



Special Places

News and Views on the NWT Protected Areas Strategy

Deninu Kue First Nation Initiates Protected Areas Study

Three Protected Areas Strategy Fieldworkers have been employed in Fort Resolution since November 12. Our first step was to brief ourselves on protected areas strategies in the rest of Canada. We continue to investigate a tremendous amount of reading material about this process.

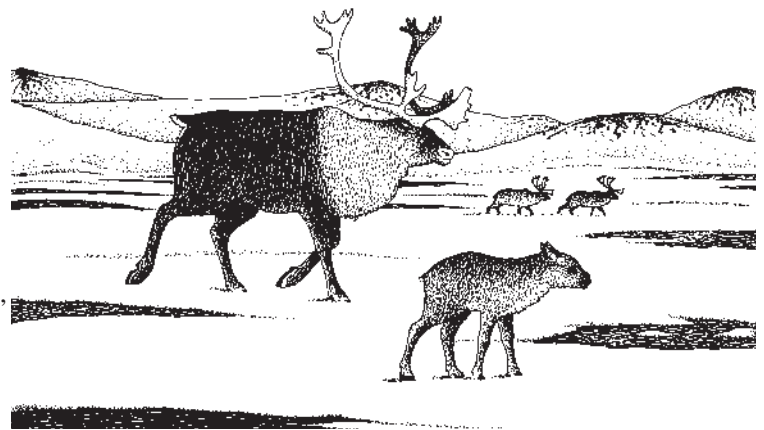
We developed a questionnaire on protected areas and began surveying the community on December 11. This will continue until we have reached all the households in the community. The response has been excellent so far with some very good comments, concerns, recommendations, and suggestions. It is felt that most residents speak more freely in their own home rather than in a public place.

Some concerns documented were about land claims, wildlife, migratory birds, commercial fishing, forestry, hunting and trapping areas, and parks. Once the survey has been completed,

a final detailed report will be drafted and made available for the next visioning workshop, tentatively set for the third week of February, 1998. This will assist in the development of the strategy.

A visioning workshop was held in the community from January 7-9. Interested parties, groups and the community at large were notified well in advance of the workshop by letters, local

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"The land forms part of a cultural landscape, full of signs and symbols which reflect history, knowledge and the values critical to Dene existence."
Tom Andrews,
Yamoria's Arrows

Mining Wisdom from the Chamber of Mines

The NWT Chamber of Mines recently joined the growing list of partners working together to create a Protected Areas Strategy for the NWT. Keeping options open for future mining, while, at the same time, identifying and protecting key areas of land and water is a major challenge for those of us living in a land so richly blessed with both minerals and wilderness.

The Chamber of Mines recognizes the importance of this challenge. Its help in developing a Protected Areas Strategy is aimed at finding creative ways to promote "win-win" situations that benefit both the interests of development and long term environmental protection.

The Chamber plans to do this by mining the wisdom and advice of its many members through a widespread consultation process. The main products of this work will be policies and guidelines that reflect the mining industry's perspective on how best to create and manage protected areas in the NWT.

The Chamber of Mines hopes to showcase its work in progress at the next multi-party protected areas conference. Funding for this work is being provided by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development as part of its commitment to a broad-based and practical approach to developing this strategy.

For more information contact Mike Vaydik at the Chamber of Mines 867-873-5281.

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Military Moves on Mount Pelly Territorial Park

Thanks to the efforts of Colonel Pierre LeBlanc, Commander Canadian Forces Northern Area, the Department of National Defence is now undertaking steps to allow the transfer of a portion of a military reserve needed to complete this natural environment park. Territorial government staff are now reviving discussions with the community and Nunavut organizations. There seems to be broad support for a park to be established.

Mount Pelly lies 15 km east of the community of Cambridge Bay. Its single broad ridge overlooks an area renowned for viewing arctic wildlife. It is already the most important day use area for local nature based tourism operators. Increasingly, visitors are arriving in Cambridge Bay to add new birds to their life list. Cruise ship traffic through the Northwest Passage is also on the rise. And with scheduled jet service, Mount Pelly will be the most accessible park in the arctic.

*“If you do not know
who the Creator is,
just go outside. ”*

Joe Boucher, Dene Kede

Deninu Kue First Nation Initiates Protected Areas Study *cont.*

television ads, and radio announcements in both English and Chipewyan. Letters of invitation were also drafted and sent to resource persons for this workshop. The purpose of this workshop was to gather and share information with respect to protected areas. The turnout was not as great as we had anticipated. However, we outlined the community's vision and met the goal set at the beginning of the workshop.

The workshop introduced the community to what the Protected Areas Strategy was about and what the Integrated Resource Management Plan means to people and their resources. This will give the people a better understanding for future workshops and development proposals. The concerns and ideas of the people of Fort Resolution gave the fieldworkers a wider view on the issues regarding protected areas.

We extend our thanks to facilitators Lois Little and Bob Steven of Lutra Associates of Yellowknife, as well as out of town resource persons: Bill Carpenter of the World Wildlife Federation; Mark Bradley, GNWT Regional Biologist; and Bert Spek from DIAND. Special thanks to Danny Beaulieu, Hook Lake Bison and most importantly, local participants and stakeholders.

Special areas and important wildlife habitat still need to be identified to better provide information on proposed protected areas. Local hunters and trappers will be asked to contribute their knowledge of wildlife habitats. Once the information on possible protected areas is gathered, it will be presented on maps for the community to comment and to speak to their interests.

by Fieldworkers Styd Klugie, Julie Biscaye and Violet Mandeville

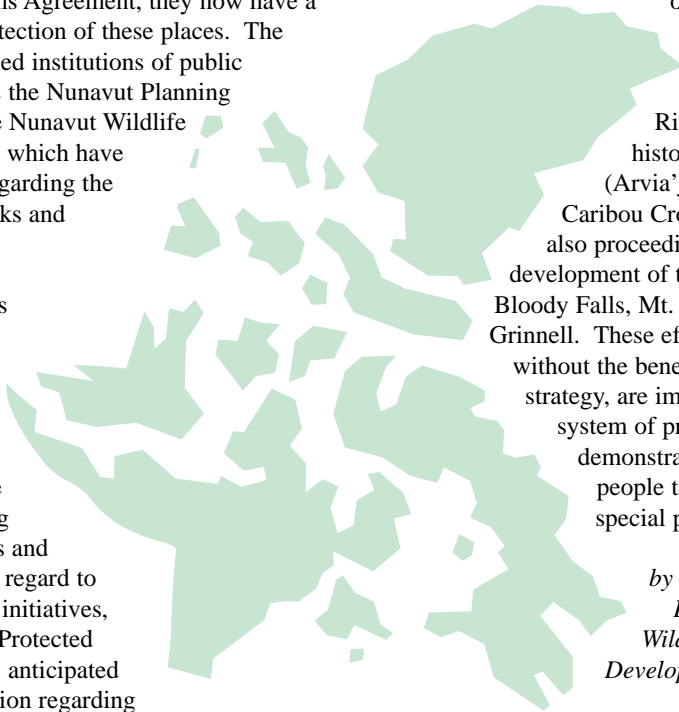
What's Happening in Nunavut?

The people of Nunavut greatly value their natural heritage and the special places that play significant roles in everyday life. Following ratification of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, they now have a major say in the protection of these places. The Agreement established institutions of public government, such as the Nunavut Planning Commission and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, which have important powers regarding the establishment of parks and conservation areas.

In recognition of this authority, the territorial government (Nunavut Headquarters) and these institutions are currently considering their respective roles and responsibilities with regard to new protected areas initiatives, including the NWT Protected Areas Strategy. It is anticipated that a Nunavut position regarding the development of a protected areas strategy will be forthcoming within the next couple of months. With just over one year to territorial division, this issue joins many others requiring attention on an increasingly crowded agenda.

In the meantime, site specific work is continuing. Various agencies are cooperating closely with regional Inuit associations and community organizations to establish five new national parks, Canada's first marine wildlife area near Clyde River (Igalirtuuq), and national historic sites near Arviat (Arvia'juaq) and Baker Lake (Fall Caribou Crossing). Negotiations are also proceeding regarding the development of territorial parks such as Bloody Falls, Mt. Pelly, Ijraliq, and Sylvia Grinnell. These efforts, while occurring without the benefit of an overall coordinating strategy, are important contributions to the system of protected areas in Nunavut and demonstrate the commitment of the people to the protection of their special places.

*by Stuart Macmillan,
Department of Resources,
Wildlife and Economic
Development, Iqaluit*



"I have a special feeling for Wager Bay. I've tried to explain it before, but I can't. When people go there, they just love the place. "

*John Tatty,
Rankin Inlet*



John Williamson

Creating a Legislated Protected Area

An understanding of the distribution of plants and animals has always been important to people making their living off the land. Similarly, an understanding of how all the different parts of a natural neighborhood work together is essential to keeping an ecosystem healthy. Each species contributes to the web of life. Ensuring each species a place in nature ensures that the magnificence of the north will continue. Creating a system of protected areas is one way to help this happen.

While respect for nature should happen everywhere, there are some places where nature is hardest at work. Key areas such as calving grounds for caribou, nesting grounds for birds, spawning channels for fish, and denning sites for bears are crucial for these animals. Wildlife and its habitat has always been central to the northern traditional way of life. Ensuring habitat is protected not only protects wildlife but also the culture associated with it.

There are different kinds of protected areas. Some are strictly for the preservation of nature, others permit some carefully regulated activities, such as tourism, and some commemorate an important cultural or spiritual site.

Protected areas are created through government legislation. Each type of legislation has its requirements and these must be met prior to an agency taking on a new area. The consultation and planning work happening in the Gwich'in Settlement Area is an outstanding example of the preparations needed to make these decisions. Here, as in other areas with settled claims, privately held lands can be set aside as a protected area by Aboriginal organizations, if they so choose.

Depending on what values are meant to be protected, there will be instances where regulations regarding a particular resource will be sufficient to achieve the management objective. Creating a protected area is not the only way to take care of resources.

The north has the greatest extent of undisturbed natural areas in Canada. Unlike regions in the south, we have the opportunity of setting aside the best areas for protecting nature and culture in advance of development. The choices we make now will determine the conditions and characteristics of our land in the future.

Creating protected areas is not about retarding the economic development of the north. Rather, it is about safeguarding special places in advance of the development of natural resources that is bound to occur eventually.

The following are the suggested steps to creating a legislated protected area:

1. COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

Key areas of local interest are identified through a land use plan which relies heavily on community input.

2. PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

A candidate protected area must be evaluated to determine the site's suitability and feasibility.

3. IDENTIFICATION of VALUES and DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Should the site prove worthy of consideration, natural and cultural values must be documented. At the same time, an assessment of potential economic development precluded from the candidate area must be evaluated and trade offs identified, including the potential economic benefit of creating a protected area (eg. tourism).

Government should be consulted at this stage to identify wider environmental, cultural and economic objectives. A working group should be established to guide this candidacy to completion.

4. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Should the area need long term protection from development, Management Objectives based upon the identified values must be stated. These should be reviewed by the greater public and interest groups, then approved by the appropriate boards and councils. Such approval authorizes the working group to proceed.

5. FINDING A HOME

Based upon the Management Objectives, the candidate area needs to find a home with the most appropriate piece of legislation or government program. Partnerships should be considered with neighboring jurisdictions or government agencies.

6. REFINING BOUNDARIES

In conjunction with the sponsoring agency with the appropriate legislation, boundaries need to be refined to ensure management objectives can be achieved within the protected area. As well, working relationships with adjacent areas and funding requirements for the operation and maintenance of the candidate area need to be identified.

7. FORMAL NOMINATION

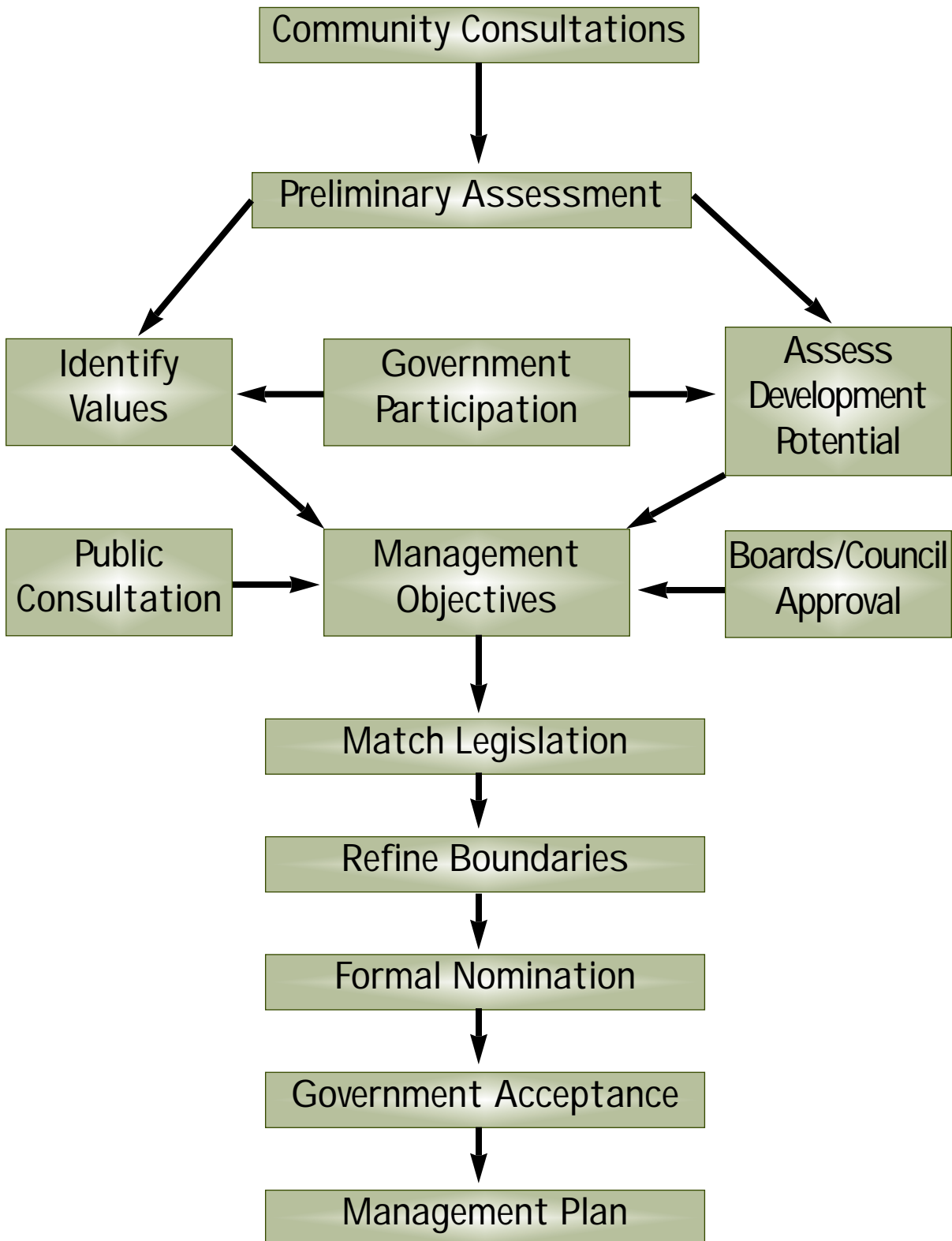
Government accepts the recommendation of a candidate area by a formal nomination and passage in a legislature. This is more likely to occur if government is a partner in the development of the proposal.

8. MANAGEMENT PLAN

A management plan is developed for the long term operation of the protected area. A Management Advisory Board may be required.

*by Mike Morris, Department of Resources,
Wildlife and Economic Development, Yellowknife*

STEPS TO CREATE A LEGISLATED PROTECTED AREA



Finding the Right Tool for the Job

Scattered across the vast and varied Northwest Territories are special areas of land and water that may need extra protection, beyond standard land use controls, to preserve their biological, geological, cultural, scientific, educational, or recreational values. Some of these areas may be important mainly to local people. Others may be of territorial, national or even international significance. Once these areas are identified and their values spelled out, the next big question is, what is the best tool to protect them?

The specific reasons for creating a protected area will differ from place to place. Some of the more common reasons include:

- Wilderness protection
- Preservation of species and genetic diversity
- Maintenance of environmental services
e. g. protection of watershed or soils
- Protection of specific natural and cultural features
- Tourism and recreation
- Sustainable use of natural resources
e. g. forests and fisheries
- Education
- Scientific research and monitoring

To protect special places, some people might like to see a strictly enforced wilderness area in the backyard of every northern community. Others may instead believe that seasonal regulatory controls on land uses during critical times of the year may be all that is needed. Both kinds of tools, and everything in between, may have a role within a larger system of protected areas in a particular region. In all cases, the most appropriate tool for a proposed protected area is the one that best matches how you want to manage it.

On the following table, management objectives (indicated with check marks) are matched with possible protected area tools available for lands or waters in the Northwest Territories. For further information on any of these tools, ask for a copy of the “Protected Areas Toolkit - A Reference Guide to Mechanisms for Establishing and Managing Protected Areas in the Northwest Territories”.

by Jamie Bastedo, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Yellowknife

“There are certain places on this earth that are special to animals. They will travel thousands of miles and endure incredible hardships to return to these, the places of their birth.”

*George Calef,
caribou biologist*



John Williamson

MATCH MAKING: WHICH TOOL IS BEST?

General Protection Category (from most to least protection)	NWT Protected Area Tool (+ indicates non-legislated tool)	Comments
STRICT NATURE RESERVE ✓ Scientific research	None currently available	The NWT lacks specific legislation that could create an area strictly for scientific research. Most Canadian jurisdictions, including the Yukon, can create ecological reserves for this purpose.
WILDERNESS AREA ✓ Wilderness preservation	Territorial Wildlife (Game) Sanctuaries and Preserves	Protected areas such as the Thelon and Mackenzie Bison Sanctuaries are managed as strict wilderness areas. However no new sanctuaries can be created using this tool.
NATIONAL PARK ✓ Ecological integrity ✓ Public use & enjoyment	National Park & Park Reserve National Marine Conservation Area Biosphere Reserve (core area) + World Heritage Site +	Though very powerful tools for providing long term protection, the need for natural values to be of national significance limits their potential usefulness. Biosphere Reserve or World Heritage status adds global recognition to legislated protected areas.
NATURAL MONUMENT ✓ Protect specific natural & cultural features	National Historic Park & Site Territorial Historic Park Territorial Natural Environment Park	National Historic Parks fit well into this category. Territorial Historic Parks protect cultural artifacts that need not be of national significance. Territorial Natural Environment Parks would fit in this category when management is aimed at protecting specific features.
HABITAT OR SPECIES MANAGEMENT AREA ✓ Protect wildlife species & habitats	National Wildlife Area Marine Wildlife Area Migratory Bird Sanctuary Critical Wildlife Area Caribou Protection Measures Special Management Area Ramsar Site + Biosphere Reserve (core area) +	A wide variety of land uses may occur in these areas so long as they do not threaten the wildlife values which they are meant to protect. Special conditions on land use permits are often applied only on a seasonal basis during critical times in the life cycle of the protected species. Biosphere Reserve or Ramsar designations can enhance public awareness and sound management of a site.
PROTECTED LANDSCAPE/SEASCAPE ✓ Protect traditional human interactions with land and water ✓ Recreation	No specific legislation currently available although the National Historic Park designation may apply. Canadian Heritage River +	This category would apply to the protection of traditional interactions of aboriginal people with the land and water (e. g. the kind of protection proposed for Scented Grass Hills and Grizzly Bear Mountain on Great Bear Lake). The Canadian Heritage River System emphasizes the importance of protecting human-environment interactions.
MANAGED RESOURCE PROTECTED AREA ✓ Sustainable resource use	Marine Protected Area Area Development Zone Travel Restricted Area & Zone Forest Management Area Biosphere Reserve (buffer area) +	While the focus of these tools is to promote managed use of resources, all of them can be used to protect key areas or features. Another advantage is that they can be applied flexibly on a short or long term basis. None control access to subsurface resources.

How the Canadian Wildlife Service Protects Wildlife Habitat in the NWT

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) is the main Federal agency in charge of managing terrestrial wildlife across Canada. Empowered by the Migratory Birds Convention Act of 1916, CWS can protect areas important to migratory birds by creating Migratory Bird Sanctuaries. As of 1974, CWS was given additional habitat protection powers by means of the Canada

Wildlife Act and through it, the ability to establish National Wildlife Areas. Amendments to this Act in 1994 allowed CWS to extend its protection offshore by establishing Marine Wildlife Areas. This article gives an overview, from a northern perspective, of federal legislation used to protect wildlife habitat.

Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

Migratory Bird Sanctuaries are created to manage areas of national significance for migratory birds. Associated regulations prohibit any activity that may harm these birds, their eggs, nests, or habitat unless authorized by permit. The first Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the NWT were established in the late 1950's and early

1960's to protect colonial nesting sites of various goose species. Now there are 17 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in the NWT covering 115,000 square kilometers of land and water. The most recent Sanctuary, Prince Leopold Island, was established in 1992.

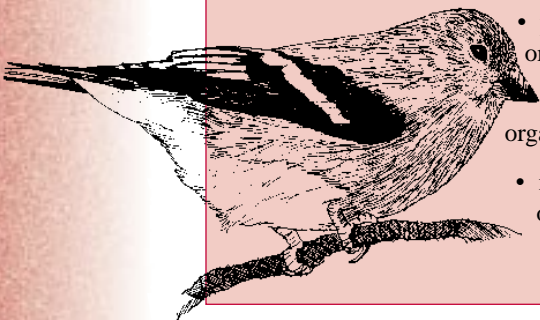
Evaluating a Proposed Sanctuary

CWS evaluates a proposed Migratory Bird Sanctuary based on these criteria:

- Does the site support, for at least part of the year, more than 5% of the Canadian population of a migratory bird species?
- Does the site support, for at least part of the year, more than 1% of the Canadian population of more than one species?
- Is there local community support for a protected area at the site?

The last criterion - community support - is absolutely essential for CWS to seriously consider a proposal. At least one of the other two criteria must also apply before CWS will pursue Sanctuary status for a site. This action typically involves several steps:

- obtaining enough biological data on a site to assess it against the above criteria
- preparing a formal proposal in cooperation with relevant community organizations and other interested parties
- obtaining approvals from all relevant government departments and land claim organizations
- negotiating required agreements with government departments and land claim organizations
- formally establishing a sanctuary through Cabinet approved Order-in-Council.



National Wildlife Areas

National Wildlife Areas are often established to conserve essential habitat for migratory birds. With provincial or territorial support, they may also protect mammals, rare plants, or unusually diverse or genetically important habitats. Wildlife Area Regulations are very restrictive as to what activities are acceptable in a particular site. Their chief aim is to protect wildlife habitat, whether it be for strict conservation purposes or some combination of conservation and research or interpretation.

As with Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, traditional activities by northern aboriginal people are acceptable in National Wildlife Areas in the NWT. A management plan developed with all concerned parties may identify other activities allowed in a particular National Wildlife Area. There are two of them in the NWT: Polar Bear Pass on Bathurst Island and Nirjutiqavvik on Coburg Island.

Evaluating a Proposed National Wildlife Area

CWS evaluates a proposed National Wildlife Area based on the same criteria for Migratory Bird Sanctuaries plus:

- Does the site support an appreciable assemblage of rare, vulnerable, threatened or endangered species or subspecies of plant or animals?
- Is the site special in maintaining the genetic and ecological diversity of a region?
- Does the site represent a unique wildlife habitat within a specific natural region?
- Is the local community supportive of a protected area at the site?

If the last criterion and any one or more of the others are met by the candidate site then CWS may move ahead to secure National Wildlife Area status. This is similar to the steps described above for creating a Migratory Bird Sanctuary.



In the NWT, CWS favours the National Wildlife Area designation over Migratory Bird Sanctuaries as the preferred option to protect wildlife habitat. The Wildlife Area Regulations, when coupled with a comprehensive management plan, generally provide more flexibility in managing a protected area than do Sanctuary Regulations. This is important in the NWT given aboriginal peoples' increased role in managing resources resulting from the settlement of their various claims.

Marine Wildlife Areas

Although the revised Canada Wildlife Act sets the stage for establishing Marine Wildlife Areas, no regulations have yet been developed to formally apply this legislation to any site. The aim of this designation is similar to National Wildlife Areas with the primary focus on protecting marine birds. Regulations created for Marine Wildlife Areas lying in part or completely beyond Canada's territorial sea to the 200 nautical mile

limit will need to reflect restrictions imposed by international law on Canada's right to fully control activities within this limit. The process for screening and designating Marine Wildlife Areas will likely be similar to that for National Wildlife Areas.

by Paul Latour, Canadian Wildlife Service, Yellowknife, 867-669-4769.

“A protected area is an area of land or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, managed through legal or other means. ”

International Union for the Conservation of Nature

BQ Caribou Management Board Eager for Workshop

The Beverly & Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board (BQCMB) is looking forward to the upcoming workshop in early April on the protection of caribou calving grounds in the NWT. The BQCMB has a long history of concern for protection of calving grounds and post-calving areas used by the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds, and has expressed vocal opposition to proposals to reduce existing levels of protection. The Board has urged governments to maintain the Caribou Protection Measures in the face of mining and exploration, and traditional caribou users in the communities have asked the Board to support calving ground protection.

Issues of Interest

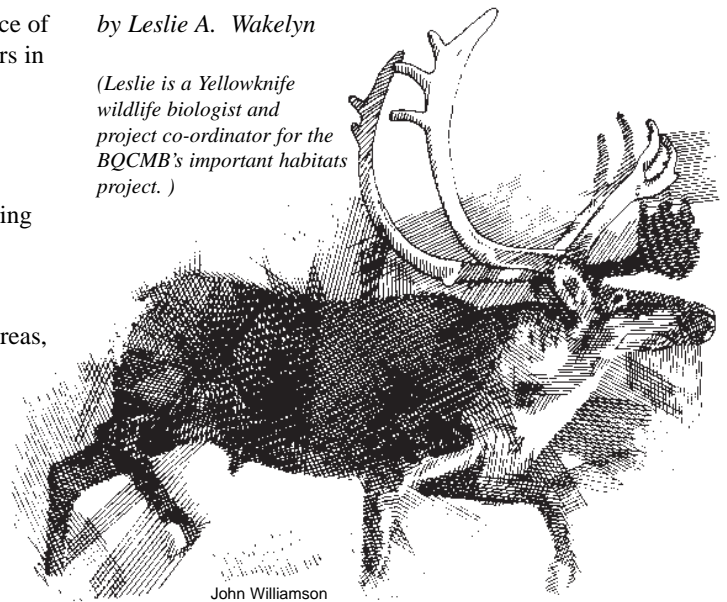
The Board wants to address a number of issues during the upcoming workshop on protection of caribou calving grounds, including:

- adjusting the boundaries of Caribou Protection Areas,
- reinstating the full caribou monitoring program,
- jurisdictional responsibility for monitoring and enforcement,
- how development proposals will be dealt with,
- year-round protection of calving ground habitat.

The BQCMB recognizes the importance of economic development, including resource development, to caribou range communities. However, Board members are united in their conviction that residents of these communities do not want to trade healthy caribou herds for economic development, and that preservation of caribou and their calving grounds is essential to maintaining traditional lifestyles of communities.

by Leslie A. Wakelyn

(Leslie is a Yellowknife wildlife biologist and project co-ordinator for the BQCMB's important habitats project.)



What is the BQCMB, and Who Does It Represent?

The BQCMB is a joint management board which advises governments and traditional caribou users on conservation and management of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou herds and their habitat. The Board's primary goal is to maintain the caribou herds at a size and quality which will sustain the requirements of native people.

The Board was established in 1982. It consists of a total of 13 members, the eight of which are traditional

caribou users representing more than 13,500 residents in 20 caribou range communities in Nunavut, the western NWT, northern Saskatchewan, and northern Manitoba. The remaining five members represent the governments of Canada (Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and Environment Canada), the Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, which provide core funding for operation and administration of the Board.

Now Available !

“Naturally North” the Natural Regions of the Northwest Territories

The Government of the Northwest Territories has produced two booklets, one for Nunavut and one for the western territory, on our natural regions. Through maps, photos and text these booklets describe the plants, animals and landscapes that make up each of the six ecozones in Nunavut and seven ecozones in the western territory. This system of land classification is used across Canada and will assist us in the task of creating protected areas. The Nunavut edition is available in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun and English.

For free copies contact:

Parks & Tourism, Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development,
Box 1320, Yellowknife NT X1A 2L9 876-873-7903
or Bag 1870, Iqaluit NT X0A 0H0 867-979-5121

Whitehorse Mining Initiative and PAS

The Whitehorse Mining Initiative (WMI) is a multi-stakeholder process dedicated towards sustainable mining. The environmental community, Aboriginal peoples, government, labour unions, and the mining industry, met over two years and in 1994, achieved consensus on the principles and goals important to all groups.

Many of the principles negotiated are applicable to the development of a Protected Areas Strategy for the NWT. The following are some examples of the goals agreed upon.

1. Environmental Protection

To ensure minimal environmental impact during mining exploration, development, operations, and closure by voluntary and regulatory means, including the use of appropriate environmental effects monitoring.

2. Planning and Environmental Assessment

To ensure that project specific environmental assessments are effective, efficient, and well defined, and are conducted in the broader context of an integrated land use planning process and government policies.

3. Use of Traditional Knowledge and Science in Environmental Decision Making

To promote meaningful participation by Aboriginal peoples and the use of traditional and local knowledge.

4. Land Use and Land Access

To make land use and land access policy and decision making processes accessible to all stakeholders whose interests are affected.

5. Protected Areas

To create and set aside from industrial development by the year 2000 those protected areas required to achieve representation of Canada's land based natural regions.

It is clear from these goals that there was a common understanding that our environment is important. The mining industry has demonstrated that they are aware of the need for protected areas. They in turn ask that areas be selected based upon scientific criteria, followed by consultation with all stakeholders. Economic, environmental and social factors all play key roles in maintaining a vibrant North, so it is important that all factors be considered when making land use decisions.

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Related Web Sites

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/eldis/data/d017/e01784.html>
Protected Areas Virtual Library - site for information and links on international conservation activities.

<http://www.cpaws.org>
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Association - main page for an environmental group focused on parks and endangered species.

<http://www.pch.gc.ca>
Department of Canadian Heritage - departmental home page with links to established natural and cultural sites across Canada.

<http://www.indy4.fdl.cc.mn.us/-isk/canada/canada.html>
Canada's First Nations - source for aboriginal sources and related sites.

<http://www.nps.gov.gov/>
US National Park Service - home page with links to parks in Alaska.

<http://www.arctic-caribou.com>
Beverly & Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board's website.

<http://www.rwed.gov.nt.ca/>
PAS home page in development; go to Site Map > Special Initiatives > PAS

Whitehorse Mining Initiative and PAS cont.

Access to potential mineral deposits is one of the prime concerns to industry. Considering the size of our territory we are really just beginning to understand the extent of our mineral resources. Improving our geological knowledge and developing new technology is opening up new possibilities each year, as we are seeing with diamonds. The NWT has great untapped potential for minerals but unless areas are thoroughly evaluated before being designated as protected, significant economic potential may be lost. Who ever thought we had diamonds here before Chuck Fipke spent years gathering samples to support his theory?

Being the last jurisdiction in Canada to develop a PAS, we have the opportunity to examine what worked best in the provinces when juggling mining and a PAS. For instance, there are examples of mines operating within parks, under tight restrictions with full reclamation plans. Another flexible arrangement in Manitoba has multiple land use categories within one park to allow mining, recreational activities, and a strict no access wildlife preserve.

The WMI was the result of multi-stakeholder negotiations to balance diverse goals. These negotiations were not always easy, but the resulting compromises and commitments demonstrate that we all have a stake in the future of the North.

For a copy of the WMI, contact the Mining Association of Canada at 613-233-9391.

By Scott Matheson, Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Yellowknife

Coming Events

February 7-8 Stories of the Land

A weekend workshop of story telling, music and art related to experiences on the land, hosted by the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society at Trappers Lake Retreat. 873-5412, Yellowknife.

February 23-25 Visioning/IRMP/PAS workshop 2, Fort Resolution

February 27- Release of draft Gwitch'in Settlement Area Land Use Plan

March 2-6, PAS Workshop, Liidlii Kue (tentative)

March 23-27, Deh Cho Protected Areas Gathering, Fort Simpson

March 31 - April 2, Management of Caribou Calving Grounds Workshop, location tba

April, dates tba - workshop "Land Use Decision Making in the Gwich'in Settlement Area", Inuvik



Let's Hear From You!

The federal and territorial governments have committed to develop a NWT Protected Areas Strategy by the end of 1998. The purpose of the strategy is to provide a framework for the overall development and management of a system of protected areas.

Each issue of "Special Places" provides the latest information on the development of the NWT Protected Areas Strategy and strives to encourage cooperation among those working on the creation of protected areas.

We would like to hear from you. Let us know what you think of protected areas or our newsletter. We welcome submissions, letters to the editor, or suggestions for future editions. Contact us at:

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