



February 7, 2022

**Sent VIA Email: [info@nirb.ca](mailto:info@nirb.ca)**

Dear Mia Otokiak,

On behalf of the Government of Nunavut (GN), attached for your consideration are comments regarding Pennsylvania State University's Tree River Geoscience Project 2022.

The GN has reviewed the proposed project and the Department of Environment offers comments as it pertains to Wildlife Disturbance, further described in the attached Appendix.

The GN appreciates participating in the screening of this project. Should there be any concerns or need for follow-up, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at (867) 975-7828 or by email at [asimonfalvy@gov.nu.ca](mailto:asimonfalvy@gov.nu.ca).

Qujannamiik,

Simonfalvy

Agnes Simonfalvy  
Avatiliriniq Coordinator  
Government of Nunavut

<b>GN-01: Wildlife Disturbance</b>	
<b>Department</b>	Environment
<b>Organization</b>	Government of Nunavut
<b>Subject/Topic</b>	Wildlife Disturbance from Project Activities
<b>References</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIRB Notice of Screening for “Tree River Geoscience Project 2022” Proposal</li> <li>• NIRB Application for Screening #125646</li> <li>• Project Description – Tree River Geoscience Project 2022</li> <li>• <i>Scientists Act</i></li> </ul>
<b>CONCERNS</b>	
<p>The Proponent intends to conduct field sampling of ancient rocks exposed on the surface. A Bush Hawk floatplane will be used to travel to sampling sites from the Tree River Lodge.</p> <p>The Project is located within the annual range of the Bathurst caribou herd. There is a potential of disturbance to caribou from Project activities, especially low-level flights.</p> <p>A basic Wildlife Protocol, which would outline the actions team members and pilots will take in the presence of wildlife, is missing from the Proposal. This protocol should also outline minimum flight altitudes in the presence of wildlife.</p>	
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<p>The applicant must understand it is their responsibility to ensure that there are no impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat. The GN recommends that the applicant provide the Department of Environment, a basic Wildlife Protocol for the Project, necessary for the Board to conduct a full screening. Additionally, the GN recommends the hiring of a local Wildlife Monitor to ensure disturbances to wildlife and wildlife habitat are mitigated.</p>	
<b>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</b>	
<p>The GN also advises the applicant to submit a Scientific Research License as required of the proposed research licensing under the <i>Scientists Act</i>. The Nunavut Research Institute (NRI), which administers this recommends the Proponent must complete the public consultation activities prior to the NRI research licensing.</p>	