

Parks Canada
PO Box 1166
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Yellowknife, NT
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January 21, 2022

Re: Notification of Commencement of Preliminary Screening of Guide Outfitter Operations

To: Distribution List (including Review Board)

Parks Canada will be conducting a preliminary screening of operations associated with commercial guides, outfitters, and tour operator companies applying for a business licence reissuance in Thaidene National Park Reserve. As per the requirements of the *Mackenzie Valley Resources Management Act*, Parks Canada must determine any public concern, or adverse environmental, social or cultural impacts before issuing/reissuing a business licence in a national park.

Attached is a description of proposed guide outfitter operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve for the 2022/2023 season. If you have any comments on this proposal, please submit them to me by **February 14, 2022**.

Thank you. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Danielle Thompson

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DEVELOPMENT TITLE: Guide Outfitter Operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT DATE(S): April 01, 2022 - March 31, 2023

DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION:

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve is located on the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories. The park reserve is a component of Thaidene Nënë Indigenous Protected Area (IPA), which also includes a Territorial Protected Area and a Wildlife Conservation Area (see map). Visitors can access Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve independently, or as a client of commercial guides, outfitters, lodges, and tour operator companies. Companies that wish to do business in a national park require one or more business licences depending on their operations¹. Parks Canada conducts preliminary screenings before issuing/reissuing business licences to determine any public concern, or adverse environmental, social or cultural impacts as per the requirements of the *Mackenzie Valley Resources Management Act*.

Guide outfitter operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve occur throughout the year, with most operations occurring between late June until September when Great Slave Lake is ice-free and air temperatures are warm. Guided trips range in length from single-day sightseeing tours to multi-day fishing excursions, lodge experiences, cultural tours or paddling tours. This preliminary screening pertains to proposed guide outfitter operations by companies applying for a 2022/2023 business licence reissuance for Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve.

Guide outfitter operations include the activities and potential impacts associated with recreating visitors, ecological research, and park management while being accompanied by commercial guides, outfitters and tour operator companies. The following activities and locations are being proposed by the eco-tourism companies listed below, including up to five additional companies that may propose similar guide outfitter operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve after this preliminary screening has been completed:

Eco-tourism companies

- Chase East Arm Adventures
- East Arm Pop Up Camp
- Frontier Lodge
- Great Slave Lake Tours
- Hoarfrost River Huskies Ltd.
- Jackpine Paddle
- River's East Arm Tours
- Trophy Lodge

Activities

- Sightseeing tours
- Cultural tours

¹ National Parks of Canada Businesses Regulations, s. 4(1).



- Boat charters
- Sport fishing
- Canoeing
- Kayaking
- Overnight accommodation/camping
- Hiking
- Dog sledding

Locations

Camping and other recreational activities are currently permitted throughout Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. However, activities may be managed through area closures or Superintendent's Orders to ensure the protection of visitors and/or areas identified as culturally or environmentally sensitive.

The following list includes the core areas proposed by the abovementioned eco-tourism companies (see map):

- Artillery Lake
- Great Slave Lake
 - Charlton Bay
 - Christie Bay
 - McLeod Bay
 - Reliance
 - Wildbread Bay
- Eileen Lake area (south eastern portion of the park)
- Fort Reliance National Historic Site
- Pike's Portage
- Stark Lake

MITIGATIONS:

Eco-tourism companies will follow the Visitor Guidelines, including visitor ethics and leave no trace principles (<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/nt/thaidene-nene/visit/directive-guideline>), and will adhere to the mitigations described in the *Interim Best Management Practices for Guide Outfitter Operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve*.



Map: Map of Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve, showing Thaidene Nënë Indigenous Protected Area, Territorial Protected Area, the Wildlife Conservation Area, and core areas proposed for guide outfitter operations within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve.

