PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

NDÉH TS’EDJÎCHÁ:
Dehcho Ndéh T’ahts’et’ï K’eh Eghaláets’ëdáh

RESPECT FOR THE LAND:
The Dehcho Land Use Plan

Prepared by:
Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee
Final Draft Plan – May 2006
Introduction

The Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee was put in place by the Dehcho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement (IMA) signed in 2001. The Committee has developed a Land Use Plan for the Dehcho territory. This report is the Plain Language Summary of the Plan.

The goal of the Plan is to promote the social, cultural and economic well being of residents and communities in the Dehcho territory, having regard to the interests of all Canadians. The Plan is based on respect for the land, as understood and explained by the Dehcho Elders, and sustainable development. The Plan explains how the land, water and resources will be protected, developed and used. Land within community boundaries and the Nahanni National Park Reserve is not part of the Plan. Elders played an important role in guiding Plan development.

Traditional land use and occupancy is not managed or restricted through the Land Use Plan; it is completely exempt from the Plan.

The Plan will help the Dehcho Process negotiations but the negotiators are free to take any position in negotiations; they are not bound by anything in the Plan.

Approval of this Plan will not have the effect of recognizing, denying or altering Aboriginal rights, Aboriginal title, or Treaty rights.

The Plan does not apply to minor land uses that do not need permits or licences. Existing uses, emergencies and clean-up of contaminated sites are exempt from the Plan.

What is Land Use Planning?

Land use planning outlines what types of activities should occur, where they should take place, and the terms and conditions necessary to guide land use decisions over time. The Plan becomes the roadmap that guides decisions at every turn to take us where we want to go. Once approved, the Land Use Plan will provide binding direction and guidance to Governments and decision-makers in their assessment of development projects, protected area proposals and other potential land uses.

Vision

“*The Dehcho territory is a place rich in spirit, culture and resources. The people are stewards of the land – they protect the land and the land provides for them. The land is protected and the people maintain a strong connection to the land through traditional land use and occupancy. Families are strong and healthy, both physically and spiritually. Youth and Elders are actively engaged in their culture and language to ensure they are passed on to future generations.*

*The Dehcho people manage their governments, lands and resources to meet the social, cultural, economic and environmental needs of current and future generations in a fair manner. People are healthy, happy and self-sufficient. Education and training are a priority, to ensure that Dehcho people take the lead in activities on their lands. Long-term sustainable development, designed to meet the needs of the region, provides long-term social and economic benefits and opportunities that help to develop individual, community and regional*
capacity, without compromising the values of the people. The economy is robust and diversified, and supports the goals of the people.”

**Guidance**

During meetings, people told us many issues they wanted to see addressed through the Land Use Plan. The Plan groups similar issues together and provides guidance to address them.

**Zoning**

Land Use Zones group areas with similar features, objectives and values together and identifies what land uses are allowed within that area. The five key land uses are oil and gas operations, mining, forestry, tourism and agriculture. There are five types of Land Use Zones:

- Conservation Zones: No oil and gas, mining, forestry, agriculture and maybe no tourism.
- Protected Area Strategy Zone: Lands withdrawn under the Protected Area Strategy.
- Special Management Zones: Some land uses with conditions in the Plan.
- General Use Zones: All land uses, subject to existing laws and approval processes; and conditions in the Plan.
- Special Infrastructure Corridors: Restricts the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline and Netlá-Arrowhead Pipeline to corridors (Zones 34 and 35) with rules for their development.

**Land Use Zones**

The map shows the 36 Land Use Zones. Governments will not allow land uses related to oil and gas operations, mining, forestry, tourism or agriculture in a zone unless that land use is shown as permitted for the zone in the table. There are special allowances for some activities in Conservation Zones and Special Management Zones (e.g. salvage logging and pipeline construction).

**Mackenzie Valley Pipeline**

Governments will not allow the development of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline or similar pipeline except in the special infrastructure corridor (Zone 34). The pipeline corridor crosses many Conservation Zones so the Developer should minimize impacts and disturbance within these areas. The developer should consider the values of the zones it crosses and work in harmony with these wherever possible.

**Dene Culture and Traditional Use**

The following suggestions were developed to promote Dene culture.

**Respect Dene Laws, Values and Principles**

Everyone operating in the Dehcho should learn the Dene Laws, Values and Principles and use them in their business. Here are some examples of how this can be done.

- **Fire Feeding Ceremony:** Developers should show respect for the land before starting a new operation by having a Fire Feeding Ceremony.
- **Show Respect:** Developers should respect the Dehcho First Nation(s) as stewards and first residents of the land. Developers should talk to the First Nation(s) about their work early in their planning process and respect the First Nation(s) knowledge, comments and decisions.
- **Sharing:** The Dehcho First Nation(s) are sharing the natural resources. Developers should share the benefits with DFN(s) through training, revenues and jobs, etc.
## Zone Descriptions

### Protected Areas Strategy Zone - 12.02%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone Number</th>
<th>Zone Name</th>
<th>Permitted Uses</th>
<th>Area (km²)</th>
<th>% of Plan Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Edéhzhíe</td>
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<td>25,183</td>
<td>12.02%</td>
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### Conservation Zones - 38.3%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone Number</th>
<th>Zone Name</th>
<th>Permitted Uses</th>
<th>Area (km²)</th>
<th>% of Plan Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>JMR Five Lakes</td>
<td></td>
<td>183</td>
<td>0.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sibbeston Plains</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,316</td>
<td>3.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pehdzhéh Kí Níleh</td>
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<td>7,359</td>
<td>3.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sambaa Ke / Redknife River</td>
<td></td>
<td>12,405</td>
<td>5.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Greater Nahanni Ecosystem</td>
<td></td>
<td>28,147</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Birch Lake</td>
<td></td>
<td>719</td>
<td>0.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Fisherman Lake</td>
<td></td>
<td>38</td>
<td>0.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Bovie and Betlamea Lakes</td>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td>0.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Upper Mackenzie</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,965</td>
<td>0.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Great Slave Lake Shoreline</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,226</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Hay River Corridor</td>
<td></td>
<td>378</td>
<td>0.18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Heart Lake, McNally Creek, Mackay River</td>
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<td>1,458</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Kalisa and Tahthina Watershed</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,384</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Buffalo Lake, River, and Trails</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,177</td>
<td>1.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Falaise Lake Wetland Complex</td>
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<td>1,270</td>
<td>0.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Moraine Point and Islands</td>
<td></td>
<td>377</td>
<td>0.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Northwest Rivers</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,175</td>
<td>2.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Nistlah River</td>
<td></td>
<td>598</td>
<td>0.29%</td>
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### Special Management Zones - 28.85%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone Number</th>
<th>Zone Name</th>
<th>Permitted Uses</th>
<th>Area (km²)</th>
<th>% of Plan Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Peel River Plateau</td>
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<td>4,880</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Southeastern Mackenzie Mountains</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>1.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Franklin Mountains</td>
<td></td>
<td>697</td>
<td>0.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Rabbittskin / Nuklee</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,909</td>
<td>2.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Grainger / Liard Rivers</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,766</td>
<td>1.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Blackstone / Lower Petitot Rivers</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,062</td>
<td>2.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Liard Range</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,885</td>
<td>3.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Trout River</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,215</td>
<td>0.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Jean Marie River - South</td>
<td></td>
<td>553</td>
<td>0.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Jean Marie River - North</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,418</td>
<td>2.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Bluefish Creek</td>
<td></td>
<td>329</td>
<td>0.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Birch - Falaise Corridor</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,631</td>
<td>1.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Lower Big Buffalo</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,401</td>
<td>0.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Cameron Hills</td>
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<td>8,334</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>North Dehcho</td>
<td></td>
<td>9,368</td>
<td>4.44%</td>
</tr>
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### General Use Zones - 20.84%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone Number</th>
<th>Zone Name</th>
<th>Permitted Uses</th>
<th>Area (km²)</th>
<th>% of Plan Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Use</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>43,651</td>
<td>20.84%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Special Infrastructure Corridor - 0.77%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone Number</th>
<th>Zone Name</th>
<th>Area (km²)</th>
<th>% of Plan Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Mackenzie Valley Special Infrastructure Corridor</td>
<td>1,176</td>
<td>0.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Nistlah / Arrowhead Special Infrastructure Corridor</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>0.21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Plan Area calculations exclude Nahanni National Park Reserve and Community Boundaries*
• **Take Only What You Need:** Developers and Governments should think about saving resources for future generations and should develop a plan to make sure there are long-term benefits for communities from current and future operations.

• **Do Not Waste:** Developers should use the best available technology to increase efficiency of operations, waste less resources and minimize the footprint of development.

**Preservation of Culture and Language**
Communities, governments, non-government organizations, aboriginal organizations and businesses should work together to create more opportunities for Dene cultural and language experiences. This could include on-the-land programs, traditional harvesting and processing, language classes, cultural events, cross cultural training, and use of Dene Language.

**Use and Recognition of Traditional and Cultural Knowledge**
Governments will require developers to collect traditional knowledge and scientific information and look at the information they are given when making their decisions on what will be allowed. Requirements will depend on the size and type of activity and potential impacts. Businesses should integrate traditional and cultural knowledge into all aspects of their activities and decision making and promote the value of traditional and cultural knowledge by providing opportunities in the workplace.

**Protection of Significant Traditional Land Use and Occupancy Sites**
Governments will require developers to look at the impact of new activities on known historical, archaeological, cultural and traditional land use and occupancy sites identified by the affected First Nation(s) and Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. Developers have to work with affected First Nation(s) and individuals to decide how to protect these sites from impacts. Governments will look at the information they are given when making their decisions on what will be allowed.

**Use of Guides and Monitors**
Developers should tell First Nation(s) where they are going to work at least 10 days before they arrive and hire a local guide or monitor to go with them. Dehcho First Nation(s) will identify suitable people and terms of employment. DFN should consider making the use of guides and monitors a requirement through the Dehcho Process negotiations.

**Plant Gathering Areas**
Applications must show they have worked with the affected First Nation(s) to identify plant gathering areas to be avoided or protected. Where the affected First Nation(s) are concerned and don’t know where certain plants are found, the developer will do a survey of the land use area to find where culturally important species are. Dehcho First Nation(s) will make a list of plants that are culturally important and need to be looked after.

**Use of Traditional Materials**
Dehcho First Nation(s) will develop a plan to educate the people about how important traditional materials are in Dene culture and encourage the careful harvest, full use and sharing of these materials, including birch bark and animal parts.

**Traditional Economy**
The Government of the Northwest Territories, with Dehcho First Nation(s), governments and businesses will do their best to research and document the amount and total dollar value of traditional foods and materials harvested every year in the Dehcho territory.
**Sustainable Development**

Communities want to make sure the land and resources are managed carefully for the benefit of future generations. The guidance in this section of the Plan is meant to improve the way land is managed.

**Existing Use**

The holders of permits, licences and authorizations for current uses in the Dehcho territory should look at the values and intent of the surrounding zone and use the best technology available to reduce the impacts wherever possible.

**Community Involvement**

Governments will require developers to work with affected communities and individuals in designing their land use activity. This includes full and direct reporting of land use activities prior to the application and throughout the life of the proposed land use in English and the local language. The affected First Nation(s) will make best efforts to attend community involvement activities.

**Visual Quality**

Developers should work with the affected First Nation(s) and/or local governments to identify the best place for the development where it can be seen from the community or traditional land use and occupancy areas.

**Non-Exclusive Geophysical Surveys**

Governments will not allow seismic lines in the areas where these surveys are not allowed in the Plan. These activities are not in line with the purpose of Conservation Zones and those Special Management Zones which do not allow oil and gas. But there are areas in some zones where government currently allows seismic. Negotiations will look at these areas again to line them up with the Plan.

**Public Infrastructure**

Governments will not give out a land use permit or water licence for public infrastructure in Conservation Zones unless: the developer can show that it is needed now and will be developed carefully to look after future needs, environmental, social, economic and cultural values, and in a way that reduces impacts.

**Granular Resources**

Governments will not give out a permit for quarrying in Conservation Zones unless: it is already being used; it is needed for community construction; the Dehcho First Nation(s) agrees; or if Dehcho First Nation(s) is consulted.

**Transportation Corridors**

Before approving new roads or railways, Government will ask developers to do a transportation planning study and a routing study to learn what type of access is required and find the best route. The affected First Nation(s) must be involved.

**Feeder Pipelines**

Before deciding whether to allow the development of a new pipeline other than the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline or Netlá-Arrowhead Pipeline, Governments will make developers do a pipeline planning study and a pipeline routing study. Governments will look at the information they are given when making their decisions on what will be allowed.
**Netlá-Arrowhead Special Infrastructure Corridor**
Governments will not allow the development of a pipeline in Zone 25 or Zone 26 except in the Netlá-Arrowhead Special Infrastructure Corridor (Zone 35); when the developer works with the communities throughout the process and when the communities (Acho Dene Koe Band, Fort Liard Métis Local 67, Sambaa K’e Dene Band and Nahahdee First Nation) work together to get the most benefit from the development; and when impacts on important cultural and ecological sites are reduced as much as possible.

**Commercial Fishing**
Except on Great Slave Lake (Tucho), the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) will not allow commercial fishing on lakes without the support of the affected First Nation(s). Dehcho First Nation(s) will do their best to meet with the Great Slave Lake Advisory Committee to sort out the concerns of its membership, within one year.

**Water Monitoring / Management**
Governments will not allow land uses upstream of and around community water supplies unless the developer reduces impacts on drinking water quality as much as possible. The use of water or putting waste into water will only be allowed where the use and loss of water for industrial activities will be as little as possible and meets strict guidelines wherever possible. Land or water uses that may negatively impact wetlands and shorelines will not be allowed unless the total amount of wetlands and shorelines is not reduced. Hydroelectric development on the Mackenzie (Dehcho) and Liard Rivers (Acho Tine Deh) or within any Conservation Zones will not be allowed, and only hydro-electric that doesn’t cause flooding will be allowed anywhere else.

**Air Monitoring / Management**
Developers should make sure their work meets the three air quality standards listed in the Plan. Governments, in cooperation with Dehcho First Nation(s), should develop legal Dehcho air quality standards.

**Mining Reclamation Planning and Security**
Governments will not give out permits for the construction, operation or closure of a new mine unless an up to date reclamation plan has been approved and money required to clean it up is given to the government.

**Revegetation**
Governments will not allow a land use requiring revegetation unless the seed mixes used do not include invasive species and include local plant species as such seed mixes become available. This requirement may be changed if the government, the affected First Nation(s) and the developer all agree.

**Forestry**
**General Silvicultural Practices:** Governments, in consultation with the affected First Nation(s) will try to write good forestry (silviculture) practices for the Dehcho territory, within four years.

**Timber Recovery:** Governments will not allow the development of cut lines for other land uses (e.g. oil and gas), unless the developer reduces the waste of timber as much as possible. Where the developer cuts trees and doesn’t need them, they should tell the local forestry operators or First Nations so they can go and get it, as long as this does not increase environmental damage.
Prevention Measures and Salvage Logging: Forest management activities are allowed in Conservation Zones and Special Management Zones if needed to stop fire and disease or to salvage timber following fires, disease or insect infestations in Dehcho forests, as long as salvage activities will not increase the level of environmental disturbance or stop natural regeneration.

Tourism
SMART Principles: Governments should apply the SMART (Sustainable Model for Arctic Regional Tourism) Principles in approving and regulating tourism operations in the region.

Leave No Trace: Governments should ask individuals and tourism operators visiting the Dehcho territory to follow Leave No Trace guidelines during their stay.

Big Game Outfitters: Governments will not give out any new big game outfitters licences in the Dehcho territory.

GHL Hunting: Dehcho First Nation(s) should negotiate aboriginal and non-aboriginal hunting rights through Dehcho Process negotiations.

Fishing Lodges: Governments will not allow any new tourism lodges in Zone 5 unless they are part of the current outfitter licence.

Visitor Quotas: Dehcho First Nation(s) and communities should meet with the GNWT to decide on visitor numbers if required to keep the wilderness experience and protect the environmental and cultural values of the region.

Sport Fishing: Governments will consider community concerns about sport fishing and try to develop a strategy to address them, within four years. This will include looking at information on sport fishing, permits and laws. Communities will be involved in the process.

Agricultural Practices
Governments will not allow confined animal operations outside of community boundaries. Agricultural activities should keep clearing, draining and the use of chemicals to as little as possible. Communities, governments and agricultural organizations should work together to increase local production and use of agricultural products.

Digital Pre- and Post-Operation Mapping
The MVLWB will not approve a land or water use unless the developer provides computer mapping files, showing where the proposed and actual land use (new roads, seismic, well sites, cut blocks etc…) is when the application is made and when the work is complete.

Cumulative Effects Management
MVLWB and MVEIRB and other Governments will look carefully at the results of any cumulative effects assessment before approving new land or water uses in the General Use and Special Management Zones. The Committee will run an assessment for each application. Developers can also run assessments if they collect new information.

Cumulative Effects Research
- Governments, Dehcho First Nation(s) and other Planning Partners will monitor wildlife to check if cumulative effects indicators and thresholds are working, and their impact on industry and the development of the Dehcho territory;
• Research caribou range, population trends, impacts of development and disturbance;
• Assess other indicators (biological and social), species and thresholds;
• Find out how much regrowth is needed for wildlife to use the area again and see which areas have regrown; and
• Look at how natural disturbances (e.g. fire) and other things affect indicators and thresholds.

**Significant Environmental and Habitat Features**
Unless the developer can show that the land use will not have a big long term negative impact on wildlife, Governments will not allow any land use:
• That physically disturbs known important habitat features (e.g. calving areas) and environmental features (e.g. hot springs); and
• That lies within 250 metres of used or suspected to be used habitat features during very important times in an animal's life.
Aircraft should keep at least 610 metres when traveling over significant habitat features for birds during very important times (e.g. nesting), other than for wildlife research and monitoring.

**Economic Development Strategy**
Dehcho First Nation(s), GNWT and Canada, working with interested business organizations and businesses will try to make an Economic Development Strategy that looks at the long-term economic needs of the region and finds key business opportunities for residents to get the most out of current and future land uses.

**Resource Development Awareness**
Canada, the GNWT, Dehcho First Nation(s), businesses and other interested organizations should do more community consultations and public education programs to increase public understanding about resource development and help local people get involved. Business people should provide site visits and make educational materials (videos, pamphlets, school programs, etc.) to tell local communities about their activities.

**Social Issues**
While the Plan is not for land inside communities it could impact them in different ways (economic, social and infrastructure issues). The Plan allows for communities to grow.

**Health and Social Impacts**
Governments should increase training and money for community Health and Social Services (counseling, interagency planning, more RCMP officers, Alcohol and Drug programs, parenting workshops, etc.) to make health and social conditions better.

**Money Management**
Governments, Dehcho First Nation(s), organizations and businesses should set up community money management workshops for individuals and community organizations to teach simple money management and planning.

**Flexible Shift and Holiday Options**
Employers should give as much room as possible for employees to choose the best work hours and holiday time to meet their needs.
Camps and Communities
Camp operators are asked to work with communities to find good locations for camps and decide on good relationships between the camp and community.

Plan Implementation
The Plan will be carried out by the Dehcho First Nation(s), the GNWT and Canada. All governments will start using the Plan on the day the Plan is approved. For Canada and the GNWT, they agree to use all their power under laws to make sure new land uses meet the rules in the Plan. Through Plan approval, Dehcho First Nation(s), the GNWT and Canada, and all government departments, agree to try to do all the activities they are told to do, and to use all the suggestions in the Plan when they make decisions on land in the Dehcho territory.

After the Dehcho Final Agreement is signed, the Land Use Plan will be looked at again to make it match the agreement. Then the Land Use Plan will be made into a legal document.

Next Steps – Plan Approval
Dehcho First Nation(s) will approve the Plan first. After they have approved it, it will be sent to the GNWT and Canada to approve it and think about it.

For Further Information
All materials are available for download on the Committee’s website at http://www.dehcholands.org/.

If you would like additional information or hardcopies, please contact our office.

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THIS IS ONLY A SUMMARY OF THE FINAL DRAFT LAND USE PLAN. PLEASE READ THE ACTUAL PLAN FOR SPECIFIC WORDING AND DETAILS.