

April 4, 2005

Deh Cho Land Use Planning Committee
Fort Providence, NT X0E 0L0

“Working Draft” Land Use Map, Terms and Policy Recommendations

Upon review of the working draft of the Deh Cho Land Use Plan, I offer the following comments, questions and recommendations for your consideration:

1. A critical issue to the residents of Deh Cho would be **access**. An initial discussion on access needs to happen. To date, access to Dehcho Dene lands is highly regulated and complex by the Government of Canada. A simpler outline of a preferable process with clear consent by the Dehcho Dene would be appropriate.
2. It will help the local Dehcho governments to depict as accurately as possible the ‘impacts’ on Dehcho lands to date. i.e. Patterson Sawmills & area of operations, the 1940 US Army staging area near mouth of Redknife River.
3. A map with Dene Traditional names need to be put on the map, along with short summary of historical/story of the specific area.
4. Will there eventually be ‘no hunting zones’ in the Dehcho. In the event of community concerns and/or endangered species issues, we will require a process to address these issues.
5. **Traditional Knowledge/Scientific Knowledge.** Outline and clarify further the role of traditional knowledge and scientific knowledge in putting of the Dehcho Land Use Plan together. List positive points of both in contributing to the Plan. At what point do both engage? What is the methodology of their engagement? Specifically, traditional knowledge of land and culture has always been passed through experiential teaching/learning. I recommend that DCLUPC initiate 1 or 2 on the land experience for DCLUPC Board/Staff & Other interested invited resource people. The first trip/experience needs to be only 3 days initially. The second field trip may take up to 5-7 days. These need to be documented.
6. I am aware that the DCLUPC staff have done ‘best efforts’ in engaging the Dehcho communities’ local public in engaging in the consultation process. The DCLUPC needs to review its ‘Communications Plan’. Local and regional resource people may need to be engaged for this exercise.

Respectfully Submitted

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