



## Deh Cho Land Use Planning Committee

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October 30, 2005

Chief Roy Fabian  
Katlodeeche First Nation  
P.O. Box 3060  
Hay River, NT X0E 1G4

### RE: October 14<sup>th</sup> Mapping Session

Dear Chief Fabian,

I have been trying to reach you to discuss the mapping your community conducted with our staff on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Upon review of the mapping and reasons for requesting the changes, we cannot revise the relevant land use zones at this time. Please see below for an explanation.

The first change requested was for an expansion of Conservation Zone 15 around Buffalo Lake. I understand your community has initiated some research with the Protected Areas Strategy to advance lands in this area for permanent protection but that it is in a very preliminary stage. I understand that a preliminary report is due late this fall and may include a fuller identification of historic and current areas of interest and reasons for protection. Given that, it is premature to revise our land use zones before all the information is available. However, we have identified the area of interest on the Zone 15 Map and described the Community's intentions under Zone Descriptions in the Revised Land Use Plan to provide notice to our planning partners of the community's interests in this area.

The Dehcho Land Use Plan currently has a high level of conservation – further additions must be carefully assessed, documented and justified. We do not currently have sufficient information on this site to do that. Once the report is complete and the area has been moved into Step 1 of the Protected Area Strategy, the Plan can be revised to reflect that information. Given our timeframes, steps should be taken to formally advance this site for protection before February 2006 if it is to be reflected in the Land Use Plan. However, it can advance through the PAS without also being referenced in the Land Use Plan should delays occur.

The community also requested that the General Use Zones around Zone 15 be changed to Special Management Zones. Special Management Zones are designated wherever there are competing interests between resource potential and conservation values that require either

special terms or land use restrictions to address them. Your community did not identify any special terms or land use restrictions to apply to these areas, so it is inappropriate at this time to rezone them as Special Management. Should the community wish to provide further rationale and direction on these changes to warrant rezoning, these should be brought forward in your comments on the revised Draft.

Had the mapping session occurred earlier, we may have been able to follow up with you to make more appropriate revisions to the upcoming Draft. However, there is one more round of revisions on the Land Use Plan before it is submitted for approval so there will be an opportunity to make further changes and address your requests during that next round if appropriate. I would appreciate an opportunity to discuss these potential revisions with you further. Please contact me at your earliest convenience at (867) 699-3164 or [hwiebe@dehcholands.org](mailto:hwiebe@dehcholands.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi Wiebe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heidi Wiebe, Executive Director  
Deh Cho Land Use Planning Committee