PROPOSAL REVIEW

Project Number: 261-16-01 **Applicant:** Dianne Mala

Organization: Ekaluktutiak Hunters and Trappers Organization

Title: Community-based Grizzly Bear Monitoring on Victoria Island, Nunavut

Funding Requested: $30,000[1]

Total Score 78.75/100
(0 points deducted)

Scoring Breakdown:
NWMB Priority: 6.5 / 7.5
Regional Priority: 14.5 / 17.5
Quality: 28.5 / 35.0
Consultation: 14.25 / 15.0
Funding: 15.0 / 25.0

Project Summary: Nunavummiut are reporting an increase in the number of grizzly bears, as well as an expansion of their range, both in the eastern and northern portion of the territory. The scientific community generally agrees with this, although studies in support are limited. Currently, it is unknown whether a small viable population of grizzly bears now exists on Victoria Island, or if the sightings are simply transient (seasonal) visitors from the mainland. The objectives of this research are to: 1) identify important grizzly bear habitat on Victoria Island and eastern Kitikmeot; 2) generate baseline population data for trend monitoring; 3) describe the spatial and temporal distribution of grizzly bears; 4) explore genetically hybrid bear sightings on the Arctic Islands; and 5) characterize demographic variables such as sex ratio. This proposed project will enhance the Hunters and Trappers Organization's monitoring capacity and increase collaboration between government and resource users.

Project Contributions:

Requested from NWMB	$ 30,000	50%
Other Contributions[2]	$ 30,000	50%
Total	**$ 60,000**	**100%**

Budget:

Item	Funds ($)
Hunters and Trappers Organization project handling fee (15%)	4,500.00
Hunters and elders interviews (10 x $200 per interview)	2,000.00
Field work (2 Hunters and Trappers Organization representatives x $300 per day x 35 days per person)	21,000.00
Research supplies (60 tripod wood posts, barb wire, related supplies and shipping)	12,000.00

[1] The Board approved $100,000 for 2016-2017 Nunavut Wildlife Studies Fund applications.
[2] The applicant has requested $30,000 from Environment Canada. The Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment is providing in-kind support for DNA analysis, report writing, training, field equipment and logistical support.

All-terrain Vehicle and boat rental (27 days x $500 per day ($200 for All-terrain Vehicle and $300 for boat))	13,500.00
Fuel and food supplies	7,000.00
TOTAL	**$ 60,000**

NWMB Staff Evaluation:

NWMB Priority: #2 – Contributes to the development of plans for the management, classification, protection, restocking or propagation, cultivation or husbandry or particular wildlife (S. 5.2.34 (i)).

Regional Priority: #2 Kitikmeot – Grizzly Bear: studies, surveys, and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit consultation.

Project design: The proposed study will take place on Victoria Island in the Wellington Bay area about 100 km northwest of Cambridge Bay. During spring 2016, interviews will be conducted with active hunters and elders from Cambridge Bay to collect information about location of important grizzly bear habitat, abundance, harvest patterns and distribution. The areas identified by hunters and elders will be used for DNA sample collection. In summer 2016, 50 tripod wood posts wrapped with barbed wire (hair snares) will be deployed with 10 km spacing. Non-reward scented combination of commercial lures, cured blood and fish oil will be used to attract grizzly bears to the tripod posts. Between July and September, each post will be visited six times by two Ekaluktutiak Hunters and Trappers Organization representatives at about 10 day intervals using boat or all-terrain vehicle. Hair samples will be collected and a fresh set of lures and fish oil will be provided. Samples will be shipped to the Government of Nunavut for further submission to a genetics lab for analysis. In addition, five motion triggered digital cameras will be installed at different posts to document grizzly bear and other wildlife activity around the hair snagging post.

Application of results: Results of this study will generate important baseline information on grizzly bear that will be used for future monitoring and incorporation into both the federal and territorial management plans for the species. As well, information on the abundance and distribution of grizzly bears may help inform grizzly bear harvest management, address safety concerns and reduce conflict with land-use activities and projects in the region.

Community involvement / consultation: The Ekaluktutiak Hunters and Trappers Organization support this research. Overall, the project will employ two Hunters and Trappers Organization members for a total of 70 person days. As well, the project will enhance the Hunters and Trappers Organization's monitoring capacity and provide field work training for its members. The applicant plans to circulate the results of the project to the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board and government departments.

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