



Special Places

NEWS AND VIEWS ON THE NWT PROTECTED AREAS STRATEGY

A SUCCESS! The First Annual NWT Protected Areas Strategy Implementation Forum

The first annual PAS Implementation Forum held in Yellowknife from February 15-16 brought together 70 delegates from across the NWT for a progress report on the Strategy's Action Plan, and an open discussion of issues.

Since the Strategy was approved in September 1999, this was the first time communities, regional organizations, land claim bodies, industry, environment groups and government departments met to follow and evaluate progress on putting the strategy into action. Various government agencies reported on the status of the action plan including:

- The development of resource assessment guidelines
- Third party compensation guidelines
- Landscape unit representation process
- A legislative review study

Delegates were also able to discuss issues involved in identifying and establishing protected areas. They heard first hand from regional organizations and communities which are working to protect areas such as the Horn Plateau in the Deh Cho area and Edacho/Sayoue near the community of Deline in the Sahtu Settlement Area. Finally, the participants broke out into working group sessions to discuss several outstanding issues concerning the implementation of the Protected Areas Strategy. They recommended that a new protected areas advisory committee be established to assist with the implementation of the Protected Areas Strategy.

Thanks to everyone for participating in our first forum. Your ongoing input is invaluable to the success of the NWT Protected Areas Strategy. We look forward to seeing you at next year's forum!

- PAS Secretariat

“They recommended that a new protected areas advisory committee be established to assist with the implementation of the Protected Areas Strategy.”

The Fourth International Conference of Science and the Management of Protected Areas (SAMPAA IV) – Learning From the Past, Looking to the Future

The fourth international SAMPAA conference was held from May 14 to May 19, 2000 at the University of Waterloo, Ontario. The conference addressed a wide range of subject matter (terrestrial and marine) surrounding protected areas management and research bringing together different perspectives from many parts of the world.

There were several broad areas explored throughout the conference including globalization and protected areas, the changing role of ecosystem science in park planning and management, marine protected areas, and ecological integrity.

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Name this SPECIAL PLACE!



Answer on back page

Community Updates....



Sahyoue/Edacho – Protecting the Past, Present and Future of the Sahtu Dene

Deline Drummers at National Historic Site
ceremony for Sahyoue/Edacho
photo: Laura Frank, Parks Canada

Sahyoue/Edacho is the first area to be advanced through the steps of the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS). Currently a National Historic Site, Sahyoue/Edacho are two peninsulas of Great Bear Lake which represent the rich cultural history of the Sahtu Dene and a pristine, nationally significant landscape. The community of Deline wishes to protect the area for both the cultural heritage values it contains, and the land to which this heritage is connected.

Sahyoue/Edacho are ecologically important areas and protection will maintain the ecological integrity and wilderness values that exist within them. The candidate protected area is approximately 5,587 square kilometers (Sahyoue being about 2,925 km² and Edacho about 2,662 km²).

The Process

The community of Deline is seeking to upgrade Sahyoue/Edacho's designation from that of National Historic *Site*, which does not provide legal protection of the land, to National Historic *Park* status, which would provide full surface and subsurface protection for the area. Protection is being sought through the PAS, and through the complimentary processes of the Parks Canada framework and the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

- Deline has moved through Steps 1 and 2 of the PAS by gaining local and regional support for their proposal to protect Sahyoue/Edacho.
- The community is now in the process of applying to the Department of Canadian Heritage to accept Sahyoue/Edacho as a candidate protected area (Step 3 of the PAS).
- Upon acceptance, Canadian Heritage would then apply to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for an interim withdrawal of the land for a period of five years (Step 4 of the PAS).
- Interim protection is an important step in the process of establishing new protected areas. It prevents the occurrence of any new third party interests, and protects the

cultural values and ecological integrity of the candidate area while further ecological, cultural and economic evaluations take place.

- A working group will be set up to determine the direction, budgets and training to complete the evaluations (Step 5 of the PAS).
- Once evaluations are completed, the community will seek formal establishment and co-management arrangements for Sahyoue/Edacho National Historic Park (Steps 6 and 7 of the PAS).

Parks Canada and the Deline Band Council are also working to develop a Conservation and Presentation Plan (CPP) for the current Sahyoue/Edacho National Historic Site. The plan will review how the cultural values can be protected, options for managing the land, and funding levels required to implement the options. The CPP will also contribute to the work of the Sahyoue/Edacho PAS working group.

Through the Sahtu Dene and Metis land claim, the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group was established to make recommendations concerning Sahtu heritage sites, including Sahyoue/Edacho. The Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group has completed its work and has recommended full surface and subsurface protection for Sahyoue/Edacho.

-Raymond Taniton, Project Coordinator

Further Information:

For further information on the proposed National Historic Park, please contact Raymond Taniton, Project Coordinator, (867) 589-3618.

As well, a brochure describing Sahyoue/Edacho is available from:

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society,
Northwest Territories Chapter
4903-47th Street
Box 1934, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P4
Tel: (867) 873-9893 Fax: (867) 873-9593

Gwich'in Regional Protected Areas Strategy Process

The Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) is leading the process in the Gwich'in Settlement Area to advance the PAS. The GTC is working closely with representatives from Gwich'in co-management boards and government to use the PAS for protecting land in the Settlement Area. Over the next six months, the GTC will be dedicating a staff member to advance the strategy.



Nagwichoonjik National Historic Site in the Gwich'in Settlement Area

photo: Yellowknife Catholic Diocese Archives

Heart Lake

Heart Lake is a potential protected area site, located 18 km southwest of Great Slave Lake, and about 45 kilometres southeast of Kakisa along the Mackenzie Highway. Heart Lake has a strong history of scientific study by the University of Alberta.

Chief Lloyd Chicot of the Ka'A'Gee Tu First Nation outlined his interest in Heart Lake as a site for a youth learning centre to link both traditional knowledge from elders and western scientific knowledge. Currently, the community leads summer camps on the land around Kakisa for youth to become aware of their history and relationship to the land.

Following several meetings with WWF and local community discussions, in March 2000, Chief Chicot gave his approval for advancement of the concept of a Heart Lake protected area. WWF completed a proposal focusing on how the Heart Lake Area meets the goals of the Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) and meets the Ka'A'Gee Tu First Nation's needs and interests in a site for a youth field camp for traditional knowledge and science learning.

Heart Lake has some very unique characteristics, which would make it a good candidate as a protected area using the NWT – PAS:

- Heart Lake is a site of rich habitat and species diversity within a relatively small watershed area.

Through the summer, a series of workshops will be held in Gwich'in communities to get their input on advancing the PAS. The GTC wants to develop a regional strategy for implementing the PAS that is specifically focused on the needs of the Settlement Area. Having communities describe how they want their land to be protected is the first step in developing the regional strategy. Based on community input, the GTC will look at what tools can be used, or what tools can be created, to provide the type of protection that communities want in their area.

Communities have already identified some important areas they may want to see protected. The GTC is going to look closely at what is known about those areas and what work still needs to be done. Communities will also be asked if there are other important areas to consider. The GTC will identify priority areas for protection and have a regional implementation strategy for the PAS completed by November.

- *Lillith Brook – Protected Areas Coordinator, Gwich'in Tribal Council*

- The combination of various wetland types and the escarpment features of the site support 316 plant, 136 moss and 85 lichen species, some of which are rare for the District of Mackenzie.

The Heart Lake area of interest is relatively small and therefore it would be difficult to maintain its ecological integrity and the landscape features if subsurface activity such as mineral exploration and oil and gas development were allowed on the site.

This proposal is being reviewed by the Ka'A'Gee Tu First Nation for a decision on further advancing the Heart Lake site through the PAS planning steps. This decision could lead to the following actions:

- A community discussion on a *preliminary* "draft boundary" for the area;
- Access to additional funding to enable the Ka'A'Gee Tu First Nation to consult with other communities whose Traditional Land Use overlaps the area chosen;
- A presentation to the Deh Cho First Nations to gain regional support to pursue the establishment of protection for the Heart Lake area.

The Ka'A'Gee Tu First Nation also wants to ensure that the establishment of a Protected Area for Heart Lake will not hinder the Deh Cho process nor threaten aspirations of Dene self-government and Aboriginal title.

- *Bill Carpenter, WWF*

Having communities describe how they want their land to be protected is the first step in developing the regional strategy for the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Working Together to Protect the South Nahanni Watershed

On March 20th and 21st, 2000, community members from Nahanni Butte met with representatives from Parks Canada, Deh Cho First Nations, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society (CPAWS) - NWT. The main purpose of the workshop was to explore available options for protecting the South Nahanni Watershed, specifically through the Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy and the Deh Cho process.

Option 1 – The Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy

On the first day, Bill Carpenter of the World Wildlife Fund led participants through the steps of the Protected Areas Strategy process, as one of the options for protecting the South Nahanni Watershed. The World Wildlife Fund and CPAWS, share common goals with the community to protect the land. People spoke about how important it is to protect areas.

Option 2 – The Deh Cho Process

Another option for protection is through the Deh Cho Process. Nahanni National Park Reserve Superintendent, Chuck Blyth, noted that in the Deh Cho First Nations (DCFN) interim agreement, there is a new clause on land withdrawal that allows the DCFN to withdraw land without stating for what purpose in order to keep options open for DCFN and Canada, and not to prejudice negotiations. He suggested one option to protect the South Nahanni Watershed is to withdraw the land through the Deh Cho process and then go to Step Five of the PAS.

Herb Norwegian, representing DCFN, also explained that they are pursuing co-management of the Nahanni National Park Reserve in negotiations with Canada. In the DCFN interim agreement, the DCFN proposed the negotiation of an interim co-management arrangement between the DCFN and Parks Canada for the Nahanni National Park Reserve. The federal government's response was positive, and the DCFN is committed to move the item forward within the Deh Cho Process.

What we heard from the community

Chief Peter Marcellais, Nahanni Butte Dene Band, stated that the community would like to have the whole South Nahanni watershed protected. Elders Jonas and Elsie Marcellais also spoke about the need to protect the water that goes south to the South Nahanni River. There are sacred places in the mountains that need protection, and there are many places people use through out the year. Local people know all the areas with cabins and trap-lines, and what areas are special. They want to protect the areas for future generations.

Participants felt that the Protected Areas Strategy would play a role further down the road, once negotiations for a land withdrawal has occurred through the Deh Cho Process.

Next Steps

Elders and council members will be passing a band council resolution to protect the South Nahanni Watershed, and will also pass along the information discussed at the workshop, and the next steps, to the other members of the community.

Chief Peter Marcellais asked that traditional place names be used for the area. These traditional place names, and the background stories and legends are important when traveling on the land, and valuable for passing along the traditional oral history to future generations. The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society will assist the band in securing funding to carry out such a project.

Together, Nahanni Butte First Nations, Deh Cho First Nations, and Parks Canada will work on completing the Nahanni Park Management Plan through the creation of a co-management team, and the Nahanni Butte First Nation and Deh Cho First Nations will continue to work towards an Interim Land Withdrawal through the Deh Cho Process. Together, we are moving towards safeguarding the South Nahanni Watershed for future generations to enjoy.

- *Stephanie Sibbeston, CPAWS*



What's Up with the Protected Areas Strategy?

Background Study on Compensation Guidelines

“What happens if a third party such as a mining company has to leave an area because it’s been made into a protected area?”

The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development for mineral rights holders commissioned a background study on compensation guidelines. The Protected Areas Strategy commits to developing standardized guidelines that clearly define when and how compensation should be provided to third party interests facing expropriation due to the creation or modification of a protected area. In addition to providing background information on the legal framework for compensation, the study outlines:

- options for valuing mineral properties
- alternatives for payment of compensation
- recommendations on implementation.

Options for valuing mineral properties

Determining the value of mineral properties is very difficult, particularly when the property is in the exploration phase and the potential value of the claim is unknown. The study reviews two different approaches to valuing properties for the purpose of compensation:

- Cost-based approach - the mineral rights holder is compensated for out of pocket expenses only.
- Market approaches - the property is assessed based on market values, which can be estimated in a number of ways.

Options for compensation payment

Compensation payment does not necessarily have to be in the form of a cash payment. Other options are discussed by the study’s authors, such as tax

credits, replacing lost mineral rights with mineral rights in another area and waiver of fees. The appropriate mode of compensation payment will vary depending on the circumstances of each case.

Implementation issues

The implementation issues that are discussed in the study include: notification, compensation triggers, independent valuation and the use of negotiation and arbitration. The study authors outline that the primary use of compensation guidelines is to initially act as a basis for a mutually acceptable negotiated settlement. The study reviews the BC Mining Rights Compensation Regulations which involves the following process:

1. Initially government and the mineral rights holder meet and discuss compensation and try to agree on a settlement.
2. If the parties fail to reach agreement, an independent valuator from a roster of four designated valutors is asked for an opinion.
3. If the parties fail to reach agreement, the arbitration process is initiated. Arbitration is binding and the cost of arbitration is borne by the unsuccessful party.

Next steps

Once the final report is received from the consultants, DIAND will work with the GNWT, regional Aboriginal organizations, industry and non-governmental organizations to draft compensation guidelines. Other third party interests such as timber, oil and gas will also need to be considered in the development of these guidelines.

*-Angela Stadel, Protected Areas Advisor,
DIAND*

“What happens if a third party such as a mining company has to leave an area because it’s been made into a protected area?”



Catalogue of Ecoregion/Landscape Unit Maps for the Northwest Territories

A catalogue of ecoregion/landscape unit maps for the Northwest Territories is now available. The maps show the number and location of landscape units within each ecoregion. They are ordered by ecoregion number with a description of the landscape unit codes following each map. The index map at the front of the catalogue gives an overview of where the ecoregions are located within the NWT and lists the ecoregion names and numbers.

The NWT is made up of 42 diverse *ecoregions*, which together contain nearly 300 different *landscape units*.

Ecoregions are part of a national land classification system based on geographically distinct areas of geology, landforms, soils, climate, wildlife, water and human factors. For instance,

Landscape units are smaller areas within ecoregions that are made up of similar soil and surface forms. Unlike plants and animals that can be disturbed by human or natural changes, landscape units endure over many years. They are therefore suited for use in the planning and management of protected areas over the long term.

Landscape units are considered the building blocks of biological diversity. The more different landscape units in an ecoregion, the more diverse are its plants, habitats and wildlife.

Maintaining biological diversity is the main focus of an ecological approach to protected areas planning. The underlying principle is that this can best be achieved by protecting representative samples of landscape units within each ecoregion. One of the goals of the NWT Protected Areas Strategy is to protect representative areas within each ecoregion of the Northwest Territories.

For a copy of this catalogue, please contact:

NWT Protected Areas Secretariat
Heidi Heder, Coordinator
c/o Parks and Tourism Division
Department of Resources, Wildlife,
and Economic Development, GNWT
Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9
Phone: (867) 920-3179
email: heidi_heder@gov.nt.ca

- Evelyn Gah, GIS Analyst, RWED

Environmental Non-Government Organizations and the Protected Areas Strategy

New Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society-NWT Office in Fort Simpson, NWT

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) and World Wildlife Fund Canada, recently received a two year grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts to help establish protected areas in the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories. Thanks to this funding, the CPAWS - NWT Chapter has hired staff from Fort Simpson to set up a resource centre in the **Líidli Kue** First Nation Band Office, and work with communities on the establishment of protected areas in the Deh Cho region.

The Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society is a non-profit, nation-wide conservation organization with 10 community-based, grassroots chapters across Canada. The main mission of CPAWS - NWT is to build awareness and understanding about conservation, and support efforts of Deh Cho communities for long-term protection of local ecoregions. CPAWS-NWT works closely with other organizations, governments, First Nations, communities, and industry to protect Canada's wilderness and natural areas.

Stephanie Sibbeston is the Protected Areas Coordinator for the Deh Cho. Her main responsibilities include ongoing contact with communities, and working with First Nations interested in preparing proposals for protected areas. Stephanie will be helping to plan and organize workshops involved in the Protected Areas Strategy (PAS). Stephanie is also the environmental non-government organization (ENGO) representative for the Ecological Integrity Statement (EIS) Committee for Nahanni National Park Reserve.

Heather Passmore is the Outreach Coordinator for the Deh Cho. Heather's main responsibilities include the development of educational material on protected areas and habitat conservation, for use by communities in the Deh Cho region. She will also be helping to plan and organize workshops involved in the Protected Areas Strategy (PAS).

- Heather Passmore, CPAWS

For additional information please contact:

CPAWS-NWT, Deh Cho Protected Areas Project, P.O. Box 618 Fort Simpson, NT X0E 0N0
Office Phone: (867) 695-3131 Office Fax: (867) 695-2665 Email: cpawsimp@cancom.net

WWF EXPANDS ARCTIC PROGRAM!

World Wildlife Fund Canada's new 2000-2005 ARCTIC PROGRAM will be launched on July 1st, 2000. The Arctic Program will work on preserving healthy habitat for Arctic wildlife, creating new protected areas, developing species management and recovery plans, and pollution reduction.

Dr. Pete Ewins heads up the new program, which covers Canada's three territories with regional offices located in Iqaluit, Yellowknife and Whitehorse. Bill Carpenter will continue to coordinate the WWF work in the Northwest Territories.

The first year will focus on building broader and stronger partnerships in the North, increasing WWF's profile through its offices and staff, and making greater use of program advisors in the Arctic. Our technical and financial support will be targeted at areas where we believe the greatest conservation gains can be made.

Our projects will continue to be delivered through local communities, blending traditional knowledge and scientific approaches. As ecosystems face ever-greater development pressures, we will work with partners to greatly improve the accessibility and mapping of ecological and geophysical data. This work will help with resource use planning and management decisions.

Our five-year Arctic program covers four of WWF's Global 200 Ecoregions, and encompasses significant work on five of WWF's six global priority campaigns: Marine; Forests; Freshwater; Toxics; and Climate Change.

Through the NWT Protected Areas Strategy, WWF will continue to work with Aboriginal communities and other PAS partners for the protection of specific sites. We will continue to fund and provide technical support to on-going work in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, the Sahtu, and the Deh Cho Regions. Major support will also be offered to Lutsel K'e to initiate protected area initiatives in the ecoregions located above the tree line in the Akaitcho territory.

Future work includes promoting and distributing the circum-arctic review of wild species use and management. As well, WWF will work with Aboriginal organizations in the lower Mackenzie valley on a project demonstrating the value of sustainable harvesting in safeguarding natural habitats in the face of increasing oil and gas development.

- *Bill Carpenter, CPAWS*

WWF Canada has been active in the Arctic for more than 25 years. Some of our work includes:

- initiating and supporting conservation projects on key wildlife species;
- advancing protected areas in the Yukon and Northwest Territories;
- working through communities and blending scientific and traditional knowledge approaches;
- participating in WWF International's eight-nation team and highlighting the global significance of Canada's Arctic regions; &
- chairing WWF International.

Additional information is available from Pete Ewins at 416-489-4567 local 286; email: ewins@wwfcanada.org or Bill Carpenter at 867-920-7999; email: wwfnt@internorth.com
Internet site: www.wwfcanada.org

We will continue to fund and provide technical support to on-going work in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, the Sahtu, and the Deh Cho Regions.

New Protected Areas Advisor

The Protected Areas Secretariat is pleased to welcome Angela Stadel as the new Protected Areas Strategy Advisor with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. She will be replacing Bert Spek. Bert has accepted a position with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans working on Marine Protected Areas.

Angela most recently worked with the Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks Department. She also has previous experience working with the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada as an Environmental Researcher. Angela received her Masters in Regional Planning from the University of Waterloo in 1995 and worked with the Mushkegowuk Tribal

Council in Moose Factory, Ontario on a community-based management strategy for migratory birds.

Angela is looking forward to working closely with her territorial counterpart on the Secretariat, Heidi Heder, and with the communities and organizations involved in advancing protected area candidate sites.

Good-bye Bert! Thanks for all your hard work in developing and implementing the Protected Areas Strategy.

- *PAS Secretariat*

Community Open Houses: Minerals and PAS

In March, community information sessions were held in Norman Wells, Fort Good Hope and Tulita, as well as in Aklavik, in conjunction with the Regional Science Fair at Moose Kerr School.

INAC (DIAND) and RWED geologists, Donna Schreiner and Diane Baldwin presented a talk, slide show, and exhibit of minerals, rock samples, maps, posters and pamphlets. They discussed the importance of conducting thorough research on the mineral potential of a proposed protected area before a decision is made to establish it. Mineral resources and potential future economic development need to be evaluated early in the process.

The presenters explained fieldwork and research methods used to understand the geology of a region through open houses and a slide show about the Stages of Exploration. As well, they explained the type of work that needs to be done before a resource assessment can be started.



Science Fair in Aklavik
photo: Diane Baldwin, RWED

There was a good turn out of people and a cross section of the population from youth, students, adults and elders. Several individuals expressed a need for a prospecting course. Some asked for more information and maps, and were happy to learn that there were district geologists who could provide data and assistance to them. Most were quite interested in the "Mineral Occurrence Database" called NORMIN.DB but some have limited access to the internet within the communities. They were also made aware of the types of data and resources that are available to the general public.

- *Donna Schreiner (DIAND) & Diane Baldwin (RWED)*

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE PROTECTED AREAS STRATEGY

Q. What is the Protected Area Strategy?

A. The NWT Protected Area Strategy (PAS) is a guide for creating a system of protected areas throughout the Northwest Territories. It provides communities with a tool they can use to identify and establish protected areas to protect their special natural and cultural places.

Q. Why do we need a Protected Area Strategy in the NWT?

A. The PAS seeks to preserve our wilderness, landscapes and natural / historical / cultural features for future generations. Although the NWT still has vast wilderness where nature is largely undisturbed, it is not immune from change from such forces as Global Warming, or from the effects of pollution and loss of habitat. One of the goals of the PAS is to set aside areas in each of the 42 ecoregions that make up the NWT. This way we can keep forever a sample of each landscape with its unique set of plants, animals and physical characteristics.

The PAS gives us the opportunity to set aside the very best areas for protecting nature and culture, before further development such as oil and gas activity, happens up here.

The PAS also provides a context for specific action items and commitments to facilitate the establishment 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:

Protected Areas
Secretariat

Government of the
Northwest Territories

Department of Resources,
Wildlife and Economic
Development

Parks and Tourism
Division

Box 1320, Yellowknife,
NT X1A 2L9

Email:
heidi_heder@gov.nt.ca

Website:
www.gov.nt.ca/RWED/pas

Tel: 867-920-3179
Fax: 867-873-0163

**ANSWER TO
TRIVIA FROM
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