

Comments on the Deh Cho Land Use Planning Committee Information Package

We appreciate the efforts that the Committee has made in developing this package.

Parks Canada has a number of interests in the Deh Cho Region. Nahanni National Park Reserve and Wood Buffalo are not directly subject to the provisions of a land use plan, but the plan's provisions are likely to make a difference to both of these parks. In addition, Parks Canada is working with the Dehcho First Nations to expand Nahanni National Park Reserve and that project is directly within the purview of the plan.

We appreciate that the draft plan maps clearly indicate the area of interest for the expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve. We also are pleased to see that the provisions for Nahanni Greater Ecosystem Conservation Zone (#6) and Nahanni Watershed Special Management Zones (#18) allow for the expansion process of Nahanni National Park Reserve.

Purple area shifts? See no relation to mineral claims. No relationship with watersheds.

Some corrections or clarifications:

- On the list of Acronyms (page i) The listing >NGE= >Nahanni Greater Ecosystem= should be corrected to >GNE= >Greater Nahanni Ecosystem=, and then corrected through-out the remainder of the document by way of text search/replace.

- On all maps, there should be an extension (by way of a dotted line) to show the upper portion of the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem, as was done with the Pehdzeh Ki Deh Candidate Protected Area.

- Tourism in the Nahanni Greater Ecosystem Conservation Zone.

- Table 5, Zone 6 - there should be a checkmark in the tourism column.

- Table 6, on page 15. For Zone #6 We believe the A Tourism@ checkmark should be highlighted.

- Non-consumptive tourism is allowed, in fact it is encouraged in national parks.

- Also on Table 6, for Zone#18, moose are certainly present (at least moose are an attractive species for resident hunters in the zone 18 block near Tungsten), and while not frequent, there is likely occasional traditional use within the zone 18 blocks. Should these sections be checked? As a species of special concern, Wolverine could also be checked as they occur in zone 18, although their density is uncertain.

- Non-Consumptive Tourism (page 18) - There seems to be a misunderstanding in this section since it refers only to big game outfitting - perhaps the header should be A consumptive tourism@.

National Parks can be important tourism areas and they encourage non-consumptive tourism,

although such use is managed to protect the ecosystems of the park. Certain forms of tourism, such as commercial guided hunting, are not permitted in national parks.

- In Table 7, on page 18, under the term "Access Planning" it is explained that "the construction of new all-weather roads is prohibited in all conservation areas except zones 18 and 12." - but 18 is a Special Management Zone and not a Conservation zone. Is the intent to allow for an all-weather road in Nahanni Greater Ecosystem Conservation Zone 6? If so, should the intent be restricted/limited to the existing potential for a road to Prairie Creek only?

- for Table 7, we would recommend a definition for Nahanni National Park Expansion Process. Previously, on Table 5, there is a check mark underneath the Application of Specific Terms to Zones "Nahanni Park Expansion" opposite Zone 18 SMZ, and this should be defined in Table 7 Description of Terms.

- On Map 4 (page 31) under Critical Wildlife Areas a qualifying statement such as "the current feasibility studies associated with the expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve may add important new information with regards to additional critical wildlife habitat" could be considered.

- on Map 6 (page 33) - The results of community mapping do not indicate support for mining in the Greater Nahanni Ecosystem. In addition, a resolution from the most recent DFN leadership meeting called for the entire GNE to be withdrawn for national park expansion purposes. Would these points lend weight to reducing the number/extent of zone 18 purple zones within the GNE?

- on Map 8 (page 35) under the Draft Land Use Zoning map, it indicates that non-consumptive tourism would not be permitted in the zone. In fact, non-consumptive tourism **would be** permitted within the zone.