



**Consultations Summary  
Shih (Grizzly Bear)**

**What Was Said: A summary of consultations on shih (grizzly bear)  
management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area**

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## Background

In the fall of 2020, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB) began the process of updating the shih (grizzly bear) Management Plan and Agreement. Both documents had last been revised in 2000.

The Management Plan outlines concerns and proposes actions for 6 themes: population, habitat, harvest, human-bear interactions, culture and education, and co-management. The Agreement lays out the voluntary tag system in place for grizzly bear harvest.

In the current Agreement, there are 5 grizzly bear management zones in the GSA. Each of the four RRCs is responsible for issuing tags within its zone. The GRRB allocates tags in the 'Mackenzie Mountains' zone. 36 tags are issued every 3 years (6 for each RRC and 12 for the GRRB). Unused tags from a three-period can be rolled over to the following 3-year period but can only be used as defense against life and property (DLP) tags. The GRRB can also allocate its tags to DLP kills. The GRRB DLP tags can be allocated in any of the management zones. At most, 1/3 bears hunted should be female. The tag system is voluntary.

For resident hunters, the Wildlife Act regulations allow harvest of 1 grizzly bear per lifetime in the NWT (resident of the Northwest Territories for more than 1 year). In the GSA, the Mackenzie Mountains zone G/OT/01 is the only zone resident hunters can harvest grizzly bear. There is no harvest of grizzly bear allowed in the NWT by none-resident or none-resident alien.

The GRRB began consultations with the goal of hearing from all its co-management partners and the public on grizzly bear. This includes the four renewable resource councils, GNWT, the Inuvialuit, Arctic Red River Outfitters and the public. During the fall of 2020, the GRRB had in-person meetings with the RRCs when possible (and in accordance with covid regulations), and interviewed council members who were unavailable by phone. The public was consulted through an online and a pamphlet survey with prizes given out to encourage participation. An online workshop was held on March 4<sup>th</sup> 2021. The following is a summary of what was said during the consultations rounds.

## Summary – Fall 2020

The ultimate objective of this consultation is to update the grizzly bear management and agreement so they will better reflect what the Gwich'in and other stakeholders want. Below is a summary and a table (Table 1) of the comments that we heard during our consultations held in the fall of 2020.

### *Population and Habitat*

We heard widespread support for a grizzly bear population survey. The population surveys on which the tag quota is based were for the most part done in the seventies. The RRCs and the public want more information on bear numbers in the GSA. Aerial surveys, trap cameras, and hair snares were all suggested as ways to get a population estimate. Someone suggested developing a ratio of mountain bears to forest bears that would allow for easier estimates in the future (it's easier to get an accurate aerial survey of bears in the mountains because there are few trees). We heard many comments from RRC councilors that there are more bears than there used to. The Tetlit RRC did not share this point of view. Arctic Red River Outfitters and ENR's Renewable Resource Officers pointed to a very healthy bear population with increasing numbers.

There was not much enthusiasm regarding research or projects looking into grizzly bear habitat. Most people felt like they had a good understanding of habitats used by bears. However, there was support for knowing more about problem bears, including their habitat preferences. More than once, we heard that grizzly bears could be collared to know more about them (habitat, if the same bear is causing problems or if it's different bears, etc). There was also support for merging the population and habitat sections into one 'Knowledge' section.

### *Co-management*

Everyone agreed that collaboration between organizations is desirable. The Ehdiiat RRC expressed the importance of asking the public for advice when taking decisions (not limit advice to the RRCs). A few people mentioned the importance of having an end date to the management plan and agreement that would 'force' the GRRB and the RRCs to update these more regularly.

### *Education and Culture*

Education was highlighted as an important aspect of grizzly bear management. All RRCs were in favour of holding a grizzly bear hunting and skinning workshop. We heard that some young people wish to hunt but don't necessarily have the know-how to go out get a bear. Many people mentioned the importance of knowing how to prepare a skin for tanners. In addition to a workshop, knowledge could also be disseminated in a pamphlet and/or in a sign out sheet for tags. These could include information on ways to identify sex in grizzly bear, how to identify good grizzly bear habitat, and stress the importance of taking big bears. Education on bear safety, for hunters and the public, was also deemed important. Lastly, it was pointed out that it is important to educate the public about the grizzly bear management plan and agreement and make sure everybody understands it.

### *Grizzly bear-Human Interactions*

Bears can be dangerous in certain situations. Human safety was highlighted as a critical issue, especially in Inuvik. RRC councilors said that people should be careful when going out into the bush alone and

should be especially careful if they walk the Boot Lake trail in Inuvik. Many people have had problem bears at their cabins. Once a bear makes a habit of breaking into cabins it will break into clean camps.

RROs expressed that they take no joy in having to kill problem bears in town or at landfills. They would rather hunters harvest bears than have to dispose of bears at the dump. When it comes to problem bear kills, RROs wanted to be clear that people are not responsible for skinning the bear and that the reporting process is straightforward. They encourage everyone to report problem bear kills.

### *Harvest*

One of the main reasons for holding grizzly bear consultations was to determine if the voluntary tag system works for Gwich'in and the public. Amongst RRCs, there was consensus on three topics: 1) there should be more flexibility for Gwich'in to hunt everywhere in the GSA, 2) if a problem bear has to be killed, it should not be an issue, and 3) RRCs should be aware of what is going on near their community. Some Gwich'in have had difficulty obtaining tags outside their community's zone. This is something the updated agreement should address. We've also heard that problem bear kills shouldn't necessarily lead to reduced tags for harvest. This is an avenue to be explored, however, there are some concerns that having different systems for DLPs and harvest could lead people to lie about DLPs. There was a lack of consensus if the number of tags should be reduced, increased, or kept the same, but everyone felt that RRCs should be fully aware of who is hunting near their community.

When it comes to best practices in hunting, we heard about human safety and how big male bears should be the prime target for harvesters. When a big bear is harvested, a smaller bear can take its territory and grow big in turn. There was support for continued discouraging harvest of female bears.

One suggestion from RRCs is to have a standardized form for hunters to fill out when they request a tag. On this sheet, the hunter can specify where they want to hunt and for which dates. If the RRC were to refuse a tag, they could indicate why on the form. Attached to this form would be information on best hunting practices (e.g. shoot a big bear, safety precautions, identifying sex, don't shoot cubs or females with cubs).

Arctic Red River Outfitters, the private outfitter located in the southern portion of the Gwich'in Settlement Area signaled their interest in having grizzly bear tags for their clients.

Topic	Gwychia Gwich'in	Tetlit Gwich'in	Ehdiitat Gwich'in	Nihtat Gwich'in	Public
Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Knowing how many bears there are and where</li> <li>- Having bigger, overlapping, zones</li> <li>- Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Respect for the animal (leave bears alone, keep camps clean)</li> <li>- Need numbers/population study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Survey the community for their thought on grizzly bear management</li> <li>- Have an end date to the agreement that will force everyone to review it again (10 years maybe)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bear safety and population</li> <li>- Ensuring people are hunting big bears, not small bears</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bear population (keep a healthy population and know how many bears there are)</li> </ul>
Zones	Generally not in favor of zones (some support), but open to keeping if there was greater freedom to hunt	Support zones but want a mechanism (appeal process?) in case an RRC denies a Gwich'in from another community	Support for being able to hunt everywhere in the GSA	Interested in keeping zones but having more freedom to hunt everywhere in the GSA	A majority of respondents were in favour of zones
Number of tags	Good amount of tags	Less tags for subsistence (not many people hunt anyway), manage problem bears separately	Encourage more grizzly bear harvest through less regulations	Having more tags or more opportunities to hunt bears would be good. Problem bears should be managed separately	Na
Distribution of tags	RRC should be aware of what is going on and should distribute tags	RRC should be aware of what is going on and should distribute tags	Support for RRCs knowing who is hunting near the community	RCCs, GTC, or GRRB could distribute tags	Na

**Table 1. Summary of RRCs and public statements on general grizzly bear priorities and the harvest system through zones, the number of tags, and the distribution of tags**

## What was said

### 1) Renewable Resource Councils

#### *Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council*

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Bear Knowledge	Black bears are found up the Arctic Red, grizzly bear are found down the Mackenzie River Good to know where grizzlies are Hair sampling would be good Research and management are good There are more grizzly bear than there used to be
Co-management	Important to respect the bears We are tourists in bear country Important that everyone understands the management plan and agreement The Plan and Agreement should be regularly updated The Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) should be heavily involved
Human-Bear Interaction	Not too many bear issues near Tsiigehtchic Bears can be dangerous More cabins are disturbed than used to Good to do bear safety talks in schools Support for fencing landfills Cabins are mostly kept clean but bears will still wreck them Would be good to give out bells and whistles to keep bears away
Culture and Education	Information on bears in schools, workshops (2-3 days) all good Need information on how to deal with hide from harvest to hide (harvest, butcher, skin)
Zones	Zones are limiting for people who want to hunt grizzly bear. People should be able to go everywhere Zones are good If I want to hunt grizzlies, I want to go in the mountains. The number of bears here is nothing compared to other places It would be good to have no zones because there are too many bears If we keep zones, there should be more overlap between them Gwich'in should give notice to RRCs before going to hunt for safety and information purposes Asking to hunt is what people did in the old days and is a matter of respect
Distribution of tags	It would be fair game for the GRRB to distribute tags anywhere. Just inform the RRC first Some people refuse to give out tags because of personal conflict RRCs should distribute tags RRCs should distribute tags to Gwich'in from outside their community
Number of tags	Good amount of tags
Outfitting and resident hunting	Not open to having grizzly bear tags for Arctic Red River Outfitting Open to outfitting as long as GTC is involved (including Arctic Red River Outfitting) GRRB should consult with all RRC before giving a tag to a resident hunter Outfitting is ok if it is Gwich'in
Other	People should not have to skin bears if it was killed in defense of life or property Tag system allows us to sell bear fur Should be allowed to hunt bears in the Yukon

Topic	Comments
Bear Knowledge	<p>We don't know how many bears there are because there is no population study</p> <p>We could be killing too many bears, we don't know without knowing how many bears there are</p> <p>Need a population study</p> <p>There are not more bears than before</p> <p>Interest in knowing the effect of harvest on bear numbers</p> <p>We generally know what habitats bear use</p> <p>Interest in collaring problem bears</p> <p>Important to fight forest fires to protect bear habitat</p> <p>Come up with a mountain bear/forest bear ratio to help determine how many bears exist</p>
Co-management	<p>Need more communication and collaboration with ENR, RRO, and other organizations</p>
Human-Bear Interaction	<p>In the fall there are lots of issues with problem bears on the highway. A lot of grizzly bear bother hunters. The bears hear a shot and come</p> <p>This is a tough situation to manage (bears on the highway). One way to manage it would be to have bear monitors on the highway</p> <p>Important to keep camps clean</p> <p>There are more problem bears at people's camps. Electric fences would be good</p>
Culture and Education	<p>Young people should have more education on how to safely hunt bears</p> <p>Education on bear safety is important</p> <p>Need education on the tag system and defense against life and property kills</p> <p>Need education on how to identify bear trails and bear habitat, how to identify sex and age</p> <p>Plain language information is important</p>
Zones	<p>Good to have zones as they prevent over-harvesting in one area</p> <p>The concern with zones is we need the ability to hunt in other areas (traditional areas we always hunted)</p>
Distribution of tags	<p>Open to RRCs distributing tags to Gwich'in from other communities</p> <p>If RRCs deny a tag, there should be reasonable reasons spelled out for the denial</p> <p>RRCs should have the final word when it comes to distributing tags</p> <p>There could be a lottery system for the subsistence hunting tags that includes all communities</p> <p>There could be different systems for subsistence hunting vs nuisance kills</p>
Number of tags	<p>36 tags is 3 years seems like a lot</p> <p>Want less tags</p> <p>Personally I would go with a ban on grizzly bear hunting</p>
Outfitting and resident hunting	<p>RRCs should always be aware if people, including residents, want to hunt</p> <p>Outfitting goes against our traditional values</p>
Other	<p>Need sufficient time when getting a tag to be able to hunt</p> <p>RRC would like an application form to apply for a grizzly bear tag. The form would include safety information on bear hunts (what gun, who is going, what size bear) and, in the case a tag is denied, leave space for the RRC to explain why</p> <p>Except for cases where there is a nuisance bear, I don't understand why people kill grizzly bear</p> <p>Female bears should not be killed</p>

*Ehdiitat Renewable Resource Council*

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Bear Knowledge	After the 1992 ban, bears started coming into town We should survey bears, know how many there are and how many people are harvesting them Should do a population survey Collar the bears around town
Co-management	
Human-Bear Interaction	Many bears can be found at the dump Bears are found at cabins even if the cabins are clean Most people understand camp safety People do not kill bears unnecessarily
Culture and Education	Comic books for kids about bears would be a good thing Teachers might want to teach TK, but how do they know? Always use plain language (e.g. use foreigners instead of non-resident aliens)
Zones	We should open up the zones Should let the RRC coordinator know when going to another zone There has to be a way for hunters to hunt anywhere in the GSA. There has to be a process
Distribution of tags	RRCs should distribute tags
Number of tags	You should not need a tag to hunt a grizzly (unlimited grizzly bear harvest) There should be more play with tags, more than 6 over 3 years Tags deter harvests
Outfitting and resident hunting	Outfitting opportunities for Gwich'in would be good Open season for Gwich'in and resident hunters RRC should be the one giving permission to resident hunters Follow Tsiigehtchic's lead for Arctic Red Outfitting
Other	We are interested in hunting in the Yukon The bears here are small, the big bears are near the highway

*Nihtat Renewable Resource Council*

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Bear Knowledge	There are more grizzly bear around town A lot of grizzly bear at landfills and in the delta. The bears eat beavers in the delta Good to have population survey (aerial, hair snag, or cameras)
Co-management	Good to collaborate for people's safety
Human-Bear Interaction	The safety of communities is the greatest priority People should take precautions before walking on trails in the summer Let people know that bears are in town and in the outskirts of town Call ENR if there' a bear in town
Culture and Education	Good to have workshop on bear skinning and harvesting (esp. with regards to taxidermists). Good for youth

Zones	<p>Would prefer zones because it allows us to know what's going on and respects traditional use areas</p> <p>Ideal situation is keeping zones but allowing more freedom to hunt bears anywhere</p> <p>Zones should be more opened up, the Gwich'in Settlement Area is for all Gwich'in</p> <p>There could be tags reserved for hunters from outside the community (GTC, GRRB, or RRCs could hold these tags)</p>
Distribution of tags	If an RRC denies a tag to someone, there should be a reason why
Number of tags	<p>A bear killed at a landfill should not result in less tags for harvest</p> <p>There should be more tags because there are more bears</p> <p>Having no tags for DLPs could lead to issues</p>
Outfitting and resident hunting	
Other	Good to have a form that says how long people plan on hunting for

## 2) Renewable Resource Officers and Carnivore Biologist ENR

Topic	Comments
Bear Knowledge	<p>There are more grizzly bear and less black bears</p> <p>In the spring, bears are everywhere</p>
Co-management	
Human-Bear Interaction	<p>Hides go to the GRRB or the RRCs, but bad hides stay at the dump</p> <p>RROs take a foot sample when they shoot a bear</p> <p>Some people won't report DLPs to ENR</p> <p>Some people think there's going to be a big investigation when they report a DLP. This is not the case. The reporting is very straightforward. It would be good to educate people so they know that reporting a DLP is not a complicated process.</p> <p>People are not responsible for skinning a bear if they shoot it as a defence against life and property. The RROs will do this if the hide is salvageable. However, in cases when the RROs cannot get to the bear in time and the person who has shot the bear has knowledge of skinning, they may be required to salvage the hide to the best of their abilities.</p> <p>Someone who wants to keep a DLP hide can apply for a tag</p> <p>After the summer of 2019, when many bears were shot at the dump, the bears that were in town moved to the dump. There is a limit to the capacity of bears that the dump can handle</p>
Culture and Education	
Zones	
Distribution of tags	It would be easier to track the tags annually rather than have a three-year system
Number of tags	<p>There is no conservation concern regarding grizzly bear</p> <p>There are a lot more nuisance kills than sport/subsistence harvest kills</p> <p>Would rather have a hunter kill a bear than have the RRO kill the bear</p>

	People are frustrated if they want a tag and there are none There is sometime only one week [of hunting GB] in spring. Get more people out.
Outfitting and resident hunting	
Other	The tag system is generally respected

### 3) Public

Under normal circumstances, the meetings with the RRCs would have been open to the public. Instead, we chose to consult with residents of the GSA through an online survey and a mail-in pamphlet that was distributed to every PO box in the GSA. The online survey was shared through the GRRB's Facebook page and personal accounts. Prizes were offered to 1 in 5 participants. The online survey was a success, with 91 respondents from the four communities and included Gwich'in, Inuvialuit, and NWT residents. We had 9 respondents to the mail-in pamphlet.

Online survey replies respondents	Age group
58 % Gwich'in (53 responses)	53 % 36-56 (48 responses)
24 % Inuvialuit (22 responses)	23 % 25-35 (21 responses)
18 % NWT Resident (16 responses)	15 % 57 + (15 responses)
	9 % 16-24 (8 responses)

Zones:

- Zones were preferred by a majority (59 %) of the public
- The rest of the public (41 %) was unsure or preferred not having zones
- These percentages were similar when we only considered Gwich'in participants

80% of people felt they had a good understanding of the tag system, 20% did not

What would you most like to see happen out of the grizzly bear management plan and tag agreement?

- Education on bears and what is edible
- I would like to see all of our zones open to all Gwich'in participants so that a tag can be used in all of the GSA
- Nothing, works great
- To know the number of bears
- To see more education on safety
- That more hunters are well informed on the management plan and agreement
- Knowledge on how to harvest bears
- Conservation of grizzlies
- Making sure grizzlies are not over-populating
- Consideration of outfitting opportunities
- Encouraging harvest of larger bears
- More tags

- Accurate numbers
- Working with partners to deal with constant bear issues at waste facilities

Pamphlets:

- Bear population and counts stood out as being important

#### **4) Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee (Inuvialuit)**

- There are grizzlies in the delta, no black bears
- In the past 5 years, bears everywhere
- People try to harvest 6 feet plus for fur
- Good idea to collar bears around the dump
- Once bears have gone in a camp, they will go to clean camps
- There should be a population study
- People don't know how to skin or take care of the animal, should have a workshop

#### **5) Arctic Red River Outfitters**

Edited comments from Arctic Red River Outfitters:

- From July to October each year, guides and clients walk approximately 12,000 km and spend about 1,500 person/days each season observing wildlife in the registered outfitting area which covers approximately 25,600 square km, 82% of which lies within Grizzly bear Management Unit G/GB/04 South Of Mackenzie River. We also fly our four company aircraft approximately 500hrs, or 68,000 km per year in this area
- The grizzly bear population is stable to increasing, with very good cub survival. It is very common to observe sows with two yearling cubs. We are very confident that the overall Grizzly density is consistent with or higher than other mountainous regions in the Yukon, and is significantly higher than that of the Southern Yukon. It is not uncommon for us to see 8-15 individual bears on an average 10 day backpacking trip in this country, covering a linear distance of 160km. We normally have approximately 200-300 bear sightings per year from the ground during the course of our seasonal operations, not including the very great number of sightings from the air (generally 1-6 sightings per hour of flight time).
- Grizzly bear will claim animal carcasses within 24hrs
- Belief that within the boundaries of G/OT/01 there are at least 250-350 Grizzly bear present, as a conservative estimate, which is a density of 9.6-13.7 bears/1000 sq km
- Always careful with efforts to mitigate Grizzly conflicts with carcasses and camps. Even so, we have a number of close encounters with aggressive bears every year, sometimes many, and occasionally this does result our having to dispatch a bear (always reported to ENR)

- Using just the part of G/OT/01 that lies within Grizzly Management Unit G/GB/04 (21,000 square km), and the lowest probable grizzly density based on our own observations as well as better known comparable habitats of 11 bears/1000 sq km, there is likely a bear population of over 230 bears in just that part of the Outfitting Zone. Using the conservative harvest rate of 3% noted in the Grizzly Management Plan, that yields a sustainable harvest of 7 male bears annually
- Although we have consistently requested permission to use Grizzly Quota Allocation in G/GB/04, and any conversations we have had with the GRRB members have indicated that there is no real objection to the issuance of this allocation, we have never been issued a tag for Grizzly. Our non-resident clients would very much love an opportunity to hunt and harvest grizzly bear

### **Summary: Workshop March 2021**

Following the fall of 2020 consultations, the GRRB held an online workshop that brought together the four RRCs, GRRB staff, and ENR. The goal of this workshop was to discuss in greater detail the management plan and updates to the tag system.

GRRB presented a PowerPoint showing results from the 1<sup>st</sup> consultation and proposed updates to the plan and harvest system. The updated draft Management Plan was reviewed, and minor suggestions were made for improvements. ENR also provide guidance in regard to the rules and laws of the Wildlife Act.

The main topic of discussion was how to have more flexibility for Gwich'in to hunt everywhere in the GSA. Some RRCs mentioned that there are a lot of interest for shih hunting across the GSA. Some RRCs suggested allowing tags to be used everywhere within the GSA, others suggested the same as long as the affected RRC gives approval. Fort McPherson mentions that there are not many shih harvesters in their community. There was an agreement that there was a need for more respect of traditional ways when hunting in other communities and that RRCs should have the ability to say no to too many harvests around their community. It was also suggested by the RRCs that problem bear kills be dealt with separately from subsistence harvest. In addition, RRCs suggested that zones be reviewed so they better correspond to traditional harvesting areas.

### **Summary: Final Draft and Subsequent Consultations**

After the workshop, the draft MP and harvest system were updated in light of the workshop. These 2 documents and the What Was Said document were sent to the 4 RRCs, ENR, WMAC (NWT), IGC, AHTC, IHTC, GLUPB, and GTC (lands and DCH). Stakeholders were instructed to provide comments within 60 days.

Comments were received from the Department of Cultural Heritage, Gwich'in Tribal Council, and Environment and Natural Resources (GNWT). The RRCs didn't provide comments. ENR's comments were around clarification on the harvest system, making sure it aligns with the Wildlife Act, and minor edits on the information presented in the MP.

### **Fall 2021**

Because no responses were provided by the RRCs, it was decided to meet with each RRCs to finalize the plan. A consultant was hired to consult with the RRCs with the aim of approving the plan.

**Nihtat RRC** - On December 8<sup>th</sup>, the consultant, GRRB staff and NRRC met. A PowerPoint summarizing the past consultation and the new harvest system was presented by the consultant.

The NRRC expressed strong concerns regarding the harvest system. They mentioned that the way it was presented, it wasn't following the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. They felt that it is a collective land claim. RRCs shouldn't be able to decide who comes and go around the communities for shih harvest. They had concerns that harvesters had been refused tags in the past without explanation. RRCs should be able to give out tag to their members for the whole GSA without permission from other RRCs. They agreed, however, that there is a need for respect and that a way forward could be to inform other RRCs when a hunter intend to hunt around their community. They mentioned that they would support a harvest system and MP if this was incorporated.

**Gwichya Gwich'in RRC** - On December 13<sup>th</sup>, the consultant, GRRB staff and GGRRC met. A PowerPoint summarizing the past consultation and the new harvest system was presented by the consultant.

Questions were arisen regarding legislation. The consultant clarified what is considered laws under the wildlife act (i.e., reporting a Defense of Life and Property) and what is proposed by the new harvest system. The harvest system proposed is voluntary. The Council was supportive of the Draft Management Plan and echoed that there is a need for respect when harvesting around other communities. Results from the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting with the NRRC were discussed. It was proposed that RRCs could come together in a workshop format to resolve the issue, maybe work more on harvesting zones. The GGRRC mentioned that there is a need for respect of traditional ways but that the GCLCA is a collective claim for all Gwich'in.

## **2022**

Following the meetings with NRRC and GGRRC, the GRRB updated the plan to reflect NRRC and GGRRC comments while taking into account the results from the public consultation and the workshop. The new harvest system would now require RRCs to inform other RRCs when a harvester would harvest around their community. The need for permission was taken out due to previous comments and to follow the GCLCA. GRRB decided to present the changes of the harvest system back to the RRCs during the winter:

February 22<sup>nd</sup> - Meeting with GGRRC – The council supported the Shih (Grizzly Bear) Management Plan - Gwich'in Settlement Area 2022-2032 which includes the updated harvest system.

March 16<sup>th</sup> - Meeting with ERRC – The council supported the Shih (Grizzly Bear) Management Plan - Gwich'in Settlement Area 2022-2032 which includes the updated harvest system.

March 21<sup>st</sup> – Meeting with NRRC – The council supported the Shih (Grizzly Bear) Management Plan - Gwich'in Settlement Area 2022-2032 which includes the updated harvest system.

Several meetings with the TRRC were cancelled. GRRB and TRRC are planning to meet in April to get their comments.

## **Acknowledgements**

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Thank you to ENR, Arctic Red River Outfitters, the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and the residents of the Gwich'in Settlement Area for providing thoughts and comments.

We thank the federal government, through its AFSAR program, for supplying the funds to hold the consultations and update the grizzly bear management plan.