

PRELIMINARY SCREENING REPORT FORM

<p>PRELIMINARY SCREENER: Environmental Assessment and Monitoring Unit, Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories</p> <p>TITLE: Thaidene Néné Wildlife Conservation Area</p> <p>PROPOSER: Wildlife and Fish Division, Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories</p>	
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Type of Development:
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- New Development
- Amend, Ref. #
- Renew, Ref.#
- Requires permit, license or authorization
- Does not require permit, license or authorization

Principal Activities (related to scoping)
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Installation <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Expansion <input type="checkbox"/> Operation <input type="checkbox"/> Repair <input type="checkbox"/> Research <input type="checkbox"/> Water Intake <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exploration <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal <input type="checkbox"/> Quarry <input type="checkbox"/> Linear / Corridor <input type="checkbox"/> Sewage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Decommissioning <input type="checkbox"/> Abandonment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aerial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harvesting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Camp <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste |
|--|---|--|

Principal Development Components (related to scoping)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Access Road <input type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Abandonment/removal <input type="checkbox"/> Modification e.g., widening, straightening <input type="checkbox"/> Automobile, Aircraft or Vessel Movement <input type="checkbox"/> Blasting <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Burning <input type="checkbox"/> Burying <input type="checkbox"/> Channeling <input type="checkbox"/> Cut and Fill <input type="checkbox"/> Cutting of Trees or Removal of Vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> Dams and Impoundments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> construction <input type="checkbox"/> abandonment/removal <input type="checkbox"/> modification <input type="checkbox"/> Ditch Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Alteration <input type="checkbox"/> Drilling other than Geoscientific <input type="checkbox"/> Ecological Surveys <input type="checkbox"/> Excavation <input type="checkbox"/> Explosive Storage <input type="checkbox"/> Fuel Storage <input type="checkbox"/> Topsoil, Overburden or Soil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> fill <input type="checkbox"/> disposal <input type="checkbox"/> removal <input type="checkbox"/> storage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Management <input type="checkbox"/> Disposal of hazardous waste <input type="checkbox"/> Waste generation <input type="checkbox"/> Sewage <input type="checkbox"/> Disposal of sewage <input type="checkbox"/> Geoscientific Sampling <input type="checkbox"/> Trenching <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond drill <input type="checkbox"/> Borehole core sampling <input type="checkbox"/> Bulk soil sampling <input type="checkbox"/> Gravel <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrological Testing <input type="checkbox"/> Site Restoration <input type="checkbox"/> Fertilization <input type="checkbox"/> Grubbing <input type="checkbox"/> Planting/seeding <input type="checkbox"/> Reforestation <input type="checkbox"/> Scarify <input type="checkbox"/> Spraying <input type="checkbox"/> Recontouring <input type="checkbox"/> Slashing and removal of vegetation <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Testing <input type="checkbox"/> Stream Crossing/Bridging <input type="checkbox"/> Tunneling/Underground <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (describe): _____ |
|--|--|

Description of Other: The proposed wildlife conservation area (WCA) is created for the purpose of conservation and management of wildlife and wildlife habitat in the Northwest Territories (NWT), and constitutes a new land-use designation. The activities associated with this project do not include principal developments or structures. Low impact activities are described in the proponent's proposal report.

Latitude / Longitude and UTM System: The proposed wildlife conversation area is located approximately 107°0'0" W and 63°30'0" N.

Nearest Community and Water Body: Łutsel K'e is the nearest community. The WCA contains several water bodies. The most significant water body in proximity given the scale of the development is Great Slave Lake. The WCA is located northeast of Great Slave Lake and southwest of the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary.

Land Status (consultation information)

Free Hold / Private Commissioners Land Federal Crown Land Municipal Land

Transboundary Implications

British Columbia Alberta Saskatchewan Manitoba Yukon
 Nunavut Wood Buffalo National Park Inuvialuit Settlement Region

Type of Transboundary Implication: Impact / Effect Development

Public Concern _____
(DESCRIBE)

PHYSICAL - CHEMICAL EFFECTS

IMPACT	MITIGATION
1. Ground Water	No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities.
<input type="checkbox"/> water table alteration	
<input type="checkbox"/> water quality changes	
<input type="checkbox"/> infiltration changes	
<input type="checkbox"/> other	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	

IMPACT	MITIGATION
2. Surface Water	No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities.
<input type="checkbox"/> flow or level changes	
<input type="checkbox"/> water quality changes	
<input type="checkbox"/> water quantity changes	
<input type="checkbox"/> drainage pattern changes	
<input type="checkbox"/> temperature	
<input type="checkbox"/> wetland changes / loss	
<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	

<i>IMPACT</i>	<i>MITIGATION</i>
3. Noise <input type="checkbox"/> noise in/near water <input type="checkbox"/> other: noise increase <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities.

<i>IMPACT</i>	<i>MITIGATION</i>
4. Land <input type="checkbox"/> geologic structure changes <input type="checkbox"/> soil contamination <input type="checkbox"/> buffer zone loss <input type="checkbox"/> soil compaction & settling <input type="checkbox"/> destabilization / erosion <input type="checkbox"/> permafrost regime alteration other: explosives/scarring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities.

<i>IMPACT</i>	<i>MITIGATION</i>
5. Non Renewable Natural Resources <input type="checkbox"/> resource depletion <input type="checkbox"/> other: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities.

<i>IMPACT</i>	<i>MITIGATION</i>
6. Air/Climate/ Atmosphere <input type="checkbox"/> other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities.

BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

IMPACT	MITIGATION
1. Vegetation	No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities.
<input type="checkbox"/> species composition	
<input type="checkbox"/> species introduction	
<input type="checkbox"/> toxin / heavy accumulation	
<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	

IMPACT	MITIGATION
2. Wildlife & Fish	No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities. All opportunities for harvest activities remain similar to pre-development. It is not anticipated that the establishment of the WCA will significantly change the frequency or magnitude of harvest activities.
<input type="checkbox"/> effects on rare, threatened or endangered species	
<input type="checkbox"/> fish population changes	
<input type="checkbox"/> waterfowl population changes	
<input type="checkbox"/> breeding disturbance	
<input type="checkbox"/> population reduction	
<input type="checkbox"/> species diversity change	
<input type="checkbox"/> health changes (Identify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> behavioral changes (Identify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> habitat changes / effects	
<input type="checkbox"/> game species effects	
<input type="checkbox"/> toxins / heavy metals	
<input type="checkbox"/> forestry changes	
<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural changes	
<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	

INTERACTING ENVIRONMENT

IMPACT	MITIGATION
1. Habitat and Communities	
<input type="checkbox"/> predator-prey	No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities.
<input type="checkbox"/> wildlife habitat / ecosystem Composition changes	
<input type="checkbox"/> reduction / removal of keystone or endangered species	
<input type="checkbox"/> removal of wildlife corridor or buffer zone	
<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	

IMPACT	MITIGATION
2. Social and Economic	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> planning / zoning changes or conflicts	The development proposes to designate the defined area as a Wildlife Conservation Area, under the <i>Wildlife Act</i> . At this time, the allowable activities do not pose additional change resulting in social or economic impact, and therefore does not require mitigation.
<input type="checkbox"/> increase in urban facilities or services use	The proposed development area has a pre-existing surface and sub-surface land withdrawal through the Land Withdrawal Order (Thaidene Nënë (East Arm of Great Slave Lake) Proposed Conservation Area under the Northwest Territories Land Act), which has no expiry.
<input type="checkbox"/> rental house	
<input type="checkbox"/> airport operations / capacity changes	
<input type="checkbox"/> human health hazard	
<input type="checkbox"/> impair the recreational use of water or aesthetic quality	
<input type="checkbox"/> affect water use for other purposes	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> affect other land use operations	
<input type="checkbox"/> quality of life changes	
<input type="checkbox"/> public concern	
<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	

IMPACT	MITIGATION
<p>3. Cultural and Heritage</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> affects to historic property</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> increased economic pressure on historic properties</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> change to or loss of historic resources</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> change to or loss of archaeological resources</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> increased pressure on archaeological sites</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> change to or loss of aesthetically important site</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> affects to aboriginal lifestyle</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> other:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A</p>	<p>No impacts are expected based on the proposed development or associated activities.</p>

NOTES:

While the screening assessment is designed to determine adverse impacts, it is noted that several ecological, social and cultural benefits are likely to result from the proposed development.

PRELIMINARY SCREENER / DISTRIBUTION LIST

Tlcho Government	Dene Nation
Yellowknifes Dene First Nation	Denesoline Corporation
Denendeh Development Corporation	Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
Deninu K'ue First Nation	Salt River First Nation
Tlcho Lands Protection Department	Ted Nitsiza
K'atl'odeeche First Nation	Northwest Territory Metis Nation
Deninu K'ue Development Corporation	Akaiitcho Territory Government
Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission	Akaiitcho IMA Implementation Office
Air Tindi	ARKTIS Solutions Inc.
Fort Smith Metis Council	Bathurst Arctic Services
Bluefish Services	North Slave Metis Alliance
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - NWT Chapter	CanNor NWT Region
West Point First Nation	City of Yellowknife
Ducks Unlimited	Jack Pine Paddle
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	East Arm Property Owners Association
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Fort Resolution Metis Council
Forward Mining	Frontier Fishing Lodge
GNWT - Education Culture and Employment	GNWT - Industry Tourism and Investment
GNWT - Lands	GNWT - Environment and Natural Resources
GNWT - Infrastructure	GNWT - Health and Social Services
Great Slave Yacht Club	Golder and Associates
GNWT - Municipal and Community Affairs	Hamlet of Fort Resolution
NWT Office of the Oil and Gas Regulator	Hay River Chamber of Commerce
Great Slave Helicopters	Hay River Metis Council
Great Slave Lake Advisory Committee	Hoarfrost River Huskies Ltd.
Indian Mountain Lodge	Great Slave Lake Tours
Great Slave Snowmobile Association	Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation	NWT Angler Association
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board	NWT Floatplane Association/COPA 108
NWT Recreation and Parks Association	Nonacho Lake Fishing Camp
Northwestern Air Lease Ltd.	NWT Chamber of Commerce
NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines	NARWAL Northern Adventures
NWT Tourism	Nature United
Ni Hadi Xa	Yellowknife Climbing Club
NWT Wildlife Federation	Aylmer Lake Lodge
Open Water Charters	Yellowknife Tours
Rowe's Construction	Mr. Philip Acuff Robert
Yellowknife Outdoor Adventures	World Wildlife Fund
Sombe K'e Paddling Society	Mr. Spender Decorby
Summit Air (Arctic Sunwest)	Great Slave Fishing Lodge
Thebacha Business Development Services	Great Canadian Wildlife Adventures
Town of Fort Smith	

PRELIMINARY SCREENING COMMENTS & RESPONSE FROM ENR

Table 1. Preliminary Screening comments received by ENR, EAM unit regarding the proposed TDN WCA

REVIEWER	TOPIC	COMMENT	RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE
GNWT, Dept. Lands	Legal definition of preliminary screening.	<p>Preliminary screening report, p. 1, third paragraph under heading “Purpose of the Preliminary Screening.</p> <p>The wording in this paragraph is not aligned with the “might test” as set out in MVRMA ss. 125(1) and further described in guidance documents published by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. For the GNWT to conduct a legally robust preliminary screening decision about the establishment of the Wildlife Conservation Area, it is important that the wording of the GNWT’s preliminary screening report align with the relevant provisions of the MVRMA.</p>	Amend the wording in the preliminary screening report as per the attached document. Please note that this recommendation is intended to support the legal integrity and robustness of the GNWT’s preliminary screening decision.	<p>The Preliminary Screening Report was prepared by the Proponent (Wildlife and Fish Division, ENR) to explain the project for public review feedback. It is important to note that while ENR is both the Proponent and screener, the screening review is being led autonomously by Environmental Assessment & Monitoring (EAM, the Screener) unit of ENR. The screening decision, as conducted by EAM, is independent of the Proponent, and therefore, the screening decision is not at risk based on the Proponent’s document text, nor does the document text inform EAM’s screening approach to the “might test”. In this context, GNWT legal integrity and robustness regarding the preliminary screening decision is not impacted by the Proponent’s document.</p> <p>Information provided in the Preliminary Screening Report was sufficient for reviewers to understand the purpose of the screening.</p> <p>The informative feedback provided by the Department of Lands will be provided to the Proponent for their future knowledge/use.</p>

CPAWS-NWT	No Concerns with the creation of the TDNWCA.	CPAWS-NWT has supported Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation's (LKDFN) vision for protecting Thaidene Nënë for over a decade and actively participated in the federal and territorial establishment processes. We continue to support that the Thaidene Nënë Wildlife Conservation Area (TDNWCA) is an important piece of protecting Thaidene Nënë – the TDNWCA will have positive impacts on the environment particularly the protection of habitat for barren ground caribou. We do not have any concerns with the establishment of the TDNWCA. Congratulations to all signatories of the establishment agreements for the creation of Thaidene Nënë.	A referral to MVEIRB for environmental assessment isn't necessary for this project.	EAM acknowledges CPAWS-NWT as supporting the development of Thaidene Nënë Wildlife Conservation Area (TDNWCA) and CPAWS-NWT's position that referral to environmental assessment is not needed.
Nature United	Letter of support (attached)	Nature United provided a letter of support for the TDNWCA to proceed and did not indicate any concern regarding adverse environmental impacts.	N/A	ENR thanks you for your feedback. As follow up, Nature United's letter to the Screener said "Nature United supports <u>your</u> conclusion that there are no “adverse impacts” over time by the creation of the Thaidene Nënë Wildlife Conservation Area (TDNWCA)". It is important to note that the Proponent's document was written by the Wildlife and Fish Division of ENR, and it does not include conclusions or statements from EAM, the screener. A preliminary screening decision for the TDNWCA was only concluded following the review period, after Oct 1, 2020.

REASONS FOR DECISION

(LIST ALL REASONS AND SUPPORTING RATIONALES FOR PRELIMINARY SCREENING DECISION)

On behalf of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), the Environmental Assessment and Monitoring unit (EAM, the Screener) is satisfied that the preliminary screening of the 'Thaidene Nënë Wildlife Conservation Area' (TDNWCA), proposed by the Wildlife and Fish Division (the Proponent) of ENR, has been completed in accordance with section 125 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

EAM is satisfied that communities, Indigenous Governments and Organizations, government and other interested parties affected by the proposed TDNWCA have been notified and provided adequate time to offer comment as required by land claim and self-government agreements, the MVRMA, policy directions relating to Interim Measures Agreements, and any other applicable legislation and agreements.

The screening process resulted in the submission of three comments. The commenters were GNWT Department of Lands, Nature United and Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Northwest Territories Chapter. The comments were consolidated into Table 1 and include a response from the Screener. The comments indicate that there is no public concern and no concern about potential adverse environmental impacts.

EAM performed further analysis to identify whether there may be impacts and a need for mitigations to a variety of value components. The analysis found that a conservation area could restrict resource development. EAM has not found this to be of any significance because there will be no material increase in restriction of resource development as compared to under the pre-existing surface and sub-surface land withdrawal through the Land Withdrawal Order (Thaidene Nënë (East Arm of Great Slave Lake) Proposed Conservation Area under the Northwest Territories Land Act). This Land Withdrawal Order has no expiry date or condition and will remain in effect following TDNWCA establishment. The analysis concluded that there were no impacts to warrant additional mitigation.

Having reviewed all relevant information, including the submissions of the Applicant, the written comments received by EAM, the ENR screener has determined that:

- The proposed development will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment; and
- The proposed development is not a cause of public concern.

EAM has therefore decided not to refer the TDNWCA to environmental assessment.

☐	PRELIMINARY SCREENING DECISION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Outside Local Government Boundaries
<input type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal might have a significant adverse impact on the environment, <i>refer it to the MVEIRB.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal might have public concern, <i>refer it to the MVEIRB.</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Wholly within Local Government Boundaries
<input type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on air, water or renewable resources, <i>refer it to the MVEIRB.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	The development proposal might have public concern, <i>refer it to the MVEIRB.</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Proceed with regulatory process and/or implementation.</i>