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Re Black Bear baiting True North Safaris

2007 report

We are pleased to provide this report on our first season of using baits for our spring black bear hunts. We have been hunting spring bears, spot and stalk, in the same area for the past 7 years and this is the first year we had been granted permission to use baits. We are licensed to outfit sports hunters in Wildlife management Unit "R" under GNWT, ENR legislation. This includes our caribou areas and the area from the southern boundary of the Bechoko corporation to approximately Birch creek where we are hunting bears.

Two years ago we began consultation to seek permission to use baits and last year we obtained a letter of support from the Tli Cho Government as well as a recommendation from you/WRRB for a one, year trial. Following these support letters, ENR issued us a Wildlife permit granting us permission under our outfitters license to use baits with a number of terms and conditions attached.

We also received some financial support from DIAND which allowed us to hire a consultant and we have developed a three year business plan which involves expansion of the operation and marketing plans. If successful, we could increase our number of clients from 4, which was the number of hunters that we hosted for the past several years without baits, to as much as 20 by 2010. This will greatly increase the economic viability of the venture and will increase the number of jobs and expenditures in the region.

To support the business plan, it was necessary for us to apply for a land lease from DIAND and a Land Use permit from WLWB and both of these have been received. As part of the Land Use permitting exercise, there was further public consultation and advertisements in the news papers.

This past spring, we got a late start for a number of reasons and did not get the bait sights established till the end on May. We outfitted 2 bow hunters and a TV production crew June 9 to 14 and saw some bears and had one wounded by a bow hunter. The wounded bear was on video and after reviewing the shot we concluded that the hit was not fatal, however we did conduct an extensive ground search for it. The same bear was sighted again the following week and appeared healthy. The following week, we had 2 gun hunters and a TV crew and we harvested one small dry female and one large male bear. We turned in the measurements and sample that ENR requested as one of the conditions of the permit.

For 2009 we plan to begin establishing the bait sites by the beginning of May and hope to have 4 hunters per week for 4 weeks from mid May to mid June. The bait sites and signs are removed immediately following the last hunt.

We plan to re-negotiate the terms and conditions with ENR for the wildlife permit. As this was our first year using baits we need to have a better definition of public trails and the types of baits that we can use. Any advise from WRRB will be taken into account.

Next spring we also plan to consult with the Highways Department regarding their plans for the area and our bait sight locations and timing.

Truly

Malcolm Jaeb

Gary Jaeb

Daniel Jaeb