

Draft Guidelines for the Development of a Deh Cho Land Use Plan

INTRODUCTION

Regional land use planning in the Deh Cho territory is intended to form part of an integrated land and resource management regime and outline what types of activities should occur, generally where they should take place, and terms and conditions necessary to guide land use proposals and development projects over time. The Plan will involve finding a balance between development opportunities, social and ecological constraints, which reflect community values and priorities while taking into consideration the values of all Canadians. The Parties share the objective that upon approval of a Deh Cho Final Agreement, the approved Plan will be a land management tool that provides legally- binding direction and guidance to regulatory agencies and decision-makers in the evaluation of development projects, protected area proposals, and other potential land uses.

Land use planning in the Deh Cho territory will take place in four phases:

1. Phase I will address the administrative and operational requirements of the land use planning committee and begin following the signing of an Interim Measures Agreement.
2. Phase II, the technical stage, will begin immediately following the completion of Phase I, as it is important to maintain momentum and community involvement built during the first phase of the planning project. This will be a detailed planning exercise, which will lead to the development of a preliminary draft land use plan in Phase III. It is during this stage that the planning committee will need to identify significant development and conservation initiatives.
3. Phase III, plan preparation, will see the preparation of a preliminary draft land use plan(s). The draft plan will be circulated to the Deh Cho First Nations, GNWT, Canada, stakeholders and interested groups for feedback, input, and consideration.
4. Phase IV, plan implementation will commence as soon as the plan is approved by Deh Cho First Nations and the GNWT and considered by Canada.

Phase I - Planning Committee Establishment

5. Canada and the Deh Cho First Nations will establish a Planning Committee composed of five appointees to co-ordinate the production and analysis of maps and data. The Deh Cho First Nations will appoint two appointees, Canada one appointee and the GNWT one appointee. Upon recommendation of the Planning Committee, the parties will appoint a fifth member as chair of the Committee.
6. As part of the initial set up of the planning committee bridge funding will be provided.
7. This phase will require the establishment of an office, hiring of a project manager, and establishment of the planning committee. Following the initial set-up of the planning committee, a formal terms of reference, including a detailed budget and workplan, will need to be prepared. The terms of reference will be approved by the Deh Cho First Nations, GNWT, and Canada.

Phase II - Information Gathering and Analysis

8. Deh Cho First Nations, will produce a series of maps identifying sensitive lands for traditional use and occupancy, including harvesting areas and cultural sites. Communities are expected to be at different stages of readiness to produce these maps. Resulting analysed “sensitivity” maps will be provided to the Planning Committee, but the original raw data will be made available to the Planning Committee as requested on a case-by-case basis for viewing only.
9. The Planning Committee will co-ordinate the production of a series of maps identifying sensitive cultural sites, critical habitat, and related harvesting patterns throughout the Deh Cho territory. These maps will be distributed to Deh Cho First Nations, GNWT, Canada, and interested stakeholders.
10. The Planning Committee will co-ordinate the production of a series of maps identifying resource development potential in the mineral, hydrocarbon, forestry, tourism, and agricultural sectors throughout the Deh Cho territory. These maps will be distributed to Deh Cho First Nations, GNWT, Canada, and interested stakeholders.
11. The Planning Committee will co-ordinate the production of a socio-demographic forecast to identify job creation and training needs within the Deh Cho territory over the next twenty years. This forecast will be distributed to Deh Cho First Nations, GNWT, Canada, and interested stakeholders.

12. The Planning Committee will co-ordinate an economic development assessment to determine what entrepreneurial opportunities may exist currently and in the future. This exercise will build upon the analyses of 8 through 11 and assist with the identification of land use and economic opportunities, where practical. This assessment will be distributed to Deh Cho First Nations, GNWT, Canada, and interested stakeholders.
13. The Planning Committee will integrate the maps produced in Phase II in order to identify development opportunities, social and ecological constraints. This phase of the process may include the identification, analysis, and consideration of: potential land use projects, potential core representative areas within each ecoregion, and any other issues appropriate for consideration in the land use plan.
14. The Planning Committee will also identify potential surface/sub-surface land withdrawals, and sub-surface land withdrawals only.
15. A set of land use options will be developed from the information in this Phase for consideration by the Parties and other stakeholders.

Phase III - Plan Preparation

16. Deh Cho communities, each Deh Cho First Nation, Deh Cho First Nations, GNWT, Canada, and interested stakeholders will review the proposed land use options and provide feedback to the Planning Committee on matters within their respective interests or jurisdictions.
17. The Planning Committee will prepare a revised set of land use options based on the feedback received in 16.
18. The review process described in 16 and 17 may be repeated, at the discretion of the Planning Committee in order to identify an option that best reflects the interests and objectives of the Parties and stakeholders.
19. The Planning Committee will prepare a draft land use plan based on the option identified.
20. Deh Cho communities, each Deh Cho First Nation, Deh Cho First Nations, GNWT, Canada, and interested stakeholders will review the proposed draft land use plan and provide feedback to the Planning Committee on matters within their respective interests or jurisdictions.
21. The Planning Committee will revise the plan based on the feedback received in 20.

22. The Planning Committee will present a final draft land use plan to the Parties for approval and consideration pursuant to section 10 of the *Deh Cho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement*.
23. The land use plan will also include proposed land withdrawals which will be presented for negotiations pursuant to 13 of the *Deh Cho First Nations Interim Measures Agreement*.

Phase IV - Plan Implementation

24. Following consideration and plan approval, the Planning Committee will monitor land use in the Deh Cho territory for conformity to the plan.
25. Following the signing of a Deh Cho Final Agreement, the land use plan will be revised and updated to reflect the provisions of the Final Agreement.