



Parks Canada
PO Box 1166
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March 24, 2023

Re: Notification of Completion of Preliminary Screening of Guide-Outfitter Operations

To: Distribution List

In accordance with s. 125 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, Parks Canada has conducted a preliminary screening of Guide-Outfitter Operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. Parks Canada has decided **not** to refer the development (i.e., application for guide outfitter business licence) to environmental assessment.

If Parks Canada does not receive notice of referral to environmental assessment, it will proceed with the issuance of business licences for guide outfitter company applicants on April 04, 2023.

Attached is the preliminary screening of proposed guide outfitter operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve for the 2023/24 season. I will continue to be available for a 10-day pause period (**until April 03, 2023**) should you have any questions or concerns.

With kind regards,

Jared Ellenor
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Parks Canada
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Parks Canada Preliminary Screening under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*

TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:

- ☐ New
- ☐ Amended
- ☒ Requires a permit, licence or authorization under the *Preliminary Screening Requirement Regulations* (issuance of a Business Licence pursuant to the *National Parks of Canada Business Regulations* s 4.1)
- ☐ Does not require permit, licence or authorization and is proposed by PCA

1. DEVELOPMENT TITLE & LOCATION

Guide-Outfitter Operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve

2. PROPONENT INFORMATION

See “Guide-outfitter companies” on page 2 of this screening

3. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT DATES

Planned commencement: 2023-04-04

Planned completion: 2024-03-31

4. INTERNAL FILE

TDN2023-001

5. DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve extends from the East Arm of Great Slave Lake to the Barrenlands and includes nationally significant boreal forest, freshwater and tundra ecosystems. 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 (Map 1). 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 a business licence¹. Parks Canada conducts preliminary screenings before issuing 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 waterbodies are ice-

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



free and air temperatures are warmer. Guided trips range 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 who have applied for a 2023/2024 business licence for Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve.

An assessment of guide outfitter operations includes the activities and potential impacts associated with recreating visitors. The following activities and locations are being proposed by the guide-outfitters 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:

Guide-outfitter companies

- Frontier Lodge
- Great Slave Lake Tours
- Hoarfrost River Huskies Ltd.
- Jackpine Paddle
- Redcliff Adventures (formerly East Arm Pop Up Camp)

Activities

- Sightseeing tours
- Cultural programming
- Boat charters or outfitting
- Sport fishing
- Canoeing
- Kayaking
- Overnight accommodation/camping
- Hiking
- Dog sledding



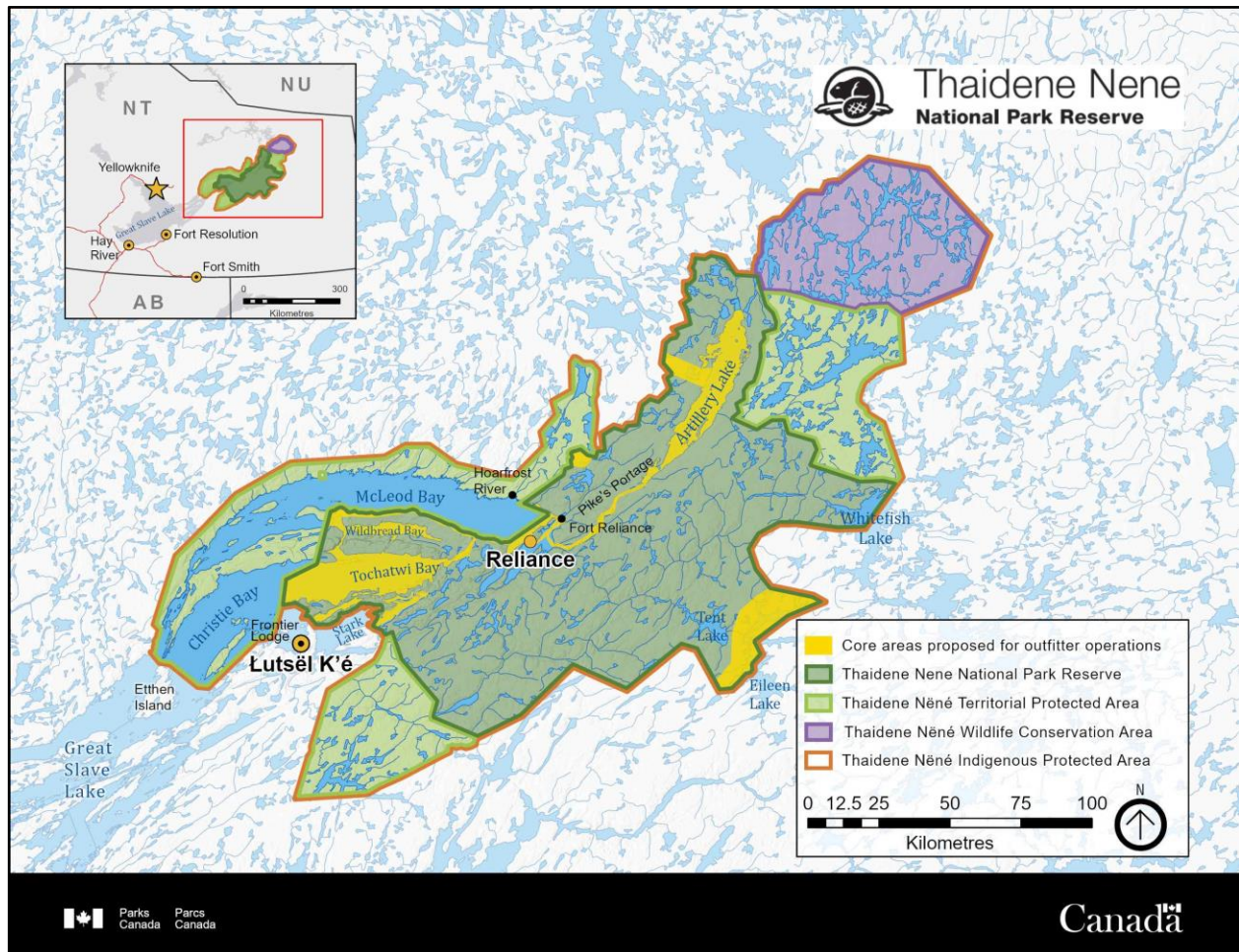
Locations

The following table includes areas of activity proposed for each guide-outfitter company. Licenced operators may, on occasion, apply for modification to their area of activity. These changes are subject to review and approval by Thaidene Nënë Xá Dá Yáti (the Operational Management Board), the parties to the Board, and the Superintendent for Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. Operators licensed for Kaché (Charlton Bay and the Reliance area) will have additional terms and conditions on their licences due to culturally sensitive areas, and will have limited areas of operation identified. (see also Map 2):

Company	Proposed Areas of Activity
Frontier Lodge	Stark Lake, Christie Bay, Wildbread Bay, Tochatwi Bay
Great Slave Lake Tours	Boat tours (including sport fishing and sightseeing) and charters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McLeod Bay Marine transportation charters for Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McLeod Bay to Charlton Bay to Desnéthcheé
Hoarfrost River Huskies	Dogsledding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area southeast of Lac LaPrise • Occasional alternate routes include Pike's Portage / Artillery Lake, and via Float Lake (Tochatwi Lake) into Christie Bay Hiking day trips: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tent Creek area • Kahochella Peninsula (accessed via McLeod Bay)
Jackpine Paddle	Eileen Lake area
Redcliff Adventures (formerly East Arm Pop Up Camp)	Christie Bay and Wildbread Bay



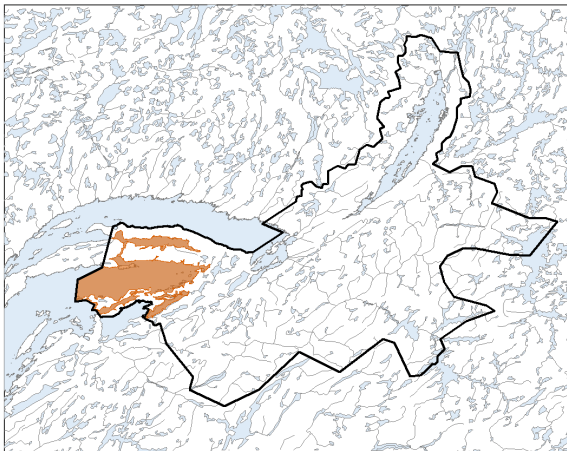
Map 1: Thaidene Nënë Indigenous Protected Area showing, the National Park Reserve, Territorial Protected Area, Wildlife Conservation Area, and core areas proposed for guide outfitter operations within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve.



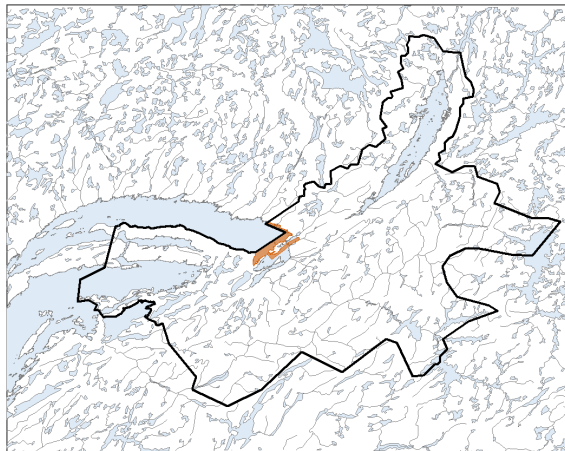


Map 2: Proposed areas of activity for guide-outfitter operations within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve for: a) Frontier Lodge, b) Great Slave Lake Tours, c) Hoarfrost River Huskies, d) Jackpine Paddle, and e) Redcliff Adventures.

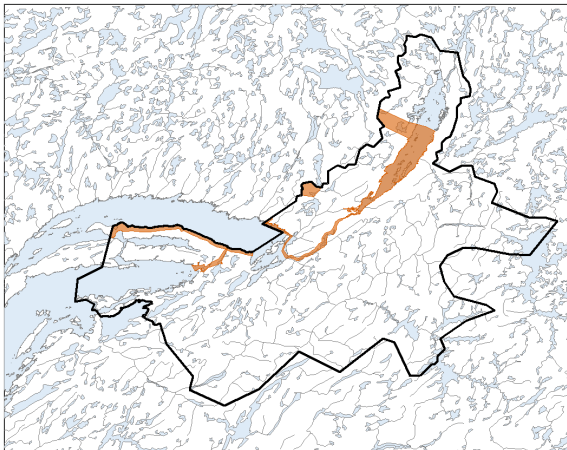
a) Frontier Lodge



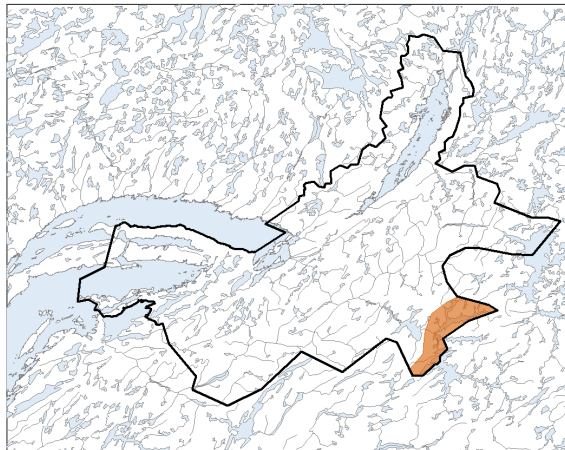
b) Great Slave Lake Tours



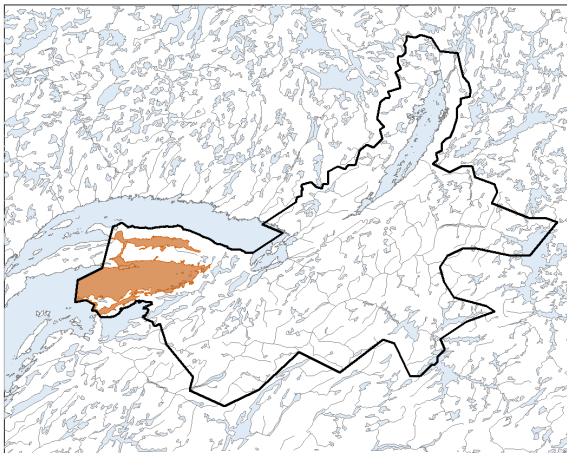
c) Hoarfrost River Huskies



d) Jackpine Paddle



e) Redcliff Adventures





6. VALUED COMPONENTS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED

Indigenous Peoples, and the Social and Cultural Environment

The National Park Reserve is part of Thaidene Nënë Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). Management of the National Park Reserve is shared between Parks Canada and Indigenous Governments: Łutsël K'édé Dene First Nation, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Deninu Kųé First Nation, and Yellowknives Dene First Nation. Work is conducted collaboratively, and consensus-based decisions are made through two management boards.

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve is a living legacy for all: a place where Indigenous peoples can continue to practice their ways of life, while also coming together to welcome the world. Here, Indigenous peoples continue resource harvesting, cultural, and spiritual practices in accordance with their constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights.

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve not only protects the ecological integrity, but also the cultural continuity of its unique landscape for the benefit, education, and enjoyment of future generations and visitors from around the world.

Indigenous People

The lands now within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve have provided sustenance and have been travelled by Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. The Park Reserve encompasses numerous sites of spiritual and cultural importance to Łutsël K'édé Dene First Nation, Deninu Kųé First Nation, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, and the Northwest Territory Métis Nation. Mųwhi Gogha Dè Nųtlèè, the Tłıchų traditional area overlaps the northwestern park boundary. North Slave Metis Alliance asserts traditional territory in the National Park Reserve.

Use of the land continues today, as articulated above, including harvesting, travelling, spiritual gatherings, and monitoring. Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve is a living landscape where culture thrives. Thaidene Nënë Indigenous Protected Area, declared by Łutsël K'édé Dene First Nation under Dene Law, encompasses the National Park Reserve.

Heritage Resources

Heritage resources are defined as a human work, an object, or a place that is determined, on the basis of its heritage value, to be directly associated with an important aspect or aspects of human history and culture of a heritage area. Examples of heritage resources include archaeological or historic sites, burial sites, artifacts, and other objects of historical, cultural, or religious significance, and historical or cultural records.

Heritage resources exist throughout Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve, including known cultural sites, cabins, and graveyards located within the Lockhart River – Artillery Lake corridor. Ts'akui Theda (Lady of the Falls – Parry Falls) is also of great cultural importance. Every August, Łutsël K'édé community members meet for their annual spiritual gathering near the mouth of the Lockhart River. Fort Reliance – now recognized as a National Historic Site – is another heritage resource. This location was built as a base of operations for expeditions in 1833 and briefly operated as a fur trade post in the 1850s. The Métis have a history of involvement in the fur trade and as expedition guides in the region.



Given the history of the area, additional heritage resources will likely be identified during future archaeological surveys. Areas with spiritual or cultural significance within the National Park Reserve may have specific management requirements and special protection status.

Visitor Experience

It is estimated that approximately 500 people visit Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve on an annual basis. A wide variety of recreational activities are currently enjoyed throughout the area, including: sailing, kayaking, canoeing, motor-boating, hiking, snowmobiling, dog-sledding, cross-country skiing, fishing, and berry picking. Visitation is expected to increase with new service offers from guide-outfitter operations, and greater promotion of the National Park Reserve.

Besides boat access, air is the only method of travel into the area. Increased tourism may increase overall air traffic, and the potential impacts associated with take-offs and landings on local waterbodies. Visitation is generally managed according to the Canada National Parks Act (CNPA). However, if any adverse impacts are foreseen (e.g., too many aircraft landings at one location), mitigation measures will be considered by the appropriate cooperative management board(s) and implemented.

Natural Environment

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve protects approximately 14,000 km² of nationally significant boreal forest, freshwater, and tundra ecosystems, and represents the Northwestern Boreal Uplands Natural Region in the National Parks System Plan. The area exemplifies the transition from the Taiga Shield Ecoregion to the Southern Arctic Ecoregion – the boundary of which is defined by treeline. It is characterized as having low to moderate relief with numerous lakes and large areas of exposed bedrock. Glacial erosion and deposition created these and other unique landscape features, including archipelagos, steep eskers, gorges and waterfalls. The National Park Reserve is situated within the sub-Arctic climate zone and, to a lesser extent, the Boreal climate zone. The western half of the area is underlain by isolated permafrost patches, while the eastern half is underlain by continuous permafrost. Overall, Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve represents an outstanding example of an intact, remote wilderness area.

Soil

Soil development and nutrient availability are significant factors influencing the distribution and abundance of vascular plants (e.g., trees, shrubs, flowering herbs etc.). Soil development is dependent on regional source materials, climate, and hydrology. The source materials found in and around Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve include granite bedrock, marine clays, and glacial till. Soils within the region are predominately Cryosolic, which is a term used to describe soil development in areas with permafrost. Soil development is considered to be very slow (i.e., a few millimetres per century), with the exception of peat materials that tend to accumulate more quickly.

Air

No formal observations of air/noise quality have occurred in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. However, it is expected that these valued components are representative of their natural state as Łutsël K'é is the only nearby community, and industrial activity in the



surrounding area is relatively low. Reduced air quality from regional/national forest fires may seasonally occur.

Water

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve overlaps the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, which is the deepest (and fifth largest) lake in North America. The National Park Reserve encompasses Artillery Lake and several freshwater tributaries including the Lockhart and Snowdrift Rivers. Ts'akui Theda (Lady of the Falls – Parry Falls) and the Lockhart River have great cultural and spiritual importance.

Water quality within the National Park Reserve is expected to be pristine as potential sources of inputs from industrial and community-related activities are limited. The Water Survey of Canada (Environment and Climate Change Canada) operates one monitoring station in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. The station is located on the Lockhart River at the southern end of Artillery Lake and provides hydrometric information (i.e., water level and flow). Data available from 2000 to 2005 indicate no abnormal flow conditions for the site. The Ni Hat'ni Dene Rangers have been monitoring water quality in and around the community of Łutsël K'é, Macleod Bay and Christie Bay since 2008, and have periodically shared this data with the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). Data analysis can be used to detect any changes in water quality over time.

Vegetation

The shores of lakes and rivers within the forested parts of Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve are lined with dense stands of black spruce, white spruce, and white birch. Southern inland areas are occupied by stands of white spruce and jack pine, with understories consisting of blueberries, cranberries, feather moss, and lichens. Northern inland areas are occupied by open stands of black spruce covering thick understories of lichen. In areas that transition from the boreal forest to the barrenlands, stunted black spruce and tamarack sparsely cover dwarf tundra vegetation and exposed bedrock. Greater detail about the distribution and status of vascular plants in the National Park Reserve will be determined as species inventories are conducted. Historical records indicate that one 'At Risk' species may occur in the area. The Canadian Museum of Nature retains a sample of Mackenzie Hairgrass (*Deschampsia mackenziana*), a plant listed as Special Concern on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*, that was collected near Fort Reliance in 1927.

Wildlife

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve is home to plethora of wildlife species. Information, particularly traditional knowledge, is most abundant for large bodied mammals and fur bearers because of their cultural and social importance. Hunting and trapping of caribou, moose, muskox, wolf, lynx, wolverine, beaver, red fox, otter, marten, muskrat, mink, snowshoe, and Arctic hare provide food and economic benefit to Indigenous peoples. In total, 42 species of mammals are known to inhabit the National Park Reserve. Of those, 4 species are listed on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*: Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*), and Northern Myotis (*M. septentrionalis*) are listed as Endangered; and Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*) and Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) are listed as Special Concern. Four herds of Barren-ground Caribou



(*Rangifer tarandus*) – the Bathurst, Beverly, Ahiak, and Qamanirjuaq - are of vital importance to Indigenous peoples and are known to occur in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has assessed Barren-ground Caribou as Threatened, and the species is currently under consideration for listing on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*. Barren-ground caribou are listed as Threatened under NWT species at risk legislation, with the Bathurst herd being intensely managed after a continued and significant decline in numbers. In light of this, Łutsël K'édé Dene First Nation has developed a Caribou Stewardship Plan (called *Yúnethé Xá ǰetthën Hádi*). that includes a self-imposed moratorium on hunting caribou from the Bathurst herd. Other plans (e.g., Bathurst Caribou Management Plan), co-management boards and harvest restrictions have also been established to protect and manage these herds.

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve is also home to approximately 171 bird species; however, species inventories and monitoring are needed to confirm the numbers and status of landbirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds. Of note, ten species of hawks and falcons, two eagle species, osprey, and six owl species occur in the area. Islands and cliffs in the area are known to be important nesting habitat for breeding birds and many rocky islands host colonies of gulls and terns. Several species thought to be present in the National Park Reserve are listed on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*: Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) and Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) are listed as Threatened; and Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*), Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*), Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*), and Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) are listed as Special Concern.

Although not yet confirmed, 5 amphibian species (i.e., frogs, toads and salamanders) are expected to occur in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. Of these, only one species is considered to be 'At Risk'. The Northern Leopard Frog (*Lithobates pipiens*) is listed as Special Concern on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*.

There are 28 species of freshwater and anadromous fish known to occur in Great Slave Lake and its tributaries. Sport and subsistence fishing activities occur throughout the area. Fish species of particular importance within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve include: Lake Trout, Lake Whitefish, Burbot, Northern Pike, Walleye, and Arctic Grayling.

7. EFFECTS ANALYSIS

See “*Interim Best Management Practices for Guide-Outfitter Operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve*” (Appendix A).

8. MITIGATION MEASURES

Guide-outfitter 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* (Appendix A). Business licences will include general and specific terms and conditions which prescribe permitted activities and areas of operation. Activities may be further managed through area



closures and/or Superintendent's Orders to ensure to ensure visitor safety and/or the protection of areas identified as culturally or environmentally sensitive. Anyone fishing within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve is required to possess a valid Parks Canada fishing licence and must adhere to the terms and conditions therein.

9. SIGNIFICANCE OF RESIDUAL ADVERSE EFFECTS

Given the limited magnitude of effects and the application of mitigation measures, guide-outfitter operations are not expected to cause residual adverse effects to natural, social or cultural environments.

10. ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

This preliminary screening was reviewed by the Indigenous partners involved with managing the national park reserve. The issuance of business licences to guide-outfitter operators was discussed with members of Thaidene Nënë xá dá yá'ti (those who speak for Thaidene Nënë) prior to the March 24, 2023 notification commencing a 21-day public review of the Development Description.

Parks Canada staff worked with designated contacts from Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation and Northwest Territory Métis Nation to develop and review the *Interim Best Management Practices for Guide-Outfitter Operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve*.

11. Bibliography

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12. DECISION

Parks Canada has conducted this preliminary screening of "Guide-Outfitter Operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve" (the proposed development) pursuant to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (ss. 124(2) and 125(1)), and has concluded that it is **not** referring the proposal to the Mackenzie Valley Review Board for environmental assessment.

Taking into account the analysis and implementation of mitigation measures outlined in the analysis, the development:

- ☐ Might have a significant adverse impact on the environment, and the proposal should be referred to the *Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board* for environmental assessment.
- ✓ Does not have a likelihood of causing significant adverse impact on the environment.
- ☐ Might be a cause for public concern, and the proposal should be referred to the *Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board* for environmental assessment.
- ✓ Does not have a likelihood of causing public concern.



13. APPROVAL

Approved by:

Date:

March 24, 2023

Laani Uunila

Implementation Manager, Thaidene Nene National Park
Reserve

Appendix A: Interim Best Management Practices for Guided Tourism Operations in Thaidene Nënë

v.2022.11.10

Context

Thaidene Nënë extends from the East Arm of Great Slave Lake to the Barrenlands and includes nationally significant boreal forest, freshwater and tundra ecosystems.

Thaidene Nënë is an indigenous protected area made up of a national park reserve, a territorial protected area, and a wildlife conservation area.

Thaidene Nënë is co-operatively managed by Parks Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and Indigenous partners: Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation, the Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Deninu K'ue First Nation, and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. Here, Indigenous peoples will continue resource harvesting, and cultural and spiritual practices in accordance with their constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. Areas with spiritual or cultural significance within Thaidene Nënë may have specific management requirements and special protection status.

Carrying these relationships into the future, the ecological integrity and Indigenous way of life will be a living legacy for all, where Indigenous peoples, Parks Canada, and the Government of the Northwest Territories will welcome the world. Thaidene Nënë is a destination known for spectacular fishing, boating and recreational opportunities. Guided tourism operations offer various single and multi-day excursions, providing visitors with the expertise, equipment and local area knowledge needed for safe travel in remote wilderness.

Scope

These Best Management Practices (BMPs) apply to guided tourism operations in Thaidene Nënë. Guided tourism operations include any charters and commercially based recreation, and the associated impacts that may occur (e.g., human waste, soil compaction, human-wildlife conflict etc.).

Guided tourism operations in Thaidene Nënë may include such activities as:

- Hiking
- Overnight camping
- Non-motorized boating (e.g., canoeing, kayaking, stand up paddleboarding, packrafting, and associated portaging)
- Motorized boating
- Sport fishing
- Cultural tours
- Over-snow vehicles (OSV)
- Dog sledding
- Non-motorized winter sports (e.g., snowshoeing, cross-country skiing)
- Flight seeing tours with stops

These BMPs are a key component of the preliminary screening process as defined in the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. Abiding by these BMPs will be a requirement of the terms and conditions specified on guide outfitter business licences issued by Parks Canada.

Goal

The overarching goal of these BMPs is to support guided tourism operators in Thaidene Nënë, while minimizing potential impacts of their operations on the natural, cultural, and social environments.

Impact Assessment

The impacts of guided tourism operations on the natural environment include potential damage to soil, air, water, vegetation, and wildlife. Several species at risk are known to inhabit Thaidene Nënë; however, impacts from guided tourism operations should be negligible if these BMPs are applied.

Soil

- Rutting and compaction at campsites, landing sites, and along hiking and portage trails
- Contamination from improper human waste management, grey water, and fuel spills
- Garbage that is left behind and not packed out

Air

- Reduced localized air quality from campfires and engine exhaust
- Localized noise disturbance from engines and group interactions

Water

- Contamination from improper human waste management, grey water, and fuel spills

Vegetation

- Overharvest (e.g., wood, berries)
- Physical damage/destruction at campsites, landing sites, and along hiking and portage trails
- Introduction of non-native and invasive species

Wildlife

- Stress responses
- Altered movement patterns
- Nest disturbance and/or abandonment
- Human habituation (loss of natural wariness)
- Food conditioning
- Mortality from human-wildlife conflict and illegal harvesting

The potential impacts of guided tourism operations on the cultural and social environments include negative effects on Indigenous people and heritage resources¹, within Thaidene Nënë. Again, impacts from guided tourism operations should be negligible if these BMPs are applied.

Indigenous People

- Interference with traditional harvesting rights and on-the-land activities
- Noise disturbance
- Reduced soil, air, and water quality

Heritage Resources

- Unauthorized access to current and historic cultural and ceremonial sites
- Physical damage/destruction of cultural and ceremonial sites
- Removal/destruction of historical artifacts

The potential impacts of guided tourism operations on social environments may also include negative effects on the visitor experience within Thaidene Nënë. Again, impacts from guide tourism operations should be negligible if these BMPs are applied.

Visitor Experience

- Overcrowding at popular recreation sites
- Degraded wilderness experience
- Threats to human health and safety from recreation-related accidents

Best Management Practices

It is anticipated that guided tourism operations in Thaidene Nënë will grow with increasing interest in and knowledge of the area. With that in mind, the following BMPs are recommended to minimize the potential negative impacts associated with commercially-based recreation on the natural, social and cultural environment of the area.

If an Indigenous tour operator is proposing activities that do not align with these BMPs, the proposed activities can be reviewed through Thaidene Nënë xá dá yáłtı (the Operational Management Board) so culturally appropriate BMPs can be developed.

¹ Heritage resources are defined as archaeological or historic sites, burial sites, artifacts and other objects of historical, cultural, or religious significance, and historical or cultural records directly associated with an important aspect or aspects of human history.

Registration and Permits

Visitors are required to register for travel within Thaidene Nënë National Park Reserve. Tourism operators (e.g., flightseeing tours with stops, cultural tours, sea kayak tours) are required to register their staff and clients with Parks Canada. Self-guided groups, such as those using a boat or air charter to access the park, must register themselves. Operators are asked to limit themselves to groups of 15 people. If you would like to get a special exemption to the maximum groups size in the national park reserve, please contact Parks Canada with a minimum of 6 months notice.

There are two types of fishing permits in Thaidene Nënë. In the national park reserve a fishing permit can be obtained on-line from <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/nt/thaidene-nene/info/permits> or in-person from Frontier or Trophy Lodge.

Standard NWT Fishing Licences apply within the Territorial Protected Area and can be obtained from <https://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/services/get-fishing-licence>

A permit is required to cache fuel within the national park reserve. More information can be found in the *Interim Best Management Practices for Fuel Caching in Thaidene Nënë National Park Reserve*.

Orientation

Once developed, all visitors and tourism operators and their guides must complete, either in person or on-line, the Thaidene Nënë orientation training prior to entering or hosting visitors in Thaidene Nënë.

The orientation aims to ensure that all storytelling and narratives about the area are accurate, defined, and approved by the Thaidene Nënë xá dá yáłı (the Operational Management Board), with respect and appreciation for traditional culture and languages.

Protect the Natural Environment

Guided tourism operators must provide a pre-trip briefing to their clients. All Thaidene Nënë visitors must be:

1. Informed that natural and cultural resources cannot be removed, defaced, damaged or destroyed. Picking of berries and medicinal plants, as well as the collection of wood for campfires are allowed for personal use in Thaidene Nënë.
2. Asked to remove mud and/or seeds from their footwear, clothing, and pets prior to departure to prevent the introduction of non-native/invasive species into Thaidene Nënë.
3. Encouraged to use washroom facilities before departing for Thaidene Nënë for a day trip.

4. Reminded to pack out all items brought into Thaidene Nënë, including personal belongings and **garbage**.
5. Informed that they are in bear country. Visitors should always be aware of their surroundings (i.e., be watching for fresh tracks, scat, digs). Bear spray is recommended for effective self defence. People should be familiar with its use before travelling into Thaidene Nënë, and have quick (and unimpeded) access to it at all times.
6. Informed that firearms are permitted in Thaidene Nënë National Park Reserve for wildlife defence only – visitors to the park are not permitted to hunt. All firearms must be properly stored when travelling. Visitors to the territorial protected area with a valid NWT hunting permit may hunt, but not as part of a tourism experience.

Please note: Traditional harvest by Indigenous peoples continues in Thaidene Nënë.

To minimise compaction and damage to soils and vegetation:

7. Bring motorized and non-motorized boats to shore at the same general location to minimize the overall footprint of the landing site.
8. Choose landing sites with durable surfaces (e.g., rock, talus, gravel or sand), when possible.
9. Encourage clients to avoid trampling on flowers and vegetation during stopovers (e.g., lunchbreaks) or while recreating in Thaidene Nënë.

To minimize contamination from improper human waste management:

10. Use outhouse facilities where available.
11. Move at least 60 m away from the landing sites, heritage resources, hiking trails, camping areas, and water bodies before urinating/defecating.
12. Bury solids in a shallow hole (e.g., 15 to 20 cm deep) in soil-covered areas and a deep hole (30 – 60 cm) in snow-covered areas. Avoid disturbing plant communities as much as possible.
13. Pack out or bury (in the hole) all used toilet paper. Pack out all garbage.
14. Properly dispose of grey water by filtering out solids (must be burned or packed out with all other garbage) and pouring the liquid into fast-flowing water (e.g., creek or river) or spread over the ground at least 100 m from landing sites or campsites.

To minimize impacts to wildlife:

15. Keep dogs on a leash and under physical control at all times. Off-leash dogs can cause wildlife to feel threatened and become aggressive. Aggressive animals pose a significant risk to human safety.

16. Avoid recreating in or near wildlife travel corridors, feeding areas, and calving grounds.
17. Ensure clients stay at least 100 m away from known den or nest sites.
18. Remind clients to never approach wildlife or encourage wildlife to approach them. This can cause wildlife to lose their natural wariness of people. Habituated animals are at greater risk of human-wildlife conflict.
19. Be respectful when photographing wildlife. Animal behaviour is unpredictable – keep a safe viewing distance (minimum 100 m) at all times.
20. Calmly back away if a large carnivore (e.g., bear, wolf) or muskox is encountered. Never run – it may trigger a pursuit.
21. Within the national park reserve, dispose of fish remains in fast-flowing or deep water. Fish remains left onshore can attract wildlife and increase the potential for human-wildlife conflict. In the territorial protected area, the *NWT Fishery Regulations* prohibit disposal of fish remains in water or on ice.

Please note: Activities that intentionally disturb wildlife for viewing or photographic opportunities can result in a business/tourism licence being suspended, revoked or charges being laid. Feeding wildlife is also illegal and can result in charges. This includes feeding them directly by offering them food, or indirectly by leaving food/garbage behind for them to find.

Protect and support Indigenous rights, and the Cultural and Social Environment

To minimize potential impacts to Indigenous people, clients must be informed during the pre-trip briefing that:

22. Indigenous people can and may be exercising their traditional rights (e.g., harvesting wildlife and other on the land activities) within Thaidene Nënë and that these rights must be respected.
23. Certain areas of Thaidene Nënë may be closed due to cultural significance or activities. Please check for area closures prior to travel.

To minimize potential impacts to heritage resources and visitor experience, clients must be informed during the pre-trip briefing that:

24. Heritage resources cannot be removed or otherwise disturbed. This includes rocks from any features that look, even remotely, like they were human-made, such as cairns (rock piles), tent rings, and food caches.
25. Inuksuit are not culturally appropriate and should not be built.
26. Parks Canada, Government of Northwest Territories and Łutsël K'è Dene First Nation equipment and boats are not for public use.
27. Turn off boat engines while at landing sites to reduce exhaust fumes and noise.
28. Limit group noise and disturbances when other visitors are present in the area.

Only members of the local Indigenous Nations (Łutsël K'é, Northwest Territory Métis, Deninu Kue, and Yellowknives Dene) who are signatories to an Establishment or Impact and Benefit Agreement for Thaidene Nënë may provide Indigenous cultural interpretation or programming.

To maximize the beneficial impact of operations for Indigenous communities, operators should:

29. Strive to include/provide local Indigenous Nations (Łutsël K'é, Northwest Territory Métis, Deninu Kue, and Yellowknives Dene) with direct benefits. This includes:
 - Providing employment opportunities, reflective of the local cost of living;
 - Procuring goods and services; and
 - Providing mentorship/training when possible that supports employment and career development within the Licensee's operation.
30. Submit or present a plain language annual report that describes the benefits local communities derived from the operation for the previous year. The report may address such topics as:
 - Efforts to recruit and/or train local people.
 - Contracts awarded to local businesses and/or use of local services.
 - Estimate of financial input into the local community

Camping

To minimize the impacts of camping and its associated activities:

31. Camp at the same general location to minimize the overall footprint of overnight camping activities.
32. Choose tent sites with durable surfaces when possible.
33. Set up portable stoves and other cooking implements on durable, heat resistant surfaces and away from vegetation or leaf litter where possible.
34. Ensure fire pits are located on durable surfaces, away from vegetation and trees. Use of a firebox is recommended, but not mandatory.
35. Check that all fires are completely extinguished before leaving the area, regardless of the duration of time away.
36. Remove all evidence of fire scars (e.g., unburnt wood, ashes) so as to leave the site in pristine condition in support of traditional use and visitor experience. If rocks are used to secure tents, return them to their original locations.
37. Prepare and cook food away a minimum of 50m from sleeping areas to help avoid attracting wildlife into campsites.

38. Ensure all food and other wildlife attractants (e.g., toiletries, dish detergent, fuel) are stored in bear resistant containers or hung in a tree a minimum of 50 m away from sleeping areas.

Boating (motorized and non-motorized)

To minimize the impacts of activities related to boating in general:

39. Avoid disturbances to birds and wildlife that are on land or in the water. Approach wildlife slowly (i.e., 5 knots) and do not chase, herd or cause animals to change course by blocking their direction of travel. Avoid rapid movements and loud noises while viewing and during departure.
40. Stay at least 100 m back from large colonies of birds and nesting waterfowl, and at least 100 m away from other wildlife on shore. Do not approach swimming wildlife (e.g., moose, bear etc.).

Motorized Boating

To minimize the impacts of motorized boating and its associated activities:

41. Empty the bilge and remove any mud and vegetation from the hull and propeller of your boat before transferring it from one body of water to another. This helps to keep non-native and invasive species from establishing in areas where they don't belong.
42. Travel slowly in shallow waters to protect important fish spawning and egg-rearing habitat.
43. Approach landing sites at slow to no wake speed (i.e., 5 knots) to minimize disturbances to banks, shorelines, and shallow water habitats.
44. When refuelling a boat, use extra caution and avoid spills if possible. Deal with any spill immediately. Have a cloth at hand to catch any spills. Use one for the filler and one for the fuel tank vent.
45. Refuel portable fuel tanks and engine-mounted tanks (where feasible) onshore (at least 50m from water). Use a funnel and refuel over an impermeable surface or absorbent material. Have your spill kit ready to mop up a spill, if necessary.
46. Black water/holding tanks should be pumped out in the nearest community.

Dog Sledding

To minimize the impacts of dog sledding and its associated activities:

47. All dogs must be on leashes or fixed lines at all times including while at camp; no dogs are allowed to run free. They must be in their harnesses and picketed to self-carried anchors.
48. Do not line out or picket your dogs at the same location each trip.
49. Store all dog food in bear resistant containers or hung in a tree at least 50 m from sleeping areas.

50. Provide Parks Canada with records (e.g., dates) of your de-worming program and vaccinations (i.e., distemper, parvovirus, and rabies).
51. To help control the spread of giardia, do not leave dog faeces on a lake surface (ice). Instead, move the faeces to a location on land (i.e., at least 50 m inland) and bury it following the same protocol used to bury human waste. That said, dog sledding guides are encouraged to pack out all dog-related waste from Thaidene Nëné.

Over-Snow Vehicles (OSV)

To minimize the impacts of snowmobiling and its associated activities:

52. Travel over ice, when safe, to avoid damaging underlying soil and vegetation.
53. Follow existing snowmobile tracks whenever possible.
54. Select locations where snow cover is thick enough to buffer the shoreline from tread damage when crossing water bodies. Approach at a 90° angle when possible to minimize disturbance to underlying soil and vegetation.
55. Do not follow fresh wildlife tracks to minimize potential disturbances to animals.
56. Store fuel in sealed containers and use appropriate nozzles/funnels for refueling to avoid potential spills.
57. Refuel at least 50 m away from water bodies and over an impermeable barrier (e.g. rock or a tray or tarp). Have your spill kit ready to mop up a spill, if necessary.

Fishing

To minimize the impacts of fishing and its associated activities:

58. Remove all mud and debris from all waders and gear that will enter the water to avoid introducing non-native and invasive species. If waders or equipment is known to come from an area affected by whirling disease, disinfect them with bleach (1-part chlorine to 9-parts water for 10 minutes), rinse and let dry in the shade.
59. Only use barbless hooks.
60. Decide quickly whether to keep the fish or not. Do not retain fish on stringers or in live wells to be set free when a larger fish is caught.
61. Educate clients about the importance of non-sport fish to prevent destruction of these species when they are accidentally caught.
62. Avoid wading in water bodies where fish are spawning.
63. Retrieve as many snagged hooks and lines as possible.
64. In the National Park Reserve dispose of fish remains by puncturing the swim bladder and depositing them into deep or moving water downstream of your camp, using a boat if available. In the Territorial Protected Area, the NWT Fishery Regulations prohibit disposal of fish remains in water or on ice, dispose of remains away from camp.

65. Always clean your catch at least 100 m away from campsites, picnic sites, rest areas, or other facilities.

Information specific to catch and release:

66. Fish cradles are recommended to minimize fish injury or death during catch and release.
67. Do not play fish to exhaustion.
68. Wet your hands when handling live fish. Dry hands and gloves will remove the protective mucous coating and scales.
69. Handle fish in fish cradle (or net) in the water, rather than handling them in the boat. Grasp them across the back and head for firm but gentle control.
70. Turn fish belly up when removing hooks. This disorients them momentarily for easier, quicker handling.
71. Do not remove swallowed hooks. Just cut the line next to the fish's mouth.
72. Do not keep fish out of the water more than 10-15 seconds. Fragile gills are damaged after that, especially in cold weather.
73. Revive fish before releasing. Hold it under the belly and by the tail, keeping it in an upright position underwater. If you are fishing in a river or stream, hold the fish facing the current. Be patient and give the fish as much time as it needs to recover and swim away on its own.
74. When bringing a fish up from depths of 10 m or greater, do so slowly. This allows them to decompress and increases chances of survival. Pause while reeling the fish in and allow air or gas from the swim bladder to rise to the surface.

In Case of Emergency

If you observe anything or you are involved in a situation that requires *immediate* assistance in the National Park Reserve, please call:

Parks Canada Dispatch (24hr emergency line) at 1-877-852-3100 (toll free), 1-780-852-3100 (landline for use with satellite phones), or email jasperdispatch-repartitionjasper@pc.gc.ca

Please report all *minor incidents* (at the end of your trip) to:

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve (non-emergency line)

Parks Canada Yellowknife Office (M-F; 9-5)

867-766-8460 (landline), or e-mail thaidene.nene@pc.gc.ca

If you observe anything or you are involved in a situation that requires *immediate* assistance in the Territorial Protected Area, please call:

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) at 867-669-1111

For all other inquiries please contact:

Government of the Northwest Territories

Conservation Planning Unit Office (M-F; 9-5)

1-867-767-9233 or email conservationplanning@gov.nt.ca

Services en français 867-767-9231 poste 53041