



DEVELOPMENT TITLE: *Outfitter Guided Trips in Nahanni and Nááts'jch'oh National Park Reserves*

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT DATE(S): June 1st – September 30th, 2024

DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION:

Many visitors accessing Nahanni National Park Reserve (Nahanni) and Nááts'jch'oh National Park Reserve (Nááts'jch'oh) do so as clients of commercial outfitting companies. Guided trips typically begin at earliest the first week of June (more often, the second to third week of June) and, on average, run until the first week of September. They range anywhere from one to three weeks in length and include river tripping and hiking as primary activities. Each guided trip includes a maximum of 15 people (including guides). Commercial river outfitters must obtain Parks Canada business licenses to operate in the parks.

The Guidelines for Licensing of Guided River Outfitting in Nahanni and Nááts'jch'oh National Park Reserves outline the considerations for safety and sustainability, set quotas for visitation and limit the number of licences Parks Canada issues in Nahanni National Park Reserve. As per the licensing guidelines and in accordance with the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)*, the activities of commercial outfitting companies must undergo preliminary screening before their licences can be issued. This preliminary screening applies to the following commercial outfitting companies, which have indicated that they will be applying for their annual business licence renewal, and includes the listed activities/locations:

Companies

- Black Feather Wilderness Adventure Company
- Canoe North Adventures
- Nahanni Wilderness Adventures

Activities

- *Water-based:* canoeing, rafting, kayaking, stand up paddle board, and packrafting (packrafting only on the Broken Skull, Little and South Nahanni, and Flat rivers)
- *Land-based:* camping, day hiking, backpacking (overnight camping), and base camping (only by the above companies who are licenced for base camping at Níonep'ene? Tué and for no longer than 14 days)



Locations (see map, Appendix 1)

WATER-BASED ACTIVITY START LOCATIONS	
Qtaa Tué Fehto (Divide Lake), Nááts'jch'oh	Access to Píj'p'enéh léetóq Deé (Broken Skull River) which travels through both parks and for Tátsók'áá Deé (Raven's Throat River) (river outside of the park; outfitters may heli-sling over)
Nááts'jch'oh Tué (Moose Ponds), Nááts'jch'oh	Access to headwaters of South Nahanni River, which travels through both parks
Túoch'ee Tué (O'Grady Lake), Nááts'jch'oh	Access for the Túoch'ee Deé (Natla River) (most of the river is outside of the park – there is a small portion in the park, connecting two parts of Túoch'ee Tué (O'Grady Lake), but most groups put in downstream of this connector section)
Island Lakes, Nahanni	Access for the South Nahanni River
Bunny Bar, Nahanni	
Gahnjthah Mje, Nahanni	
Nájljcho, Nahanni	
Flat Lakes, NT	Access to Little Nahanni River, which travels through both parks
Divide Lake, NT (<i>Note: near Flat Lakes; this is a different location than the Divide Lake in Nááts'jch'oh</i>)	Access to Flat River which begins outside Nahanni park boundary in NT and travels into Nahanni National Park Reserve joining up with South Nahanni River below Nájljcho.

WATER-BASED ACTIVITY END LOCATIONS	
Gahnjthah Mje, Nahanni	Blackstone Territorial Park, NT
Nájljcho, Nahanni	Łíídlj Kúé, NT
Nahanni Butte, NT	Tulita, NT
Lindberg's Landing, NT	

WATER-BASED ACTIVITY CAMP LOCATIONS	
<i>Nahanni</i>	
Nájljcho	Gahnjthah Mje
Glacier Lake	
Random camp locations along the Broken Skull, Little and South Nahanni, and Flat river corridors	
<i>Nááts'jch'oh</i>	
Qtaa Tué Fehto (Divide Lake)	Nááts'jch'oh Tué (Moose Ponds) (on old tundra tire strip)
Níonep'ene? Tué (Backbone Lake/Grizzly Bear Lake)	Túoch'ee Tué (O'Grady Lake) (on sand peninsula)
Random camp locations. Most frequently used: Creek junction above Swallow Falls; Creek junction of creek flowing from Sadéé Shúh Gaofáá (Grizzly Bear Hot Springs) and Broken Skull River; Broken Skull Hot Springs, access campsite; Three Valley Confluence (White Wolf Creek, Rainbow Creek and Broken Skull River)	



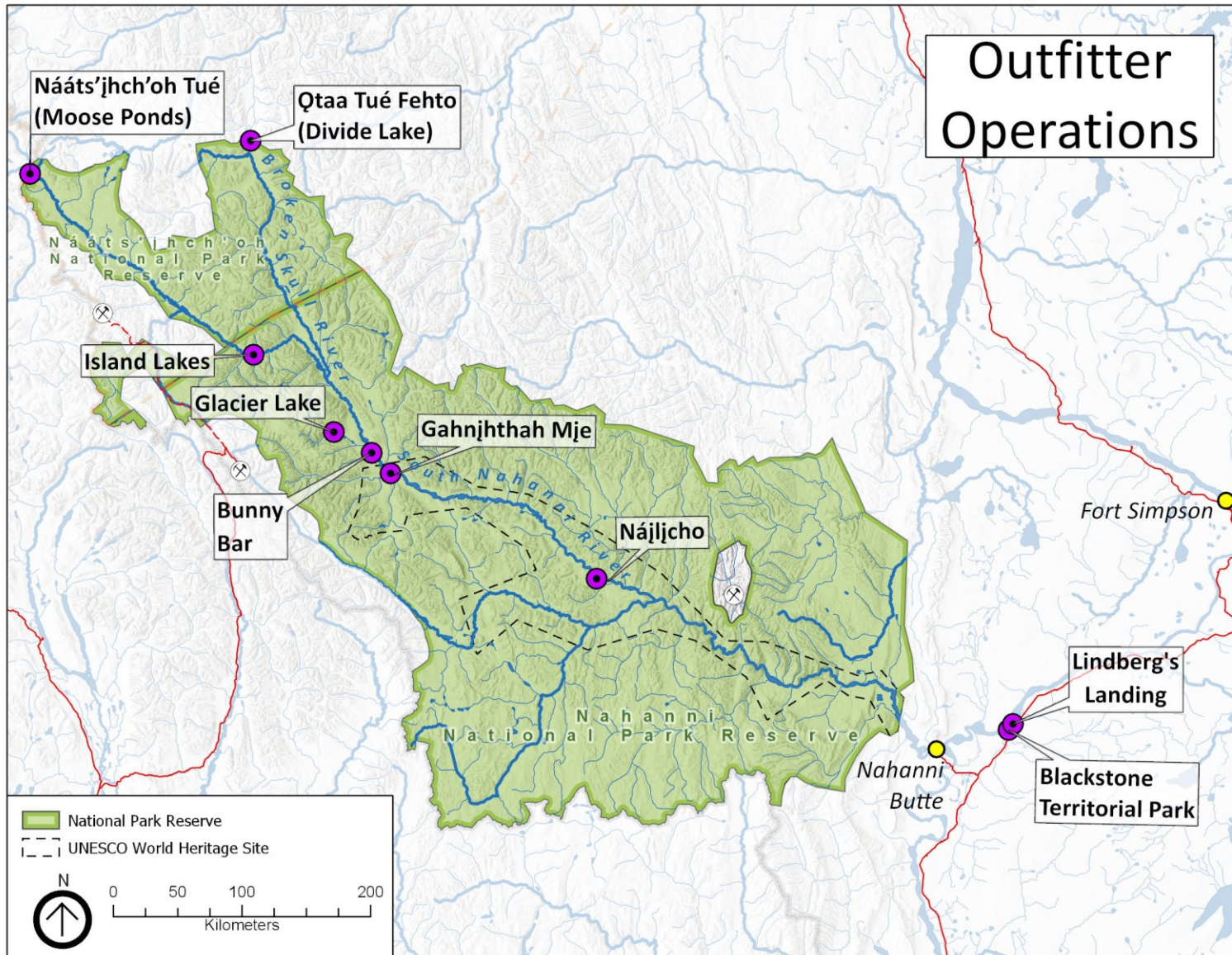
HIKING / BACKPACKING ROUTES (Note: all are backcountry/non-maintained routes)	
<i>Nahanni</i>	
South Nahanni River to Glacier Lake (multi-night)	Glacier Lake to Fairy Meadows (multi-night)
Gahnjthah Mje to Gahnjthah Tufa Mounds (day)	Gahnjthah Portage and Campground (day)
Sunblood Mountain (day)	Marengo Creek (day)
Pulpit Rock and Gate Viewpoint (day)	Painted Canyon (day)
Scow Creek (day)	Lafferty's Creek (day)
Other exploratory day hike routes along river corridors	Ram Plateau (rarely)
<i>Nááts'jch'oh</i>	
Tuededéveh Tué (Clearwater Lake) / Sedzeeféetó Piehtéh (Broken Heart Plateau) (multi-night)	Níonep'eneᑭ Tué (Backbone Lake/Grizzly Bear Lake) (multi-night or day hikes)
Níonep'eneᑭ Tué (Backbone Lake/Grizzly Bear Lake) to Sadée Shúh Gaofáá (Grizzly Bear Hot Spring) (day)	Píj'p'enéh íéetóq Deé (Broken Skull River) to Píj'p'enéh íéetóq Gaᑭfáá (Broken Skull Hot Springs) (day)

Mitigations

Outfitters will follow a leave-no-trace camping/wilderness use ethic and will adhere to the mitigations described in the *Parks Canada Best Management Practice for Commercially Guided Eco-tourism Activities in Nahanni and Nááts'jch'oh National Park Reserves of Canada*.



Appendix 1





Appendix 2 - Distribution List

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board	preliminaryscreening@reviewboard.ca
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board	jpotten@mvlwb.com; tyree@mvlwb.com
Grand Chief Herb Norwegian Dehcho First Nations	herb_norwegian@dehcho.org
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Chief Melanie Norwegian Menacho Tthets'éhk'edélí First Nation	chief@jmrfn.com
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Chief Michael Vandell Deh Gáh Got'ıę First Nation	chief@dehgahgotie.ca
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Chief Lloyd Moses Pehdzeh Ki First Nation	info@pkfn.ca chief@pkfn.ca
Chief Kenneth Cayen West Point First Nation	chief@wpfn.ca
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Nahanni Wilderness Adventures	adventures@nahanniwild.com
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