.
- 2.9 Credits that are available may only be applied to emergency, accidental, or illegally killed bears. If no credits are available, the Board may allocate a tag from the three-year tag allocation.
- 2.10 The quota is based on a harvest of one (1) female bear for every two (2) male bears.
- 2.11 The Board, DRWED, and RRC's will review the kill data and quotas every three years to determine if the total kill is sustainable. The quota will be reviewed whenever necessary for conservation purposes. Quotas will be reviewed and adjusted when new population information is available.

- 2.12 The hunting season for resident, non-resident, and non-resident alien hunters will be 15 August to 31 October and 15 April to 31 May.
- 2.13 Resident, non-resident, and non-resident alien hunters must make every effort to hunt only male bears.
- 2.14 The Board may allocate one or more tags to resident hunters. Resident hunters wanting to harvest a grizzly bear in the GSA must submit an application to DRWED no later than 01 June in any given year, for the following year. If more resident hunters apply for tags than the Board has allocated for resident hunting, the hunter(s) chosen will be selected by lottery, for tags not held by the RRC's.
- 2.15 For each tag that is allocated for resident, non-resident, or non-resident alien hunting, and where the hunter is unsuccessful by the end of the hunting season, and the tag has been returned to DRWED, the tag may be replaced by a new grizzly tag and may be applied to emergency or illegal killed grizzly bears.

### **3 – Prohibitions**

- 3.1 All resident, non-resident, and non-resident alien hunters require the appropriate licence and tag before hunting.
- 3.2 All Gwich'in beneficiaries must either have a tag in their possession or be registered on the Grizzly Bear Hunting Registration List with the community RRC before harvesting a grizzly bear.
- 3.3 All hunters must report as soon as practicable to either the RRC or the local Renewable Resource Officer that a bear has been harvested.
- 3.4 All laws of general application apply.
- 3.5 No person shall harvest a grizzly bear;
  - (a) if it is a cub, or
  - (b) if it is accompanied by a cub, or
  - (c) if it is in a den
- 3.6 No person shall be in possession of a grizzly bear hide without authorized proof of a tag.
- 3.7 No person shall sell grizzly bear gall bladders, bacula, claws or paws.

**4 – Reporting of Harvest Information**

- 4.1 Any person who kills a grizzly bear shall, as soon as practicable, provide the following information and samples to a Renewable Resource Officer;
  - (a) the person's name;
  - (b) the person's hunting licence or enrollment number and tag number;
  - (c) the date and location of where the bear was killed;
  - (d) the lower jaw and, when present, lip tattoos and ear tags;
  - (e) evidence of the sex of the bear; and
  - (f) any other information required by an Officer that pertains to the harvest.
- 4.2 Except where a Renewable Resource Officer or the RRC's verifies the sex of the grizzly bear, the baculum (penis bone) of the bear must be provided.
- 4.3 If evidence of sex is not provided the bear will be considered female for quota calculation purposes.
- 4.4 If the hunter wishes the baculum returned, a Renewable Resource Officer will mark it by drilling a small hole through the baculum to prevent it from being submitted again.
- 4.5 If requested when samples are submitted, the skull and or lower jaw will be returned to the hunter after a tooth is removed for purposes of aging the bear.

**5 – Emergency Kills \ Illegal kills \ Problem Bears**

- 5.1 In the case of emergencies including (i) to prevent the starvation of a person, (ii) to preserve the life of a person, or (iii) to protect property, a person requires no prior authorization to kill a bear.
- 5.2 The person(s) must take all precautions to prevent bear problems and should make all reasonable efforts to chase or scare the bear away before killing it.
- 5.3 When a person kills a bear as per Section 5.1 the following shall apply,
  - (1) All persons must report the kill as soon as practicable to a Renewable Resource Officer who shall conduct an investigation and upon completion of the investigation submit a summary report to the RRC.
  - (2) All persons must provide to a Renewable Resource Officer or if a Renewable Resource Officer is not available, to the RRC, all bear parts including the hide with claws attached. This is in addition to the listed items in Section 4 (Reporting of Harvest Information).

- 5.4 When the Renewable Resource Officer has completed an investigation and is satisfied that the bear was killed in an emergency, the Officer will request to the Justice of the Peace that disposition be awarded to the Board. The Board may dispose of the hide with the claws attached to the RRC of the community that's in the management zone of where the grizzly bear was killed.
- 5.5 When the Renewable Resource Officer is not satisfied that the bear was killed in an emergency, as per section 5.1, or if a bear was illegally killed, the Renewable Resource Officer upon completion of the investigation will request from the Justice of the Peace that disposition be awarded to the Board. The bear hide with claws attached will be turned over to the Board.

## **6 – RRC Allocation Penalties**

- 6.1 Where a Gwich'in beneficiary who has been issued a tag for subsistence hunting does not go hunting within two (2) days of receiving the tag and where the hunter does not return the tag to the RRC on the second day, the RRC where the hunter resides, may prohibit the hunter from hunting grizzly bears for the remainder of the year and the following year. The same applies to Gwich'in beneficiaries that do not return a tag within two (2) days of being back from a hunt, without good reason. The RRC's may stipulate the length of time a hunter may be in possession of a tag when hunting.
- 6.2 Where a Gwich'in beneficiary has not registered with the RRC or obtained a tag from either the RRC or the Renewable Resource Officer and harvests a bear, excluding emergency killed bears as per section 5.1, the RRC will request that the hide with claws attached and all parts of the bear be submitted to the RRC. (In this case the RRC will be responsible to ensure the hide is preserved). The RRC may prohibit the hunter from hunting grizzly bear for the remainder of the year and the following year.
- 6.3 The same penalty applies as per Section 6.1 to any or all of the prohibitions, except in an emergency (e.g. Problem bear as per Section 5.1). Furthermore, legislation in the *NWT Wildlife Act* applies respecting conservation, public health, or public safety (GCLCA Section 12.3.2).
- 6.4 Regulations that apply to resident, non-resident, and non-resident alien hunters will be enforced according to the *NWT Wildlife Act*.

## **7 - Review**

- 7.1 If an RRC, the Board, or DRWED wishes to review or change any aspect of the agreement, written notice is to be submitted to all parties. Each party has thirty (30) days to respond. When the thirty days have lapsed, within sixty (60) days the Board will facilitate meetings with all stakeholders.

## **8 – Management Areas**

- 8.1 The management areas are shown on the attached map. The following are legal descriptions of each zone.

### **Gwich'in Settlement Area Grizzly Bear Management Area Descriptions**

All that portion of the Northwest Territories as shown on the National Topographic Series Maps: Aklavik 107B, Ft. McPherson 106M, Arctic Red River 106N, Martin House 106K, Blow River 117A, Bell River 116P produced at a scale of 1:250,000 by the Canada Map Office, Department of Natural Resources, Ottawa.

#### **1) G\GB\01 Richardson Mountains North**

- a. Commencing at 67°42 N, 136°26 W on the Yukon/NWT border east of Summit Lake.
- b. Thence east intersecting Two Oceans Creek, follow said creek to the western shoreline of Long Lake.
- c. Thence northerly following the western shoreline of said lake until intersecting a unnamed creek.
- d. Thence northerly following said creek intersecting the southern shoreline of Twin Lakes.
- e. Thence easterly following the southern shoreline of said lake intersecting Rat Creek.
- f. Thence easterly following said creek until intersecting Fish Creek at approximately 67°44 N, 136°16 W.
- g. Thence southerly intersecting Rat River.
- h. Thence easterly following the northern shoreline of Rat River until intersecting Husky Channel at approximately 67°37 N, 134°53 W.
- i. Thence southerly following the western shoreline of Husky Channel until intersecting the Peel River.
- j. Thence easterly crossing the Husky Channel to the opposite shoreline of the said named channel.
- k. Thence easterly following the northern shoreline of the Peel River until intersecting the Mackenzie River west branch at approximately 67°42 N, 134°31 W.
- l. Thence north following the west shoreline of the Mackenzie River until intersecting the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) and Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR) border at approximately 68°13 N, 134°28 W.
- m. Thence west following the GSA/ISR border until intersecting the Yukon/NWT border at approximately 68°13 N, 136°26 W.
- n. Thence south following the Yukon/NWT border back to the commencement point.

#### **2) G\GB\02 Richardson Mountains South**

- a. Commencing at 67°42 N, 136°26 W on the Yukon/NWT border east of Summit Lake.
- b. Thence easterly intersecting Two Oceans Creek, follow said creek to the western shoreline of Long Lake.

- c. Thence northerly following the western shoreline of said lake until intersecting an unnamed creek.
- d. Thence northerly following said creek intersecting the southern shoreline of Twin Lakes.
- e. Thence easterly following the southern shoreline of said lake intersecting Rat Creek.
- f. Thence easterly following said creek until intersecting Fish Creek at approximately 67°44 N, 136°16 W.
- g. Thence southerly intersecting Rat River.
- h. Thence easterly following the northern shoreline of Rat River until intersecting Husky Channel at approximately 67°37 N, 134°53 W.
- i. Thence southerly following the western shoreline of Husky Channel until intersecting the Peel River.
- j. Thence southerly following the western shoreline of the Peel River until intersecting the Yukon/NWT border 67°00 N, 135°00 W.
- k. Thence west following the Yukon/NWT border until intersecting 67°00 N, 136°10 W.
- l. Thence north following the Yukon/NWT border back to the commencement point.

**3) G\GB\03 North of Mackenzie River**

- a. Commencing on the western shoreline of the Mackenzie River at approximately 68°13 N, 134°28 W on the ISR/GSA border.
- b. Thence easterly following the ISR/GSA border until intersecting the western shoreline of the East Channel at approximately 68°13 N, 133°46 W.
- c. Thence northerly following the west shoreline of said channel intersecting 68°25 N, 133°49 W.
- d. Thence east following the ISR/GSA border intersecting 68°25 N, 132°00 W.
- e. Thence southerly in a straight line following the ISR/GSA border intersecting 68°00 N, 132°00 W.
- f. Thence easterly in a straight line following the ISR/GSA border intersecting the Iroquois River at approximately 68°00 N, 129°45 W.
- g. Thence southerly along the west shoreline of the Iroquois River intersecting with a unnamed stream at approximately 67°57 N, 129°43 W.
- h. Thence southerly along west shoreline of said unnamed stream intersecting 67°40 N, 130°01 W.
- i. Thence southerly along said longitude intersecting a seismic line at approximately 67°37 N.
- j. Thence southwesterly in a straight line to intersect the east bank of the Mackenzie River at approximately 67°18 N, 130°25 W.
- k. Thence northwesterly following the northern shoreline of the Mackenzie River intersecting an unnamed creek at approximately 67°54 N, 134°20 W.
- l. Thence west in a straight line along said latitude to intersect a unnamed creek on the western shoreline of the main branch of the Mackenzie River at approximately 67°54 N, 134°24 W.
- m. Thence northerly following the western shoreline of the Mackenzie River to the commencement point.

**4) GB\04 South of Mackenzie River**

- a. Commencing at 67°37 N, 134°53 W then southerly following the west shoreline of the Peel River until intersecting the Yukon/NWT border at approximately 67°00 N, 135°00 W.
- b. Thence easterly following the Yukon/NWT border until intersecting a tributary of Cranswick Creek at approximately 65°58 N, 132°21 W.
- c. Thence easterly following the northern shoreline of said tributary until intersecting Cranswick Creek.
- d. Thence northerly following the western shoreline of said creek until intersecting the Arctic Red River at approximately 66°05 N, 132°09 W.
- e. Thence southeasterly following the southern shoreline of said river to approximately 65°53 N, 131°09 W.
- f. Thence east crossing said river intersecting a tributary on the opposite shoreline, follow said tributary until intersecting the GSA/Sahtu border at approximately 65°50 N, 130°45 W.
- g. Thence northwesterly following the GSA/Sahtu border until intersecting the Mackenzie River northern shoreline at approximately 67°18 N, 130°25 W.
- h. Thence northwesterly following the northern shoreline of the Mackenzie River intersecting an unnamed creek at approximately 67°54 N, 134°20 W.
- i. Thence west in a straight line along said latitude to intersect a unnamed creek on the western shoreline of the main branch of the Mackenzie River at approximately 134°24 W.
- j. Thence southerly following the west branch of said river until intersecting mouth of the Peel River at approximately 67°42 N, 134°31 W.
- k. Thence westerly following the northern shoreline of said river back to the commencement point.

**5) G\GB\05 Mackenzie Mountains**

- a. Commencing at a tributary of Cranswick Creek at approximately 65°58 N, 132°21 W.
- b. Thence easterly following the northern shoreline of said tributary until intersecting Cranswick Creek.
- c. Thence northerly following the western shoreline of said creek until intersecting the Arctic Red River at approximately 66°05 N, 132°09 W.
- d. Thence southeasterly following the southern shoreline of said river to approximately 65°53 N, 131°09 W.
- e. Thence east crossing said river intersecting a tributary on the opposite shoreline, follow said tributary until intersecting the GSA/Sahtu border at approximately 65°50 N, 130°45 W.
- f. Thence southerly following the heights of land between the watersheds of the Arctic Red River drainage system and the Mountain River, Gayna River, Hume River and Ramparts River drainage system to the intersection of 64°23 N, 130°41 W.
- g. Thence southwesterly in a straight line intersecting the Yukon/NWT border at approximately 64°20 N, 131°04 W.  
Thence northwesterly following the Yukon/NWT border to the commencement point.

Signed on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2002 in \_\_\_\_\_,  
Northwest Territories.

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Fanny Greenland  
Ehdiitat Renewable Resource Council  
Aklavik

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James Andre  
Tetlit Renewable Resource Council  
Fort McPherson

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Harry Carmichael  
Nihtat Renewable Resource Council  
Inuvik

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Anna May McLeod  
Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council  
Tsiigehtchic

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Robert Charlie  
Gwich'in Renewable Resource GRRB  
Inuvik

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Jim Antoine  
Minister  
Department Resources Wildlife Economic Development

Witnessed on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2002 in \_\_\_\_\_,  
Northwest Territories.

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Ron Morrison, Regional Superintendent  
Department of Resources, Wildlife and  
Economic Development  
Government of the Northwest Territories