



Northwest Territories
Protected Areas Strategy

**Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Working Group
Final Report**

Prepared by:

The Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Working Group

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The community of Déline has worked diligently for over a decade to protect Sahoyúé and Şehdacho, two peninsulas that reach into Great Bear Lake, Northwest Territories (Map 1, below). Sahoyúé and Şehdacho are very important places, not only to the Sahtugot'ine (the “Bear Lake people”) but to all Canadians. These areas contain much of the heritage of the Sahtugot'ine, and it is in them and places like them that the elders pass that heritage on to the younger generations. Sahoyúé and Şehdacho are particularly important teaching, healing and spiritual places, “cultural landscapes” at the centre of how the Sahtugot'ine see and define themselves. In the Slavey language of the Sahtugot'ine, these places are “sore benegoti”: so real, of such fundamental value, so beautiful or so splendid that they are embedded in the mind; they cannot be dismissed; they are part of Sahtugot'ine. In Slavey, “Sahoyúé” means “belonging to the bear” and “Şehdacho” means “big point”.

In 1996, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada formally recognized Sahoyúé and Şehdacho as cultural landscapes of national historic significance. Subsequently, in 1999, the Minister responsible for Parks Canada established Sahoyúé-Şehdacho National Historic Site of Canada (“Sahoyúé-Şehdacho National Historic Site of Canada”, “Sahoyúé-Şehdacho” or the “Site”). In so doing, the Minister recognized the important contribution these places make to our understanding of Sahtugot'ine heritage and our collective heritage. But national historic site designation does not legally protect the land, upon which the cultural heritage of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho is founded, and its values. Thus, in 1999, the community entered Sahoyúé-Şehdacho into the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (the “PAS”) process to seek permanent protection for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho.

In accordance with Step 5 of the PAS, the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Working Group (the “SEWG”) was set up to study the ecological, cultural and economic values of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, and to make recommendations on the final boundary, preferred designation and management objectives of a protected area. The SEWG includes representatives from the Déline Land Corporation, the Déline First Nation, the Déline Renewable Resources Council, Parks Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (“INAC”), the Government of the Northwest Territories (the “GNWT”), and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – NWT Chapter (“CPAWS”). Parks Canada is the agency that will ultimately have the administration and control of the Crown-owned portion of the Site, and Parks Canada and the appropriate Déline organization will cooperatively manage the Site as a whole. Parks Canada thus participates in the SEWG as the sponsoring agency for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. Representatives from the mining and oil and gas industries were invited to participate in the SEWG, but they declined to participate because there are no third-party industry interests in Sahoyúé-Şehdacho.

This report builds on recommendations for the protection and management of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho made in many sources, including the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*, the work of the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working

Group, the *Commemorative Integrity Statement: Sahyoue (Grizzly Bear Mountain) Edacho (Scented Grass Hills) National Historic Site of Canada* (2004) (the “CIS”), *One Trail: Facilitator’s Report on the Sahyoue and Edacho Directions-Confirming Workshop (November 8-10, 2005)* (the “One Trail Report”), and *“The Water Heart”: a Management Plan for Great Bear Lake and its Watershed*. This report sets out the consensus, conclusions and recommendations of the SEWG.

This report is intended to summarize and complete Step 5 — Evaluate Candidate Area — and to make recommendations on Step 6 — Seek Formal Establishment of a Protected Area — of the PAS process. In fulfillment of Step 5, the report summarizes research into and assessments of the ecological, cultural and economic values of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. Anticipating Step 6, the report includes the SEWG’s recommendations to representatives of the community of Déline (the “Déline Team”, comprising representatives from Déline Land Corporation, the Déline First Nation and the Déline Renewable Resources Council) and Parks Canada. The Déline Team and Parks Canada are currently negotiating an agreement, under Chapter 17 of the *Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*, for the permanent protection and cooperative management of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho (the “Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Agreement”). The recommendations that follow pertain to that Agreement.

Summary of Step 5 Assessments

Step 5 of the PAS process requires a detailed evaluation of a candidate area’s ecological, cultural and economic values. The SEWG oversaw the following evaluation studies for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho:

1. A Report on Cultural Values (section 3.2.2, below, main body of report);
2. An Ecological Assessment (section 3.2.3);
3. A Non-renewable Resource Assessment (section 3.2.4);
4. A Renewable Resource Assessment (section 3.2.5); and
5. A Preliminary Socio-Economic Assessment (section 3.2.6).

The key assessment findings of the above reports are summarized in the following table.

Assessment	Key Findings
Report on Cultural Values	Sahtugot’ine culture and the land are inseparable.
	The land and cultural landscape of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho include numerous specific sacred sites and places of power. They are a foundation for and explanation of Sahtugot’ine culture and lifeways.

	The experience of going out on the land provides a source of inspiration and an opportunity for healing for contemporary Sahtugot'ine, and a context for the transmission of oral history and cultural information.
	Sahtugot'ine stories are associated with specific places. Through these stories, the history, cosmology, spiritual, cultural and ethical values, law, land use, language and traditional lifestyles of the Sahtugot'ine are passed down through generations.
	High environmental quality and biodiversity are essential for traditional lifestyle and land-use activities to be practiced by present and future generations.
Ecological Assessment	15 different distinct community types were distinguished on Şehdacho and 16 on Sahoyúé, using the GNWT system of classification.
	262 plant species were identified, from 47 families of vascular plants. 8 plant families accounted for 60% of the species total.
	109 vertebrate species were observed: 1 amphibian species, 5 fish species, 85 bird species and 18 mammal species.
	9 areas of potential significance were identified on, or adjacent to, Sahoyúé and Şehdacho for their landscape uniqueness and/or importance to wildlife.
Non-Renewable Resource Assessment	There is exposed lignite-rank coal in Sahoyúé and Şehdacho, and there is therefore high potential for coal deposits.
	There is low to moderate potential / moderate potential for oil, gas and coal bed methane in Sahoyúé and Şehdacho.
	There is low to moderate potential for sediment-hosted Copper and Uranium.
	There is low potential for Mississippi Valley Type Lead-Zinc, Sedimentary Exhalative (SEDEX) Lead-Zinc-Copper, Magmatic Nickel-Copper and Platinum Group Elements, Vein Copper and Diamonds. Note the confidence in the assessment of these mineral deposit-types remains relatively low due to the low sample density and contributions of transported materials to the samples.
Renewable Resource Assessment	The potential for viable commercial forestry is low.
	There are no records of agriculture in the study area, and the potential for agriculture is low.
	There could be some potential for a small-scale fishery for local consumption but a larger commercial fishery to sell outside the NWT would likely be unsustainable.
	A very small percentage of local animal harvesting occurs in Sahoyúé-Şehdacho.
	The potential for large-scale renewable energy development (solar, wind, hydro) is low.

	A small number of eco-tourists visit Déline each summer, and generate considerable income and increasingly important industry for Déline.
Preliminary Socio-economic Assessment	Permanent protection will not interfere with local renewable resource harvesting.
	Permanent protection will result in positive and important impacts from the protection of cultural, traditional and educational resources for the Sahtugot'ine.
Preliminary Socio-economic Assessment	There is no indication of substantial commercial value of non-renewable resources, therefore permanent protection would not cause loss of opportunity from mining or other extractive investments.
	Few new socio-economic impacts can be expected from making interim protection permanent
	Long-term protection will likely have positive effects on tourism.

Summary of Recommendations to the Déline Team and Parks Canada

The SEWG directs the following recommendations to the Déline Team and Parks Canada — to the extent that the recommendations fall within their respective mandates — as they negotiate the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Agreement. The Working Group also directs its recommendations to INAC and the GNWT, to the extent that the recommendations fall within the mandates of these organizations.

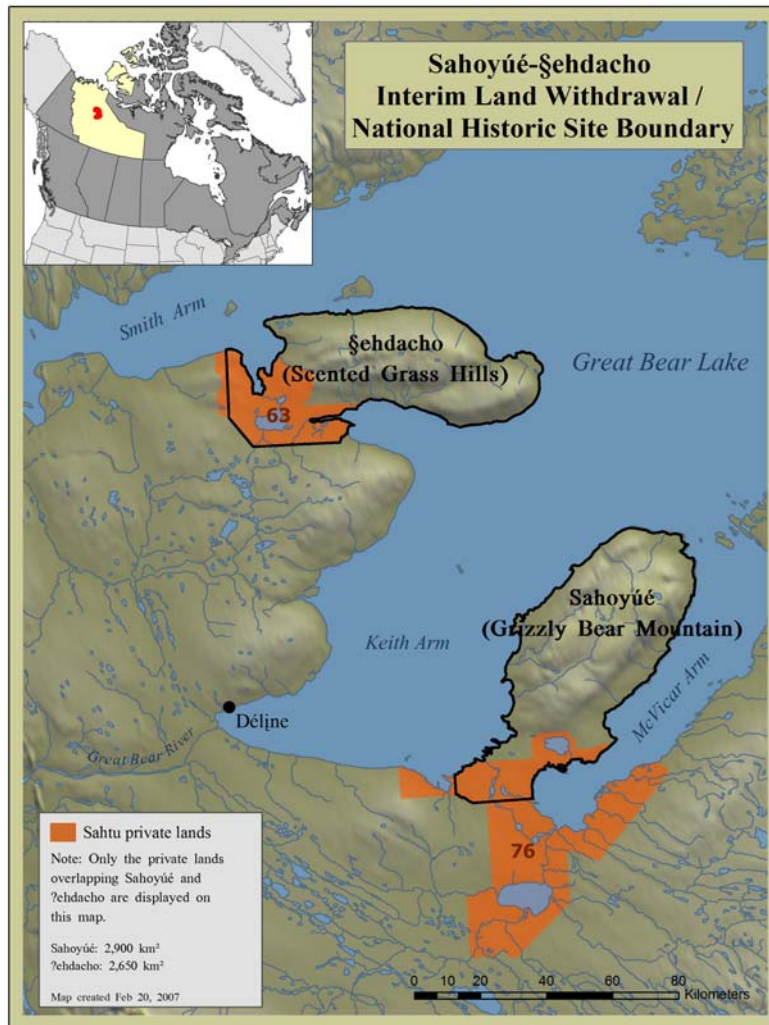
1. Recommendation to Proceed to Step 6

The assessment reports discussed above have sometimes included recommendations for further work, and readers interested in these recommendations are encouraged to consult the reports directly. To the extent that the assessment reports' recommendations fall within their respective mandates, Parks Canada, INAC, the GNWT and the appropriate Déline organizations are also encouraged to consider them.

The SEWG has carefully considered the assessment reports, their conclusions, and their recommendations. In the SEWG's view, the studies completed under Step 5 of the PAS serve as an adequate basis for a decision to permanently protect and cooperatively manage Sahoyúé-Şehdacho National Historic Site of Canada; further work is not required under Step 5 of the PAS; and the Déline Team and Parks Canada should proceed with Step 6 of the NWT PAS process. The recommendations that follow are subject to protected area negotiations between the Déline Team and Parks Canada under Chapter 17 of the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* and Step 6 of the PAS.

2. Boundary

The SEWG recommends that the boundary of the legally protected and cooperatively managed Site remain the same as the current boundary of the National Historic Site (Map 1). This boundary is also the same as the boundary of the current land withdrawal, as set out in Order in Council P.C. 2005-1900 November 1, 2005. This boundary includes all Crown and Sahtu (private) lands currently within Sahoyúé Šehdacho National Historic Site of Canada, an area of approximately 5,550 square kilometres.



Map 1: Sahoyúé-Šehdacho Interim Land Withdrawal/National Historic Site Boundary

3. Designation and Protection

The SEWG recommends that the surface and subsurface of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho be legally protected as a National Historic Site. The final legal vehicle to protect Sahoyúé-Şehdacho National Historic Site of Canada should reflect the shared vision for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho as set out in the CIS and One Trail Report, and will be determined through discussions between the Déline Team, Parks Canada and INAC.

The SEWG recommends that:

- a) the Crown lands portions of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho should be protected and managed through the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act*, successor legislation should new legislation be developed, or other applicable legislation;
- b) if appropriate, the protection of the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho National Historic Site should include a permanent withdrawal, under the *Territorial Lands Act*, of the subsurface rights of all Crown lands within the Site, including, for greater certainty, the Crown's subsurface rights associated with the Sahtu lands within the Site; and
- c) the Sahtu lands portions of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho should be managed by Déline to the standards of a protected National Historic Site, and in accordance with the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*.

4. Management Objectives

The SEWG recommends that:

- a) the negotiation of the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Agreement should be based on Déline's and Parks Canada's shared vision for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. This shared vision is set out in the management objectives/indicators of the CIS, as approved in 2004 by Déline and Parks Canada, and in the common vision set out in the One Trail Report. Relevant sections of these documents are reproduced in Appendices A and B to this report;
- b) the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Agreement should provide for the cooperative management of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, including Déline's role in the day-to-day or operational management of the Site, and it should maximize benefits to the community of Déline;
- c) renewable resource harvesting should continue to be managed in Sahoyúé-Şehdacho as it is in the larger Sahtu Settlement Area: in accordance with the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* and applicable legislation.

- d) the outstanding legal and jurisdictional issues associated with the management of the Sahtu lands portions of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho and their inclusion in the protected area should be resolved in discussions involving legal counsel;
- e) cultural learning and healing programs should be central to the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Agreement, and Déline's elders should play a central role in passing on Sahtugot'ine culture to youth;
- f) visitor services, visitor experiences and other supports for tourism at Sahoyúé-Şehdacho should be developed over time and cooperatively; and
- g) visitor services should be subject to the maintenance of the commemorative integrity and environmental quality of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, and should contribute to the cultural well-being of Déline.

5. Final Conclusions

The profound spiritual, cultural and heritage importance of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho National Historic Site of Canada is part of the cultural heritage not only of the people of Déline but of all Canadians. These places and their spiritual, cultural and ecological values merit permanent legislative protection.

A great deal of effort has gone into producing the assessments and this report. The SEWG would like to thank all of its members, past and present, the community of Déline and especially its Elders, the management agencies and the researchers for all of their hard work. We trust that this report will help the Déline Team and Parks Canada move forward quickly to negotiate the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Agreement.

6. Next Steps

Upon the finalization of this report, Step 5 of the PAS planning process will be complete. The PAS Secretariat will distribute the report to appropriate organizations and stakeholders.

The next step is for Parks Canada and the Déline Team, and others as appropriate, to negotiate the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Agreement, and subsequently develop a management plan for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho National Historic Site of Canada.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context and Purpose of This Report

Sahoyúé and Şehdacho are two peninsulas, sacred places and important cultural landscapes that reach into Great Bear Lake, Northwest Territories. They are important not only to the Sahtugot'ine (the "Bear Lake people") but to all Canadians. They contain much of the heritage of the Sahtugot'ine and it is in them and places like them that the elders pass that heritage on to the younger generations. They are particularly important teaching, healing and spiritual places, at the centre of a cultural landscape by which the Sahtugot'ine see and define themselves. Moreover, with the Minister responsible for Parks Canada's establishment, in 1998, of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho National Historic Site of Canada ("Sahoyúé-Şehdacho National Historic Site of Canada", "Sahoyúé-Şehdacho" or the "Site"), Sahoyúé-Şehdacho is now part of the cultural heritage of all Canadians. In the Slavey language of the Sahtugot'ine, these places are "sore benegoti": so real, of such fundamental value, so beautiful or so splendid that they are embedded in the mind; they cannot be dismissed; they are part of Sahtugot'ine. In Slavey, "Sahoyúé" means "belonging to the bear" and "Şehdacho" means "big point".

This report summarizes the research and work overseen by the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Working Group (the "SEWG") for the purpose of evaluating Sahoyúé-Şehdacho as a candidate area for protection under the Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy (the "PAS"). The PAS is a community-driven, joint federal/territorial/aboriginal government initiative established by the Government of Canada and the Government of the NWT in 1999. The PAS comprises eight steps, by which NWT communities, regional organizations and land claim bodies can initiate protected area proposals and, subsequently, work with the three levels of government and other interested bodies to evaluate candidate areas, negotiate protected area agreements, establish protected areas and, where needed, periodically review and monitor protected area implementation.

Sahoyúé-Şehdacho is the first area to advance through the PAS. It leads the way for several other candidate protected areas currently in the planning stages of the PAS. Step 5 of the PAS process requires a detailed evaluation of a candidate area's ecological, cultural and economic values. The purpose of this evaluation is to ensure that the values and resources of any candidate area are fully considered in decisions about designation, funding, final boundaries and mechanisms of protection.

This report is intended to summarize and complete Step 5 and make recommendations on Step 6 of the PAS. In fulfillment of Step 5, the report summarizes extensive research into the ecological, cultural and economic values of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. Anticipating Step 6, it includes recommendations to representatives of the community of Déline (the "Déline Team", comprising representatives from Déline Land Corporation, the Déline First Nation and the Déline Renewable Resources Council) and Parks Canada. The Déline Team and Parks Canada are currently negotiating an agreement, under Chapter

17 of the *Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*, for the permanent protection and cooperative management of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho (the “Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Agreement”). The recommendations that follow pertain to that Agreement.

On March 11, 2007 the Minister responsible for Parks Canada, the President of Déline Land Corporation and the Chief of Déline First Nations signed a Memorandum of Understanding outlining their commitment to work towards permanently protecting and cooperatively managing Sahoyúé-Şehdacho National Historic Site of Canada. The announcement also included a funding commitment of five million dollars over 5 years and seven hundred thousand dollars per year thereafter.

1.2 The Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Working Group (SEWG)

The SEWG was set up to oversee Step 5 of the PAS, to make recommendations on the future negotiation of the boundary, designation, protection, and management framework of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho under Step 6.

The SEWG includes representatives from the Déline Land Corporation, the Déline First Nation, the Déline Renewable Resource Council, Parks Canada, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (“INAC”), the Government of the Northwest Territories (the “GNWT”), and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - NWT Chapter (“CPAWS”). Parks Canada is the agency that will ultimately have the administration and control of the Crown-owned portion of the Site, and Parks Canada and the appropriate Déline organization will cooperatively manage the Site as a whole. Parks Canada thus participates in the SEWG as the sponsoring agency for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. Representatives from the mining and oil and gas industries were also invited to participate in the SEWG. They declined, however, to participate because there are no third-party industry interests in Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. Nonetheless, companies that are active in the NWT can receive PAS and Sahoyúé-Şehdacho updates through their NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines and Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers representatives on the PAS Steering Committee, from notices placed in industry publications, or through the PAS website (www.nwtpas.ca) and the PAS Secretariat.

The SEWG has met over thirty times in person and via teleconference. Many meetings were held in Déline, some of which involved community open houses, feasts and presentations to the broader community on progress towards protecting Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. The activities of the SEWG from 2000 to 2007 are summarized here, and significant milestones are provided in more detail in the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Chronology document in Appendix C.

This report sets out the consensus conclusions and recommendations of the SEWG. All conclusions and recommendations are without prejudice to the future negotiation of the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Agreement. Moreover, the PAS and all results of the PAS, including this report, shall be read so as to be consistent with land claims agreements,

including the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*, aboriginal/inherent and treaty rights, and self-government agreements. If there is any inconsistency between such agreements and this report, the agreements shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.

1.3 A Shared Vision for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho

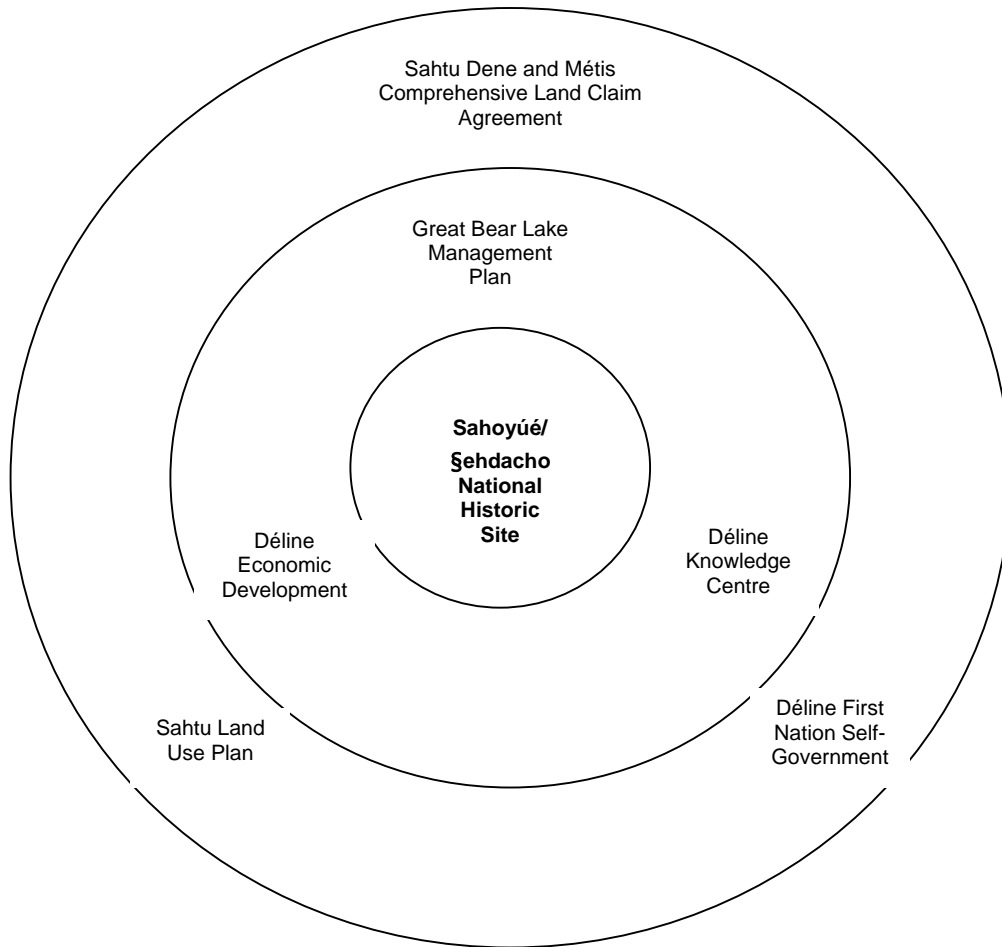
Together with the GNWT, INAC and CPAWS, the community of Déline and Parks Canada have developed a shared vision for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho over approximately 10 years. The elements of this vision was first set down in their *Commemorative Integrity Statement: Sahyoue (Grizzly Bear Mountain) Edacho (Scented Grass Hills) National Historic Site of Canada* (2004) (the “CIS”). A vision was later re-affirmed and broadened in the direction-confirming workshop in November 2005 (*One Trail: Facilitator’s Report on the Sahyoue and Edacho Directions-Confirming Workshop (November 8-10, 2005)*: the “One Trail Report”). This vision, along with the CIS, is of fundamental importance to the future protection and cooperative management of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. They should be consulted directly. For ease of reference, elements of these documents are appended as Appendices A and B to this report.

2.0 THE STORY OF SAHOYÚÉ-ŞEHDACHO

“We need the land. Every breath I take I think about knowing this is my land. I also feel in my heart that it is my land. When we talk about Sahoyúé-Şehdacho and Great Bear Lake, I know it is my land.”

Lisa Blondin, Déline

Both Sahoyúé and Şehdacho are identified as important places in nearly every document related to land management in the Sahtu Settlement Area. Permanent protection through the PAS is meant to coordinate with, and build on, all of these descriptions and designations. The following figure shows the relationships among many of these institutions and management tools.



Protection of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho arises from the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* (1993). Sahoyúé and Şehdacho are specifically identified as important heritage places and sites in part 26.4 of that Agreement. The Agreement states that a joint Sahtu-government working group “shall consider and make recommendations with respect to these sites, to the appropriate Minister and the Sahtu Tribal Council”.

This requirement gave rise to the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group’s *Rakekée Gok’é Godi: Places We Take Care Of* (2000). The Working Group recommended surface and sub-surface protection for Sahoyúé and Şehdacho, with community involvement at all levels of developing the land management regime.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada has recognized the value of Sahoyúé and Şehdacho in explaining and contributing to an understanding of the origin, spiritual value, lifestyle and land use of the Sahtugot’ine. In 1999, acting on the advice of the Board, the Minister responsible for Parks Canada designated Sahoyúé-Şehdacho as a National Historic Site of Canada. In so doing, the Minister recognized value of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho as a cultural landscape of significance to the Sahtugot’ine and

Canadians alike. But while this designation recognizes the area's importance, it does not legally protect the land and its nationally-significant values.

Based on the National Historic Site designation, representatives of Déline and Parks Canada developed a Commemorative Integrity Statement for Sahoyúé and Şehdacho (CIS, 2004). This Statement recognizes that:

“...cultural values – expressed through the inter-relationship between the landscape, oral histories, graves and cultural resources, such as trails and cabins – help explain and contribute to an understanding of the origin, spiritual values, lifestyle and land-use of the Sahtugot’ine.”

After the commemoration of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho as a National Historic Site, the community of Déline gathered support throughout the Sahtu region for further protection of Sahoyúé and Şehdacho. In 1999, Déline became the first community to engage in the PAS. In November 2000, a five-year interim land withdrawal of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho was put in place, with Parks Canada as the sponsoring agency. In November 2005, the withdrawal was extended until 2010, to allow the PAS process to be completed.

In November 2005, Déline, Parks Canada, INAC, the GNWT and CPAWS re-affirmed and broadened their shared vision for the protection and management of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho (November Workshop Report, 2005).

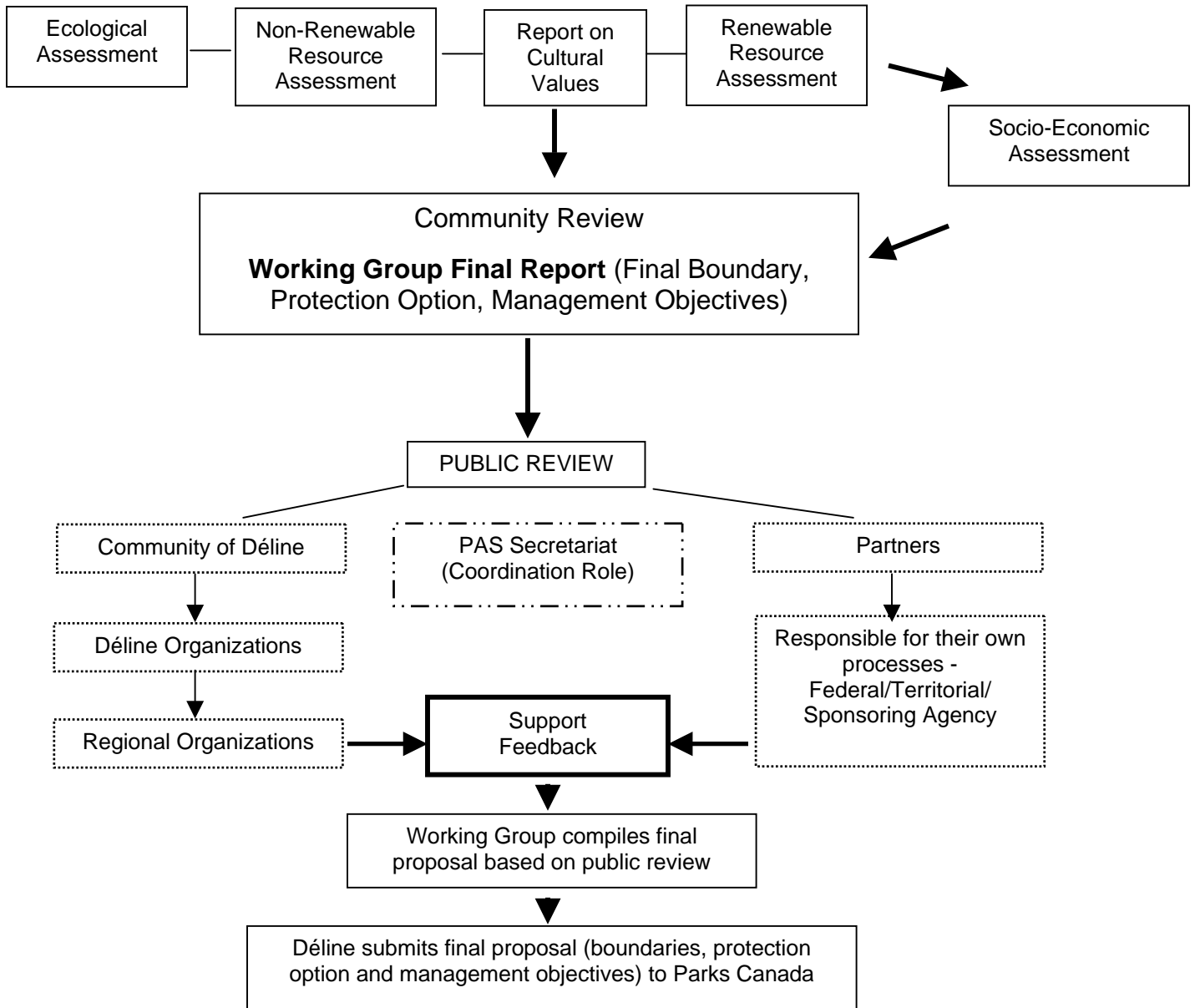
While the PAS process was moving forward, a separate multi-stakeholder working group developed *“The Water Heart”: A Management Plan for Great Bear Lake and its Watershed* (2005). The Great Bear Lake Management Plan assumes that Sahoyúé and Şehdacho will, through the PAS, ultimately be established as a protected area and that in the interim, Sahoyúé and Şehdacho will continue to be protected by a land withdrawal. It also recommends, however, that the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board confirm this assumption at the time of submitting its final Sahtu Land Use Plan, and designate Sahoyúé and Şehdacho as Conservation Zones under the Land Use Plan if there is any doubt about the assumption.

3.0 SAHOYÚÉ-ŞEHDACHO WORKING GROUP OUTCOMES

3.1 SEWG Consultations and Workshops

Community and public consultation is an essential component of the PAS process. An important job of the SEWG has been to ensure that its member organizations and the community of Déline are involved every step of the way, and that the wider public is also given an opportunity to comment. Appendix C provides an overview of significant SEWG activities over the years.

This report plays an essential role in the community and wider public consultation process under Step 5 of the PAS, as set out below:



The SEWG allowed one month for public review and comment on an earlier draft of this report. The draft report was posted on the PAS website, directly distributed to Working Group members and Sahtu regional organizations and ads were taken in several newspapers to provide information to the general public on how to participate in the public review process.

All comments were fully considered by the SEWG and, where appropriate, were incorporated into this final report. For further details on the comments and related responses, please contact the PAS Secretariat directly.

3.2 PAS Step 5 Assessments

3.2.1 Introduction

Sahoyúé and Şehdacho are two peninsulas which reach into Great Bear Lake from the west and south respectively. The terrain of Sahoyúé and Şehdacho rises gradually from the surface of Great Bear Lake to broad and reasonably flat summits, which are covered with open boreal forest. There are a series of raised beaches around the perimeters of both peninsulas, formed by the rebound of the land following the melting of the glaciers.

The Federal Crown owns the majority of the land (surface as well as mineral or sub-surface rights) of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. In contrast, the necks of both peninsulas are primarily Sahtu Settlement lands. The Déline Land Corporation holds the surface of these lands in fee simple title, but not the subsurface or mineral rights, which remain with the Federal Crown (Map 1, above).

Sahoyúé and Şehdacho are of particular importance to Sahtugot'ine culture and traditional knowledge. These areas represent the relationship between the Sahtugot'ine and their land. They are fundamentally important places to the spiritual renewal, healing and a sense of cultural identity of the Sahtugot'ine, and they are also important for subsistence.

In 1999, the community entered Sahoyúé-Şehdacho into the NWT PAS process to seek permanent protection for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. Five assessments of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho were done to complete step 5 of the PAS process:

1. A Report on Cultural Values (section 3.2.2, below);
2. An Ecological Assessment (section 3.2.3);
3. A Non-renewable Resource Assessment (section 3.2.4);
4. A Renewable Resource Assessment (section 3.2.5); and
5. A Preliminary Socio-Economic Assessment (section 3.2.6).

These assessments have helped to establish the shared vision for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. The following sections provide a summary of each assessment. Appendix D (electronic) contains the complete versions of all five assessment reports.

3.2.2 Report on Cultural Values

In 2003, Hanks Heritage Consulting and GeoNorth Limited completed a report on the cultural values of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho.

The *Report on Cultural Values* builds upon the report prepared for and submitted to the Historic Sites and Management Board of Canada in 1996. The 1996 report was based on community consultation and other research, and led to the designation of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho as a national historic site of Canada. The cultural values for which it was designated were subsequently set out in the Commemorative Integrity Statement. The 2003 *Report on Cultural Values* summarizes historical and recent research initiatives and incorporates updated archaeological and traditional knowledge that wasn't previously available. Oral histories and interviews were done in conjunction with archaeological surveys. Interviews were used to gather place names, stories and legends. The work was done jointly by community members and archaeologists from Parks Canada.

The research findings demonstrate the cultural and ecological significance of locations in and around Sahoyúé and Şehdacho. Sahoyúé-Şehdacho was designated of national historic significance because of the interrelationship between the natural landscape and Sahtugot'ine cultural values. The goal of the *Report on Cultural Values* was to bring together research findings to show the natural and cultural importance of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho.

Assessment findings:

The Sahtugot'ine believe that all the land is sacred. Sahoyúé-Şehdacho are sacred places, fundamental to the transmission of Sahtugot'ine culture. For non-Dene Canadians Sahoyúé-Şehdacho represents an opportunity to better understand the origins of Sahtu-Dene culture, spiritual values, life-style and land use. The view that the land is sacred is not unique, indeed many Aboriginals, including those inhabiting Canada's Sub Arctic, believe that the land is alive, as recounted in stories that blend the natural and the supernatural worlds. These stories are helpful in understanding the relationships among all creatures, the land and the Creator.

The stories associated with Sahoyúé-Şehdacho express some of the most important cultural values of these cultural landscapes and help tie together their many places within them:

- The land and cultural landscape of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho include numerous specific sacred sites and places of power. They are a foundation for and explanation of Sahtugot'ine culture and lifeways.
- The experience of going out on the land provides a source of inspiration and an opportunity for healing for contemporary Sahtugot'ine, and a context for the transmission of oral history and cultural information. Sahtugot'ine culture and the land are inseparable.
- Sahtugot'ine stories are associated with specific places. Through these stories, the history, cosmology, spiritual, cultural and ethical values, law, land use, language and traditional lifestyles of the Sahtugot'ine are passed down through generations. Stories may not only be associated with specific places; they may also give specific instructions for how to use the land.
- High environmental quality and biodiversity allows traditional lifestyle and land-use activities to be practiced by present and future generations. While the report focuses on cultural values, it is ultimately impossible to separate the cultural and ecological values of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. Both aspects must be dealt with simultaneously. In the story "Travelling on Ice", George Kodakin says that:

"...In recording these stories we would like to emphasize the importance of the land to our Dene people. The non-Dene people sometimes tell us that we live in a rich land, and that is true. But the Dene people would rather work on the land than destroy it. This far north we are unable to grow anything so the wildlife is very important to us. We worked hard on the land, but it did provide for us. That is why our plea to protect the land should be really considered." (Tetso, 1991)

- Passing on stories, both on site and off, is a living practice. While stories generally belong to a certain part of the cultural landscape and must be told at that location, some may also be told away from that particular place. In "Travelling on Ice", George Kodakin says:

"We want our young people to know all these stories because the land we work on is valuable to us. In recording these stories we would like to emphasize the importance of the land to our Dene people." (Tetso, 1991)

The physical, cultural and archaeological resources of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho also contribute to the national significance of these places. Specific resources include campsites, tent rings, teepee poles, cabin sites, implements and tools, gravesites, portages and trails, and pre-contact sites. These manifestations of habitation are an important part of the cultural landscape. Together with Sahtugot'ine stories of Sahoyúé and Şehdacho, they tie the Sahtugot'ine to this important part of our collective cultural heritage.

3.2.3 Ecological Assessment

In March 2005, biologist Steve Moore of EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd completed the Ecological Assessment for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. The report is called *A Reconnaissance of the Flora and Fauna of Sahoyúé - Şehdacho, NWT*.

The objective of this assessment was to complete an ecological evaluation of the flora and fauna of Sahoyúé and Şehdacho, as required by Step 5 of the PAS. This was accomplished over three field seasons and four surveys. During the summer of 2000, the perimeter of Şehdacho was surveyed. During the summer of 2001, the interior of Şehdacho and the perimeter of Sahoyúé were surveyed. And finally, during the summer of 2002, the interior of Sahoyúé was surveyed.

A total of 95 ecological site assessments were completed on the peninsulas. Numerous additional sites were also documented outside the “formal assessment” process. Within the formal assessment methodology, 49 sites were completed on Sahoyúé in 2001/02, and 46 sites were completed on Şehdacho during 2000/01. Site assessments included ascribing community types to vegetation patterns observed in the field and documenting the flora and fauna at each site.

Before the project each year, Steve Moore met with community members in Déline, including elders, to discuss the project. Guides from Déline accompanied him during his work.

Assessment Findings:

Community Types

A total of 15 different distinct community types were distinguished on Şehdacho and 16 on Sahoyúé, using the GNWT system of classification. These community types include: black spruce open canopy on lichen and sphagnum, white spruce closed canopy, white spruce open canopy, white spruce open on lichen and sphagnum, mixed forest, deciduous young, deciduous closed, tall shrubland open, tall shrubland closed, low shrubland open, low shrub closed, low shrubland regeneration, lichen cover, non- or sparsely vegetated ground, wetlands and water.

White spruce open canopy, with a mosaic of willow regeneration where spruce has been burned, is the most common plant community and the dominant feature across both peninsulas. Community types vary depending on site conditions. Shrubs are well represented and typically possess two layers: tall shrubs such as willows and birches, and low shrubs such as Labrador tea, bearberry, cranberry and crowberry.

Plant Species

The assessment found 262 plant species, from 47 families of vascular plants. Eight plant families accounted for 60% of the species total, including Sedge, Willow, Grass, Pea, Heath, Rose, Pink and Sunflower families. There is little differentiation between botanical representation on Sahoyúé and Şehdacho with regards to habitat communities and plant species diversity.

The Nature Conservancy has ascribed special conservation status to four plant species, documented as occurring on Sahoyúé and Şehdacho by previous investigators: moonwort, thistle, watermilfoil and valeriana. Although four of these species occur globally and are listed as being apparently secure or abundant, there have only been a few occurrences documented within the geographical boundaries of the Northwest Territories, and they have therefore been ascribed special conservation status within the NWT.

Wildlife Species

109 vertebrate species were observed during the assessment: 1 amphibian species, 5 fish species, 85 bird species and 18 mammal species.

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has listed five species of wildlife occurring on, or hypothetically occurring on Sahoyúé and Şehdacho as having special conservation status. These are: Woodland Caribou (Boreal population), Grizzly Bear, Wolverine, Peregrine Falcon and Eskimo Curlew. It is important to note that the Eskimo Curlew was not sighted but is listed in the Ecological Assessment because it has been listed by COSEWIC as being endangered and its hypothetical range is adjacent to Sahoyúé and Şehdacho.

Areas of Potential Significance

The Ecological Evaluations identified at least 9 areas of potential significance on, or adjacent to, Sahoyúé and Şehdacho for their landscape uniqueness and/or importance to wildlife. For Sahoyúé, significant areas include: Sahoyúé Point, 3 wetland complexes, and 1 river mouth. For Şehdacho, significant areas include: Şehdacho Point, Goodfellow Point, Deerpass Bay and the valley between the two plateaus.

Sahoyúé Point, Şehdacho Point and Goodfellow Point are unique landscape features characterized by tundra-type habitat with species of birds and plants that share an affinity for tundra habitat.

The 3 wetland complexes occurring at lower elevations on Sahoyúé represent an extensive area of interconnected ponds and fens. These wetlands are unique and exhibit high species diversity of plants and animals.

Deerpass Bay supports large numbers of fish and waterfowl, including loons.

The valley between the two plateaus of Şehdacho is important and contains high plant species diversity because of the juxtaposition of many ecotones and the favourable influence of microclimates.

Other Findings of Significance to Future Management

The majority of wildlife and wildlife signs was documented in proximity to the shoreline of Great Bear Lake. Habitat and species diversity increased at lower elevations and, consequently, the most productive areas were around the perimeter of the peninsulas.

Most wildlife and wildlife signs were documented within 100 m of elevation from the lake surface. There was low wildlife representation on top of the peninsulas, which was attributed to harsh environmental conditions and the lack of structural habitat diversity, both terrestrial and aquatic. This was much more marked for Şehdacho than Sahoyúé.

Fire has been limited on these peninsulas and has allowed the development of large trees and a deep stratum of lichen and moss on the slopes of Sahoyúé and Şehdacho. An initial interpretation of the plant communities on Şehdacho, and to a lesser extent Sahoyúé, suggests that the peninsulas have historically been protected from spreading forest fires, possibly due to the isthmus (narrow strip of land) that connects each peninsula to the mainland. This statement is based on the presence of large white spruce trees and the extensive development of lichen and moss ground cover in Sahoyúé and Şehdacho. The isthmuses are comprised predominately of bogs, wetlands and lakes, and may have afforded some protection from spreading forest fires, thus allowing plant communities a greater time interval between fires. This has resulted in different types of vegetation on Sahoyúé and Şehdacho from the surrounding region, such as large trees that take longer to re-establish after a forest fire.

The Sahtugot'ine's traditional knowledge describes Sahoyúé as an important wildlife area containing excellent woodland caribou habitat. The north shore is recognized as having plentiful moose, barrenland and woodland caribou, especially in autumn. Some of the furbearers in this area include marten, beaver and mink, and have been traditionally trapped. Şehdacho provides good habitat for marten, moose, caribou and fish. Furbearers include mink, marten, beaver, muskrat, lynx and fox.

A fish migration route and spawning grounds have been identified in the northwest area of Şehdacho. The Whitefish River flows into the western end of Smith Arm of Great Bear Lake, near Şehdacho. Whitefish run up the entire length of the river, and provide an important subsistence fishery to the people of Déline. This area is also an important travel corridor, as well as a hunting and trapping area.

The north shore of Great Bear Lake, north and east of Şehdacho, is an important area for gaining access to caribou and muskox hunting, and barrenlands trapping.

3.2.4 Non-Renewable Resource Assessment

The Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Non-Renewable Resource Assessment was completed in two phases. In 2002, L. P. Gal and J. M. Lariviere, of the Northwest Territories Geoscience Office (then known as C.S. Lord Northern Geoscience Centre) completed Phase I report (NWT Open File 2002-04). In 2005, they completed Phase II report (NWT Open File 2005-01). Local people from Déline assisted with the research.

The geologists assessed the area for mineral and petroleum potential, including coal, oil and gas, diamonds, and other minerals. The geologists wanted to know if there could be enough of these minerals in the area to make resource extraction possibly viable. They also wanted to make sure that they had enough information to come to sound conclusions about the possibility of future oil and gas exploration and mining on Sahoyúé-Şehdacho.

Phase I of the Non-Renewable Resource Assessment was done on the area around Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, and was based on previous research. Gal and Lariviere studied satellite pictures and aerial maps, old government reports, and reports done by exploration companies. Phase I of the Non-renewable Assessments suggested that there were significant information gaps that necessitated further study.

Phase II included field work with local guides. The fieldwork consisted of geochemical (rock, stream sediment, water and heavy mineral concentrate) sampling and limited outcrop mapping. This was done at Sahoyúé in 2002 and Şehdacho in 2003. Selected rock samples were examined for age-diagnostic fossils and evaluated for their hydrocarbon-generating potential (rock pyrolysis and total organic carbon measurements).

Assessment Findings:

Minerals

The results of reconnaissance geochemical sampling completed at Sahoyúé-Şehdacho do not indicate significant bedrock mineralization at or near the surface. Evidence of economic minerals was observed but it appears that these minerals were not originally from the area. Instead, the minerals were likely brought from elsewhere, by glaciers that covered the area.

The assessment showed some evidence of kimberlites, but it is likely that natural processes brought these kimberlite minerals to the area from somewhere to the east.

It is clear that there is coal in Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. Coal is exposed along the lakeshore on the east side of Sahoyúé, and at Douglas Bay on Şehdacho. At Douglas Bay, coal beds are reportedly between 30 cm and 5.8 m in thickness. The coal is likely more widespread in subsurface, therefore there is a high potential for coal deposits. The coal

in Sahoyúé-Şehdacho is lignite, the lowest quality of coal (it has the lowest energy content among types of coal).

The confidence in the assessment of the mineral deposit-types studied remains relatively low due to the low sample density and the contribution of transported materials to the samples, thereby reducing confidence in our knowledge of the source of the material sampled.

The following table summarizes the Mineral Assessment of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho.

POTENTIAL RANKING	CONFIDENCE RANKING —based on quality and quantity of information available			
	<u>Rank 1:</u> Abundant reliable information	<u>Rank 2:</u> Moderate amount of information	<u>Rank 3:</u> Some information	<u>Rank 4:</u> Very little and/or unreliable information
<u>Rank A: Very High:</u>				
<u>Rank B: High:</u>		Coal- <i>Sahoyúé & Şehdacho</i>		
<u>Rank C: Moderate to High:</u>				
<u>Rank D: Moderate:</u>				
<u>Rank E: Low to Moderate:</u>			Sediment-hosted Cu, Sandstone U- <i>Sahoyúé & Şehdacho</i>	
<u>Rank F: Low:</u>			MVT Pb-Zn, SEDEX Pb-Zn-Cu, Magmatic Ni-Cu +PGE, Vein Cu, Diamonds- <i>Sahoyúé & Şehdacho.</i>	
<u>Rank G: Very Low:</u>				
<u>Rank H: Not Assessed:</u>				
Notes: An evaluated deposit type is assigned an alphanumeric ranking (e.g., G3, D4, etc.) based on its placement within the matrix defined by geologic potential and confidence. The criteria for assessing mineral potential follows the Geological Survey of Canada's Mineral and Energy Resource assessment rating scale (Scoates et al., 1986).				

Table I. Mineral assessment summary

Petroleum (Oil, Gas and Coal Bed Methane)

There is low to moderate potential for oil and gas and coal bed methane at Şehdacho east of Douglas Bay. There is moderate potential for oil and gas at Şehdacho west of Douglas Bay.

Note, that total organic carbon content (up to 21%) and rock pyrolysis analyses indicated that the shale samples have good potential to generate hydrocarbons, but did not reach the level of maturity (through depth of burial, temperature, time) necessary to be viable hydrocarbon source rocks.

POTENTIAL RANKING	CONFIDENCE RANKING—based on quality and quantity of information available			
	<u>Rank 1:</u> Abundant reliable information	<u>Rank 2:</u> Moderate amount of information	<u>Rank 3:</u> Some information	<u>Rank 4:</u> Very little and/or unreliable information
<u>Rank A: Very High:</u>				
<u>Rank B: High:</u>				
<u>Rank C: Moderate to High:</u>				
<u>Rank D: Moderate:</u>			Oil and Gas- <i>Şehdacho west of Douglas Bay</i>	
<u>Rank E: Low to Moderate:</u>			Oil and Gas- <i>Sahoyúé, and Şehdacho east of Douglas Bay</i>	Coal bed methane- <i>Sahoyúé-Şehdacho</i>
<u>Rank F: Low:</u>				
<u>Rank G: Very Low:</u>				
<u>Rank H: Not Assessed:</u>				
Notes: Evaluated oil and gas deposits are assigned an alphanumeric ranking (e.g., C3, B4, etc.) based on placement within the matrix defined by geologic potential and confidence. The criteria for assessing hydrocarbon potential partly follows the Geological Survey of Canada's Mineral and Energy Resource assessment rating scale (Scoates et al., 1986; Jones et al., 1992); and Gal and Jones (2003).				

Table II. Petroleum assessment summary

3.2.5 Renewable Resource Assessment

In 2005/2006, PAS Biologist Joanna Wilson completed the *Renewable Resource Assessment for the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Candidate Protected Area*. This assessment looked at where renewable resources are found in Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, how they are currently being used, how they could be used in the future, and how important they are economically. Renewable resource use is very important from a social, cultural and spiritual point of view to the Sahtugot'ine.

The assessment was based on existing information and did not involve new studies, field work or interviews. Wilson based her work on existing information from written reports and maps, and interviews with people at many Déline, Sahtu, and government agencies. Besides Sahoyúé-Şehdacho itself, Déline and part of the area around Sahoyúé-Şehdacho were also included in the assessment.

Assessment Findings:

Trees

Approximately 80-100% of Sahoyúé, and much less of Şehdacho, is forested. However, there is no detailed forest inventory for the study area. The estimated average wood volume is thought to be relatively low compared to other areas in the NWT, even though many trees are large (up to 12 m high).

Déline residents use about 380 cords of firewood per year, which is worth approximately \$114,000 in replacement value. Land use maps show that residents harvest some trees from Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, especially along the shoreline. However, it is believed that very little firewood comes from Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, because it is so far from Déline.

Harvesting using a local sawmill has taken place in the past on Sahoyúé, when there was a market for the wood.

Plant Harvesting and Agriculture

Information on current plant use by Déline residents is limited, but a number of plants are harvested for food and medicine. Land use maps show that people from Déline have picked berries and other plants in the shoreline areas of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. We do not know how much plant harvesting is going on now in these areas, because it is not tracked. There are no records of agriculture in the study area, and the potential for agriculture in Sahoyúé-Şehdacho is low.

Fishing

There is currently no commercial fishing on Great Bear Lake. There could be some potential for a small fishery in the Lake that would catch fish to sell locally, but it is

commonly believed that a larger fishery, catching fish to sell outside the NWT, would be unsustainable.

Sahtu beneficiaries from Déline harvest many fish for food, including lake trout. They do most of their fishing near the community, but some of their fish (about 11%) come from the waters on and around Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. Deerpass Bay and the southwest shore of Sahoyúé are important areas for fishing. The estimated replacement value of Déline's subsistence fishery is about \$65,500 per year, with about \$7340 coming from Sahoyúé-Şehdacho.

Fewer than 500 tourists come to Great Bear Lake each year for sport fishing. This kind of tourism generates considerable income, and is an increasingly important industry for Déline. These tourists fish mainly for large, trophy fish, especially lake trout. Because there are 4 fishing lodges that operate near Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, some of these tourists are probably fishing in the lake around Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. They practice catch-and-release fishing, so they probably do not kill very many fish. However, records of sport fishing harvest have not been kept since 1990.

The fish in Great Bear Lake grow and reproduce slowly. If too many fish were harvested, it would take the fish population a long time to recover. That means that careful management is needed. Because the Sahtu beneficiaries and the tourists use some of the same fish, there is potential for conflict. The needs of the Sahtu beneficiaries have top priority under the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*.

Animals

Sahoyúé-Şehdacho have good habitat for many animals, including barren-ground caribou, boreal woodland caribou, moose, furbearers, other small game, and waterfowl. Hunting these animals for food is very important to the people of Déline. They do most of their hunting near the community, and a small amount (0.5% to 8%, depending on the species) in Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. Deerpass Bay and the southwest shore of Sahoyúé are important areas for hunting.

Trapping is also important to the people of Déline. Trappers take mostly marten. Only a small part of their harvest (approximately 4%) comes from Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. Deerpass Bay and the southwest shore of Sahoyúé are important areas for trapping.

It is believed that non-aboriginal hunters – including Déline residents and outfitters – kill a very small number of animals. We do not know how many of these animals come from Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, but it is probably close to zero. However, even one outfitted hunt can bring a lot of money to the community. There is one big game outfitter in Déline.

Until now, Déline has had a very small commercial harvest of barren-ground caribou (around 15 animals per year). It is not clear if any of these animals are harvested from

Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. This commercial harvest will be stopped, at least for the near future, because of recent declines in the Bluenose East and Bluenose West caribou herds.

It is hard to know exactly how many animals live in or use Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, and whether there is potential to increase hunting or commercial harvesting. It may be possible to increase the harvest of furbearers and muskox, but recent studies by the territorial Department of Environment and Natural Resources indicate that a decrease in the harvest of barren-ground caribou may be required. The needs of the Sahtu beneficiaries have first priority under the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*.

Arts and Crafts

Some people in Déline use plant and animal parts to make arts and crafts. We do not currently know where they get their materials, but they may gather a small amount in Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, or from animals hunted there. Arts and crafts are an important source of income for these people. Bringing more tourists to Sahoyúé-Şehdacho would probably lead to an increase in arts and crafts sales.

Non-Consumptive Tourism

Non-consumptive tourism is tourism that does not involve hunting or fishing or other forms of consumption. Eco-tourism is the best-known form of this sort of tourism. Eco-tourists come to Déline to do wilderness activities, historic activities, and boat tours to Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. Presently only a small number of eco-tourists visit Déline each summer. These tourists don't spend as much money as the sport fishermen or big game hunters. However, more and more people are becoming interested in this kind of tourism, so the market is growing. The Sahoyúé-Şehdacho protected area could help to bring more tourists into the Déline area.

Renewable Energy Sources

Hydro, wind, and solar energy are not currently being used in Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. A hydro-electric project has been proposed on the Great Bear River, but the dam would be far away from Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, and probably have a very small impact on these areas. Wind energy and solar energy probably have low potential, and a big development in Sahoyúé-Şehdacho is unlikely because the protected area is so far away from Déline.

3.2.6 Socio-Economic Assessment

The Outspan Group Inc. was hired in March 2006 to conduct the Socio-Economic Assessment of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. A Preliminary Report was produced in June 2006.

The Socio-Economic Assessment describes the anticipated social and economic implications, and the costs and benefits of establishing a protected area.

The Outspan Group Inc. compiled already existing information from the Renewable Resource Assessment, the Non-renewable Resource Assessment, the Ecological Assessment, the shared vision and the Commemorative Integrity Statement. The report documents social and economic statistics and information on employment, population, tourism and traditional activities. The information was analyzed to determine the implications of establishing a protected area.

Preliminary Assessment Findings:

- Permanent protection of the Candidate Protected Area will result in positive and important impacts from the protection of cultural, traditional and educational resources for the Sahtugot'ine.
- There is no indication of the existence of substantial non-renewable resources of commercial value in the protected area. As a result, there will be virtually no opportunity lost to mining or other extractive investments from the area's permanent protection.
- Under the Interim Land Withdrawal, Sahoyúé-Şehdacho has essentially been protected for the past six years; few new socio-economic impacts can be expected from making this protection permanent.
- Permanent protection of the area and cooperative management by Parks Canada and Déline will have positive effects on the likelihood of tourists being attracted to the area. This creates business opportunities for area residents and has the potential to have a positive influence on the understanding of Sahtugot'ine traditions, culture and heritage by non-resident visitors.

The SEWG concluded that the preliminary socio-economic assessment was sufficient and additional socio-economic studies would not be necessary to proceed to Step 6.

4.0 FINAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SEWG

On the basis of its work under the PAS, including the assessments described in section 3, the SEWG has drawn several conclusions. The Working Group also wishes to make several recommendations. These conclusions and recommendations are also based upon the management objectives/indicators of the CIS (Appendix A) and the shared vision of the One Trail Report (Appendix B), and they take into account the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*, work done towards National Historic Site designation of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, and the Great Bear Lake Watershed Management Plan.

The SEWG directs the following recommendations to the Déline Team and Parks Canada—to the extent that the recommendations fall within their respective mandates—as they negotiate the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Agreement. The Working Group also directs its recommendations to DIAND and the GNWT, to the extent that the recommendations fall within the mandates of these departments. All recommendations made by the SEWG are without prejudice to future negotiations, and assume that all previously made commitments will be honoured.

4.1 Recommendation to Proceed to Step 6

The assessment reports discussed above have sometimes included recommendations for further work, and readers interested in these recommendations are encouraged to consult the reports directly. To the extent that the assessment reports' recommendations fall within their respective mandates, Parks Canada, INAC, the GNWT and the appropriate Déline organizations are also encouraged to consider them.

The SEWG has carefully considered the assessment reports, their conclusions, and their recommendations. In the SEWG's view, the studies completed under Step 5 of the PAS serve as an adequate basis for a decision to permanently protect and cooperatively manage Sahoyúé-Şehdacho National Historic Site of Canada; further work is not required under Step 5 of the PAS; and that the Déline Team and Parks Canada should proceed with Step 6 of the NWT PAS.

The recommendations that follow are subject to protected area negotiations between the Déline Team and Parks Canada under Chapter 17 of the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* and Step 6 of the PAS.

4.2 Protected Area Boundary:

The SEWG recommends that the boundary of the legally protected and cooperatively managed Site remain the same as the current boundary of the National Historic Site (Map 1, above). This boundary is also the same as the boundary of the current land withdrawal, as set out in Order in Council P.C. 2005-1900 November 1, 2005. This boundary includes all Crown and Sahtu (private) lands currently within Sahoyúé-Şehdacho National Historic Site of Canada, an area of approximately 5,550 square kilometres.

4.3 Designation and Protection

The SEWG recommends that the surface and subsurface of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho be legally protected as a National Historic Site. The final legal vehicle to protect Sahoyúé-Şehdacho National Historic Site of Canada should reflect the shared vision for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho as set out in the CIS and the One Trail Report, and will be determined through discussions between the Déline Team, Parks Canada and INAC.

The SEWG recommends that:

- a) the Crown lands portions of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, should be protected and managed through the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act*, successor legislation, should new legislation be developed, or other applicable legislation;
- b) if appropriate, the protection of the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho National Historic Site should include a permanent withdrawal, under the *Territorial Lands Act*, of the subsurface rights of all Crown lands within the Site, including, for greater certainty, the Crown's subsurface rights associated with the Sahtu lands within the Site; and
- c) the Sahtu lands portions of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho should be managed by Déline to the standards of a protected National Historic Site, and in accordance with the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*.

4.4 Management Objectives

The protection of the cultural and ecological integrity of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho is fundamental to the realization of Déline's and Parks Canada's shared vision for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho National Historic Site.

The SEWG recommends that:

- a) the negotiation of the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Agreement should be based on Déline's and Parks Canada's shared vision for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. This shared vision is set out in the management objectives/indicators of the CIS, as approved in 2004 by Déline and Parks Canada, and in the common vision set out in the One Trail Report. Relevant sections of these documents are reproduced in Appendices A and B to this report;
- b) the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Agreement should provide for the cooperative management of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, including Déline's role in the day-to day or operational management of the Site, and it should maximize benefits to the community of Déline;
- c) renewable resource harvesting should continue to be managed in Sahoyúé-Şehdacho as it is in the larger Sahtu Settlement Area: in accordance with the *Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* and applicable legislation;
- d) the outstanding legal and jurisdictional issues associated with the management of the Sahtu lands portions of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho and their inclusion in the protected area should be resolved in discussions involving legal counsel;
- e) cultural learning and healing programs should be central to the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Agreement, and Déline's elders should play a central role in passing on Sahtugot'ine culture to youth;
- f) visitor services, visitor experiences and other supports for tourism at Sahoyúé and Şehdacho should be developed over time and cooperatively; and
- g) visitor services should be subject to the maintenance of the commemorative integrity and environmental quality of Sahoyúé and Şehdacho, and should contribute to the cultural well-being of Déline.

4.5 Final Conclusions

The profound spiritual, cultural and heritage importance of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho National Historic Site of Canada is part of the cultural heritage not only of the people of Déline but of all Canadians. These places and their spiritual, cultural and ecological values merit permanent legislative protection.

A great deal of effort has gone into producing the assessments and this report. The SEWG would like to thank all of its members, past and present, the community of Déline and especially its Elders, the management agencies and the researchers for all of their hard work. We trust that this report will help the Déline Team and Parks Canada move forward quickly to negotiate the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Agreement.

5.0 NEXT STEPS

Upon the finalization of this report, Step 5 of the PAS planning process will be complete. The PAS Secretariat will distribute the report to appropriate organizations and stakeholders.

The next step is for Parks Canada and the Déline Team, and others as appropriate, to negotiate the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Agreement.

6.0 References (Please see attached CD for materials, except that for Reference 14, please contact the PAS Secretariat directly.)

1. A Reconnaissance of the Flora and Fauna of Sahoyúé and Şehdacho, Great Bear Lake, NWT. EBA Engineering Consultants, Ltd. March 2005.
2. Commemorative Integrity Statement for Sahyoue (Grizzly Bear Mountain) - Edacho (Scented Grass Hills) National Historic Site of Canada (Tom Nesbitt, Workshop Facilitator). Déline, October 25-28, 1999.
3. Facilitator's Report on the Sahyoue and Şehdacho Déline Open House and Déline Community Workshop, October 24-26, 2005. Prepared by Tom Nesbitt, Workshop Facilitator, Lawyer and Report Drafter. October 31, 2005.
4. Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy: A Balanced Approach to Establishing Protected Areas in the Northwest Territories. Prepared by the NWT Protected Areas Strategy Advisory Committee, September 1999.
5. Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy: Guidelines for Ecological Assessment (October 2002), Non-Renewable Resource Assessment (September 2001), Renewable Resource Assessment (November 2005), Research and Documentation of Cultural Values (November 2005), and Socio-Economic Assessment (November 2005).
6. One Trail: Facilitator's Report on the Sahyoue and Edacho Directions-Confirming Workshop (November 8-10, 2005). Prepared by Tom Nesbitt, Workshop Facilitator and Report Drafter. December 17, 2005.
7. Order Respecting the Withdrawal from Disposal of Certain Lands in the Northwest Territories (Sahyoue-Edacho (Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills), NWT). P.C. 2005-1900 November 1, 2005 (PC 2001-204, February 8, 2001 was the original land withdrawal which was extended an additional five years).
8. *Rakekée Gok'é Godi: Places we take care of*. Report of the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group. January 2000.
9. Renewable Resource Assessment for the Sahoyúé -Şehdacho Candidate Protected Area. Submitted to the Sahoyúé and Şehdacho Working Group for the NWT Protected Areas Strategy. Joanna Wilson, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the NWT. September 2006.
10. Report on Cultural Values for Sahyoue-Edacho National Historic Site. Hanks Heritage Consulting and GeoNorth Limited. December 2003.

11. Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Candidate Protected Area Non-Renewable Resource Assessment (Phase II): NWT Open File 2005-01). Great Bear Lake Area, NWT, Canada: NTS 96A, G, H, I, J. L.P. Gal and J.M. Lariviere, Northwest Territories Geoscience Office. 2005.
12. Sahoyue-Edacho Candidate Protected Area Public Review and Decision Strategy. Prepared by Ken Caine for the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Candidate Area Working Group, July 2004.
13. Sahtu Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. 1993.
14. SEWG Meeting and Teleconference Minutes (*contact the PAS Secretariat*)
15. Socio-Economic Assessment of the Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Candidate Protected Area: Background Information and Preliminary Assessment. The Outspan Group Inc. June 2006.
16. The Water Heart: A Management Plan for Great Bear Lake and Its Watershed. Directed by the Great Bear Lake Working Group, May 2005.

7.0 APPENDICES

Appendix A Commemorative Integrity Statement Management Objectives/Indicators

Appendix B Shared Vision

Appendix C SEWG Candidate Protected Area - Chronology

Appendix D Step 5 Assessment Reports (electronic)

- A Reconnaissance of the Flora and Fauna of Sahoyúé and Şehdacho , Great Bear Lake, NWT. EBA Engineering Consultants, Ltd. March 2005.
- Renewable Resource Assessment for the Sahoyúé - Şehdacho Candidate Protected Area. Submitted to the Sahoyúé - Şehdacho Working Group for the NWT Protected Areas Strategy. Joanna Wilson, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the NWT. September 2006.
- Report on Cultural Values for Sahoyue - Edacho National Historic Site. Hanks Heritage Consulting and GeoNorth Limited. December 2003.
- Sahoyúé - Şehdacho Candidate Protected Area Non-Renewable Resource Assessment (Phase II): NWT Open File 2005-01). Great Bear Lake Area,

NWT, Canada: NTS 96A, G, H, I, J. L.P. Gal and J.M. Lariviere, Northwest Territories Geoscience Office. 2005.

- Socio-Economic Assessment of the Sahoyúé - Şehdacho Candidate Protected Area: Background Information and Preliminary Assessment. The Outspan Group Inc. June 2006.

APPENDIX A:

Commemorative Integrity Statement Management Objectives/Indicators, as set out in the Commemorative Integrity Statement signed by the Parties in 2004.

The Parties share the following objectives, as identified in the commemorative integrity statement (CIS) for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, in establishing the Site as a protected heritage area:

1. Environmental quality is maintained to a standard where traditional lifestyle and land-use activities can continue to be practiced by present and future generations of the Sahtugot'ine.
2. Forms of land-use which are inconsistent with the values inherent in the commemorative intent for the site do not occur. Examples of inconsistent land-use include mineral exploration, oil and gas development.
3. The cultural values of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho as defined in the statement of commemorative intent and embodied in Sahoyúé-Şehdacho are maintained and strengthened.
4. Management of the national historic site is consistent with and respects the continued practice of traditional lifestyle and land-use by the Sahtugot'ine, including the role of the elders at Sahoyúé-Şehdacho and the transmission of this heritage to the younger generation.
5. The oral histories related to these sites continue to be told and passed on to the future generations of the Sahtugot'ine.
6. As many Canadians and visitors as possible will be aware of, appreciate and understand the important relationship between the Sahtugot'ine and the land.
7. Management decisions with respect to cultural resources are based on adequate and sound information and are made in accordance with the principles and practice of the Cultural Resource Management Policy.
8. Specific landscape features (including specific sacred sites, places of power, story locations, etc.), and built and archaeological resources (including portages and trails etc.), along with their associated values are treated/respected as part of the living heritage of the Sahtugot'ine.
9. A more complete inventory/evaluation of site resources is completed.
10. Opportunities are made available for young people from Déline to regularly visit Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, to spend time on the land and to use their language. The

young people in Déline are aware of Sahtugot'ine heritage, including traditional place names associated with Sahoyúé-Şehdacho.

11. Mechanisms are in place and applied to ensure the present-day high levels of environmental quality and biodiversity standards are retained and protected.
12. The resources and their associated values are not lost, impaired or threatened from natural processes, for example erosion and decay, within or outside of the site.
13. The cultural resources and their associated values are not lost, impaired or threatened from human actions within or outside of the site.
14. The historic values of the resources are communicated to visitors and the general public. The public is aware of and appreciates the heritage of the Sahtugot'ine.
15. Visitors are able to hear of and, where appropriate, witness Sahtugot'ine cultural practices at Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. Visitors respect and do not interfere with Sahtugot'ine cultural practices and their transmission to the younger generation.
16. Visitor numbers and activities do not impair the commemorative integrity of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho.
17. The overall heritage presentation experience conveys the reasons for the national significance of the site.
18. Visitors and non-visitors who experience heritage presentation and the site stewards understand the reasons for the national historic significance of the site.
19. The effective communication of messages and their understanding is monitored.
20. Part of the heritage presentation experience conveys the messages not related to national significance.
21. The messages not related to national significance and their presentation do not overwhelm or detract from the presentation and understanding of the site's national significance.
22. Both visitors and non-visitors who receive messages not related to national significance understand them.
23. The effectiveness of communication of messages not related to national significance and their understanding are monitored.

24. Sahoyúé-Şehdacho national historic site membership in the larger family of national historic sites is made known, and information about other national historic sites is provided to the public.

APPENDIX B:

SHARED VISION as set out in *One Trail: Facilitator's Report on the Sahoyue and Edacho Directions Confirming Workshop* (November 8-10, 2005) dated December 17, 2005.

The Parties also share the following Shared Vision in establishing Sahoyúé-Şehdacho as a protected heritage area, with the minor qualifiers that the implementation of some elements of this Vision (e.g., justice and social programs) are beyond the mandate of Parks Canada, and that the implementation of the Vision is contingent on securing new program funding for the future administration and management of the Site:

- a. The protection and co-management of Sahoyúé and Şehdacho are integral to the cultural well-being of Déline. "We selected these places not for their beauty, [or "what we could do with them",] but for what they give back." The culture that Sahoyúé and Şehdacho embody is "our trail to travel on".
- b. Déline's involvement in the protection and co-management of Sahoyúé and Şehdacho is a responsibility given to the Sahtugot'ine by their ancestors. Déline must re-claim its role in the protection and management of Sahoyúé and Şehdacho, as foreseen by its prophets.
- c. It is only through fulfilling these responsibilities passed on from the ancestors — protecting, caring for and paying respect to the land, and supporting the elders in passing on Sahtugot'ine beliefs, law, values and practices to the youth — that the Sahtugot'ine can retain their identity and "be who we are". Only thus can the community will be kept "vital and well". Only thus can Sahtugot'ine culture be preserved.
- d. To the elders, Sahoyúé and Şehdacho are "sore benegodi": so real, of such fundamental value, so beautiful or so splendid that they are embedded in the mind; they cannot be dismissed; they are part of the Sahtugot'ine.

More specific elements of Déline's vision for Sahoyúé and Şehdacho as follows:

- e. Déline must play a central role in the management of Sahoyúé and Şehdacho — a central role in the development of policy and regulations as well as in operational (or day-to-day) management.
- f. To do this, Déline organizations and individuals will need support in developing their modern-day management capacities and skills. This will take time.

- g. Sahtugot'ine harvesting rights as set out in the Sahtu Land Claim Agreement (the "SLCA") must be respected in Sahoyúé and Şehdacho.
- h. Sahoyúé and Şehdacho are "teaching places": places to encourage the passing of Sahtugot'ine culture from the elders to the youth, to "stabilize the culture", to "sustain the community as a whole" and to "help the community be a community again".
 - i. Many young people in Déline now need support in understanding who they are, where they have come from and where their future directions could lie — thus in developing their capacities. Sahoyúé and Şehdacho could help in very real ways in grounding these young people in their culture.
 - ii. Specific cultural teaching programs at Sahoyúé and Şehdacho could include traditional skills and management practices, knowledge of the land, the stories associated with these places, their associated Sahtugot'ine cosmology and philosophy, and Sahtugot'ine cultural values (sharing, mutual respect, and independent thought and observation, etc.).
 - iii. Young people will need to spend time out on the land, just as they need to spend a considerable amount of time in school. A teaching centre(s) should be established at Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. It could be modeled on the Déline Uranium Team's traditional camps.
 - iv. Community- and school-based teaching should complement the land-based teaching of Sahtugot'ine culture at Sahoyúé and Şehdacho.
 - v. In the past, specific sites at Sahoyúé and Şehdacho were used for rites of passage for young males and females from youth to adulthood. These practices should be re-established and supported.
- i. A "Learning Centre" in Déline, where Sahtugot'ine culture could be systematically researched, documented, displayed, communicated and further developed, should further complement teaching at Sahoyúé and Şehdacho. Other work at the Learning Centre could include research into and documentation of how other aboriginal peoples are preserving and passing on their cultures. The Learning Centre could combine elements in support of Tuktut Nogait National Park as well as of Sahoyúé and Şehdacho.
- j. Sahoyúé and Şehdacho are also important as healing places.
 - i. Specific programs for healing at Sahoyúé and Şehdacho might include smoke houses, tepees and places where justice issues can be addressed.

The learning centre identified above could be combined into a learning/healing centre.

- ii. Traditional medicines are found at Sahoyúé and Şehdacho. They can contribute to the health and healing of the community as a whole. The traditional medicine practices of Déline should be revived and supported.
- k. A management plan should be developed for Sahoyúé and Şehdacho.
- i. The management of Sahoyúé and Şehdacho should incorporate Sahtugot'ine cultural values and traditional law: the management plan should give effect to these values and legal rules.
 - ii. Both places contain sacred and other sites that need to be identified, monitored, protected and treated with special forms of respect, again according to traditional Sahtugot'ine values and law. Both places also contain spectacular vistas. Traditional rules governing the visitation of these places should be incorporated into the management plan and communicated to visitors.
 - iii. Traditional trails should be mapped and maintained, and the elders should be involved in mapping.
 - iv. Different families' strengths, skills and roles should be integrated into the management of Sahoyúé and Şehdacho.
- l. Eco-tourism and other forms of economic development that are consistent with the ecological and cultural integrity of Sahoyúé and Şehdacho should be encouraged and supported.
- i. Tourists could be told stories and introduced to Sahtugot'ine cultural practices at different sites in Sahoyúé and Şehdacho.
 - ii. As visitation to Sahoyúé and Şehdacho increases, a watchman program could be developed.
 - iii. Sahoyúé, Şehdacho, Tuktut Nogait, Edaiila and other places of cultural significance within the Great Bear Lake watershed could be developed as complementary elements of an eco-tourism development strategy for Déline.
- m. All of the foregoing will need funding support, whether for capacity building, programs, O&M or capital costs. It is very difficult to carry out sustained and

effective cultural development programs in the absence of dependable, ongoing funding.

APPENDIX C

CHRONOLOGY

Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Candidate Protected Area

Updated March 1, 2007

Time Immemorial – Stories are written on the land.

1940s – First archaeological surveys on Great Bear Lake, and particularly on Dog Point, the north end of the Grizzly Bear Mountain portage.

1960s – 1980s – Extensive archaeological surveys along the shores of Great Bear Lake, including Grizzly Bear Mountain/Scented Grass Hills.

1987 – Archaeological Studies

Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre supervised archaeological studies at Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills.

1990 – Oral History Studies

In collaboration with Parks Canada, the community began preliminary oral history studies on Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills.

1991 – Traditional Knowledge Geography

Continuation of the 1990 study to document the traditional geography of Keith and McVicar Arms of the Great Bear Lake.

September 6, 1993 – Sahtu Dene and Metis Land Claim Agreement

The Sahtu communities of Déline, Tulita, Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells, and Colville Lake signed the Sahtu Dene and Metis Land Claim Agreement. Under Section 26.4.3 of the agreement Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills are listed as heritage places and sites.

June 23, 1994 - Parliament passed the Sahtu Dene and Metis Land Claim Agreement into legislation.

July 1995 – Collection of Oral History for Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills.

August 1995 – Archaeological Survey

Archaeological information was gathered for the Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills National Historic Site proposals.

November 1996 – Preparation of Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) Agenda Paper – Narrative and Landscape: Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills as Repositories of Sahtu Dene Culture, by Chris Hanks. Chris Hanks presented this paper to the Cultural Communities Committee, HSMBC. There

was also a presentation by Chief John Tetso and Andrew-John Kenny, Elder to the board explaining the importance of these landscapes to the Sahtu Dene oral traditions and way of life.

November 1996 - HSMBC decision and recommendations - The board unanimously stated that Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills, as defined in the paper presented, are associative cultural landscapes of national historic significance. The board recommended that without delay, Parks Canada enter into discussions with GNWT, DIAND and the Sahtu Dene to determine and put into place appropriate mechanisms to ensure long-term protection of Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills.

December 5, 1996 – Letter from Déline Dene Band Council and Déline Dene Land Corporation to DIAND Minister Irwin requesting land withdrawal for Grizzly Bear Mountain/Scented Grass Hills.

December 5, 1996 – Letter from Déline Dene Band Council and Déline Dene Land Corporation to Canadian Heritage Minister Copps requesting recognition of the national significance of Grizzly Bear Mountain/Scented Grass Hills and support for interim land withdrawal pending discussion of protected area status.

July 15-21, 1998 – HSMBC board approved plaque inscriptions for Grizzly Bear Mountain (Sahyoue) and Scented Grass Hills (Edacho).

August 14, 1999 – Commemoration of the national historic significance of Grizzly Bear Mountain, Scented Grass Hills, Déline Fishery and Franklin's Fort by Canadian Heritage.

September 27, 1999 – Protected Areas Strategy signed by both GNWT and DIAND. The Protected Areas Strategy was developed in partnership with communities, regional organizations and land claim bodies for protecting natural and/or culturally significant areas within the NWT.

October 24-26, 1999 – Scented Grass Hills/Grizzly Bear Mountain Parks Canada Workshop. During this workshop the community also outlined their interest in proceeding with advancement of this site within the PAS.

November 9, 1999 – Déline Land Corporation approves Déline Dene Band Council to be the coordinating voice and channel for communication between Déline and appropriate government agencies with respect to Scented Grass Hills/Grizzly Bear Mountain Parks project (Motion #107).

December 6, 1999 – Sahtu Land Use Planning Board supports interim protection (including land withdrawal) and permanent protection of Scented Grass Hills/Grizzly Bear Mountain. These sites and the associated protection measures will be recognized in the regional land use plan.

January 2000 – The Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Working Group completed “Places we take care of”. This report details the culturally and ecologically important sites of the Sahtu Dene and makes recommendations for protection for each of the sites (Grizzly Bear Mountain/Scented Grass Hills, pg 34 and 35). This group was established and mandated through the claim, under section 26.4.

January 14, 2000 – Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated officially supports efforts of Déline Dene Band to have Grizzly Bear Mountain (Saoyú) and Scented Grass Hills (Edacho) recognized as protected area sites.

February 9, 2000 – Commemorative Integrity Statement drafted for Sahyoue-Edacho Historic Site describing the integrity or health and wholeness of the site with emphasis on the fundamental importance of these two sites to cultural well being of the Sahtu Dene.

March 9, 2000 – Déline Land Corporation supports protecting Grizzly Bear Mountain (Sahyoue) and Scented Grass Hills (Edacho) as a National Historic Park (amendment Motion #147 to Motion #112).

March 10, 2000 – Déline Land Corporation approves the park boundary and the request to withdraw subsurface rights under Déline lands and surface and subsurface rights on Crown lands within the park boundary (Motion #156).

May 12, 2000 – Premier Stephen Kakfwi states in a letter that the National Historic Park legislation would be the most appropriate legislation to protect Sahoyúé-Şehdacho and supports the five-year interim land withdrawal.

June 7, 2000 – Letter from Déline Dene Band Council requesting Canadian Heritage be the sponsoring agency for a five-year land withdrawal of both surface and subsurface rights of the Crown lands and subsurface rights of the Sahtu to provide interim protection for the site so that detailed evaluations of the site can be completed without further dispositions being issued.

July 23, 2000 – DIAND Minister Nault visited the community of Déline. Chief Leroy Andre discussed concerns over PAS funding and the need for immediate interim withdrawal of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho. The Minister said that withdrawal was a simple matter, he reaffirmed his commitment to the community of Déline and their efforts, he would do what he could to move the proposal forward and would enquire about the matter when he got back to Ottawa to find out why it was delayed

July 2000 – Conservation and Presentation Plan completed for Grizzly Bear Mountain/Scented Grass Hills National Historic Site.

September 2000 – Representatives from Déline, World Wildlife Fund, and the PAS Secretariat and Hon. Ethel Blondin-Andrew met with the Minister of Canadian Heritage

to discuss Déline's proposal to formally protect Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, and to request that Parks Canada partner with the community and sponsor an interim land withdrawal for the site. Parks Canada submits the formal request for interim land withdrawal to DIAND Minister following meeting.

October 2000 – Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Working Group Formed. From October 2000 to present, the SEWG has met over 30 times in person and via teleconference. Meetings have included numerous community presentations and consultations.

February 8 2001, Interim land withdrawal of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho (P.C. 2001-204 expires in November 2005)

March 23, 2001 – Minister of Canadian Heritage attends Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Interim Land Withdrawal celebration in Déline.

2002 – Phase I Non-Renewable Assessment Report is completed: L. P. Gal and J. M. Lariviere, of the C.S. Lord Northern Geoscience Centre (NWT Open File 2002-04).

2002 - Saoyú Phase II Non-Renewable Resource Assessment field work.

2003 - Edacho Phase II Non-Renewable Resource Assessment field work.

February 2003 – Preliminary Ecological Assessment for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho completed

December 19, 2003 – Report on Cultural Values for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho National Historic Site complete.

March 31, 2004 – Sierra Legal Defence Fund provides opinion letter to CPAWS on legal options for long term surface and subsurface protection of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho

August 13, 2004 – Letter to the Right Honourable Paul Martin, from Raymond Taniton, Déline Land Corporation, raising awareness of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho.

September 20, 2004 – Letter from Bob Overvold, Regional Director General, DIAND to Christina Cameron, Director General, National Historic Sites, requesting the Parks Canada Management Options Paper be released to Déline and the working group.

September 20, 2004 – Commemorative Integrity Statement signed.

October 4, 2004 – Déline AGM motion to extend the interim land withdrawal.

November 9, 2004 – Letter from Déline Land Corporation to Stéphane Dion, Minister of the Environment to request a five-year interim land withdrawal extension.

December 24, 2004 –letter to Leroy Andre, President of the Déline Land Corporation from Alan Latourelle, CEO, Parks Canada reaffirming commitments made in the November meeting, including working with INAC to achieve the extension of the Interim Land Withdrawal, funding to continue work, and a commitment to share the paper on management options once the mandate and funding for long-term protection is confirmed.

2005 – Phase II Non-renewable resource assessment report complete (NWT Open File 2005-01).

January 13, 2005 – letter from Raymond Taniton, President Déline Land Corporation, to Alan Latourelle, CEO Parks Canada, requesting an extension for 5 years of the interim land withdrawal extension.

January 13, 2005 – letter from Raymond Taniton, Déline Land Corporation, to Gordon Hamre, Parks Canada, NWT, verifying the boundaries represented on maps of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho.

February 28, 2005 – Letter from CEO Parks Canada, Alan Latourelle, to Deputy Minister of DIAND, Michael Horgan, to request that land withdrawal order be extended for 5 years

March 2, 2005 – Parks Canada does not receive funding to sponsor Sahoyúé-Şehdacho and offer permanent protection through their legislation. The SEWG regroups to decide on next steps.

April 2005 – Parks Canada Management Options Paper provided to the SEWG. The options presented are consistent with previously-presented options, and Parks Canada reconfirms its commitment to defining a Shared Vision with Déline.

July 2005 – Work on Phase 1 Renewable Resource Assessment started by PAS Biologist.

July 28, 2005 – Letter from GNWT-ENR Minister Miltenberger to Environment Minister Dion, encouraging him to continue seeking additional funding required for managing Sahoyúé-Şehdacho and requesting confirmation of Parks Canada's commitment to protection.

August 2, 2005 – Environment Minister Dion visits Déline to sign cooperative management agreement for Tuktuk Nogait National Park Sahtu expansion. Déline representatives discuss Sahoyúé-Şehdacho with the Minister.

August 3, 2005 – follow-up letter sent from CPAWS to Environment Minister Dion to recap issues raised around support and funding for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho at multi-stakeholder meeting with Minister Dion in Yellowknife.

October 24-26, 2005 – Déline meeting and workshop on visioning, in preparation for Directions Confirming Workshop. Also, a community open house was held to explain the current situation about discussions on protection and cooperative management, and to allow community leaders to hear back from the community members.

November 8-10, 2005 – Directions Confirming Workshop in Déline, with all SEWG parties. Purposes of the workshop were to identify: 1) a general management vision and sponsoring agency, and 2) a process by which specific permanent protection, and acceptable management authority and long-term management funding might be discussed and resolved. Parks Canada confirms their continued involvement as Sponsoring Agency, a shared vision for the protection and management of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho was confirmed and further developed. Also, a Steering Committee is struck to collaborate on assisting Parks Canada in their efforts to obtain new funding for the site.

November 16, 2005 – Interim Land Withdrawal (Order in Council P.C. 2005-1900 November 1, 2005) extension granted by Order In Council, until November 2010.

January 18, 2006 – letter from Minister Dion to CPAWS-NWT acknowledging the importance of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho and Parks Canada’s commitment to the PAS process of protection.

May 2006 – Meeting request letter sent from Déline Land Corp and Déline Dene Band to Environment Minister Ambrose and DIAND Minister Prentice to discuss their departments’ support and funding for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho .

June 28, 2006 – Déline representatives meet with Minister Ambrose’s staff and Parks Canada CEO in Ottawa to discuss Parks Canada’s commitment and funding needs for Sahoyúé-Şehdacho this year and in the long-term.

June 29, 2006 – Déline representatives meet with Minister Prentice’s staff to discuss INAC’s support for protecting Sahoyúé-Şehdacho, and the urgency of doing so.

July 4, 2006 – Preliminary Socio-Economic Assessment completed.

August 14, 2006 – letter from GNWT-ENR Minister Miltenberger to Environment Minister Ambrose, to support Déline’s efforts toward protection, and to request a funding announcement during Minister Ambrose’s visit to Yellowknife for the Joint Resource Minister Meeting in October 2006.

October 31, 2006 – Renewable Resource Assessment Complete

January 11, 2007 – Letter from Déline to Federal Environment Minister Baird requesting Meeting in Ottawa.

January 31, 2007 - Déline representatives met with Minister Baird, Environment Canada to discuss concrete steps to move Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Candidate Protected Area forward, specifically need for long-term funding.

February 1, 2007 - Déline representatives meet with CEO Parks Canada, Alan Latourelle in Ottawa to discuss funding and next steps for the long-term protection of Sahoyúé-Şehdacho.

March 5 – April 2, 2007 – Public Review of DRAFT Sahoyúé-Şehdacho Working Group Final Report.

March 11, 2007 - Minister responsible for Parks Canada, the President of Déline Land Corporation and the Chief of Déline First Nations signed a Memorandum of Understanding outlining their commitment to work towards permanently protecting and cooperatively managing Sahoyúé-Şehdacho National Historic Site of Canada. The announcement also included a funding commitment of five million dollars over 5 years and seven hundred thousand dollars per year thereafter.

April 11, 2007 – SEWG met in Déline to consider comments from the Public review of the SEWG Draft Final Report and to finalize the report.