

The laws of the Dene, which have been passed down to us by our elders, teach us how to respect the land, ourselves, and each other. They teach us how to live in balance and good health, and how to protect ourselves and our children. We must continue to live by these laws and pass them on to our children.

We respect and care for each other, in particular, we honour and provide for our elders, who care for us and passed on gifts of generations past. We also honour and provide for our children who will pass on the ways of the Dene to generations yet to come.

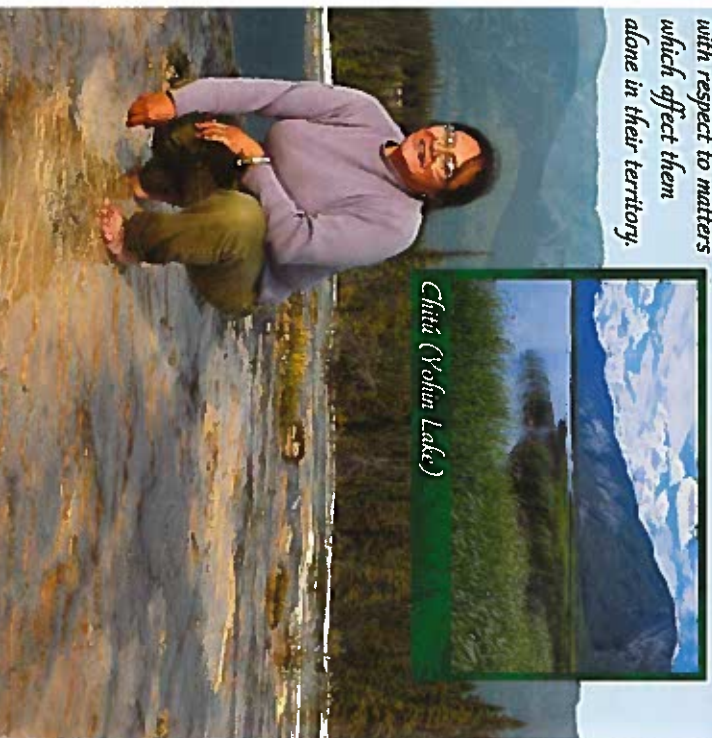
We come from male and female, and we respect and honour the contributions which both men and women make working together for the survival of the people.

We respect and honour our leaders and medicine men and women who share their special skills, experiences, wisdom, and powers for the benefit of our people. We don't expect them to work for us or serve us, but we look to them for guidance and instruction to help us govern ourselves in a good way.

Everyone has the right to be heard and to take part in the decision-making process on discussion of matters which will affect us.

We respect the right of Dene, in family groups, in communities, or in regions, to make decisions, without interference from outside, with respect to matters which affect them alone in their territory.

Chita (Yohin Lake)



Children of Nahanni Butte at Natficho (Virginia Falls)

Emergencies

First aid supplies, park radios, Personal Locator Beacons and food are stored in each Nahanni National Park Reserve cabin. You will have to break-in to access this equipment. Breaking into a cabin is only permitted in an emergency situation. All cabins are on river right.

Duty Warden Phone

(867) 695-3732

24 hours, June 15-September 15

Nahanni National Park Reserve Office

(867) 695-3151

September 16-June 14, Monday-Friday 08:30-17:00

June 15-September 15, 7 days/week 08:30-17:00

R.C.M.P. (Fort Simpson)

(867) 695-1111

Nahanni Butte Dene Band

(867) 602-2900

Nahᑲa Dehé is the traditional territory of the people of Nahanni Butte. These Traditional Harvesting Protocols were written down to communicate with all traditional harvesters the importance of caring for and respecting the land.

Nahᑲa Dehé K'íéátlíí

Taking Care of Nahᑲa Dehé



Nahᑲa Dehé Traditional Harvesting Protocols

Nahᑲa Dehé K'íéátlíí Taking Care of Nahᑲa Dehé



Dene Principles

This land was created by "the one who provides for all," and we came from this land. We recognize our equality with this land and all living things.

We recognize and respect the natural laws, which regulate the cycles and seasons, the rhythms of the earth, the way of the animals.

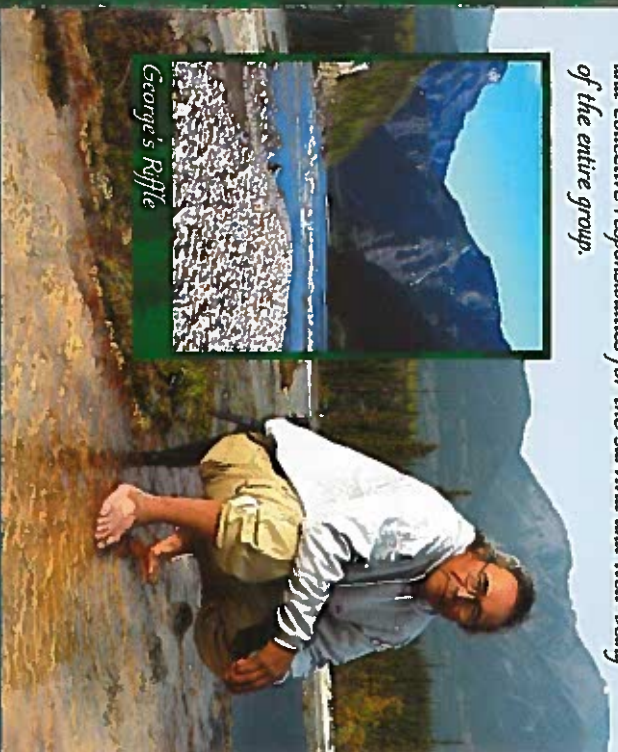
No one individual has the right to own the land. As the ones who came from this land, we have a collective right to use the land and its resources to ensure our survival as a people. We also have a collective responsibility to protect the land and resources for our children and grandchildren.

We take only what we need from the land. We honour and give thanks to the spirit of the land and that which we take from the land. We do not waste anything that we take from the land, but share it with who all are in need.

The survival of the whole group (family, community) is more important than the accumulation of individual wealth or status. Individual rights and freedoms are respected and encouraged within the larger, more important context of a collective identity and collective responsibilities for the survival and well-being of the entire group.



George's Riffle



Nahé Nahodhé is who we are and where we came from...

Nahʔa Dehé Traditional Harvesting Protocols

Nahanni Butte Dene Band encourages all traditional harvesters to follow these protocols out of respect for the land and the community of Nahanni Butte.

The tradition of feeding the fire, water and land will be continued by traditional users. Traditional Land Use will be practised in a manner that allows the next person the opportunity to experience the site in the same way.

Hunting, Trapping and Fishing

Hunting and fishing will be for Dehcho First Nations members only. There are special exceptions for Yohin Lake in regards to fishing. Contact Nahanni Butte Dene Band for information.

Traditional land users will call the Nahanni Butte Band Office ahead of time to advise of planned trips in order to manage river traffic. Check in/check out with the Nahanni Butte Band Office out of respect for the community and for safety purposes.

A Nahanni Butte community member will, if possible, travel with the traditional land user for safety reasons, to have someone traveling with them who is knowledgeable about the South Nahanni River. Meat will not be wasted and animal hides will be brought out.

Hunters will continue the tradition of placing unuseable parts of fish and river animals in the river and other animals dispersed on the

land out of sight. Unuseable sheep parts will be buried under rocks. In winter, animal parts will be hung in trees. If willow branches are used as a surface area to skin and clean an animal, these will also be cleaned up.

Hunting will not be allowed if it is for commercial purposes. However, secondary products from hunting may be sold such as moose hide made into slippers.

Hunters will talk to individual trap-line holders for permission to hunt within their trap-line area.

Before establishing any new trap lines permission must be granted by the Nahanni Butte Dene Band.

Traditional users will report to the Nahanni Butte Dene Band office on how many animals they have hunted or trapped.

If a traditional land user will be returning to their campsite soon, equipment may be left, as long as it cannot be seen from the river.

Do not throw any garbage in the water. All garbage will be brought out.

Make sure that all fires are out before leaving camp.

Harvesting of Medicinal / Ceremonial plants

The land or water will be paid back for what has been removed.

Medicinal plants can be harvested for personal use but not for commercial gain.

Trees may be harvested for personal use and survival, or educational purposes but not for commercial gain.

Temporary structures at spiritual sites will be allowed for educational purposes. They must not be visible from the river.

Use of motorized boats and vehicles

Only Dehcho First Nations members will be allowed to use motorized boats and snowmobiles for traditional land use purposes. They will check in/out with Nahanni Butte Dene Band and state the purpose of their trip.

For safety reasons, Nahanni Butte will keep track of the number of boats going up the South Nahanni River.

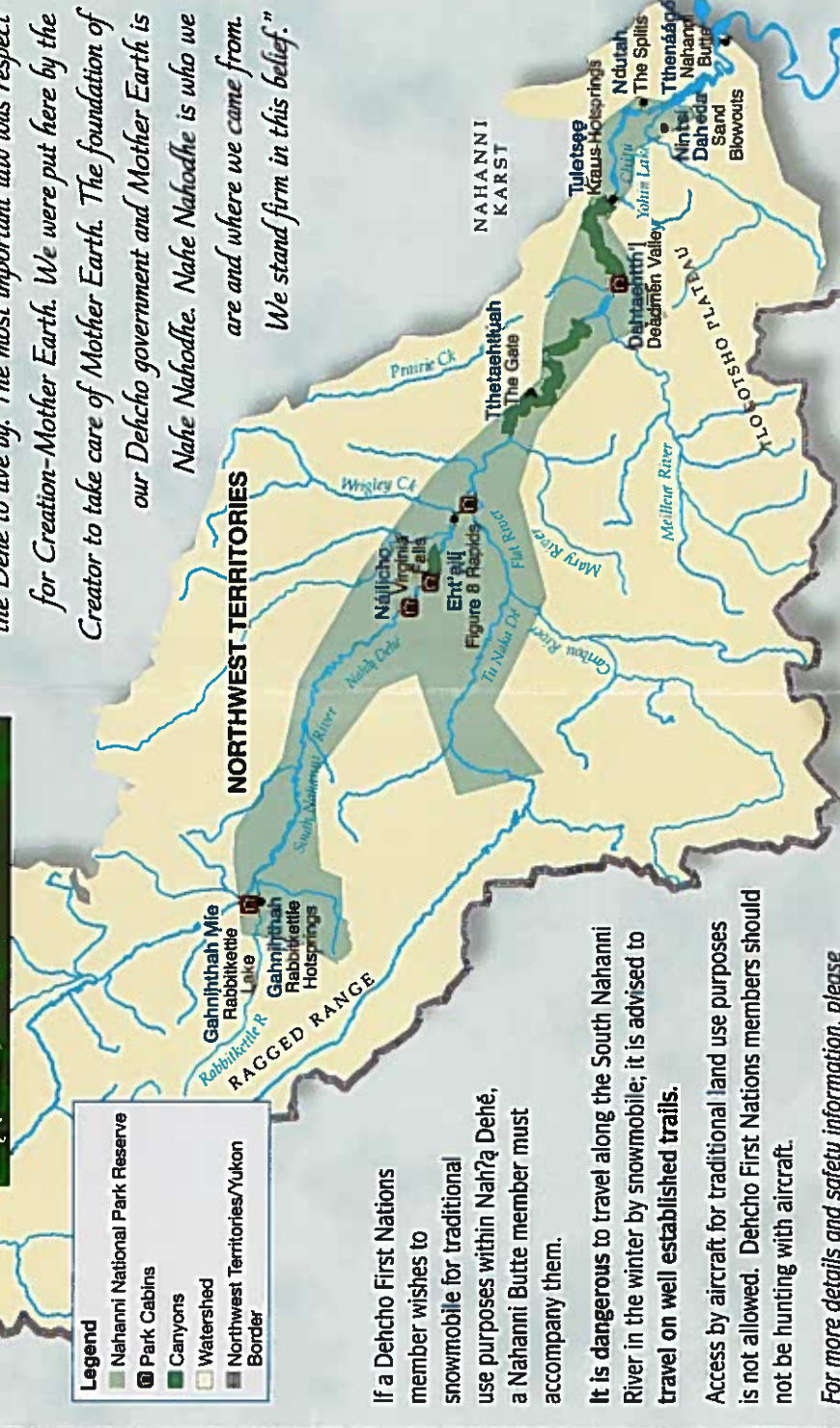


Golg (Moose)

"Yamba Deja came to the homeland of the Dehcho Dene with laws from the Creator. These laws were given to the Dene to live by. The most important law was respect for Creation-Mother Earth. We were put here by the Creator to take care of Mother Earth. The foundation of our Dehcho government and Mother Earth is Nahé Nahodhé. Nahé Nahodhé is who we are and where we came from. We stand firm in this belief."

Legend

- Nahanni National Park Reserve
- Park Cabins
- Canyons
- Watershed
- Northwest Territories/Yukon
- Border



If a Dehcho First Nations member wishes to use a snowmobile for traditional purposes within Nahʔa Dehé, a Nahanni Butte member must accompany them.

It is dangerous to travel along the South Nahanni River in the winter by snowmobile; it is advised to travel on well established trails.

Access by aircraft for traditional land use purposes is not allowed. Dehcho First Nations members should not be hunting with aircraft.

For more details and safety information, please contact the Nahanni Butte Dene Band office.



Elsie Marcellus working on moose hide.