



Legislative Comparison Chart

Many different types of protected areas are possible in the NWT. This chart gives a basic comparison of several possible designations; more details are available in the report “Legislation, Sponsoring Agencies and the Protected Areas Strategy” (www.nwtpas.ca under publications/overview reports). Other examples are listed in the NWT Protected Areas Strategy document ([home page www.nwtpas.ca](http://home.page.nwtpas.ca)). Please note that this and other PAS reports are not legal documents; refer directly to legislation for details.

Authority/Purpose	Critical Wildlife Area	Wilderness Conservation Area	Cultural Conservation Area	Natural Environment Park/ Heritage Park	National Wildlife Area	National Historic Site	National Park/ Park Reserve	Conservation Zone
Responsible Agency	GNWT – Environment and Natural Resources	GNWT – Industry, Tourism and Investment	GNWT – Industry, Tourism and Investment	GNWT – Industry, Tourism and Investment	Federal – Environment Canada	Federal – Parks Canada Agency in co-operation with other parties	Federal – Parks Canada Agency	Regional Land Use Planning Board under Land Claim Agreement
Enabling Legislation	NWT’s <i>Wildlife Act</i>	<i>Territorial Parks Act</i>	<i>Territorial Parks Act</i>	<i>Territorial Parks Act</i>	<i>Canada Wildlife Act</i>	<i>Historic Sites and Monuments Act</i> or <i>Canada National Parks Act</i>	<i>Canada National Parks Act</i>	<i>Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act</i>
Example	Bluenose caribou herd calving areas	None yet established	None yet established	Natural Environment Park - Hidden Lake Heritage Park - Fort Smith Mission	None yet established in the NWT; Polar Bear Pass in Nunavut	Saoyú-zehdacho	Nahanni	Gwich’in Conservation Zone A
Criteria	Wildlife / wildlife habitat important at territorial, regional or local scale; unique, rare, sensitive or at risk habitat; or area provides opportunities for learning about wildlife and habitat	Core representative areas that protect regional biodiversity	Culturally significant sites and Landscapes	Natural Environment Parks - Unique, representative, or aesthetically significant natural areas; culturally and historically significant natural areas; Heritage Parks - physical features or built environments	Protect wildlife, particularly migratory birds and species at risk, and wildlife habitat for the purposes of conservation, research and/or interpretation	Commemorate nationally significant person, place or event	Represents Natural Region of National Parks System Plan; Dedicated to the people of Canada including future generations for their benefit, education and enjoyment	Areas requiring year-round protection under an approved regional land use plan
Ownership/ Land Administration	No changes	Surface lands transferred to Commissioner; Subsurface rights held by Aboriginal governments or by the federal government	Surface lands transferred to Commissioner; Subsurface rights held by Aboriginal governments or by the federal government	Surface lands transferred to Commissioner; Subsurface rights held by Aboriginal governments or by the federal government	Surface lands administered by Environment Canada; Subsurface lands administered by the federal government	Varies	Surface and subsurface administered by Parks Canada Agency	No changes

Activities/Development	Critical Wildlife Area	Wilderness Conservation Area	Cultural Conservation Area	Natural Environment Park/ Heritage Park	National Wildlife Area	National Historic Site	National Park/ Park Reserve	Conservation Zone
Management Plan	A goal, but not required	A goal, but not required	A goal, but not required	A goal, but not required	Policy requirement	Legislative requirement	Legislative requirement	Not required
Level of Protection (Surface/Subsurface)	Surface activities regulated; no formal subsurface protection	Surface activities regulated to the extent of the GNWT’s authority; not permanent protection; subsurface rights held by Aboriginal governments or by the federal government	Surface activities regulated to the extent of the GNWT’s authority; not permanent protection; subsurface rights held by Aboriginal governments or by the federal government	Surface activities regulated to the extent of the GNWT’s authority; not permanent protection; subsurface rights held by Aboriginal governments or by the federal government	Surface activities regulated; subsurface protection through other means (e.g. withdrawal of subsurface rights under the <i>Territorial Lands Act</i> is an option)	Surface activities regulated; subsurface protection varies	Surface and subsurface protection	Surface and subsurface protection
Industrial Development	By Permit	Prohibited to the extent of the GNWT’s authority	By Permit	By Permit	By Permit	Varies	None	None
Harvesting by Aboriginal People	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tourism Operators	Varies	By permit, consultation required	By permit, consultation required	By permit, consultation required	Depends on Management Plan	Promoted	May be permitted, consultation required	Varies
Outfitting	Varies	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Not Allowed	Depends on Management Plan	Varies	No sport hunting outfitting	Restricted