



Sahtu Land Use Planning Board



February 16, 2007

Sahtu Land Use Plan – Draft 1

Sahtu Land Use Plan – Draft 1

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Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

P. O. Box 235, Fort Good Hope
Northwest Territories, X0E 0H0
Phone: (867) 598-2055

February 16, 2007

Sahtu Stakeholders

Re: Sahtu Land Use Plan - Draft 1

The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board is pleased to present the first draft of the Sahtu Land Use Plan (available at <http://www.sahtulanduseplan.org/>). This is further to the preliminary draft plan released in 2003.

Draft 1 is the result of many meetings and workshops with communities, organizations, industry and government. Emphasis has been placed on providing direction on how Sahtu land is used for the benefit of Sahtu communities and all Canadians. We recognize that gaps and inconsistencies exist particularly in the Appendix and in some zone descriptions. We feel it is important to proceed and progress with the overall intent of the land use plan through stakeholder input.

Sahtu stakeholder views and contributions will contribute greatly in the development of Draft 2. We expect to complete and distribute a second and third draft before our Board adopts the Sahtu Land Use Plan pursuant to section 43(1) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)*. A formalized consultation process, as required under the (*MVRMA*) will be conducted at the draft 3 stage.

We request your organization review Draft 1. If your industry or interest has an apprehension with a particular zone or condition, please briefly explain why and propose an alternative, recognizing we may not be able to accommodate your concern. If you feel a zone or condition is particularly important and should not change or if you propose additional zones or conditions, your rationale would provide valuable input.

We would appreciate your response by May 15th but will accept replies up to May 31st, 2007. Informational and editing inputs are most welcome. Reviews should be directed to Mr. John T'Seleie, Executive Director, Sahtu Land Use Planning Board - jtseleie@sahtulanduseplan.org. For large files, please call in advance, Fort Good Hope is on dial-up.

Sincerely,

Judith Wright-Bird, Chair

CC SLUPB Board members

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To be developed

Many individuals and organization have help the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board both directly and indirectly.

1. The Sahtu Land Use Plan

This Sahtu Land Use Plan is established under the authority of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. The Map dated February 16, 2007 labeled First Draft 1 and produced by the Sahtu GIS Project forms a part of this Sahtu Land Use Plan. The Sahtu Land Use Plan is organized in the three Sahtu Settlement Area Districts, Déline District, K'ahsho Got'ine District and Tulita District.

1.1 Definitions and Abbreviations

- "Appropriately qualified professional" is a scientist specializing in an applied science appropriate to the specific situation, including but limited to wildlife biology, engineering, geomorphology, geology, hydrology or hydrogeology and who has demonstrated suitable education, experience, accreditation and knowledge relevant to the particular matter, as determined by the SL&WB.
- "harvesting" is defined as in section 2.1.1 of the SLCA.
- "Karst topography" is landscape found on carbonate bedrock (limestone, dolomite, marble) with closed surface depressions, well-developed underground drainage systems, including disappearing streams, springs and sinkholes.
- "major water bodies" are bodies of water greater than 100 square kilometers in size.
- "migrating caribou" means the seasonal movement of caribou as determined by the Sahtu Land and Water Board in consultation with the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board.
- "monitoring" refers to the regular measurement of environmental or social parameters and indicators. Persons carrying out patrols could also carry out monitoring and various research functions, as well as provide logistical support to others' research and monitoring.
- "must" and "shall" are used interchangeably in this Management Plan; they imply mandatory requirements;
- "MVEIRB" means the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
- "MVLURs" means the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations.
- "MVRMA" means the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*
- "NWTWA" means the *Northwest Territories Waters Act*
- "participant" is as defined in section 2.1.1 of the SLCA.
- "Sahtu Lands" is as defined in section 2.1.1 of the SLCA.

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- “settlement lands” is as defined in section 2.1.1 of the SLCA.
- “shall” and “must” are used interchangeably in this Management Plan; they imply mandatory requirements;
- “SLCA” means the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement
- “SL&WB” means the Sahtu Land and Water Board
- “SLUPB” means the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board
- “SRRB” means the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
- “SSI” means the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
- “waste” is defined as in section 2 of the *Northwest Territories Waters Act*
- “water bodies” are bodies of water greater than 4 hectares in size with an inflow and an outflow.
- “wildlife” is defined as in section 2.1.1 of the SLCA: “wildlife” means all *ferae naturae* in a wild state, including fish, mammals and birds.

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1.2 The Planning Process

The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board has worked with communities, governments, industry and other stakeholders to:

1. create a vision for Sahtu land;
2. collect information about land, resources, and people of the Settlement Area; and
3. establish a land use plan to utilize and protect all resources.

This land use plan outlines land use visions of Sahtu communities and other stakeholders and provides designations to achieve those visions. It respects the unique character and values of land, resources, and Sahtu inhabitants to benefit present and future generations of Canadians. Both traditional and scientific knowledge are used as a basis for developing the plan.

It is important to understand that the beneficiaries of the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement have the right to hunt, fish, and gather, and the exclusive right to trap, anywhere in the Settlement Area for subsistence purposes. This Land Use Plan does not affect those rights.

Objectives and principles that guide this plan for the Sahtu Settlement Area are stated in the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (Part 2 Section 35) and the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. The objectives are as follows:

1. To recognize and encourage the Sahtu way of life which is based on the cultural and economic relationship between the Sahtu and the land (1.1.1.c);
2. To encourage the self-sufficiency of the Sahtu and to enhance their ability to participate fully in all aspects of the economy (1.1.1.d);
3. To provide the Sahtu the right to participate in decision making concerning the use, management and conservation of land, water and resources (1.1.1.g);
4. To protect and conserve the wildlife and environment of the settlement area for present and future generations (1.1.1.h); and
5. To integrate planning and management of wildlife and wildlife habitat with the planning and management of all types of land and water use in order to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat (1.1.1.f).

The Land Claim Agreement also provides for Principles Guide this Land Use Plan.

1. The purpose of land use planning is to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the settlement area having regard to the interests of all Canadians (25.2.4.a)
2. Special attention shall be devoted to:

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- (i) protecting and promoting the existing and future social, cultural and economic well-being of the participants;
 - (ii) lands used by participants for harvesting and other uses of resources; and
 - (iii) the rights of participants under this agreement; (25.2.4.b)
- 3. Water resources planning is an integral part of land use planning; (25.2.4.c)
- 4. Land use planning shall directly involve communities and designated Sahtu organizations; (25.2.4.d)
- 5. The plan developed through the planning process shall provide for the conservation, development and utilization of land, resources and waters. (25.2.4.e)

1.2.1 The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board was created by the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (Section 25.2) and empowered by the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (Part 2). The Board is responsible for developing and implementing a land use plan for the Sahtu Settlement Area.

Two members are nominated by the Sahtu Secretariat Inc. and one member is nominated by each of the Territorial and Federal Governments. A chairperson is nominated by the other four members. The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board is an independent “institution of public government.”

The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board is tasked with developing a land use plan for the Sahtu that guides the conservation, utilization and development of the land. The Board’s mandate extends over all lands within the Sahtu Settlement Area, exclusive of municipalities. Board Members play a central role in guiding the land use planning process using the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement and the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act as their guide.

1.2.2 Building a Vision

The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board began planning by working with communities, industry and other stakeholders to define their goals and visions and to identify issues. Meetings, open houses, workshops and household interviews were held with over 700 people from Sahtu communities, industry and environment groups. While the Sahtu Land Use Planning process is primarily community focused, the Board held discussions with resource and tourism industries, as well as environmental groups.

Major issues raised included traditional land use, resources, economic development, environmental protection and conservation, community well-being and community participation in land management. The vast majority of people wanted to see a balance between development and conservation.

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Maintaining a balance between development and conservation was the most talked about vision. Residents saw the need to develop resources for the security of future generations. They also recognize that conservation is key to ensuring land is sustainable.



The Board built a comprehensive library and Geographic Information System (GIS) that describes the natural, social, and cultural resources of the Sahtu. Land Use Mapping projects identified trails and types of land use. People were generous in providing detailed information, including identifying harvesting and cultural areas, providing traditional names and stories about their trips on the land.

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1.3 Land Use Zones

This plan establishes three land use zones:

1. Conservation Zone;
2. Special Management Zone, and
3. Multiple Use Zone.

While specific detail for each zone may vary, in general conservation zones restrict industrial development, Special Management Zones allow development with specific protection and development requirements and Multiple Use Zones are open for development subject to requirements established by regulatory agencies such as the Sahtu Land and Water Board.

The area and percentage of each Zone in the Sahtu Settlement Area is as follows:

- Conservation Zones - 83,602 sq. km. - 30%;
- Special Management Zones 138,122 sq. km. - 49%; and
- Multiple Use Zones - 31,361 sq. km. - 11%.

The total Sahtu Settlement Area is 283,588k sq. Km. The three Zones add to 90%, the missing 10% is Great Bear Lake which is bordered by both Special Management and Conservation Zones.

1.3.3 Conservation Zones

Conservation zones include sites and places with a combination of high traditional, cultural, historical, and/or biological significance. This includes some major rivers and mountain water sources, International Biological Programmed sites, as well as many heritage trails, sites, and places. Conservation zones contribution to the maintenance of wildlife populations and habitat.

The primary goal of the Conservation Zone is to ensure that traditional, cultural, heritage, and bio-physical values are maintained. To achieve this, surfaces and subsurface development activities, except for low impact recreation and tourism, are prohibited.

1.3.3.1 Conservation Zone Prohibitions and Conditions

A. Unless already authorized in a Conservation Zone prior to the approval of the Sahtu Land Use Plan, the following are prohibited in Conservation Zones:

1. any bulk water removals in accordance with current Federal policy; ⁱ

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2. any direct or indirect deposit of wastes into surface or ground waters of Conservation Zones which would have a negative impact on the ecological integrity of Conservation Zone ecosystems;
 3. any direct or indirect deposit of wastes through surface or ground water into a water body, unless the concentration of wastes will be at or below natural background levels — or in the case of historically-polluted drainages, pre-development levels — when the waste stream enters the water body;
 4. activities which result in the introduction of non-native plant and wildlife species or subspecies, or of domestic animal species or subspecies into Conservation Zones;
 5. activities which result in or contribute to the loss of genetic diversity (the loss of genetically unique populations of aquatic or terrestrial plants or wildlife) in a major water body;
 6. fish farming or aquaculture;
 7. the issuance of prospecting permits, the locating and recording of mineral claims, and mineral exploration, development and transportation;
 8. oil and gas exploration, development and transportation;
 9. electrical power development, power transmission lines including hydropower development; and
 10. sand, gravel and rock extraction.
- B.** Where prospecting permits were issued in Conservation Zones prior to the approval of the Sahtu Land Use Plan, the appropriate authorities shall implement the following conditions and prohibitions:
1. licenses, permits or other authorizations issued subsequent to the approval of the Sahtu Land shall be subject to the conditions and prohibitions in part 1.3.3.1;
 2. on the expiry of these prospecting permits, no further prospecting permits shall be issued; and
 3. on the expiry or relinquishment of mineral rights within the boundaries of these prospecting permits, the prohibitions in 1.3.3.1 above shall apply.
- C.** For permits, licenses or other authorizations in Conservation Zones issued prior to the approval of the Sahtu Land Use Plan, including those within pre-existing prospecting permits, the appropriate authorities shall apply the conditions and prohibitions in Part 1.3.3.1 as operational standards applicable to any renewal or substantial amendment of such permits, licenses or other authorizations.

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1.3.3.2 Acceptable Uses in Conservation Zones

A. Acceptable uses in Conservation Zones include:

1. the exercise of participants' hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering rights as recognized in the SLCA;
2. participants' right to travel and establish and maintain hunting, trapping and fishing camps;
3. other non-commercial uses by participants, including educational uses;
4. non- commercial recreational uses, provided that they are carried out in ways that respect and do not interfere with participants' peaceful use and enjoyment of settlement lands. (The appropriate authorities shall make all reasonable efforts to encourage non-regulated recreational users of Conservation Zones to contact and consult Renewable Resource Councils prior to using Conservation Zones.);
5. Telecommunications transmission towers with appropriate land owner and regulatory approvals; and
6. Commercial hunting, fishing and ecotourism operations as permitted by appropriate regulatory authorities.
7. Unless otherwise stated for a particular conservation zone, commercial renewable resource harvesting activities in Conservation Zones are acceptable. Such activities shall be regulated by the appropriate authorities, including, as the context requires, the SRRB, the RRC, the GNWT and the SL&WB, in accordance with 13.7, 14.1.6, 14.1.7 and 14.1.9 of the SLCA.

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1.3.4 Special Management Zones

Unless specifically restricted, most land uses are possible in a Special Management Zone. Conditions established in this Plan must be met and approvals through the regulatory system must be obtained. Special Management Zones are designed to protect valued resources identified by communities and other stakeholders during the planning process.

The specific terms and conditions noted below aim to protect wildlife and their habitats, heritage and cultural values. Many Special Management conditions are already applied within the Sahtu Settlement Area and are often industry identified “best practices”.

Special Management Zones are identified on the attached Map dated February, 2007 labeled First Draft and produced by the Sahtu GIS Project. Prohibitions and development conditions are listed in specific sections for ease of reference but apply to all Special Management Zones as appropriate.

1.3.4.1 Special Management Zone Prohibitions, Management and Developer Conditions

A. The following activities are prohibited in Special Management Zones:

1. in accordance with current Federal policy, any bulk water removalⁱⁱ
2. any direct or indirect deposit of wastes into the surface or ground waters which would have a negative impact on the ecological integrity of that ecosystem;
3. any direct or indirect deposit of wastes through surface or ground water into a major water body, unless the deposit will be at or below natural background levels — or in the case of historically-polluted drainages such as those in the vicinity of Port Radium on, pre-development levels when the waste stream enters a major water body;
4. activities which result in the introduction of alien or exotic species , (fauna or flora) into the Special Management Zone;
5. fish farming or aquaculture in the Special Management Zone;
6. activities in a lakebed, including any building or drilling in the lakebed and any trawling which results in the physical disturbance of the lakebed. Subject to existing legislative requirements, including requirements in the *Fisheries Act* and the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*, the following are excepted from this prohibition:
 - i. the installation of private, commercial or community wharves and docks;
 - ii. the installation of other similar inert structures within the boundaries of the community of Déline; and

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- iii. environmental monitoring equipment.
 - 7. activities that disturb or interfere with migrating caribou. (Activities that may interfere with migration will cease until the migration has passed).
 - 8. activities that disturb or interfere with burial and archaeological sites.
- B.** All uses of land or water and all deposits of waste in the Special Management Zone must be consistent with the maintenance of the ecological integrity of the Special Management Zone.
- C.** All infrastructure in a Special Management Zone must be built, monitored and managed so as to prevent and where necessary rectify any negative environmental effects that may result from the infrastructure's degradation or aggradation of permafrost.
- D.** Activities in a Special Management Zone must not block the migration routes of migratory fish species or other migratory or semi-migratory wildlife species.
- E.** The management of major water body fisheries should be proactive in nature and must be precautionary in approach:
- i. all stocks fished for recreational or commercial purposes must be maintained at sustainable levels consistent with identified fishery quality objectives. Licensed operators and harvesters shall be responsible for providing harvest statistics and biological information specified in their authorizations to the appropriate authorities; and
 - ii. as a general rule, fish stocks in the Great Bear Lake Watershed must be managed conservatively in order to minimize the risk of degrading the quality of Great Bear Lake Watershed fisheries.
- F.** Activities in a Special Management Zones should, wherever possible, have the support of District authorities. Where appropriate, given the scale of activities or their potential impacts on cultural integrity, consultation should be characterized by joint planning on the part of proponents and the appropriate District authorities.
- G.** The Developer(s) shall obtain all required licenses, permits, and/or approvals for all construction and operational activities from the Sahtu Land and Water Board and shall be in compliance with all Sahtu Land Use Plan conditions, as well as other government agencies, including Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and all responsible legislation
- H.** The Developer(s) shall obtain a license, permit, and/or approval for all construction and operational activities and shall be in compliance with all Sahtu Land Use conditions, as well

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as other government agencies, including Environment Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and all responsible legislation.

- I. Prior to development, the Developer(s) shall conduct comprehensive surveys and research to establish and document baseline environmental data, evaluate possible environmental impacts, and prescribe ways in which adverse environmental impacts are to be prevented or minimized.
- J. The Developer(s) shall hire appropriately qualified professionals to assist in the identification of important areas and time periods and to monitor all development construction and activities to ensure important areas and time periods are avoided as specified.
- K. The Developer(s) shall work with an appropriately qualified professional to develop a site restoration plan for the specific site(s) being restored.
- L. The Developer(s) shall clearly demonstrate in their application that they have the most current information on the location of caribou in the areas in which they plan to conduct activities and they must schedule the timing of their activity in such a way that minimizes impact on caribou.
- M. The Developer(s) shall hire appropriately qualified professionals to assist in the identification of important areas and time periods and to monitor all development construction and activities to ensure important areas and time periods are avoided as specified.
- N. The Developer(s) shall consult the relevant Renewable Resources Council prior to submitting an application for development and shall clearly identify and address the Council's concerns within their application.
- O. Where in the judgment of the Renewable Resources Council monitor, as required under section 1.3.4.3, an activity has a negative impact on the feeding pattern and movement of caribou, the monitor shall have the authority to direct the Developer(s) to cease the activity.
- P. General Infrastructure - Developer Conditions
 - 1. The Developer(s) shall re-use existing roads whenever possible
 - 2. The Developer(s) shall minimize the number of wells, roads, etc. whenever possible
 - 3. The Developer(s) shall cluster roads and infrastructure whenever possible
 - 4. The Developer(s) shall re-use existing pipelines whenever possible.
 - 5. The Developer(s) shall minimize the number of pipelines whenever possible.
 - 6. The Developer(s) shall cluster pipelines whenever possible.
 - 7. The Developer(s) shall use existing campsites where they exist, all campsites shall be located a minimum of 30 m from the high water mark of any water body.

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8. The Developer(s) shall not interfere with surface runoff channels for all activities requiring surface contouring.
9. The Developer(s) shall locate all lines, trails and rights of way to be constructed parallel to streams a minimum of 30 m from any stream except at crossings, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the Land Use Inspector or the S.L.W.B. (which ever is appropriate).
10. The Developer(s) shall not construct an adit or drill site within 100 m of the normal high water mark of a stream unless approval in writing is obtained from the S.L.W.B.
11. The Developer(s) shall not erect camps or store material on the surface ice of streams.
12. The Developer(s) shall use only clean snow in the construction of crossings.
13. The Developer(s) shall not locate any sump within 100 m of the normal high water mark of any stream.
14. The Developer(s) shall maintain all drill wastes at least 1.2 m below the lowest elevation of contiguous surrounding ground surface at all times.
15. The Developer(s) shall backfill and restore all sumps prior to removal of men and equipment from the area.
16. The Developer(s) shall contain drill wastes containing salt through "total encapsulation", removal, or depositing down hole pending approval by the National Energy Board.
17. The Developer(s) shall remove any obstruction to natural drainage caused by any part of this land use operation.
18. The Developer(s) shall not cut any stream bank unless authorized in writing by the Land Use Inspector.
19. The Developer(s) shall not use any material other than water in the construction of ice bridges.
20. The Developer(s) shall not allow any ice or snow bridge to hinder the flow of water in any stream.
21. The Developer(s) shall not use the bed of streams for access routes except for the purpose of crossing the streams, unless otherwise authorized by the Land Use Inspector.
22. The Developer(s) shall remove snow fills in steam crossings as the land use operation progresses, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the Land Use Inspector.

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23. The Developer(s) shall remove all culverts prior to the demobilization of men and equipment from the permitted area.
24. The Developer(s) shall remove any spill resulting from salt wastes.
25. The Developer(s) shall not quarry to a depth below that of the water table. Do not quarry below existing pit floor.
26. The Developer(s) shall have all wastewater clarified in settling ponds prior to its being returned to the stream.
27. The Developer(s) shall locate settling ponds above the high water mark of the stream.
28. The Developer(s) shall not place any petroleum fuel storage containers within 100 m of the normal high water mark of any stream.
29. The Developer(s) shall not allow petroleum products to spread to surrounding lands or into water bodies.
30. The Developer(s) shall inspect product lines regularly and repair any problems, thereby reducing the likelihood of gradual subsidence.
31. The Developer(s) shall conduct regular inspections and maintenance of pipelines to reduce the likelihood of leaks and spills.

Q. Karst Topography.- Developer Conditions

1. Karst topography is to be treated like any water body. To protect surface water and underground water (including aquifers), the Developer(s) shall not allow deleterious materials to enter into Karst features.
2. The Developer(s) shall not remove existing ground cover within 8 m of known karst areas and shall erect a temporary silt barrier and maintain the outer perimeter of the 8-m buffer area during the construction period.
3. The Developer(s) shall ensure that the vegetative cover be of sufficient quality and density to provide desired filtration. If existing vegetative cover is sparse, it must be improved to sufficient quality and density to provide the desired filtration.
4. For karst features, such as sinkholes, less than or equal to 0.1 ha in area, the Developer(s) shall not conduct activity within 8 m of the sinkhole rim.
5. For karst features, such as sinkholes, greater than 0.1 ha in area, the Developer(s) shall not conduct activity within 16 m of the sinkhole rim.
6. For compound karst features, such as a complex of sinkholes, less than or equal to 0.1 ha in area, the Developer(s) shall not conduct activity within 8 m of the sinkhole rim.

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7. For compound karst features greater than 0.1 ha in area, the Developer(s) shall not conduct activity within 16 m of the sinkhole rim.
8. To avoid contamination of karst groundwater, the Developer(s) shall dispose of all sewage in a manner approved by the Land Use Inspector, the S.L.W.B. (which ever is appropriate).

R. Fish Habitat – Developer Conditions

1. The Developer(s) shall actively consider all possible science, technology and adaptive management to avoid or minimize fish and fish habitat impacts.
2. The Developer(s) shall not be permitted to conduct activities within fish bearing water bodies during critical fish spawning and migration times as set out by the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, unless permitted by the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board.
3. The Developer(s) shall time construction activities to avoid sensitive life stages for fish (spawning, incubating, rearing, migration and known over-wintering areas).
4. The Developer(s) shall not detonate explosives within 15 m of any body of water, which is not completely frozen to the bottom.
5. The Developer(s) shall not remove water from fish-bearing rivers, streams, and natural lakes unless authorized in writing the Land Use Inspector or the S.L.W.B. (which ever is appropriate).
6. The Developer(s) shall not remove snow from fish bearing rivers, streams, and natural lakes unless authorized in writing the Land Use Inspector or the S.L.W.B. (which ever is appropriate).
7. The Developer(s) shall not compact snow cover overlying fish-bearing water bodies except for approved crossings. If ice thickness is not sufficient to facilitate a crossing, ice and/or snow bridges may be required.
8. The Developer(s) shall not site facilities within 150 m of fish-bearing streams.
9. The Developer(s) shall not site facilities within 800 m of the banks of main channels.
10. The Developer(s) shall not site facilities within 150 m of all other fish-bearing water bodies.
11. The Developer(s) shall align road crossings perpendicular or near perpendicular to watercourses.
12. The Developer(s) shall be required to collect baseline fish and fish habitat data prior to start up and sample periodically during each phase of development and operations. Type and frequency of sampling is to be determined by the Land Use Inspector or the

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S.L.W.B. (which ever is appropriate) and based on the type / intensity of development activities.

13. The Developer(s) shall not unnecessarily damage fish habitat in conducting an operation.
14. The Developer(s) shall construct and maintain all structures placed in streams frequented by fish, in such a manner that will not obstruct passage of fish.
15. The Developer(s) shall not obstruct the movement of fish while conducting this land use operation.
16. The Developer(s) shall use culverts of a size that will ensure the velocity of the stream flow is not increased.
17. The Developer(s) shall place the bottoms of all culverts installed in streams inhabited by fish at a level that maintains the natural contour of the stream.

S. Bird Habitat – Developer Conditions

1. The Developer(s) shall conduct clearing of vegetation outside bird nesting and fledging season (April 15 to August 31 for waterfowl, June 1 to July 15 for upland birds, and March 1 to August 1 for raptors including owls).
2. For all activities requiring a permit, license or authorization, the Developer(s) shall actively consider all possible science, technology and adaptive management to avoid or minimize bird and bird habitat impacts.
3. The Developer(s) shall restore / re-vegetate disturbed habitat using similar species occurring in adjacent undisturbed habitats, as advised by an appropriately qualified professional.
4. The Developer(s) shall not knowingly destroy or remove any tree known to contain an active nest during the upland bird breeding season (June 1 to July 15)¹⁷ and shall ensure that all activities be conducted in a manner that shall not disturb or harm nesting upland birds. The Developer(s) shall consult with the Canadian Wildlife Service as required.
5. The Developer(s) shall not unnecessarily damage bird habitat in conducting operation.
6. The Developer(s) shall ensure that aircraft maintain a horizontal distance of 3 km from large concentrations of birds.
7. The Developer(s) shall ensure that aircraft maintain a minimum altitude of 650 m (agl) when flying all year round.
8. The Developer(s) shall avoid all known raptor nesting sites by a minimum of 1000 m for disturbances during the species breeding, nesting and fledging period (March 1 to

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August 1)14. A setback distance from known raptor nests, outside breeding, nesting and fledging periods (August to February), is recommended at a minimum of 500 m buffer for high activity disturbances.

9. The Developer(s) shall ensure that all activities (including motorized and non-motorized water vessel use) be limited within a minimum of 250 m of all waterfowl staging and nesting areas¹². Limits should be most strict during breeding, nesting, fledging, and migration seasons. The Developer(s) shall consult with the Canadian Wildlife Service as required.
10. The Developer(s) shall ensure that from June 1 to August 31, aircraft over flights avoid identified waterfowl nesting and brood rearing habitat, and from August 15 to September 15, the fall staging areas for waterfowl, by an altitude of 450 m, or a lateral distance of 1.5 km.
11. The Developer(s) shall ensure that aircraft maintain a minimum altitude of 650 m (agl) when flying over identified waterfowl nesting and brood rearing habitat, all year round.
12. The Developer(s) shall not be permitted to pump groundwater into areas known to be important bird habitats nor during critical periods such as breeding, migration and moulting.
13. As to avoid contamination of bird habitat and drinking water sources, the Developer(s) shall not pump groundwater into receiving environment without undergoing necessary and appropriate treatment as directed by the Land Use Inspector or the S.L.W.B. (which ever is appropriate).
14. The Developer(s) shall hire appropriately qualified professionals to assist in the identification of important areas and time periods and to monitor all development construction and activities to ensure important areas and time periods are avoided as specified.
15. If helicopters are required for operations, the Developer(s) shall ensure that the smallest helicopter possible be used, reducing the noise level and footprint at each site
16. If helicopters are required for operations, the Developer(s) shall ensure that the helicopter has remote fuelling capabilities, which would reduce the number of flyovers and disturbance

T. Ungulate Habitat – Developer Conditions

1. The Developer(s) shall not feed wildlife.
2. The Developer(s) shall not harass wildlife.

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3. The Developer(s) shall not be permitted to conduct activities that block or impede access to known ungulate habitat including calving areas, and winter and summer ranges.
4. The Developer(s) shall not be permitted to conduct activities that coincide with important life requisite stages (*e.g.*: calving). The Developer(s) shall consult with the Canadian Wildlife Service and Department of Environment and Natural Resources as required.
5. The Developer(s) shall not be permitted to increase linear disturbance density (for linear disturbances greater than 3 m wide, except for roads) beyond 1 km / 1 square km.
6. The Developer(s) shall not be permitted to increase road linear disturbance density beyond 0.3 km / 1 square km.
7. The Developer(s) shall restore ungulate habitat to a quality similar to pre-disturbance conditions.
8. The Developer(s) shall discourage off-road vehicle use on all new linear accesses, other than highways (*i.e.* pipelines, seismic lines, and forestry roads).
9. The Developer(s) shall ensure all new linear disturbances in ungulate habitat be of minimal width (less than or equal to 3 m width) and limit the line-of-sight from roads.
10. For all activities requiring a permit, license or authorization, the Developer(s) shall actively consider all possible science, technology and adaptive management to avoid or minimize impacts to ungulate and ungulate habitat.
11. The Developer(s) shall ensure all aircraft maintain a minimum altitude of 610 m¹⁹ over known caribou habitat year round, and 1000 m* during calving seasons from June 1 – 25 (Barren-ground Caribou 11) or a lateral distance of 1.5 km, excluding takeoffs and landings, from caribou concentrations¹. (*A concentration means numbers of animals in excess of the general density of those animals found in the area*).
12. The Developer(s) shall offset seismic lines to reduce visual effect.
13. The Developer(s) shall remove all wire from the land as the land use operation progresses.
14. The Developer(s) shall slope the side of excavations and embankments except in solid rock or two (2) horizontal to one (1) vertical, unless other wise authorized in writing by the Land Use Inspector.
15. The Developer(s) shall remove any spill resulting from salt wastes.
16. The Developer(s) shall not unnecessarily damage ungulate habitat in conducting operation.

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17. The Developer(s) shall ensure that operations be suspended or shut down if caribou and/or muskox are spotted within 500m of any work/camp site.
18. The Developer(s) shall make the windrow of brush and debris lie flat and compact by bucking the material into suitable lengths and lopping the branches from the stem.
19. The Developer(s) shall not pump groundwater into areas known to be important ungulate habitats.
20. The Developer(s) shall not pump groundwater during periods that coincide with important life requisite stages (*e.g.*: calving). The Developer(s) shall consult with the Canadian Wildlife Service and Department of Environment and Natural Resources as required.
21. The Developer(s) shall restore / re-vegetate disturbed habitat using similar species occurring in adjacent undisturbed habitats, as advised by an appropriately qualified professional
22. As to avoid contamination of ungulate habitat and drinking water sources, the Developer(s) shall not pump groundwater into receiving environment without undergoing necessary and appropriate treatment as directed by the Land Use Inspector or the S.L.W.B. (which ever is appropriate).
23. The Developer(s) shall hire appropriately qualified professionals to assist in the identification of important areas and time periods and to monitor all development construction and activities to ensure important areas and time periods are avoided as specified.
24. The Developer(s) shall maintain seasonal no-fly zones for helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft that are a minimum 2,000 m horizontal and vertical distance from known goat habitats, as identified by an appropriately qualified professional, unless goats are separated by a physical barrier that would minimize disturbance levels (*e.g.*, mountain or terrain block)
25. If helicopters are required for operations, the Developer(s) shall ensure that the smallest helicopter possible be used, reducing the noise level and footprint at each site.
26. If helicopters are required for operations, the Developer(s) shall ensure that the helicopter has remote fuelling capabilities, which would reduce the number of flyovers and disturbance.
27. The Developer(s) shall maintain a minimum of 500 m from high ungulate (moose, sheep) use areas, such as wetlands, winter and summer habitats as identified in the field by appropriately qualified professionals.

U. Furbearer Habitat – Developer Conditions

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1. The Developer(s) shall hire appropriately qualified professionals to assist in the identification of important areas and time periods and to monitor all development construction and activities to ensure important areas and time periods are avoided as specified.
2. The Developer(s) shall avoid all known denning areas as identified by an appropriately qualified professional.
3. The Developer(s) shall not be permitted to conduct activities that coincide with important life requisite stages (*e.g.*: denning). The Developer(s) shall consult with Department of Environment and Natural Resources as required.
4. The Developer(s) shall restore / re-vegetate disturbed habitat using similar species occurring in adjacent undisturbed habitats, as advised by an appropriately qualified professional.
5. The Developer(s) shall burn all combustible garbage and debris in a container acceptable to a Land Use Inspector.
6. The Developer(s) shall burn all garbage and debris at least daily.
7. As they are used by denning furbearers, the Developer(s) shall detour around all sand hills, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the Land Use Inspector.
8. The Developer(s) shall not unnecessarily damage furbearer habitat in conducting operation.
9. The Developer(s) shall not destroy or damage beaver dams.
10. The Developer(s) shall not drain water from any water body with an active beaver house.
11. The Developer(s) shall not destroy or damage muskrat lodges.
12. The Developer(s) shall ensure that exploration and production activities not be conducted within 800 m of known occupied grizzly bear dens.
13. The Developer(s) shall not be permitted to pump groundwater into areas known to be important furbearer habitats.
14. As to avoid contamination of furbearer habitat and drinking water sources, the Developer(s) shall not pump groundwater into receiving environment without undergoing necessary and appropriate treatment as directed by the Land Use Inspector or the S.L.W.B. (which ever is appropriate).
15. If helicopters are required for operations, the Developer(s) shall ensure that the smallest helicopter possible be used, reducing the noise level and footprint at each site.

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16. If helicopters are required for operations, the Developer(s) shall ensure that the helicopter has remote fuelling capabilities, which would reduce the number of flyovers and disturbance.
17. The Developer(s) shall ensure that helicopter and fixed-wing flight altitudes maintain a minimum of 650 m over grizzly bears present during operations
18. The Developer(s) shall maintain a minimum of 500 m from high ungulate (moose, sheep) use areas, such as wetlands, winter and summer habitats as identified in the field by appropriately qualified professionals.

V. Coal Bed Methane – Developer Conditions

1. The Developer(s) shall minimize the number of wells whenever possible.
2. The Developer(s) shall cluster wells whenever possible.
3. The Developer(s) shall not pump groundwater into receiving environment without undergoing necessary and appropriate treatment, as directed by the Land Use Inspector or the S.L.W.B. (which ever is appropriate).
4. The Developer(s) shall not be permitted to pump groundwater into areas known to be important fish spawning, incubating, rearing, migration and over-wintering areas.

W. Fracking – Developer Conditions

(Injection of a high-pressure compound of sand and chemicals to fracture the coal seam).

1. The Developer(s) shall heavily monitor all fracking activities and shall take all necessary steps to avoid release of toxic chemicals into surface and ground waters, karst areas, fish habitat, bird habitat and drinking source water.

X. Coal Strip Mining – Developer Conditions

1. The Developer(s) shall install impermeable liners beneath coal storage piles to prevent the remote possibility of groundwater contamination and as a contingency against the possibility that coal from untested portions of the mine could contaminate water to a greater degree than the existing tests indicate. (Please note: this has the potential for a detrimental effect of increasing the amount of contaminated surface run-off).

Y. Barging – Developer Conditions

1. The Developer(s) shall use existing barge landings whenever possible.
2. The Developer(s) shall time barging and dredging for the spring when water levels are higher to limit the extent of dredging.
3. The Developer(s) shall conduct regular cleaning, inspections and maintenance of barges to reduce the likelihood of leaks and spills into aquatic systems.

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4. For karst features, such as sinkholes, less than or equal to 0.1 ha in area, the Developer(s) shall not install a barge landing within 8 m of the sinkhole rim.
5. For karst features, such as sinkholes, greater than 0.1 ha in area, the Developer(s) shall not install a barge landing within 16 m of the sinkhole rim.
6. For compound karst features, such as a complex of sinkholes, less than or equal to 0.1 ha in area, the Developer(s) shall not install a barge landing within 8 m of the sinkhole rim. For compound karst features greater than 0.1 ha in area, the Developer(s) shall not install a barge landing within 16 m of the sinkhole rim.
7. The Developer(s) shall make ready with necessary equipment to deploy a boom in an effective manner at all times when fuel is moved or transferred from a barge or on a barge.

Z. Aggregate Extraction – Developer Conditions

1. The Developer(s) shall ensure that there will be no extraction of aggregate within 1.5 meters of the water table
2. The Developer(s) shall ensure aggregate operations are conducted at a minimum distance of 100 m from any watercourse or wetland and 200 m from any wetland of conservation value, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the Land Use Inspector or the S.L.W.B. (which ever is appropriate). These separation distances shall maintain a minimum buffer of 50 m undisturbed vegetation.
3. For operations with the potential to have significant environmental impact, the Developer(s) shall have an environmental management plan.
4. In order to minimize sedimentation and turbidity problems, the Developer(s) shall ensure that water leaving aggregate operations be treated in a manner approved by the Land Use Inspector or the S.L.W.B. (which ever is appropriate).
5. The Developer(s) shall not divert streams to create an inactive channel for gravel extraction purposes.
6. The Developer(s) shall ensure that all gravel extraction activities for a single project are located on the same side of the floodplain in order to eliminate the need for crossing active channels with heavy equipment.
7. The Developer(s) shall ensure that extraction of aggregate from the soil will be completed as quickly as possible.
8. Prior to gravel removal, the Developer(s) shall conduct a thorough review of potentially toxic sediment contaminants in or near the stream bed where gravel removal operations are proposed or where bed sediments may be disturbed (upstream and downstream) by the operations.

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9. The Developer(s) shall not wash extracted aggregates and sediments directly in the stream or river or within the riparian zone.
10. The Developer(s) shall not store gravel stockpiles, overburden and/or vegetative debris within riparian zones.
11. The Developer(s) shall not alter undercut or incised banks
12. The Developer(s) shall hire appropriately qualified professionals to develop a gravel management plan.
13. The Developer(s) shall address cumulative impacts on fish and fish habitat caused by multiple extractions and sites along a given river or stream and shall be incorporated into any gravel management plan.

1.3.4.2 Sahtu Land and Water Board Conditions

- A. Through the conditions they attach to permits, licenses and other authorizations in Special Management Zones, the Sahtu Land & Water Board and other appropriate authorities shall in addition to complying with Special Management Zone Prohibitions and Condition in 1.3.3.1, ensure that each authorized party or the prospective assignee of that party:
 1. establishes and maintains a site-specific research and monitoring program that is appropriate to the scale of its proposed activity(ies) and adequate to demonstrate that all aspects of its activity(ies) are consistent with the maintenance of the ecological integrity of the Special Management Zone ecosystems;
 2. on termination or abandonment of its activity(ies), restores all areas affected by the activities to a condition consistent with the maintenance of the ecological integrity of Great Bear Lake Watershed ecosystems; and
 3. furnishes and maintains security with the Minister sufficient for achieving the purposes in 1 and 2 above, as well as for any ongoing measures that may be required after abandonment or closing.

1.3.4.3 Sahtu Renewable Resource Board Requirements

- A. The Developer(s) shall hire Renewable Resources Council monitors to assess the presence of migrating caribou within activity sites.

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1.3.5 Multiple Use Zones

Multiple Use Zones comprise the remainder of the Sahtu Settlement Area that is not designated as either a conservation or special management zone. All development activities are permitted on lands within this category provided their impacts on other resource users and values are minimized. Readers should note that terms and conditions may be applied to their licenses, permits or authorizations to conduct work through the regulatory process. The primary objective of Multiple Use Zones is to allow a full range of development activity while protecting the Sahtu's environment, historical resources, and culture.

1.3.5.1 Conditions for Peregrine Falcons and other Raptors in all Zones

1. Activities should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on raptor nesting sites from the beginning of March to the end of August.
2. Raptor nesting sites should be avoided by a minimum of 1000 meters.
3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 meters when flying over areas likely to have nesting raptors.

1.4 Exemptions from Zoning

1. Existing activities in the Sahtu Settlement Area will be allowed including development arising from rights existing at the time of Plan approval, even if the activities are not in keeping with the land zones. These existing uses will be allowed to continue as non-conforming activities.
2. Low impact recreational and tourism activities such as hiking and canoeing that do not require any type of permit, license or authorization are allowed.
3. Traditional activities protected by the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement are allowed.
4. Where an emergency threatens life, property or the environment, a person may carry out any land use that is necessary to cope with the emergency. If the activity is not in keeping with the land use zoning, the Planning Board requests that a written report describing the operation be submitted as soon as possible.

2. Deline District Planning Zones



Hockey in Deline by Great Bear Lake

Introduction to the Deline District

In addition to the Great Bear Lake Watershed Special Management Zone, the Deline District contains all or parts of ten conservation zones. The northern part of the District is in a subarctic climatic zone and is covered by the Dease Arm Plain and Bluenose Lake Plain eco-regions. The Tukturn Nogait National Park is in the far Northeast corner. A large multiple use zone is the backdrop for a noteworthy conservation zone surrounding Horton Lake. The only community is Deline (referred to in section 1.1.14).

2.1 Conservation Zones in the Deline District

All Deline District Conservation Zones are illustrated on the attached Map dated February 16, 2007 labeled First Draft 1.

2.1.1 Whitefish River Conservation Zone

Dene place name: Luchaniline

Whitefish River Conservation Zone is a very important local travel corridor, heritage place and traditional use location. Special features in this conservation Zone include Whitefish River Heritage Site. This Zone is critical for whitefish spawning, moose harvesting and provides significant waterfowl habitat.

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Size, Location and Boundaries

Illustrated on the Sahtu Land Use Plan, the Whitefish River Conservation Zone is located in the north-western part of the Great Bear Lake Watershed, and is approximately 1500 sq. km. in size. Its nearest point is approximately 40 km. from Déline. Its boundaries include all of the Whitefish River and the downstream reaches of the River's watershed and extend 10 km on either side of the river. Most of the zone is part of the Great Bear Lake Plain Ecoregion, while a small portion is in the Norman Range Ecoregion.

Land Ownership

Most of the zone consists of settlement lands, the surface title to which is held by the Deline Land Corporation (DLC). The DLC also holds the subsurface title to a parcel of land near the mid point, which is excluded from this zone. The Crown holds the subsurface title to the remainder and the surface title to relatively small portions of the zone.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

According to Déline elders this zone is a very important place for wildlife. It is very productive wildlife habitat, and it is important to the life cycles of a wide range of wildlife species. These species include beaver, muskrat, mink, otter, black and brown bear, moose, whitefish, jackfish, loche, grayling, sucker as well as geese, waterfowl and other migratory bird species.

This zone is widely recognized as a critical whitefish spawning area. Whitefish are found throughout the length of the river. The Sahtu Heritage and Places Joint Working Group recommended designating the zone as a Critical Wildlife Area to protect the whitefish spawning grounds, and that the area be given special consideration in the land use planning process. There is also a special harvesting area for fish at the mouth of the Whitefish River, where the River flows into the western reaches of Smith Arm.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance:

The Sahtugot'ine (the "people of Sahtu" or the people of Great Bear Lake) have used Whitefish for centuries. It is important because it preserves much of the physical heritage of the Sahtugot'ine: grave sites, traditional trails, camping sites, cabins, river crossings, other gathering places, other archaeological sites and the implements associated with them. It is one of the "natural museums" of the Sahtugot'ine.

White Fish is important for its educational value and the transmission of Sahtugot'ine culture from the elders to the younger generation. It continues to be used for educational trips involving Déline elders and school-aged children in the spring and summer, and for the teaching of the Sahtugot'ine legends, history, values, law and land based skills. It is one of the "natural schools" of the Sahtugot'ine.

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Whitefish continues to be very important for hunting, fishing, trapping and the gathering of a variety of plants and berries — for food and the preservation of the hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering way of life. It is important for other potential socio-economic uses, including potential local commercial renewable resource harvesting.

The Sahtu Heritage and Places Joint Working Group recommended oral history and archaeological research to document and protect extant heritage resources, and that the surface of documented sites be protected.

Non-Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: moderate

Mineral potential: low

2.1.2 Caribou Point Conservation Zone

Dene place name: Edaiila

Caribou Point Conservation Zone is a very important heritage place and traditional use location. Most of this area is also identified for special consideration in Rakekée Gok'é Godi: Places We Take Care Of. Other special features in this conservation Zone include Melville Creek International Biological Programme Site and Fort Confidence International Biological Programme Site. Important wildlife species in the Zone include caribou and fish.

Size, Location and Boundaries

Caribou Point is located in the north-eastern part of the Great Bear Lake Watershed, and is approximately 8709 sq. km. in size. Its nearest point is approximately 200 km. from Déline. The boundaries of Caribou Point encompass all of main peninsula and several adjacent islands.

Fort Confidence / T'echo cho deh t'a tlaaa is included in Caribou Point Conservation Zone and is located in the northeast bay of Dease Arm. It includes the lower reaches of the Dease River, a considerable area of Great Bear Lake shoreline and a small part of Ritch Island. This area is identified for consideration in the Land Use Plan Rakekée Gok'é Godi: Places We Take Care Of document. Most of Caribou Point is within the Grandin Plain Ecoregion, while a small portion is within the Coronation Hills and Coppermine River Uplands Ecoregions.

Land Ownership

While most of the Caribou Point Conservation Zone consists of Crown lands, the Deline Land Corporation holds the surface title to three parcels of settlement lands: relatively small parcels in the northern, Fort Confidence part of the site and in its south-eastern, McTavish Arm/Kwita part, as well as a larger parcel along the eastern boundary of the site.

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Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

According to the elders of Déline, Caribou Point is a very important place for wildlife. It contains very productive wildlife habitat, and it is important to the life cycles of a wide range of wildlife species. These species include barren ground caribou (the Bluenose-East herd), moose, grizzly bear, black bear, muskox, fox (four species), beaver, marten, mink, muskrat, lynx, wolverine, arctic hare, ground hog and wolf. Edaiila is also very important for fish species, including lake trout, herring, pike, grayling, whitefish and “jumbo” whitefish.

Government of Northwest Territories, Department of Environment and Natural Resources research confirms that the Bluenose-East herd regularly aggregates in or close to Caribou Point during the mid-July to mid-October period. Caribou Point is a very important area for this herd.

The Sahtu Heritage and Places Joint Working Group (Rakekée Gok'é Godi: Places We Take Care Of) recommended designating Caribou Point as a Critical Wildlife Area to protect caribou, while permitting access to local hunters. Caribou Point also contains several International Biological Programme Sites: Caribou Point, Cape MacDonald, Melville Creek and Fort Confidence. There is a special harvesting area for fish on the western tip of Caribou Point.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

Caribou Point has been used by the Sahtugot'ine (the “people of Sahtu” or the people of Great Bear Lake) for centuries. It is important because it preserves much of the physical heritage of grave sites, caribou herding fences, quarries for the making of stone tools, traditional trails, camping sites, cabins, an old mission, river crossings, other gathering places and archaeological sites. There are sites of contact (often violent) between the Sahtugot'ine and the Copper Inuit along with implements associated with these groups. Caribou Point is another of the “natural museums” and spiritual places of the Sahtugot'ine.

Caribou Point is also important because of Fort Confidence (T'echo cho deh t'a tlaaa) and the remnants of the early explorations and dwellings of Franklin, Dease, Simpson, Hornby, D'arcy and others. These early explorations are important for several reasons, including their early relationship with the Sahtugot'ine.

Caribou Point / Edaiila continues to be important to the Sahtugot'ine (the “people of Sahtu”) for hunting fishing and trapping all of the above species, and for gathering of a variety of plants and berries — for food and the preservation of the hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering way of life. It is particularly important for summer caribou hunting. Since places within or adjacent to it remain ice-free year round, it is considered an emergency fishing place.

Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: very low

Mineral potential: moderate to high

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2.1.3 Johnny Hoe River Conservation Zone

Dene place name: Tehkaicho De

Size, Location and Boundaries

The Johnny Hoe River Conservation Zone is located in the south-western part of the Great Bear Lake Watershed and is approximately 4173 sq. km. in size. Its nearest point is approximately 100 km. from Déline. Its boundaries include Lac Ste Therese, Birch Lake and a significant part of the Johnny Hoe River watershed. Johnny Hoe River Conservation Zone is part of the Great Bear Lake Plain and Keller Lake Plain Ecoregions, with a small fraction also in the Norman Range Ecoregion.

Land Ownership

The northern reaches of Johnny Hoe River Conservation Zone consist of settlement lands, the surface title to which is held by the Deline Land Corporation, while the Crown holds the subsurface title and the majority of the surface title of Johnny Hoe River Conservation Zone.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

According to the elders of Déline, Johnny Hoe River Conservation Zone is a very important place for wildlife. It contains very productive wildlife habitat, and it is important to the life cycles of a wide range of wildlife species. These species include beaver, muskrat, caribou, moose, black bear, whitefish, broad whitefish, geese, waterfowl and other migratory bird species.

Johnny Hoe River Conservation Zone is considered particularly sensitive when the Bluenose-East herd moves through it and crosses several rivers during its the late fall/early winter migration to its over-wintering grounds.

Johnny Hoe River Conservation Zone is widely recognized as a critical whitefish spawning area. Whitefish are found throughout the length of the river. The Sahtu Heritage and Places Joint Working Group recommended designating Johnny Hoe River Conservation Zone as a Critical Wildlife Area for fish and moose, and that the area be given special consideration in the land use planning process. There is also a special harvesting area at the mouth of the Johnny Hoe River.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

The elders believe Johnny Hoe River Conservation Zone to be one of the most important places used by their ancestors around Great Bear Lake and one of the most important for their ancestors' survival. It is important for its preservation of much of the physical heritage of the Sahtugot'ine: grave sites, and historic portage across the neck of Sahyoue and other traditional trails, hundreds of camping sites, cabins, gathering places, other archaeological sites and the

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implements associated with them. Like White Fish, it is one of the “natural museums” of the Sahtugot’ine.

The elders of Déline consider Johnny Hoe River Conservation Zone a very powerful or spiritually deep area. It continues to be used as a place of spiritual renewal by Déline residents.

Although fish taken in Lac Ste Therese have now been demonstrated to be contaminated by natural sources of mercury, Johnny Hoe River Conservation Zone continues to be very important for hunting, fishing, trapping and the gathering of a variety of plants and berries — for food and the preservation of the hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering way of life.

The Sahtu Heritage and Places Joint Working Group recommended oral history and archaeological research to document and protect extant heritage resources, and that the surface of documented sites be protected.

Non-Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: moderate

Mineral potential: low

2.1.4 Great Bear River Conservation Zone

The great Bear River Conservation Zone is included in both the Déline District Planning Area and the Tulita District Planning Area. Refer to the Tulita District Planning area, section 4.1.1 for further details on this Conservation Zone.

2.1.5 Sentinel Islands Conservation Zone

Dene place name: Du K’ets’Edi

Size, Location and Boundaries

The islands comprising this Conservation Zone are located at strategic points all around GBLW, and total approximately 528 sq. km. in size. They lie at various distances from Déline. The boundaries of the Conservation Zone include all of each of the islands. Most Du K’ets’Edi lie within the Great Bear Lake Plain Ecoregion, while a small number are within the Grandin Plain Ecoregion.

Land Ownership

The Déline Land Corporation holds the surface title to 18 parcels of land within Sentinel Islands. The Crown holds the remaining surface and all subsurface title.

Reasons for Protection

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1. Ecological Importance

The ecological importance of the islands comprising Sentinel Islands lies in their location in Great Bear Lake. These islands are to be protected in a natural, undeveloped state primarily to protect the water quality of Great Bear Lake.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

The Sahtugot'ine have used Sentinel Islands for as long as they have used GBL. They have used these islands primarily for safety purposes when traveling on GBL (safety from GBL storms, docking and temporary use year round, but particularly during the open water season).

The Sahtugot'ine consider many Sentinel Islands to have mythical significance, and to have been formed when mythical beings turned into islands when crossing GBL. Sentinel Islands thus have many stories associated with them, some like the Greek myths associated with Medusa turning other mythical creatures into stone. Some Sentinel Islands require special acts of respect when passing them and some are considered still to have supernatural powers associated with them.

Sentinel Islands are also important for their educational value and the transmission of Sahtugot'ine culture from the elders to the younger generation. They are places where the telling of some of the fundamental creation stories of the Sahtugot'ine is appropriate.

FURTHER MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS AND PROHIBITIONS

Participants and others shall use Sentinel Islands for temporary purposes only, including stopping and camping for safety reasons, research and monitoring (including the installation of research and monitoring equipment) and youth educational camps. Emergency shelters and youth educational shelters shall be authorized for temporary purposes only.

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: unknown

Mineral potential: unknown

2.1.6 Grizzly Bear Mountain Conservation Zone, and

2.1.7 Scented Grass Hills Conservation Zone

**Dene place name: Sahyoue (Grizzly Bear Mountain)
Edacho (Scented Grass Hills)**

Size, Location and Boundaries

Sahyoue and Edacho are located in the central part of the Great Bear Lake Watershed. Sahyoue is approximately 3400 sq. km. in size and Edacho is approximately 2500 sq. km. in

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size. Sahyoue and Edacho are each approximately 75 km, at their nearest points, from Déline. Their boundaries include all of their respective peninsulas. Sahyoue and Edacho are part of the Great Bear Lake Plain ecoregion.

Reasons for Protection

The community of Déline has advocated the protection of Sahyoue and Edacho since the early 1990s. Both places are identified in section 26.4.2 of the SLCA as Sahtu heritage places.

The Minister responsible for National Historic Sites designated Sahyoue and Edacho as a National Historic Site in 1998, and Sahyoue and Edacho are currently a Candidate Protected Area under the PAS. While that candidacy is being assessed, Parks Canada has sponsored a withdrawal of the Crown lands associated with both places. The withdrawal protects these lands while research and discussions between representatives of Déline, other agencies and Parks Canada proceed.

In 2004, representatives of the Déline Dene Band (now the Déline First Nation), the DLC and the Minister responsible for National Historic Sites approved a commemorative integrity statement for Sahyoue and Edacho.

Parks Canada has prepared an management options paper on Sahyoue and Edacho, but its new Minister must be briefed and give direction on these options. Parks Canada cannot predict when or how its Minister will direct it on Sahyoue and Edacho. It estimates that it would cost approximately \$8M over 5 years to establish a protected area for these places (one-time costs). Parks Canada's protection of Sahyoue and Edacho would be contingent on its being able to secure this funding.

Sahyoue and Edacho consist of approximately 80 percent Crown lands and 20 percent settlement lands. The DLC holds the surface title to the necks of both peninsulas, while the Crown holds the surface title to the majority of both peninsulas and the subsurface title to all of both areas.

Settlement lands cannot be protected under the *Canada National Parks Act*: the *Act* requires clear title to be in the Crown. For now, the settlement lands at the necks of both peninsulas are protected as part of the Sahyoue and Edacho Conservation Zones established under the Sahtu Land Use Plan.

MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROACH TO SAHYOUE AND EDACHO

This Sahtu Land Use Plan is based, at least at present, on the following assumptions:

- i. The Crown lands portions of Sahyoue and Edacho will ultimately be established as a Protected Area, in accordance with the process set out in the PAS. In the interim, Sahyoue and Edacho will continue to be protected by a land withdrawal.
- ii The SLUPB should re-visit and confirm the first assumption above just prior to recommending the Sahtu Land Use Plan to SSI and Territorial and Federal Ministers for their approval. If the first assumption above seems doubtful at that time, the SLUPB should designate Sahyoue and Edacho as a Conservation Zone in the Sahtu Land Use Plan. The

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cultural and socio-economic importance of Sahyoue and Edacho is very high, well documented and comparable to Whitefish and Johnny Hoe River Conservation Zone.

iii The Deline Land Corporation has informed the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board that it wishes the settlement lands portions of Sahyoue and Edacho to be designated as a Conservation Zone under the Sahtu Land Use Plan.

b. Given the above approach and the likely designation of Sahyoue and Edacho as a Protected Area under the PAS, the Sahtu Land Use Plan does not attempt to document the ecological, cultural and socio-economic importance, the non-renewable resource development potential, or the management conditions and prohibitions that should apply to Sahyoue and Edacho. Many of these matters are documented as follows:

i. Hanks (1996)

ii. Commemorative Integrity Statement for Sahyoue and Edacho

iii. Ecological Evaluation of Sahyoue/Edacho (PAS)

iv. L.P. Gal and J.M. Lariviere, *Sahyoue-Edacho Candidate Protected Area Non-renewable Resource Assessment (Phase I)*, NT.NWT Open File 2002-04 (Yellowknife: CS Lord Northern Geoscience Centre, 2002)

v. L.P. Gal and J.M. Lariviere, *Sahoyúé-ǰehdacho, Candidate Protected Areas Non-renewable Resource Assessment (Phase II)* NT.NWT Open File 2005-** (Yellowknife: NWT Geoscience Office, in prep.)

vi. Cultural Assessment of Sahyoue/Edacho (PAS)

vii. EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd., *A Reconnaissance of the Flora and Fauna of Sahyoue and Edacho*, NWT (February 2003);

viii. Parks Canada has drafted Management Options for Sahyoue and Edacho, but they are not yet publicly available.

2.1.8 Horton Lake Conservation Zone

Dene place name: Araka Tue

Size, Location and Boundaries

The Horton Lake Conservation Zone is approximately 1005 sq. km. in size. The zone is located within the Horton River watershed and the Dease Arm Plain ecoregion.

Land Ownership

The DLC holds surface title on portions on the west end of Horton Lake as well as a smaller portion on the northern shore. The remainder of the zone is crown land.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

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Araka Tue is the source of the Horton River which flows into the Arctic Ocean. Conservation will ensure its pristine character and preserve its ecological integrity. The lake has low biological productivity, with slow rates of growth and is ecologically fragile.

The zone is a very important place for wildlife including caribou, muskox, grizzly bear, wolf, wolverine, arctic fox, marten and migratory waterfowl. According to traditional knowledge, wildlife in this zone require large bodies of water around which they can congregate for the prey upon which they depend.

Fish species include trout, whitefish, and pike. For the Dene of Colville Lake, it is important that wildlife in the zone not be unnecessarily disturbed.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

The zone is in the Deline District but is used primarily by people of Colville Lake.

Araka Tue is used as a summer retreat by K'asho Got'ina of Colville Lake and Fort Good Hope. They return there each summer by floatplane for spiritual renewal and to hunt caribou.

Conservation will preserve the physical heritage of the K'asho Got'ine such as grave sites, traditional trails, camping sites, cabins, and archaeological sites.

It is important for the stories that are associated with the lake, and for the history, values and law of the K'asho Got'ine that these stories preserve.

Araka Tue is important for its educational value and the transmission of culture from the elders to the younger generation. It continues to be used for educational trips, and for the teaching of legends, history, values, law and land based skills.

It is a place of spiritual renewal for the K'asho Got'ina to strengthen their relationship with land and one another as a people.

It is a very important for hunting, fishing, trapping and the gathering of plants and berries — for food and the preservation of the hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering way of life.

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: high for a small northern portion of the zone.
Mineral potential: low.

2.1.9 Tunago Lake Conservation Zone

The Tunago Lake Conservation Zone is described in the K'asho Got'ine District (1.1.1)

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2.1.10 Deline Special Harvest Conservation Zone

Dene place name:

Size, Location and Boundaries

Land Ownership

Reasons for Protection

Ecological Importance

Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential:

Mineral potential:

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2.2 Special Management Zones in the Deline District

2.2.11 Great Bear Lake Watershed Special Management Zone

A predominant ecological feature of the Deline District is the Great Bear Lake Watershed. The entire watershed within the Sahtu Settlement Area is covered by the Great Bear Lake Special Management Zone with the exception of several Conservation Zones. The Special Management Zone ensures the ecological integrity of this unique watershed is maintained. Activities are designed and regulated with the Great Bear Lake Watershed's sensitive ecosystems in mind. This includes low biological productivity and slowness to recover from degradation. A primary aim of the Sahtu Land Use Plan is to maintain the pristine quality of Great Bear Lake water and supporting environment.

"THE WATER HEART": A MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR GREAT LAKE AND ITS WATERSHED was developed separate from but in cooperation with the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board. The document was completed in May, 2005. It was directed by The Great Bear Lake Working Group which included community members, elders and many technical experts from government and non-government organizations.

3. K'ahsho Got'ine District Planning Zones



3.1 Conservation Zones in the K'ahsho Got'ine District

All K'ahsho Got'ine District Conservation Zones are illustrated on the attached Map dated February 16, 2007 labeled First Draft 1.

3.1.12 Ramparts River Watershed Conservation Zone

Dene place name: Tsodehniline/Tuyat'ah

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone is 10953 sq. km in size. The zone is in the Fort Macpherson Plain and Peel River Plateau Ecoregions, with lesser portions in the Mackenzie Mountains and Mackenzie River Plain Ecoregions.

Land Ownership

The Crown holds title to all of zone except for a small parcel located in the western portion to which the K'asho Got'ine District holds surface and subsurface title.

Reasons for Protection

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1. Ecological Importance

The wetlands is comprised of numerous lakes between the Hume, Ramparts and Ontaratue Rivers.

The zone is habitat for boreal woodland caribou, mountain caribou, moose, sheep, black bear, grizzly bear, wolverine, marten, beaver, muskrat, mink, red fox, wolf, lynx, snowshoe hare, peregrine falcons and numerous species of waterfowl. The zone is habitat for a small herd of boreal woodland caribou.

The wetlands is critical habitat for thousands of nesting, brood-rearing and staging waterfowl of numerous species. The Canadian Wildlife Service has identified the wetlands as a Key Habitat Site because the zone is habitat for more than 1% of the Canadian population of waterfowl such as scaup, scoter and pacific loons as well as many other species of waterfowl and birds.

Most of the lakes in the wetlands contain pike and a few of the larger lakes are known to have whitefish.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

The Yamoga Land Corporation and Ducks Unlimited have requested an interim land withdrawal for this zone through the Canadian Wildlife Service.

The K'asho Got'ine use the zone to hunt moose, caribou, beaver, muskrat, and waterfowl. It is also habitat for marten, mink, wolf, wolverine, and fox. There are several cabins in the zone currently in use. Conservation will preserve grave sites, traditional trails, camping sites, cabins, river crossings, and archaeological sites.

The zone is important for the stories that are associated with specific places and events, and for the history, values and law of the K'asho Got'ine that these stories preserve. It is important for its educational value and the transmission of culture from the elders to the younger generation. It continues to be used for educational trips involving elders and school-aged children in the spring and summer, and for the teaching of legends, history, values, law and land based skills.

The report "Rakekee Gok'e Godi: Places We Take Care Of, Report of the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group" (December 1999), recommended designating the Ramparts River as a heritage river. In addition, it recommended Migratory Bird Sanctuary and Critical Wildlife Area status for the wetlands. The report also recommended that oral history and archaeological research of the river be undertaken to document and protect existing heritage resources and burials, and surface protection for documented sites. The report also identified ?iditue Dayida (The Thunderbird Place) as a heritage site in the zone.

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: low in the mountain portion and moderate to high in the remainder of the zone.

Mineral potential: high in the mountain portion and low in the remainder of the zone.

3.1.13 Anderson River Conservation Zone

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Dene place name: Sihoniline (Anderson River)

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone is 2650 sq. km. in size. The zone is in the Dease Arm Plain and Colville Hills ecoregions. The zone is comprised of the headwaters of the Anderson River watershed.

Land Ownership

Surface title is held by the K'asho Gotina District for the majority of the zone.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

The zone includes numerous lakes with many small streams constituting an important wetland for waterfowl, wildlife and fish. Conservation will preserve the pristine character of the zone by conserving its ecological integrity. The zone has low biological productivity, with slow rates of growth and is ecologically fragile.

The zone is habitat for Bluenose West caribou, muskox, grizzly bear, wolf, wolverine, arctic fox, marten and migratory waterfowl. Waterfowl in the zone include geese, swans, and numerous other bird species including birds of prey. The zone is a critical migratory waterfowl staging area as well as a critical nesting area for migratory birds that use the Anderson River flyway.

The zone is critical habitat for trout, whitefish, inconnu and grayling as well as pike and walleye. Traditional knowledge indicates that there are several locations in the zone that are critical for fish spawning.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

The zone was identified during the planning process as a very important local travel corridor, heritage place and traditional use location.

The K'asho Got'ine use the zone to hunt caribou, muskox, beaver, muskrat, and waterfowl. It is also prime habitat for marten, wolf, wolverine, and fox. There are several cabins in the zone currently in use. Conservation will preserve grave sites, traditional trails, camping sites, cabins, river crossings, and archaeological sites. The zone includes locations where fish traps were used in the past.

The zone is important for the stories that are associated with specific places and events, and for the history, values and law of the K'asho Got'ine that these stories preserve. It is important for its educational value and the transmission of culture from the elders to the younger generation.

The report "Rakekee Gok'e Godi: Places We Take Care Of, Report of the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group" (December 1999), also identified two sites in the zone. These are Tagan (section of the Anderson River) and Lugewa Tue (Whitefish Lake). Recommendations in the report include special consideration in the land use planning process for both sites.

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: moderate to very high

Mineral potential: unknown

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3.1.14 Mountain River Conservation Zone

Dene place name: Fa?Fa Niline

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone approximately is 4,770 sq. km. in size. The zone is in the Mackenzie Mountains, Peel River Plateau, and Mackenzie River Plain ecoregions.

Land Ownership

The K'asho Got'ina District holds surface title to a portion of the zone on the south side of the Mountain River, near its confluence with the Mackenzie River. The crown retains title to the remainder of the zone.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

The zone includes part of the Mountain River watershed.

The zone is habitat for boreal woodland caribou, moose, sheep, black bear, grizzly bear, wolverine, marten, beaver, muskrat, mink, red fox, wolf, lynx, snowshoe hare, peregrine falcons and various waterfowl.

Conservation will preserve the pristine character of the zone through protection of its ecological integrity.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

This Zone was identified during the planning process as an important local travel corridor, heritage place and traditional use location. Special features in the zone include the Fort Good Hope to Yukon heritage trail and the Coral Peaks International Biological Programme Site.

The K'asho Got'ine use the zone to hunt caribou, moose, sheep, beaver, muskrat, and waterfowl. It is also habitat for marten, wolf, wolverine, and fox. Conservation will preserve grave sites, traditional trails, camping sites, cabins, river crossings, and archaeological sites.

The zone is important for the stories that are associated with specific places and events, and for the history, values and law of the K'asho Got'ine that these stories preserve. It is important for its educational value and the transmission of culture from the elders to the younger generation.

The Mountain River is used by recreational canoeists.

The report "Rakekee Gok'e Godi: Places We Take Care Of, Report of the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group" (December 1999), recommended designation of the zone as a heritage river. The report also recommended oral history and archaeological research to document and protect existing heritage resources and surface protection for documented sites.

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

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Oil and gas potential: high near the Mackenzie River and low towards the Mackenzie Mountains.
Mineral potential: high in the Mackenzie Mountains and low in the remainder.

3.1.15 Underground River Conservation Zone

Dene place name: Neyidalin

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone is 647 sq. km in size. The zone is located in the Great Bear Lake Plain ecoregion.

Land Ownership

The crown holds title to the majority of the zone. The K'asho Got'ina District holds title to the remainder.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

The zone includes lakes and streams which constitute an important wetland for waterfowl, wildlife and fish. Conservation will preserve the pristine character of the zone by conserving its ecological integrity. The zone has low biological productivity, with slow rates of growth and is ecologically fragile.

The zone is habitat for Bluenose West caribou, muskox, grizzly bear, wolf, wolverine, arctic fox, marten and migratory waterfowl. Waterfowl in the zone include geese, swans, and numerous other bird species including birds of prey.

Fish species include trout, whitefish, grayling and walleye.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

The K'asho Got'ine use the zone to hunt caribou, muskox, beaver, muskrat, and waterfowl. It is also prime habitat for marten, wolf, wolverine, and fox. There are several cabins in the zone currently in use. Conservation will preserve grave sites, traditional trails, camping sites, cabins, river crossings, and archaeological sites.

The zone is important for the stories that are associated with specific places and events, and for the history, values and law of the K'asho Got'ine that these stories preserve. It is important for its educational value and the transmission of culture from the elders to the younger generation.

Details of the heritage site Neyidalin are outlined on page 56 of the report "Rakekee Gok'e Godi: Places We Take Care of, Report of the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group" (December 1999). The report recommends special consideration in the land use planning process for the zone.

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: very high
Mineral potential: low/moderate

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3.1.16 Maunoir Dome Conservation Zone

Dene place name: Ayoniki

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone is 926 sq. km. in size. The zone is located in the Colville Hills ecoregion. The zone includes Lac Maunoir.

Land Ownership

The K'asho Got'ina District holds surface title to the majority of the zone.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

The zone includes Lac Maunoir and the Maunoir Dome. Conservation will preserve the pristine character of the zone by conserving its ecological integrity. The zone has low biological productivity, with slow rates of growth and is ecologically fragile.

The zone is important habitat for wildlife including caribou, muskox, grizzly bear, wolf, wolverine, arctic fox, marten and migratory waterfowl. Waterfowl in the zone include geese, swans, and other bird species including birds of prey. The zone is a nesting area for various waterfowl.

Fish species include trout, whitefish, grayling, pike and walleye.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

Ayoniki is important as a landmark associated with the K'asho Got'ina legend of the creation of man. According to this legend, Ayoniki was the place where different peoples originated. This legend has been passed on through oral tradition from generation to generation since the time of pre-contact.

The K'asho Got'ine use the zone to hunt caribou, muskox, beaver, muskrat, and waterfowl. It is also prime habitat for marten, wolf, wolverine, and fox. There are several cabins in the zone currently in use. Conservation will preserve grave sites, traditional trails, camping sites, cabins, and archaeological sites. The zone includes locations where fish traps were used in the past.

The zone is important for the stories that are associated with specific places and events, and for the history, values and law of the K'asho Got'ine that these stories preserve. It is important for its educational value and the transmission of culture from the elders to the younger generation.

Details of the Ayoniki are outlined on page 42 of the report "Rakekee Gok'e Godi: Places We Take Care of, Report of the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group" (December 1999). The report recommends National Historic Site status for Ayoniki, with provisions to protect both the surface and subsurface from future development.

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: very high in western portion and moderate to low in the eastern portion.

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Mineral potential: low/moderate.

3.1.17 Tunago Lake Conservation Zone

Dene place name: Turatlin Tue

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone is 320 sq. km. in size. The zone is located in the Colville Hills ecoregion. The zone includes all of Tunago Lake and surrounding land.

Land Ownership

The K'asho Got'ina District and the Deline District holds surface and subsurface title to all of the zone.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

Conservation will ensure the pristine character of the lake by preserving its ecological integrity. The lake has low biological productivity, with slow rates of growth and is ecologically fragile.

The zone is habitat for caribou, muskox, grizzly bear, wolf, wolverine, arctic fox, marten and migratory waterfowl.

Fish species include trout, whitefish, walley and pike.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

There are several cabins in the zone. The zone is used for hunting, fishing and trapping.

Conservation will preserve the physical heritage of the K'asho Got'ine such as grave sites, traditional trails, camping sites, cabins, and archaeological sites.

It is important for the stories that are associated with the lake, and for the history, values and law of the K'asho Got'ine that these stories preserve. The zone is important for its educational value and the transmission of culture from the elders to the younger generation. It continues to be used for the teaching of legends, history, values, law and land based skills.

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: very high

Mineral potential: low/moderate

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3.1.18 Yamoga Rock Conservation Zone

Dene place name: Yamoga Fee



Yamoga Fee

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone is approximately 33 sq. km. in size. The zone is located within the Chick regional watershed and the Norman Range ecoregion. The zone is located approximately 30 miles southeast of Fort Good Hope.

Land Ownership

The Crown holds title to the zone.

Reasons for Protection

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Ecological Importance

The zone is a large, bedrock ridge which may be important habitat for birds of prey. Conservation is designated primarily for cultural reasons.

Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

Yamoga Fee is a culturally sacred K'asho Got'ina land mark. According to legend, a formation on the northern face of the ridge is said to be the form of Yamoga, who was a legendary warrior from pre-contact K'asho Got'ina history.

Details of the story of Yamoga are outlined on page 72 of the report *"Rakekee Gok'e Godi: Places We Take Care of, Report of the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group"* (December 1999). The report recommends surface and subsurface protection for the zone.

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: moderate

Mineral potential: moderate

3.1.19 Little Chicago Conservation Zone

Dene place name: shigago

Size, Location and Boundaries: This zone is approximately 10 sq. km. in size. The zone is located within the Great Bear Lake Plain ecoregion, on the west bank of the Mackenzie, approximately 90 miles north of Fort Good Hope.

Land Ownership

Surface title is held by the K'asho Got'ina District Land Corporation.

Reasons for Protection

Ecological Importance

Zone designated as conservation primarily for cultural/heritage reasons. The zone is a staging area for snowgeese during the spring and fall migration.

Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

There are several cabins located in the zone. The zone is used for hunting, fishing, trapping, and harvesting of migrating waterfowl (particularly snowgeese) in the spring. The zone is an intensive traditional use zone. During the fur trade era, several independent fur traders established cabins in the area.

The zone continues to be used by the descendants of those who have used the area. Conservation will preserve physical heritage such as grave sites, traditional trails, camping sites, cabins and archaeological sites.

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Further detail is outlined in the report: "*Rakekee Gok'e Godi: Places We Take Care of: Report of the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group (December 1999)*".

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: low

Mineral potential: low

3.1.20 Colville Traditional Use Conservation Zone

Dene place name:

Tue Sho (Aubry Lake); K'abami Tue (Colville Lake); Nilin Tue (Belot Lake)

Size, Location and Boundaries:

This zone is approximately 2830 sq. km. in size. The zone is located within the Colville Hills ecoregion, and includes land along the shores of Belot, Colville and Aubry Lakes. The community of Colville Lake is located in the zone.

Land Ownership

The K'asho Got'ina District Land Corporation has surface title to land near Belot Lake. It also has surface title to two parcels north of Colville and Aubry Lakes, as well as subsurface rights to three parcels in the zone. The crown retains title to remainder of the zone.

Reasons for Protection

Ecological Importance

Conservation will preserve the pristine character of the zone by conserving its ecological integrity. The lakes are characterized by low biological productivity with slow rates of growth.

Wildlife in the zone include caribou, muskox, grizzly bear, wolf, wolverine, fox (arctic, red, cross), ermine, red squirrel, mink, otter, and marten. Moose are also observed occasionally in the zone.

Fish species include trout, whitefish, walleye, pike and grayling.

The zone is habitat for many species of waterfowl such as swans, loons, scoters and other waterfowl and birds.

Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

The four large lakes and the land along their shores, are used and occupied by the Dene of Colville Lake. This is an intensive traditional use zone in the past and in the present. Many (camp) sites are still visible. There are cabins, some from the past and some still in use located along the shores of the lakes. People from Colville Lake access the shores of the lakes by motor boat in the summer and by snowmobile in the winter.

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Important fur-bearing animals in the zone include wolf, wolverine, red fox, arctic fox, and marten.

The zone also includes the heritage site "Duta" as identified in the report, *"Rakekee Gok'e Godi: Places We Take Care Of, Report of the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group" (December 1999)*. The report recommended further oral historical and archaeological research for this site as well as surface protection.

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: high

Mineral potential: low

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3.2 Special Management Zones in the K'ahsho Got'ine District

3.2.21 K'ahsho Got'ine Group Trapping Area Special Management Zone

Information about the zone:

The zone is the winter range of the Bluenose West barrenland caribou herd from October to April. The calving grounds for this herd are in the Tukturn Nogait National Park. The herd migrates to its calving grounds in May and returns to its winter range in September/October. The communities of Fort Good Hope, Colville Lake and Paulatuk are the primary harvesters of this herd. The population of the Bluenose West herd was estimated by government census in 1998 to be approximately 98,000. The census in 2006 estimated the population of the herd to be approximately 20,000 animals.

Location and Boundaries:

The zone is illustrated on the Land Use Plan Map – Draft 1. It includes all of that area in the K'asho Got'ina District, north of the Hare Indian River and east of the Mackenzie River.

Reasons for Designation:

- To ensure that there is no further decline in the numbers of the Bluenose West caribou herd.

3.2.22 Marion Lake Special Management Zone

Information about the zone:

The zone was identified during the planning process as a very important heritage area and traditional use location.

Location and Boundaries:

The zone is illustrated on the Land Use Plan Map – Draft 1. It includes Marion Lake and other lakes north of Marion Lake.

Reasons for Designation:

- To maintain traditional use
- To protect burial and archaeological sites
- To protect important fish, wildlife and waterfowl habitats

3.2.23 Lac a Jacques, and Sam McRae Lakes Special Management Zone

Information about the zone:

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The zone was identified during the planning process as a very important heritage area and traditional use location.

Location and Boundaries:

The zone is illustrated on the Land Use Plan Map – Draft 1. It includes Lac a Jacques, Sam McRae Lake, Chick Lake and Snafu Lake.

Reasons for Designation:

- To maintain traditional use
- To protect burial and archaeological sites
- To protect important fish, wildlife and waterfowl habitats

3.2.24 Loon River to Fort Anderson Trail Special Management Zone

Information about the zone:

This zone was specifically identified pursuant to 26.4.3(f) of the *Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement*. The report "Rakekee Gok'e Godi: Places We Take Care Of, Report of the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group" (December 1999), recommended special consideration in the land use planning process for the trail.

During the planning process it was identified as a very important local travel corridor, heritage place and traditional use location. Special features in this conservation Zone include burial sites, the Fort Anderson Heritage Trail, as well as Rory, Carcajou, Canot and Loon Lakes, which are used extensively for traditional activities. Important wildlife species in the Zone include moose, barren ground caribou and fish.

Location and Boundaries:

The zone is illustrated on the Land Use Plan Map – Draft 1.

Reasons for Designation:

- To protect archaeological sites
- To preserve the trail in order to recreate cultural revival projects, such as walking the trail with youth and elders

FURTHER MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS AND PROHIBITIONS

Wherever the trail is to be crossed, the developer(s) in their application for development shall indicate clearly that they will not disturb any archaeological sites by conducting research to inventory and document heritage resources through the Fort Good Hope Renewable Resources Council and the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Center.

No part of this trail may be bulldozed or used as a road for exploration or development.

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3.2.25 Fort Good Hope to Colville Lake Trail

Information about the zone:

This Zone was identified during the planning process as a very important Regional and Territorial travel and transportation corridor, heritage place and traditional use location. Special features in this conservation Zone include the Fort Good Hope to Colville Lake Heritage Trail. Significant wildlife species include caribou, waterfowl, moose and fish. Large sections of this Heritage Trail have been cleared for cat-train trail and the winter road. There are also significant development activities ongoing within the Special Management Zone.

Location and Boundaries:

The zone is illustrated on the Land Use Plan Map – Draft 1.

Reasons for Designation:

- To protect archaeological sites
- To preserve the trail in order to recreate cultural revival projects, such as walking the trail with youth and elders

FURTHER MANAGEMENT CONDITIONS AND PROHIBITIONS

Wherever the trail is to be crossed, the developer(s) in their application for development shall indicate clearly that they will not disturb any archaeological sites by conducting research to inventory and document heritage resources through the Fort Good Hope Renewable Resources Council and the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Center.

No part of this trail may be bulldozed or used as a road for exploration or development.

4. Tulita District Planning Zones

4.1 Conservation Zones in the Tulita District

All Tulita District Conservation Zones are illustrated on the attached Map dated February 16, 2007 labeled First Draft 1.

4.1.1 Great Bear River Conservation Zone

Dene place name:

The Dene place name for the Great Bear River Conservation Zone is Sahtu Deh.

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone is approximately 1091 km².

Land Ownership

The Great Bear River lies within both the Deline and Tulita districts; the majority of the river is surrounded by Sahtu selected lands (surface title).

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

The Great Bear River provides water to the community of Tulita and is a very important travel route between the Mackenzie River and Great Bear Lake. The river also provides high quality fishing.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

The Great Bear River Conservation Zone is a very important local travel corridor, heritage place, and traditional use location. Special features in this conservation zone include a portion of the heritage trail from Tulita to Deline and across Great Bear Lake. Many Dene legends originate in this area.

The report *Rakekee Gok'e Godi: Places We Take Care Of* (Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group, (December 1999), recommended designating the Great Bear River as a Heritage River. The report also recommended that oral history and archaeological research of the river be undertaken to document and protect existing heritage resources and burial sites, and surface protection for those documented sites.

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: medium to high

Mineral potential: uncertain

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4.1.2 Willow Lake Conservation Zone

Dene place name:

The Dene place name for the Willow Lake Conservation Zone is K'aalo Tue.

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone has an approximate area of 664 km². The zone is located 28 km northeast of Tulita.

Land Ownership

The area of land in this zone is selected land with surface title held by the Tulita District.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

This area has a long history as an important place for hunting, fishing, and trapping. The lake and nearby wetlands support relatively large populations of a wide range of species, particularly beaver, moose, and waterfowl. This site is a key breeding area, nesting area, and fall staging area for waterfowl populations of international significance.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

This Zone was identified during the planning process as a very important local travel corridor, heritage place, and traditional use location. Special features in this Conservation Zone include Willow Lake Heritage Site and Willow Lake International Biological Programme Site.

The report "Rakekee Gok'e Godi: Places We Take Care Of, Report of the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group" (December 1999), recommended designating Willow Lake as a National Historic Site with surface and subsurface protection. The report also recommended that oral history and archaeological research of the river be undertaken to document and protect existing heritage resources, cabins and burials.

Willow Lake and surrounding area has long been used for traditional harvesting of jackfish (northern pike), whitefish, waterfowl, muskrat, snowshoe hare, moose, trees for firewood, and berries (particularly blueberries).

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: medium to high

Mineral potential: uncertain

4.1.3 Bear Rock Conservation Zone

Dene place name:

The Dene place name for the Bear Rock Conservation Zone is Kwetini?ah.

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone is approximately 29 km². The zone is located 75 km northwest of Tulita.

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Land Ownership

The area of land in this zone is selected land with surface title held by the Tulita District.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

Bear Rock is a known nesting area for raptors, particularly peregrine falcons.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

Bear Rock is considered one of the most important sacred sites to the Dene of the Mackenzie Region and has served as a symbol of cultural and political unity of the Dene Nation for many years.

The report "Rakekee Gok'e Godi: Places We Take Care Of, Report of the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group" (December 1999), recommended designating Bear Rock as a National Historic Site with surface and subsurface protection.

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: medium to high

Mineral potential: uncertain

4.1.4 Mountain Lakes Conservation Zone

Dene place name:

This Zone includes three International Biological Programme Sites: Carcajou Lake, Mirror Lake, and Florence Lake.

Size, Location and Boundaries

Carcajou Lake is approximately 64 km² and is 8 km northwest of the Plains of Abraham Conservation Zone.

Mirror Lake is approximately 32 km² in size and is 48 km west of Tulita.

Florence Lake is approximately 32 km² and is located at the foot of the Carcajou Range of the Mackenzie Mountains.

Land Ownership

The Carcajou and Florence Lakes are selected lands with surface title held by the Tulita District. Mirror Lake is not within a selected land parcel.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

Florence and Mirror Lakes occupy a border area between the Mackenzie River valley and the Mackenzie Mountains. As such, there are a variety of species that occur within the areas, such as Dall's sheep, moose, boreal woodland caribou, and mountain woodland caribou. Carcajou Lake is fully located within the Mackenzie Mountains and is an important wintering area for Dall's sheep.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Carcajou Lake:

Oil and gas potential: low

Mineral potential: medium

Mirror Lake:

Oil and gas potential: low

Mineral potential: medium

Florence Lake:

Oil and gas potential: low

Mineral potential: medium

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4.1.5 Plains of Abraham Conservation Zone

Dene place name:

Size, Location and Boundaries

The zone has an area of 64 km² and is 80 km south-southwest of Norman Wells.

Land Ownership

The Plains of Abraham are not within any selected land parcels and are Crown Lands.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

During the last glaciation, the Plains of Abraham was unique in that it remained the only unglaciated region of the Mackenzie Mountains and provided a refugium for a variety of plant and animal species. The area now supports a unique flora and fauna, including the long-tailed jaeger and the singing vole.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: low

Mineral potential: medium

4.1.6 Mahoney Lake Massacre Site Conservation Zone

Dene place name:

The Dene place name for Mahoney Lake Massacre Site Conservation Zone is Tuwi Tue.

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone is approximately 8 km². The zone is located 74 km north of Tulita.

Land Ownership

The area of land in this zone is selected land with surface title held by the Tulita District.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

This is a site of historic significance. Special features include camp, heritage, and burial sites. Traditional trails and trap lines also originate from this area.

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The report "Rakekee Gok'e Godi: Places We Take Care Of, Report of the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group" (December 1999), recommended designating Mahoney Lake Massacre site as a National Historic Site, with surface and subsurface protection. The report also recommended that oral history and archaeological research of the river be undertaken to document and protect existing heritage resources and burials.

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: low to medium

Mineral potential: low to medium

4.1.7 Nahanni Headwaters Conservation Zone

Dene place name:

The dene place name for Nahanni Headwaters Conservation Zone is Begadeh.

The Nahanni Park Reserve Consensus Team, Parks Canada and the community of Tulita have expressed interest in protecting the Nahanni River watershed. Support for this initiative is evidenced by recent NWT Protected Area Strategy meetings and ongoing research work. The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board encourages the formal entry of this site into the NWT Protected Area Strategy and will amend the Land Use Plan to reflect the outcome of this process.

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone has an approximate area of 6840 sq. km. The zone is located approximately 240 km from Tulita.

Land Ownership

The area of land in this zone selected by the Tulita District is ____ sq. km. This area is a candidate area for protection under the NWT Protected Areas Strategy.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

Important wildlife species in the Conservation Zone include Dall's sheep, mountain goat, mountain woodland caribou, and moose. The relatively small population of mountain goats within Begadeh are the northernmost limit for the species in Canada. Upland areas in the Conservation Zone provide calving grounds for mountain woodland caribou during summer.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: low

Mineral potential: low to medium

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4.1.8 Ravens Throat and Redstone Rivers Conservation Zone

Dene place name:

The Dene place name for Ravens Throat and Redstone Rivers Conservation Zone is Tats?k?aa nilie.

This Zone was identified during the planning process as a very important local travel corridor and traditional use location. Special features in this conservation Zone include the Raven's Throat International Biological Programme Site and Wrigley Lake. Important wildlife species include moose and sheep.

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone has an approximate area of 6912 sq. km. The zone is located 195 km Southwest of Tulita.

Land Ownership

The area of land in this zone is selected land with surface title held by the Tulita District.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

Natural features that will be protected in this area include Dall sheep, the summer range of woodland caribou, moose and waterfowl. The habitat is especially beneficial for woodland caribou and Dall sheep due to the high density of mineral licks, hot springs and a saline rich stream. Periglacial features, White River volcanic ash, and unique flora also characterize this region. The area is also used for traditional harvesting of birch, spruce, Dall sheep, woodland caribou, moose, and fish.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

Traditional knowledge studies have identified traditional trails and trap lines. The area also includes cabins, campsites, and spiritual sites.

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: low with an area of medium potential running through the centre

Mineral potential: low to medium

4.1.9 Keele River Conservation Zone

Dene place name:

The Dene place name for Keele River Conservation Zone is Sonarali (not in dene font)

Keele River and Headwaters Conservation Zone is a very important local travel corridor, heritage place and traditional use location. Special features in this conservation are including Red Dog Mountain Heritage Site, Caribou Flats International Biological Programme Site, Moosehorn Headwaters International Biological Programme Site, Circque Lake International Biological Programme Site, and Mackenzie Mountain Barrens International Biological Programme

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Site. Important wildlife species include mountain caribou, moose, and sheep. This river is also used extensively by the eco-tourism sector.

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone has an approximate area of 29 sq. km. The zone is located 75 km Northwest of Tulita.

Land Ownership

The area of land in this zone is selected land with surface title held by the Tulita District.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

Natural features that will be protected in this area include Dall sheep, the summer range of woodland caribou, moose and waterfowl. The habitat is especially beneficial for woodland caribou and Dall sheep due to the high density of mineral licks, hot springs and a saline rich stream. Periglacial features, White River volcanic ash, and unique flora also characterize this region. The area is also used for traditional harvesting of birch, spruce, Dall sheep, woodland caribou, moose, and fish.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

Traditional knowledge studies have identified traditional trails and trap lines. The area also includes cabins, campsites, and spiritual sites. Cultural areas include a medicinal bath for the Mountain Dene, traditional harvesting sites for fish and timber.

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: low with an area of medium potential running through the centre

Mineral potential: low to medium

4.1.10 Mountain Hot Springs Conservation Zone

Dene place name:

This Zone includes three International Biological Programme Sites: Tuitye Hot springs, Sculpin Springs, and Lymnaea Springs.

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone has an approximate area of 29 sq. km. The zone is located 75 km Northwest of Tulita.

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Land Ownership

The area of land in this zone is selected land with _____ title held by the Tulita District.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

The hot springs provide unusual habitat conditions for some specialized plants and animals – such as an endemic species of snail (*Lymnaea bulmoides*) at Lymnaea Springs and slimy sculpins at Sculpin Springs. The hot springs are used as mineral licks by Dall's sheep, moose, and caribou. The Tuitye hot springs were used as a medicinal bath by the Mountain Dene.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: low

Mineral potential: low to medium (Lymnaea and Tuitye Springs) to high (Sculpin Springs)

4.1.11 Headwaters and Backbone Range Conservation Zone

Dene place name:

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone is approximately XX km². The zone is XX km from Tulita.

Land Ownership

The area of land in this zone is selected land with surface title held by the Tulita District.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

This zone is important as a calving area for mountain woodland caribou and as year-round habitat for Dall's sheep. Relatively high density moose populations occur in willow flats in low-lying areas and grizzly bears are relatively abundant throughout the Conservation Zone, except in areas of higher altitudes. This Zone and Begadeh are the only Conservation Zones within the Sahtu that feature populations of hoary marmots.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: very low to low

Mineral potential: low to medium

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4.1.12 Smokes Conservation Zone

Dene place name:

The debe place name for the Smokes Conservation Zone is Dek'one (not in dene font).

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone is approximately XX km⁵. The zone is XX km from Tulita.

Land Ownership

The area of land in this zone is selected land with surface title held by the Tulita District.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: medium to high

Mineral potential: low to medium

4.1.13 Red Dog Mountain Conservation Zone

Dene place name:

The dene place name for Red Dog Mountain Conservation Zone is Tli dehdele didlo (not in dene font)

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone has an approximate area of XX km². The zone is XX km from Tulita.

Land Ownership

The area of land in this zone is selected land with surface title held by the Tulita District.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: high

Mineral potential: medium

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4.1.14 Kelly Lake and Lennie Lake Conservation Zone

Dene place name:

The dene place name for Kelly Lake and Lennie Lake Conservation Zone is Luge dek'ale (please note that this sp. is in FGH dialect)

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone has an approximate area of 29 km². The zone is 75 km northwest of Tulita.

Land Ownership

The area of land in this zone is selected land with surface title held by the Tulita District.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

Upland areas around the lakes are used year-round by muskox and by boreal woodland caribou during late winter when snows are deep in the surrounding boreal forest and in summer for insect and thermal relief. The lakes are known for having high-quality fishing – both subsistence and recreational angling.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: medium to high

Mineral potential: low to medium

4.1.15 Tate Lake and Stewart Lake Conservation Zone

Dene place name:

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone has an approximate area of 29 sq. km. The zone is located 75 km Northwest of Tulita.

Land Ownership

The area of land in this zone is selected land with surface title held by the Tulita District.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

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Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: medium to high

Mineral potential: uncertain

4.1.16 Three Day Lake Conservation Zone

Dene place name:

Size, Location and Boundaries

This zone has an approximate area of 29 km². The zone is 75 km northwest of Tulita.

Land Ownership

The area of land in this zone is selected land with surface title held by the Tulita District.

Reasons for Protection

1. Ecological Importance

This area is particularly known for having some of the highest moose densities in the Sahtu and is also known as a breeding and staging area for waterfowl, particularly swans. The outflow of the lake – Sucker Creek – is known for having abundant grayling and bald eagles nest on the side of the lake.

2. Cultural and Socio-Economic Importance

Non-Renewable Resource Development Potential

Oil and gas potential: very high

Mineral potential: uncertain

4.2 Special Management Zones in the Tulita District

4.2.17 Mackenzie River Special Management Zone/Deh Cho

This Mackenzie River Special Management Zone is a very important Regional and Territorial travel and transportation corridor, heritage place and traditional use location. Special features in this conservation Zone include:

Many important cultural sites and places are found along, or accessed from, the Mackenzie River.

Significant wildlife species in the include raptors, waterfowl, moose and fish.

The Mackenzie River is the water source for the communities of Norman Wells and Fort Good Hope.

There are also significant development activities ongoing within this Special Management Zone.

5. Land Use Plan Implementation

5.1 Integrated operational Policies with the Sahtu Land and Water Board

(Policies to be developed)

Land Use Plan implementation is a primary responsibility of the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board. Co-management boards, governments, Sahtu community and business groups will also play important roles in the implementation of the Land Use Plan.

The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board has the following implementation responsibilities:

- Review applications or authorizations for conformity with the Land Use Plan
- Monitor the implementation of the Land Use Plan
- Review and consider request for exceptions and amendments to the Land Use Plan
- Review the effectiveness of the Land Use Plan in meeting its goals and objectives
- Prepare and conduct a comprehensive review of the Land Use Plan five years after it is approved

5.2 Conformity with the Land Use Plan

Section 25.2.9 of the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement states that: "Upon approval of a land use plan, those authorities with jurisdiction to grant licenses, permits, leases, or interests relating to the use of land and water in the Settlement Area shall conduct their activities and operations in accordance with the plan."

The Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act makes a similar statement.

Conforming to the Land Use Plan will require groups to follow the land use Zone designations and related permitted and restricted activities. Also, conformance means agencies will carry out the various recommendations contained within the Land Use Plan. In dealing with applications, regulatory groups should understand they have the legal obligation to be in conformity with the Land Use Plan.

The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board has the final say as to whether or not a proposed activity conforms to the Land Use Plan.

Should a development proposal not be in conformance with the Land Use Plan, the proponent may wish to apply to the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board for either an exception or an

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amendment to the Land Use Plan. Moreover, the Land Use Plan is reviewed and revised every five years and the proponent may wish to seek changes to the Land Use Plan during this exercise.

5.3 Exceptions to the Plan

The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board can grant an exception to the Land Use Plan. An exception will allow an activity to take place that is not in conformity with the Land Use Plan. When considering granting an exception, the Planning Board will consider:

1. Is the land use something the Planning Board did not consider?
2. Is there new information about a Zone that the Planning Board did not have when producing the Land Use Plan?
3. Does the proposed activity benefit the residents and communities of the Sahtu Settlement Area and does it have their support?
4. Does the proposed activity have support from the Sahtu Secretariat Inc. or the designated Sahtu organization, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada?
5. What will be the environment and cultural impacts of allowing the exception?
6. What are the implications of allowing the land use relative to other land uses occurring or potentially occurring in the Zone?
7. Is the land use precedent setting? That is to say will the exception likely lead to more requests for similar exceptions?
8. Should this exception lead the Planning Board to consider amending the Land Use Plan?

5.4 Implementation Policy

To obtain an exception to the Land Use Plan, applicants will have to apply directly, in writing, to the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board. Once the Planning Board has received a request for an exception, it will consider the application and make a decision as soon as possible. The time required will depend on Board workload and resources. A record of decision will form the Planning Board's response. Applicants may be asked to make a presentation to the Planning Board on the proposed exception.

A standard exception form is a part of the Implementation Policy. The exception form includes:

1. Applicant name and address
2. Summary of exception request

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3. Summary of activity proposed
4. Location in Settlement Area
5. Land use planning designation
6. Summary of potential environmental and cultural effects
7. Reasons justifying exception relating to benefits of the land use to the residents and communities of the Sahtu Settlement Area
8. Additional information about the land, water, resources, cultural and/or socio-economic situation of the Zone(s) in question.
9. Indications of support by Community, Government, The Sahtu Secretariat or its Designate, and other groups.

5.5 Amendments to the Plan

Amendments can be made to effect long term changes to the Land Use Plan. The Planning Board, or another group, can propose an amendment to the Land Use Plan at any time, although amendments are most likely to occur as a result of the five year comprehensive reviews of the Land Use Plan.

The Planning Board may decide on its own to amend the Land Use Plan. However, approvals for a Land Use Plan amendment must go through the same process as approval of the Land Use Plan. The requirements for an amendment therefore include:

1. A published notice inviting interested persons to examine the proposed amendment;
2. Public hearings in relation to the proposed amendment; and
3. Submission and approval of the proposed amendment by The Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, the Territorial Minister and the Federal Minister.

The above process is demanding, and this suggests that there will not be frequent amendments to the Land Use Plan. However, an amendment may be considered at any time to address:

1. Changes in land, water, wildlife or resource information;
2. An unconsidered land, water, wildlife or resource use;
3. Concerns of Sahtu Settlement Area groups;
4. More specific management direction from other co-management, Sahtu or government groups; and

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5. Changes in the socio-economic situation of the Sahtu Settlement Area.

Additional information, as outlined in the exception process above, will also be required.

6. APPENDIX

6.1 Background to the Sahtu

6.1.18 History of the Sahtu

The Sahtu Settlement Area is the homeland of the Sahtu Dene and Metis. They have occupied the area for thousands of years. Their traditional lands are referred to as Denendeh, “The Land of the Dene”.

The Dene who use the SSA are the K’asho Got’ine (Hare), the Shuta Got’ine (Mountain People), and the Sahtu Got’ina (Great Bear Lake People). The Sahtu Metis are descendants of the intermarriage between the Sahtu Dene and the European population that began to live in the region in increasing numbers with the growth of the nineteenth century fur trade.

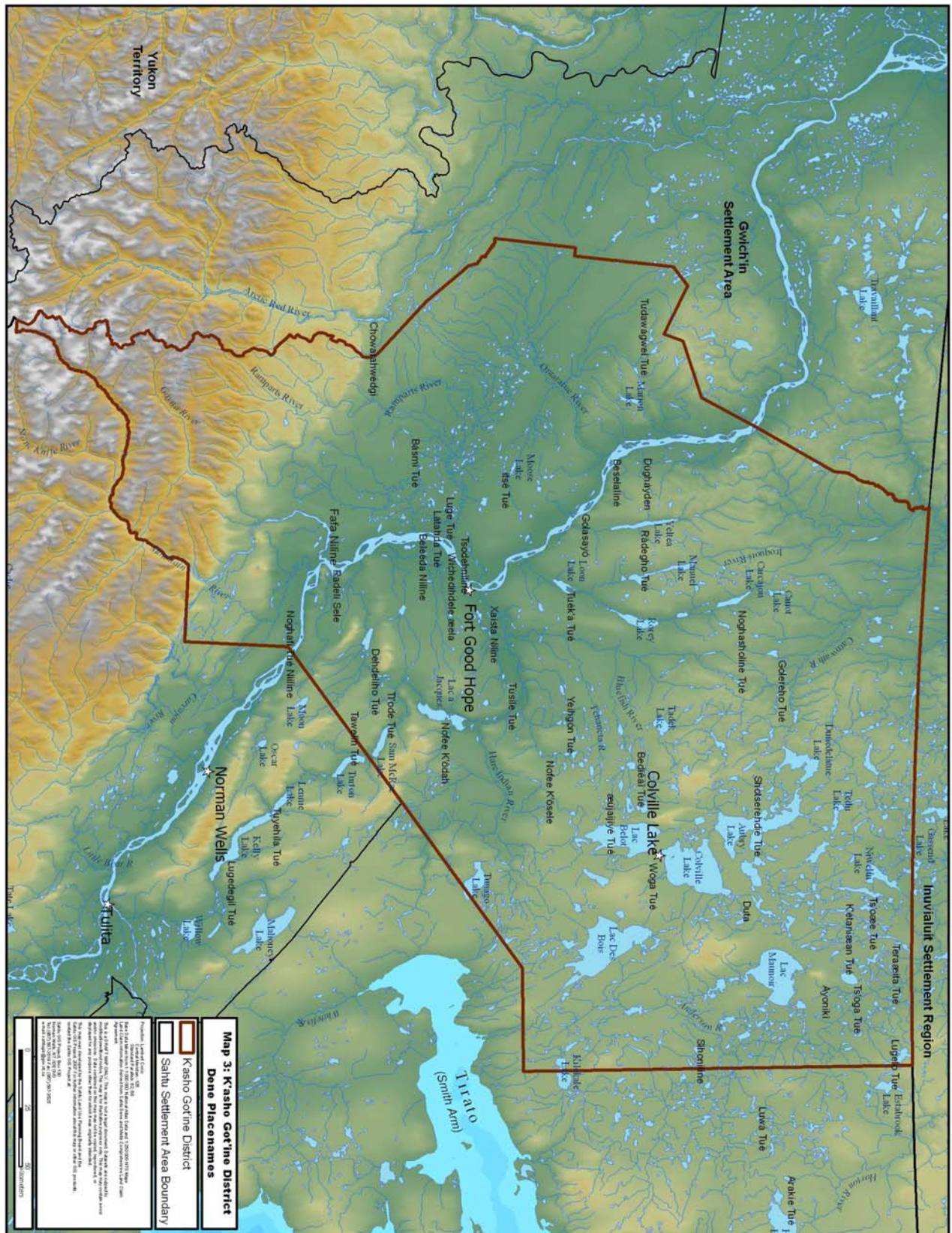
The pattern of traditional Dene life followed the changing seasons and movement of wildlife, with major seasonal changes marked by autumn freeze and spring thaw. In the fall and winter, people moved about the land in small family groups. Fish, moose and caribou provided materials necessary for survival. Spring and summer, with more abundant food supply were spending in larger groups sharing experiences, celebrating and preparing for the coming winter.

The Dene developed knowledge of land and the ability to survive in harsh climates. With the coming of the fur traders, the Dene world changed. Understanding this history is critical to understanding the Peoples’ connection to the land and their views on land management.

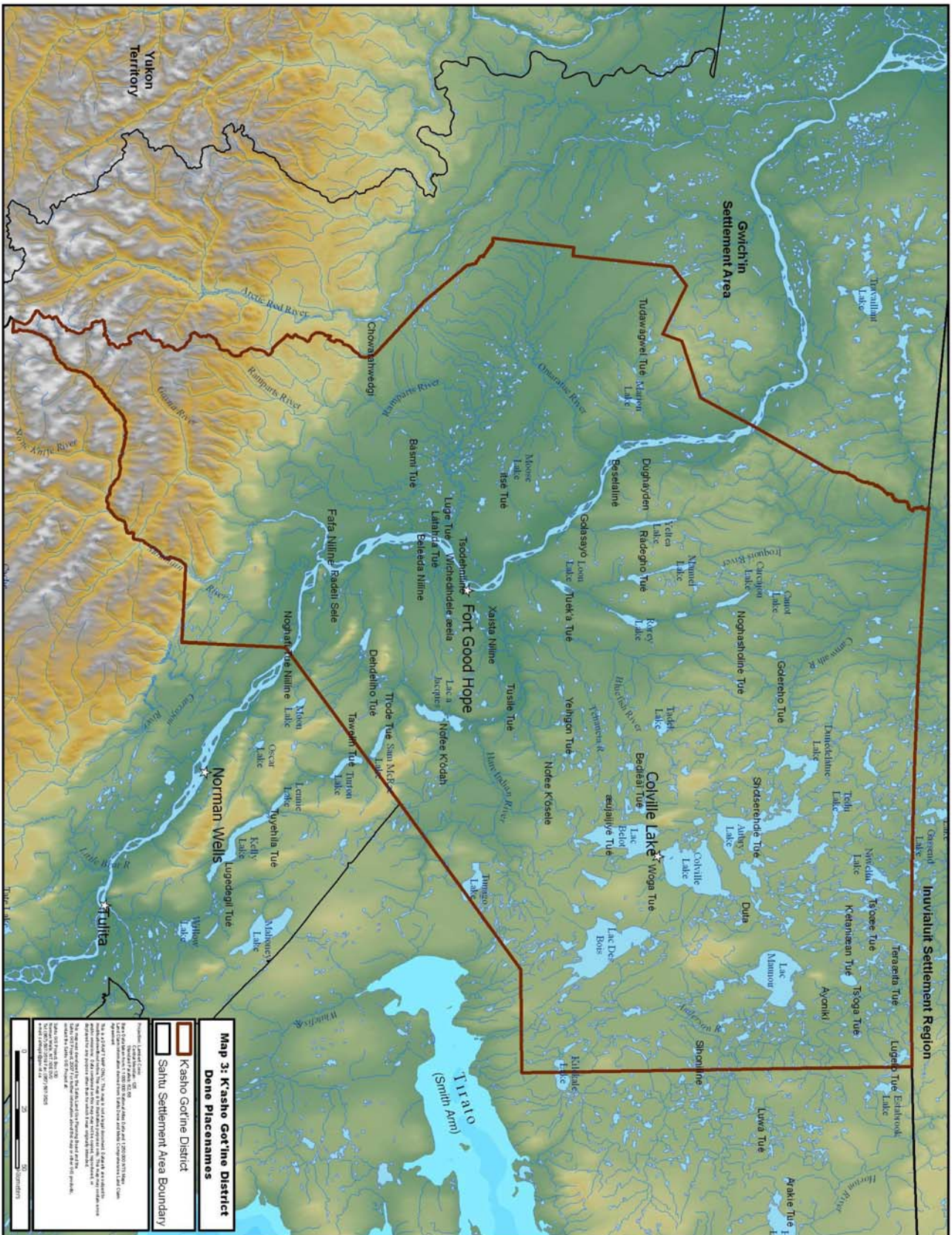
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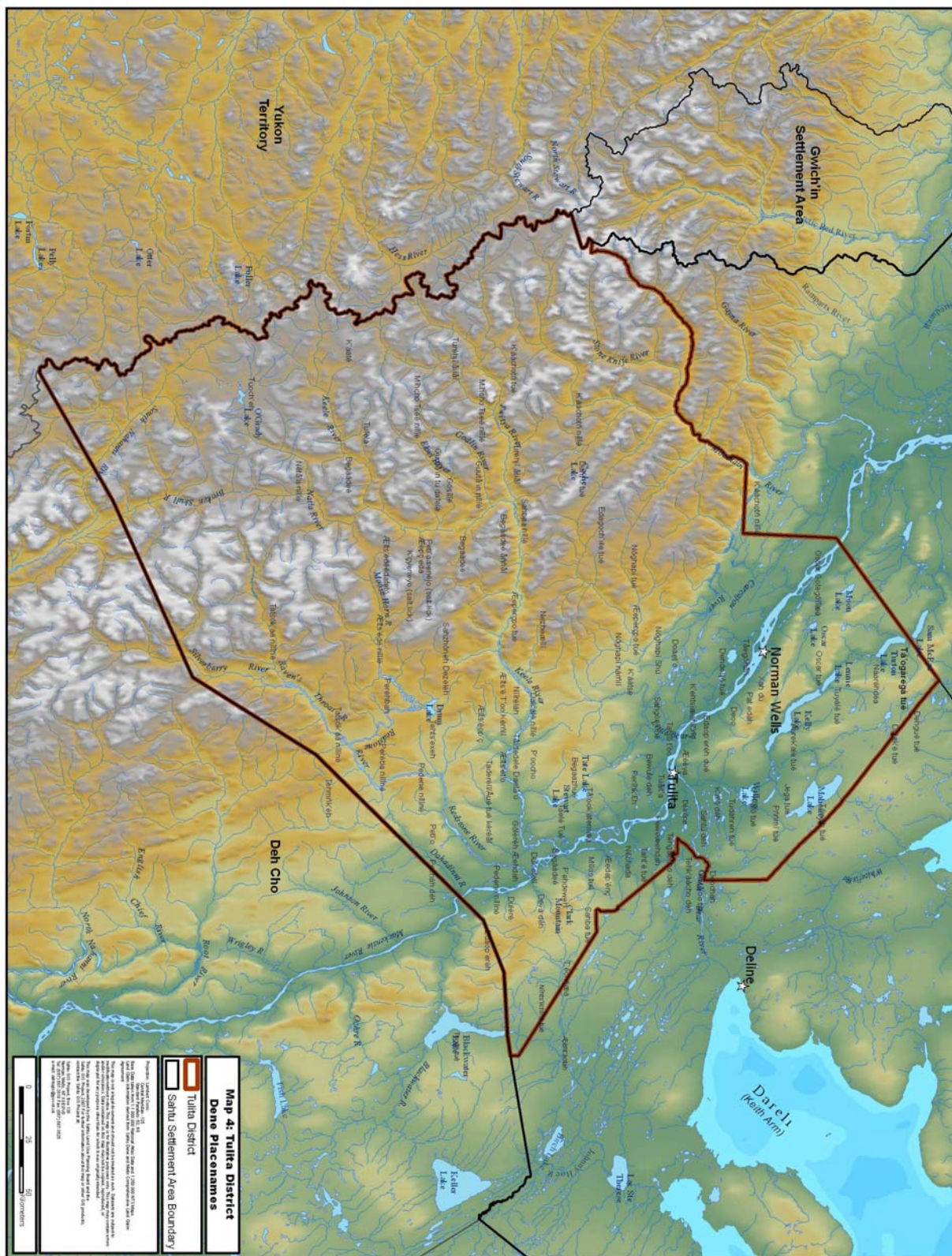


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6.2 Sahtu Organizations

6.2.19 Municipal Land Management

Municipal lands in the Sahtu Settlement Area are managed by the Government of the Northwest Territories through the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and by municipal corporations. Although the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board has no authority over municipal lands there are some cross boundary issues that the two groups share such as water resources, waste management and transportation.

6.2.20 Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act

The *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* was proclaimed on December 22nd, 1998. This Act implements the land and water provisions of the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim. The Act creates the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board, the Sahtu Land and Water Board, and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. Section Four of the Act, establishing the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, was proclaimed on March 31st, 2000. The *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* sets out a new system for looking after development in the Sahtu Settlement Area and in the Mackenzie Valley. The Act provides for an integrated system of land and water management through-out the Mackenzie Valley.
GNWT

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6.2.21 Sahtu Land Use Planning Board

The Sahtu Land Use Planning Board is responsible for developing, reviewing and proposing approvals, exceptions and amendments to the Sahtu Land Use Plan.

6.2.22 Sahtu Renewable Resources Board

The Sahtu Renewable Resources Board is the main group dealing with wildlife, fish and forests in the Sahtu Settlement Area. Their role is to conduct research and propose policies to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat as well as Sahtu harvesting rights on the land. The Sahtu Renewable Resources Board works with Sahtu community groups (Renewable Resource Councils) to manage wildlife, fish and forests. The Sahtu Renewable Resources Board conducts wildlife, fish and forest research and the Sahtu Harvest Study. They are currently working to develop wildlife management plans and a forest management plan for the Sahtu Settlement Area.

6.2.23 Sahtu Land and Water Board

The Sahtu Land and Water Board is a regional panel of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and is responsible for the management of land and water use and the deposit of waste into water in the Sahtu Settlement Area. They issue, amend, or renew land use permits and water licences on government lands (crown land) and on Sahtu Settlement Lands (see Figure 10).

6.2.24 Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board is responsible for environmental assessment and public review of developments throughout the Mackenzie Valley. If a proposed development may have significant adverse environmental impacts or is of public concern it is referred to the Review Board for an environmental assessment. In the Sahtu Settlement Area, a proposed development can be referred to the Review Board by the Sahtu Tribal Council, local government or a department or agency of the federal or territorial government if the development will have an impact within their boundaries, as well as by the regulatory group involved such as the Sahtu Land and Water Board.

6.2.25 Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board is responsible for dealing with proposed activities that may impact on land and water use across more than one Settlement Area. For example,

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the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board would become involved in a proposed land use activity that would effect both the Sahtu Settlement Area and the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Figure 10: Getting a Land Use Permit or Water License

6.3 Land Ownership

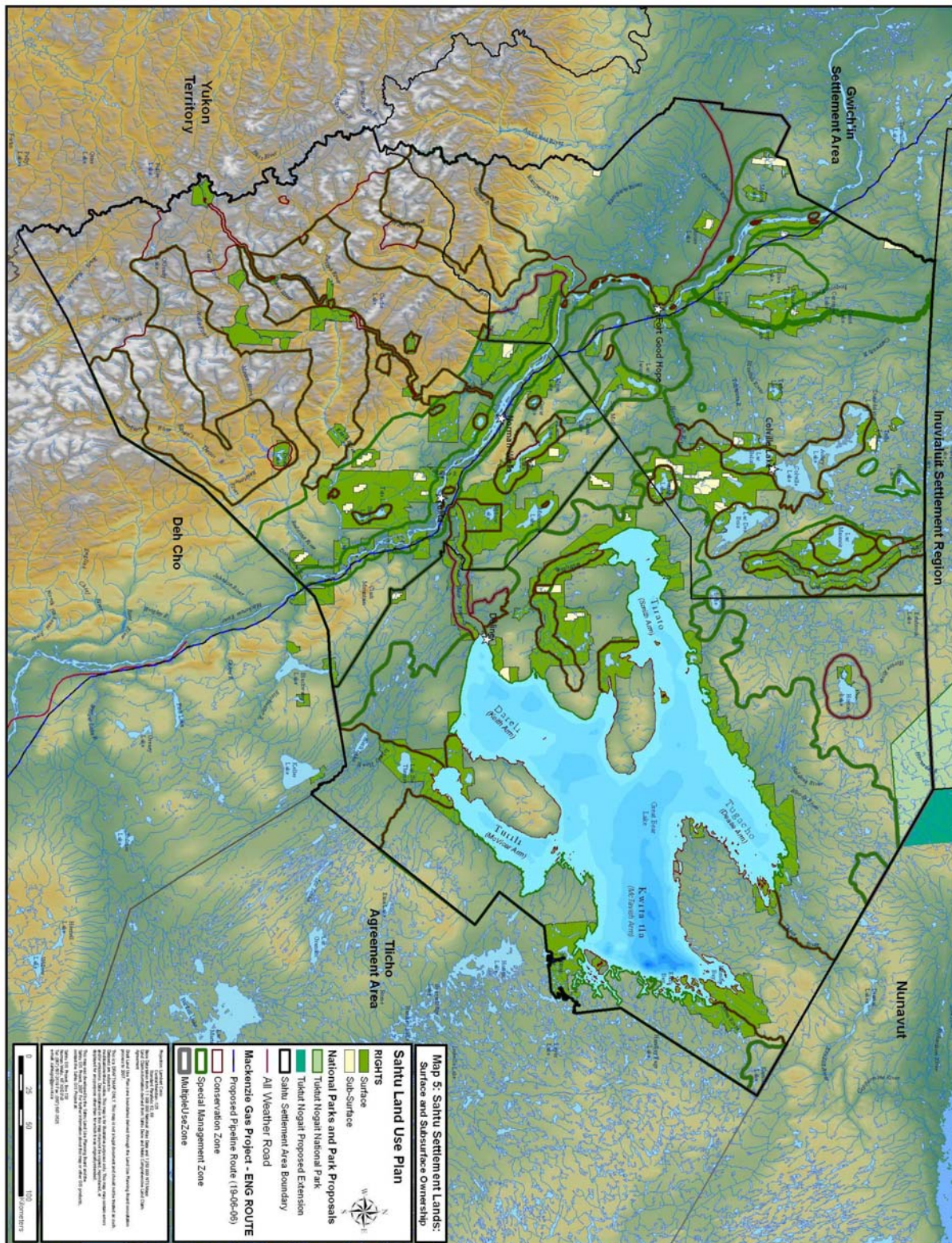
The Sahtu Dene and Metis own, in fee simple, 41,437 km² of the 283,171 km² of land that comprises the Sahtu Settlement Area. In addition, the Sahtu Dene and Metis people hold subsurface rights over 1,813 km² of this land. The lands owned by the Sahtu Dene and Metis people are called Settlement Lands.

Depending on its location, title to Settlement Lands is held by one of the three District Land Corporations. These are the Kasho Gotine District, the Tulita District and the Deline District. Each District is comprised of representatives from the community land corporations in the district.

The Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated (SSI) is the co-coordinating body for the seven community land corporations. The SSI's mandate is to ensure that the implementation of programs and services under the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement is for the benefit of the Sahtu people.

Since these Settlement Lands are private property, the general laws applicable to trespass apply. In addition, there are specific access restrictions identified in the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

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6.4 Co-operative Resource Management in the Sahtu

The Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement introduced a new system of land and water management for the Sahtu settlement area. This is a system of co-operative management or co-management, aimed at ensuring direct and meaningful participation of Sahtu residents in the management and regulation of their land and resources. This is in contrast to the previous system where the Federal and Territorial Governments were the primary management authorities and Sahtu residents were largely excluded from decision-making about the land.

The co-management system recognizes the special knowledge Sahtu residents have about the land. It provides them with rights as land users and decision-makers.

Co-management boards are accountable to the public. Board members are nominated by Aboriginal, Territorial and Federal Governments. The Aboriginal Government,(the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated), nominates half of the members of each board.

6.5 The Sahtu's Physical Environment

The Sahtu Settlement Area consists of 283,171 km² in Canada's Northwest Territories. It is a vast and extremely diverse area. It includes tundra and volcanic outcrops of the Canadian Shield in the east; Great Bear Lake, the Mackenzie River and low-lying plains in the center; and, rugged mountains and steep valleys of the Mackenzie Mountains in the west. Ecologists call these landscape differences the Southern Arctic, Taiga Shield, Taiga Plains, and Taiga Cordillera Eco-zones¹, respectively.

Geopolitical Boundaries

Geopolitically, the Sahtu Settlement Area is bordered to the north by the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit Settlement Areas, to the east by Nunavut and the North Slave Region, to the south by the Deh Cho Region and to the west by the Yukon.

Climate

In general, the Sahtu Settlement Area has long, cold winters, and relatively short, cool summers. The average temperature in January ranges from -20°C to -30°C, while the average temperature in July ranges from +10°C to +15°C. Annual precipitation varies from 200mm in the

¹ Ecozones are natural regions of similar characteristics and conditions. Each ecozone has a unique combination of landscape, climate, soils, and living things.

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barren lands to 700mm in the mountains. The summer and winter cycle is very pronounced and is demarcated by spring break-up and autumn freeze-up.

Vegetation

Vegetation is affected by the varied climate and soils found throughout the area. Boreal forest, comprised of white and black spruce, white birch and to a lesser degree aspen and tamarack, is common in the Mackenzie River Valley. Stunted black spruce and other species are found on the Shield. The tundra is dominated by shrubs with a sparse scattering of trees. Alpine vegetation, predominantly herbs and shrubs, is common at higher elevations in the mountains.

Soils

Permafrost is intermittent in the Mackenzie Valley, but is continuous throughout the Barren Lands. Soils of the Cryasolic order are common above the tree line where permafrost is near the surface and into the subarctic forest wherever fine textured soils are found. Poorly drained Organic and Gleysolic soils, as well as eskers and other glacial deposits are common throughout the Settlement Area.

Sahtu Eco-Regions

Ecological representation in the Sahtu Land Use Plan

From the Sahtu Final Agreement, the mandate of the Planning Board includes conservation. The Board is addressing this mandate through conservation zones and conditions to in special management zones that promote conservation. As an aid to planning for conservation, the Board considered the 15 ecoregions in the Sahtu. Ecoregions are large areas of land and water defined by similar climate, vegetation, geology and other ecological patterns. The boundaries of ecoregions are located where there are significant changes in one of these features. The ecoregions are defined in *A National Ecological Framework for Canada* (Environment Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, I. B. Marshall and P. H. Schut, 1999). The Sahtu ecoregions are:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Ecoregion 35: Dease Arm Plain | Ecoregion 56: Mackenzie River Plain |
| Ecoregion 36: Coronation Hills | Ecoregion 57: Grandin Plains |
| Ecoregion 37: Bluenose Lake Plain | Ecoregion 58: Franklin Mountains |
| Ecoregion 51: Peel River Plateau | Ecoregion 59: Keller lake Plain |
| Ecoregion 52: Great Bear Lake Plain | Ecoregion 68: Coppermine River Upland |
| Ecoregion 53: Fort McPherson Plain | Ecoregion 170: Mackenzie Mountains |
| Ecoregion 54: Colville Hills | Ecoregion 171: Selwyn Mountains |
| Ecoregion 55: Norman Range | |

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The ecoregions range from low subarctic to high subarctic (including the tundra/subarctic forest transition); from subalpine woodlands to alpine tundra; from extremely rugged mountains to undulating glacial drift and outwash deposits. Cold winters are common to all!

Most of these ecoregions are transboundary, i.e, portions of the same ecoregions are also found in other settlement regions or the Yukon. This points to the necessity for transboundary planning; a recommendation for future action after this initial Plan.

Two ecoregions are wholly within the Sahtu Settlement Region: Colville Hills (around Colville Lake) and Grandin Plains (Caribou Point or Edaiila). These areas have unique combinations of climate, vegetation, geology and other natural features that are found nowhere else in Canada. Thus planning for these two ecoregions within the Sahtu means additional care was needed to consider how to conserve these Sahtu-unique ecoregions.

The NWT Protected Areas Strategy includes the goal to protect core representative areas within each NWT ecoregion. This is to help contribute to the conservation of the entire diversity of life forms and their habitats (p. 10, PAS). The Protected Areas Strategy Ecological Working Group developed a methodology to identify representative areas. First they brought together appropriate criteria used in ecological representation analysis: landscape units (rock, soil, terrain), physiography (elevation, slope, aspect, climate) and vegetation. Then, using a computer modeling programme, they identified options for areas which represent some important 'pieces' of the land. Representing portions of all these criteria means also representing the habitats of many plants and animals. There are many different areas that are representative within each ecoregion; the current "results" capture representative areas in the least total amount of land area.

This analysis was given to the SLUPB for discussion. The Board asked for some additional analysis to be done, and then used the information in determining the final boundaries of our conservation zones. The analysis did not include factors such as connectivity and size of areas; these are important criteria also in conserving habitats for plants and animals, are complementary to ecological representation, and were considered in our own analysis. The ecoregion information was also used helpful in setting our special management zone conditions.

We expect that the ecoregion analysis work will continue to be used for further work on protected areas, such as determining suitable ecological benchmark areas and ecological monitoring programmes. If there are any changes to land designation (such as establishment of a protected area), it will require the signature of all three parties (SSI, GNWT and DIAND). Also, the SLUPB will consider the information gathered in any ecological monitoring in the five-year reviews.

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Ecoregion Descriptions:

Ecoregion 170: Mackenzie Mountains

This mountainous region spans the Yukon Northwest Territories border and includes the Ogilvie and Wernecke Mountains and the Backbone and Canyon Ranges. Many large animal species, including grizzlies, caribou, moose and Dall's sheep live here. There is potential for mineral development and it is used for hunting and trapping.

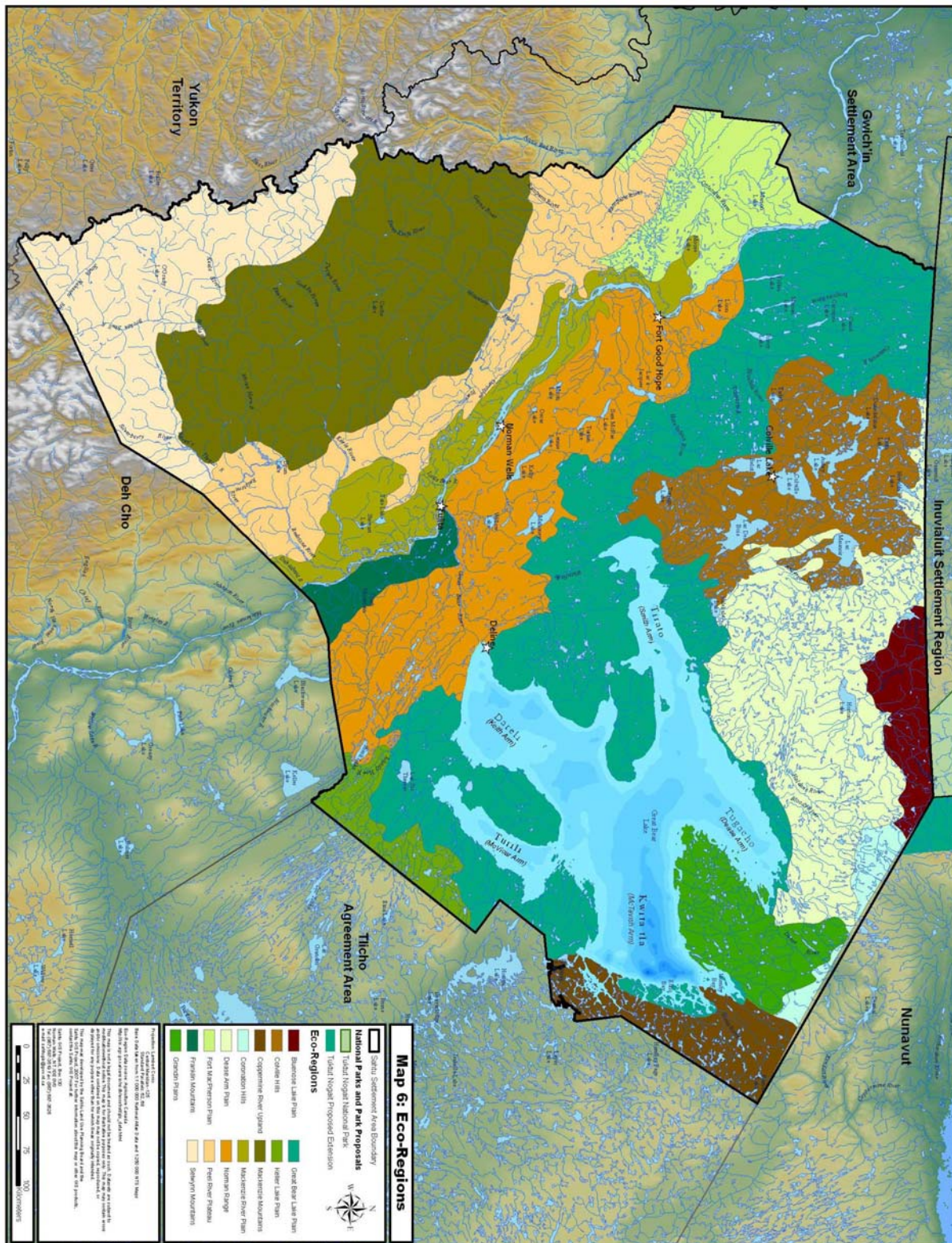
Ecoregion 51: Peel River Plateau

This area is in the foothills of the Mackenzie and Richardson Mountains. Most of it was once covered by glaciers. The trees are small and stunted, with other typical tundra plant life. Permafrost is present throughout. Both large and small mammals and northern birds live here, supporting hunting, fishing, trapping and tourism activities,.

Ecoregion 171: Selwyn Mountains

This rugged mountain wilderness region is located in the Selwyn and southern Mackenzie Mountains. Plant life is alpine and sub alpine, depending on elevation. There is a great variety of animal and bird life, supporting traditional use and eco tourism.

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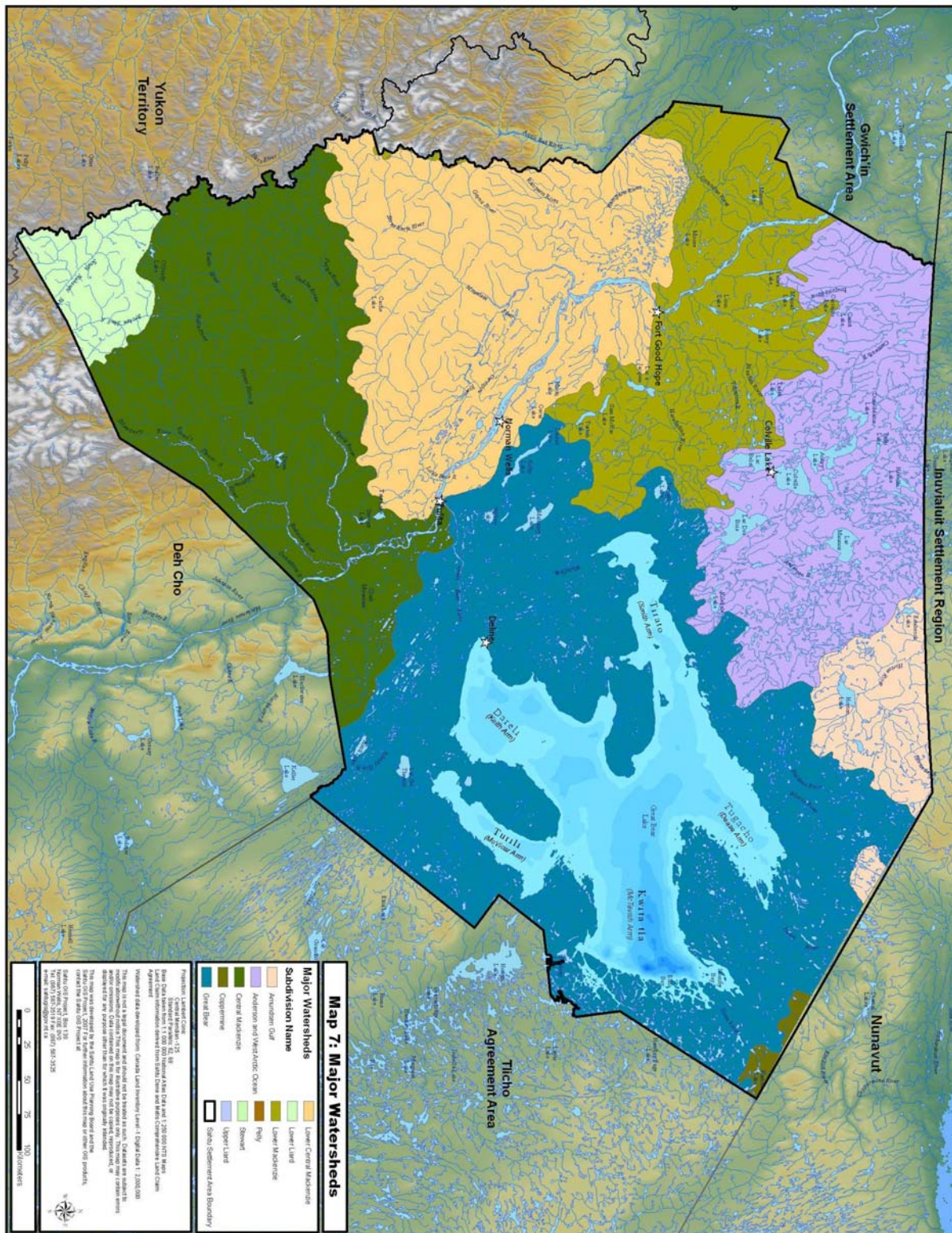


6.6 Watersheds

(Section partially developed - to be completed for second draft).

The land of the Sahtu Region is inundated with water bodies, including rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands. Great Bear Lake dominates the eastern half and has, since time immemorial, provided the original inhabitants of the Sahtu with vital social, cultural and economic resources. There are 30 watershed regions in the Sahtu varying in size from 100 km² to 26,000 km². These watershed regions offer ecological, rather than political boundaries to the planning process.

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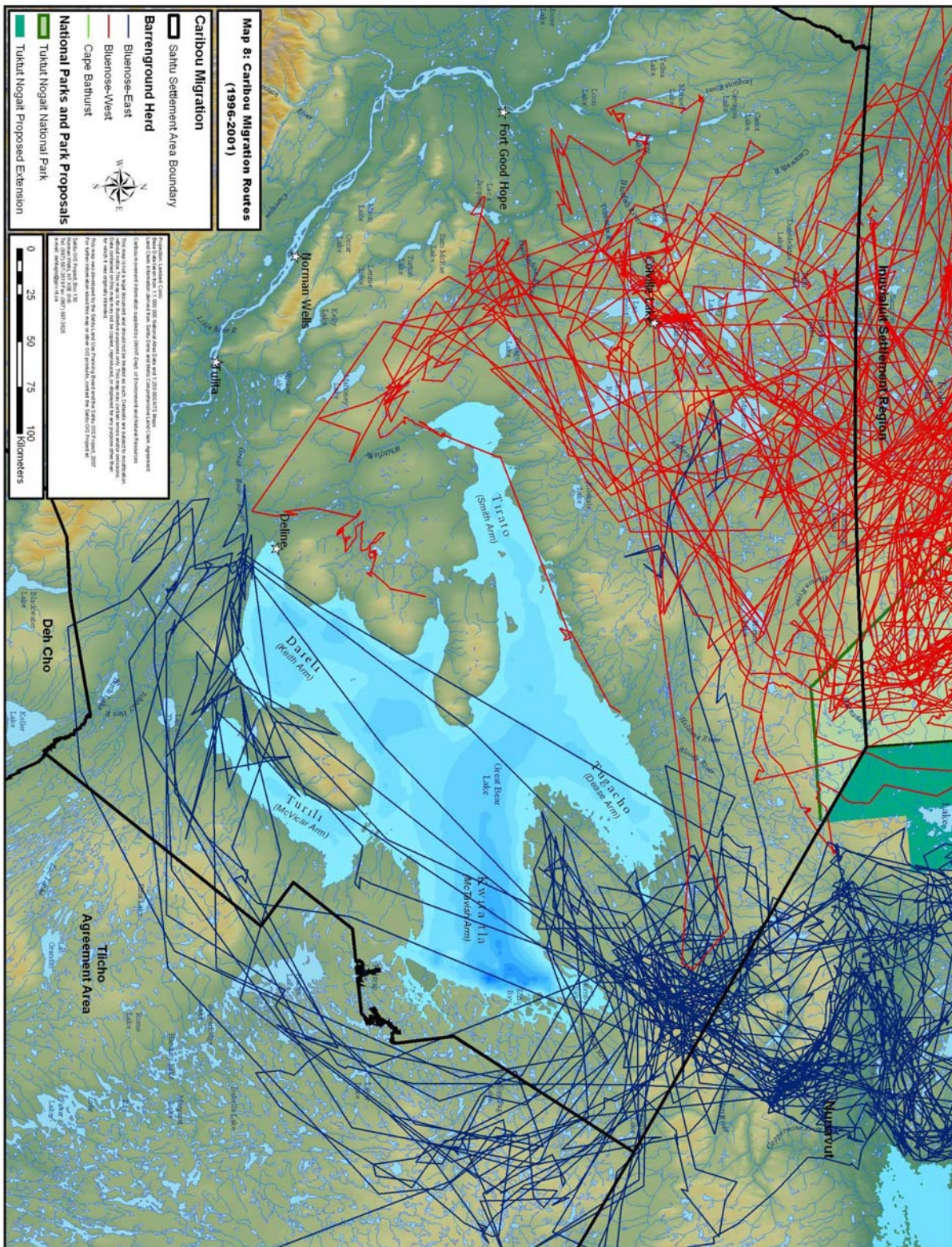
6.7 Wildlife and Fish

(Section partially developed - to be completed for second draft).

6.8 The Caribou Perspective

(Section partially developed - to be completed for second draft).

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6.9 Rakekée Gok'é Godi: Places We Take Care Of

The report "Rakekée Gok'é Godi: Places We Take Care Of, Report of the Sahtu Heritage Places and Sites Joint Working Group" (December 1999), is a foundation Sahtu land use document and was utilized extensively in the development of the Sahtu Land Use Plan.

Chapter 26 of the Sahtu Final Agreement is Heritage Resources. Through section 26.4, a joint government-Sahtu working group was established to make recommendations on Heritage Places and Sites. The group was called the Sahtu Heritage places and Sites Joint Working Group, and published their report, *Rakekee Gok'e Godi: Places We Take Care Of*, in January 2000.

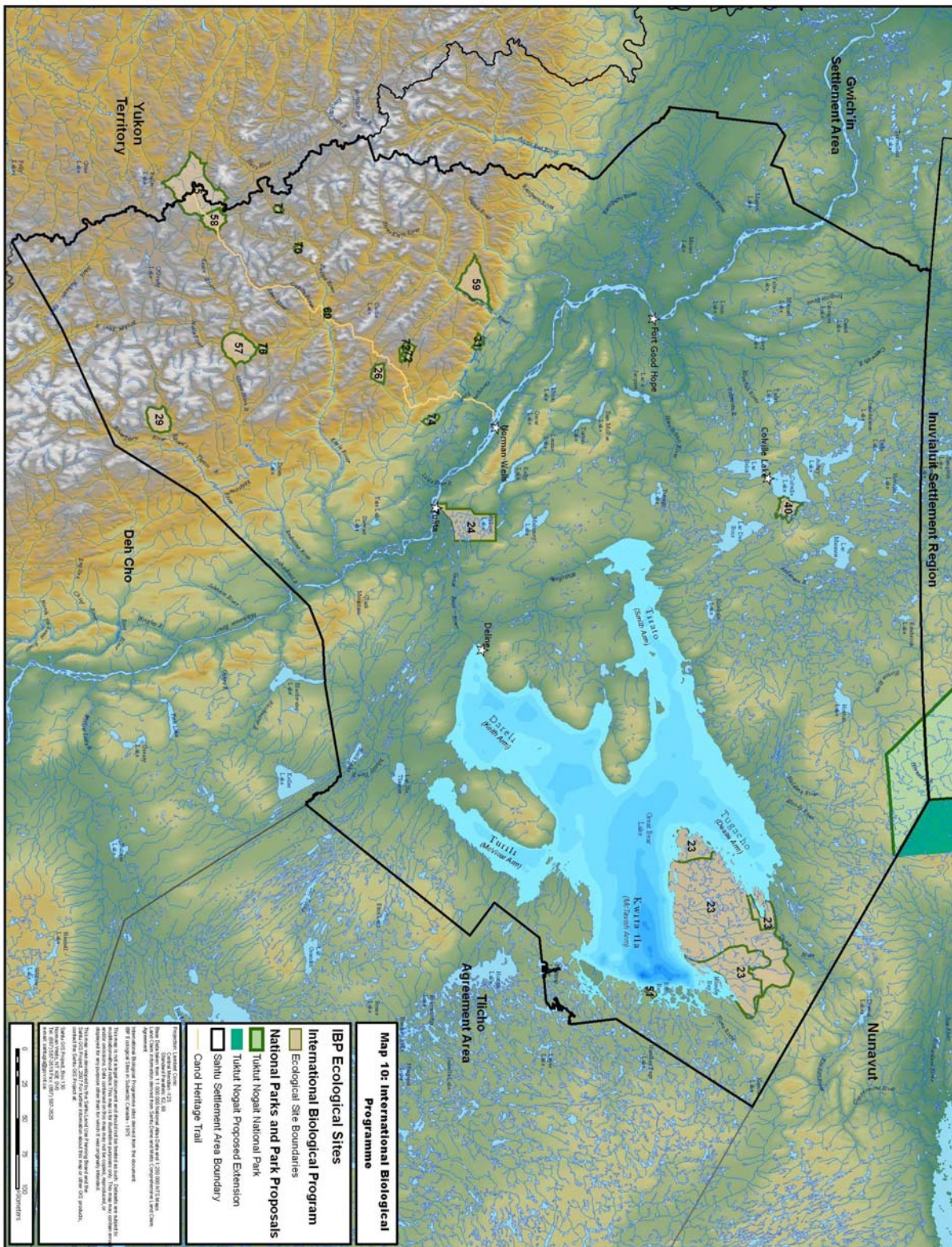
The chart shows that most of the sites are being considered as either Protected Areas or as Conservation Zones in the Plan; Thirteen of the 38 sites are considered as Special Management Zones. One site, Tuktut Nogait, has permanent surface and subsurface protection. Sahoyúé-?ehdacho (Grizzly Bear Mountain and Scented Grass Hills) has temporary surface and subsurface protection (until November 2010).

(Section to be completed for second draft).

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| Summary for sites in Places We Take Care Of | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Name of site | Site designation (CZ, SMZ, or PAS) |
| The Ramparts | PAS, CZ |
| Scented Grass Hills and Grizzly Bear Mountain | PAS, CZ |
| Red Dog Mountain | PAS, CZ |
| The Deline Fishery and Sir John Franklin's Wintering Quarters | SMZ |
| Loon River and Fort Anderson Trail | SMZ |
| Maunoir dome | CZ |
| Bull Caribou Lake | SMZ |
| "Among the Islands" | |
| Mountain River | CZ |
| Coville Lake Trail | SMZ |
| Manitou Island | SMZ |
| Whitefish Lake | CZ |
| The Underground River | CZ |
| Little Loche Lake | SMZ |
| Little Chicago | CZ |
| Trail to the Mountains | CZ |
| Section of the Anderson River | CZ |
| Lac des Bois | CZ |
| Ramparts River and Wetlands | PAS, CZ |
| "White Muskeg Lake" | SMZ |
| "Yamoga Rock" | CZ |
| The Thunderbird Place | CZ |
| Caribou Point | PAS, CZ |
| Whitefish River | PAS, CZ |
| North Shore of Great Bear Lake | SMZ |
| Port Radium | SMZ |
| Tuktut Nogait National Park Reserve | PARK |
| Fort Confidence | SMZ |
| Johnny Hoe Fishery | CZ |
| Yamoria and the Giant Beavers, Bear Lake | CZ |
| Willow Lake | PAS, CZ |
| Bear Rock | PAS, CZ |
| Old Fort Point | SMZ |
| Mountain Dene Trail to the Mountains | CZ |
| Mahoney Lake Massacre Site | PAS, CZ |
| Mackenzie River | SMZ |
| Great Bear River | CZ |
| Kilekale Lake | SMZ |

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6.10 International Biological Program – Ecological Sites

International Biological Program – Ecological Sites

General Description(to be completed for second draft).

CARIBOU POINT - SITE NUMBER: 23

DESCRIPTION: The area is a huge peninsula rising gently, except in local southwest areas, to about 1500 feet above Great Bear Lake. On the north it includes the site of historic Fort Confidence and other archaeological sites. On the south many raised beaches rise 400 feet from Hornby Bay. The peripheries of the Point are forested, most open growing except the western tip at lake level which has about 100 square miles of tundra. Above 1200 feet above sea level, trees are absent and tundra dominates. Forest and tundra forms of fauna. Major soils: Podzols, Regosols, Gleysols, Organic Soils, weakly developed Brunisols.

EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST: Sub-arctic and arctic birds, mammals and fish, scenically pleasing Proterozoic geology and land-forms resulting from glaciation; wide cross section of plant and animal associations of the northern boreal forest and tundra; great historic value. A good many plants and animals are on the northward or southward, margin of their ranges.

"CORAL PEAKS" - SITE NUMBER: 59

DESCRIPTION: An un-glaciated mountainous region of folded sedimentary rocks (predominantly carbonate) bounded by glaciated valleys of the Cambrain and Mountain Rivers. Includes two small lakes with adjoining sedge meadows in the valleys, a gravel fan by Tern Lake, lowland forested valleys at about 2600 feet altitude, a river with a braided stream, and in the mountainous parts plateaus and peaks to about 5500 feet altitude, and a small alpine lake. Fossil corals in limestone layers at higher altitudes. Major soils: Cumulic Regosol, Alpine Eutric Brunisols, Alpine Dystric Brunisols, Orthic Regosols, Rego Gleysols.

EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST: The area was probably un-glaciated during the last glaciation and is thus of interest because of some of the floral components which represent significant range extensions. The site is also of interest because of the Arctic tern nesting in the area. Corals are found elsewhere in the Mackenzie Mountains, but nowhere are they so well preserved and fresh-looking as they are on this site-

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FORT ANDERSON - SITE NUMBER: 78

DESCRIPTION: (Site of former Hudson's Bay Company Fort, 1861 – 1866). The site is marked by a clearing on the east bank of the river; extends about 300 feet back from the bank. Site overgrown with grasses, spruce is only now beginning to re-establish itself. Site not clearly visible from the river.

EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST: Fort Anderson is significant as a special reserve site because it offers an area where flora, soil conditions, and the active layer of soil have been undisturbed since 1866 when the Fort was abandoned after five years of use. Large bird collection acquired from this site and given to the Smithsonian Institute in the 1860's.

MACKENZIE MOUNTAIN BARRENS - SITE NUMBER: 58

DESCRIPTION: (Canol Road provides popular hiking trail). An intermountain undulating plain at the headwaters of several major rivers and from which several valley glaciers emanated in the glacial period. Area now exhibits tundra features and evidence of the geomorphic process of solifluction and sorting. Mixed sedge meadows and Salix hummocks, patterned ground stripes, patterned ground polygons, Betula glandulosa dominated rolling tundra and Salix-Carex associations dominating the broad drainage ways. Major soils: Gleyed Orthic and Cryic Regosols; Orthic, Degraded, Gleyed and Cryic Dystric Brunisols; Rego Glycols; Terric and Lithic Mesisols.

EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST: Periglacial and other geomorphic processes and the presence of volcanic ash in relation to soil development and vegetation; palynological record in the organic soils; a number of plant species reach their eastern most limit extending into the area from the Yukon; excellent grizzly country; bird population of interest; caribou calving area.

PLAINS OF ABRAHAM - SITE NUMBER: 26

DESCRIPTION: (Un-glaciated alpine tundra). The area is part of the Carcajou Range of the Mackenzie Mountains. It is an un-glaciated dissected plateau with an altitude of about 4500 feet, dropping off sharply to the Carcajou River at an altitude of about 2500 feet. The un-glaciated tundra plateau is similar in many respects to Polar Regions in the far north, but it is unique in the Mackenzie Mountains. The gently dissected Plains, unlike the more steeply sloping alpine ridges of most of the Mackenzie Mountains, are like a section of an Arctic island. Not only some plants, but a few of the animals that are found on the plains, are normally confined to the Arctic and not found in the Boreal Zone. Major soils: Lithic Orthic Regosol, Cumulic Regosol, rock cliffs and scree (Nearby Canol Road becoming popular hiking trail).

EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST: This plateau is unique in an otherwise sharply dissected mountainous region. It affords an opportunity for studies of the effects of mechanical weathering and frost

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action on soil and vegetation types and distribution. It would make a good site for comparative studies between a more or less level alpine situation and similar situations, in the polar region. The area supports a unique fauna including the long-tailed Jaeger and the singing vole.

RAVEN'S THROAT - SITE NUMBER: 29

DESCRIPTION: (Boreal forest (Alpine Forest-Tundra Section), Alpine Tundra; glaciated and un-glaciated terrain; forested in the valleys, sub-alpine communities, alpine tundra communities with up to 50% bare ground. Dall's sheep). The mountain mass has been partially eroded by valley glaciers, some of the peaks and ridges above 4,000 feet having escaped glaciation. Many valley glaciers originated in corries above 4,000 feet. Periglacial features include solifluction lobes, stone nets and rings, rock glaciers, talus cones, alluvial fans, mud slide levees, faceted spurs, hanging valleys, cols, corries and alluvial fan dammed lakes. Overlay of volcanic ash (possibly White River ash). Major soils: Orthic Eutric Brunisols, Orthic Regosols, Carbonated Rego Gleysol.

EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST: The relationship between the glaciated and un-glaciated portions of the area in relation to biological and pedological development. Distribution of volcanic ash and its relationship to soil development and its edaphic consequences. Geomorphological phenomena.

CARIBOU FLATS - SITE NUMBER: 76

DESCRIPTION: (Boreal Forest, Alpine Forest-Tundra Section; saline-rich streams and soil with associated flora; woodland caribou mineral lick). On the broad floodplain of the Keele River below its confluence with the Shezal Canyon. Saline-rich streams enter the relatively salt-free river here. Floristic composition related to salinity of the soil; several plants represent considerable extensions of range from different directions. Area attractive to large number of caribou; a Canadian Wildlife Service caribou trapping and tagging station. Open *Picea glauca*-*Betula glandulosa*-*Ericaceae* elevated floodplain association, *Scirpus*-*Triglochin*-*Salix* flats, almost bare boulder fields with scattered *Triglochin*-*Salix*. Major soils: Cumulic Regosols.

EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST: Saline rich streams attracts large numbers of caribou; a caribou trapping and tagging station used by Canadian Wildlife Service for several years; plants of special phytogeographic interest.

COLVILLE LAKE - SITE NUMBER: 40

DESCRIPTION: (Boreal Forest Zone, Northwestern Transition Section; white spruce and black spruce woodlands, dwarf birch scrub, bogs, *palsa*). Gently rolling glacial topography with steeper inclines on the flanks of eskers and kames. Major plant communities *Picea* P-, *Iauca* woodland, black spruce woodland, dwarf birch-Alder-*Ericad* scrub, *Sedge*-*Ericad* bog and

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Ledum-moss palsa. Preponderance of the white spruce in the uplands and black spruce in the lowlands. Major soils: Podzols, Gleysols, Organic soils.

EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST: This area of gently rolling glacial till is of special interest because it contains representatives of the vegetational community types found at or near the continental forest border near its western extremity in North America. In addition, the site will be of great value in the future as a study site of lakeside peat banks and of an unusual vegetational/edaphic formation which can be classed as a palsa. Both are organic landscape forms.

FLORENCE LAKE - SITE NUMBER: 31

Description: Boreal Forest (Alpine Forest-Tundra Section); glacial Melt-water channel including sedge meadows and white spruce forest; subalpine vegetation and alpine tundra on mountain-side and top. Florence Lake is one of a series of elongated lakes paralleling the frontal range of the Mackenzie Mountains. On the borderline between the Mackenzie Lowlands and the mountains. Mature white spruce occupy the valley floor; at higher elevations above the lake, subalpine and tundra communities prevail over much of the surface with stands of scattered stunted black spruce on the lower slopes. Major soils: Orthic Regosols, Cumulic Regosols, immature imperfectly drained Regosols.

EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST: Occupying a late Wisconsin Age melt-water channel, the site is of interest for comparison (of flora, fauna and stage of eutrophication as determined by age) with site No. 72 (Carcajou Lake) which occupies a melt-water channel of early Wisconsin Age or older. The area will also be most useful for comparative ecological studies of the developing fans now spreading into the lake.

LYMNAEA SPRINGS - SITE NUMBER: 60

DESCRIPTION: (Boreal Forest Zone (Alpine Forest - Tundra Section); hot spring ecosystem). South-facing undulating valley slope of the Twitya River, gently dissected by mountain streams. Hot spring pool of 15 foot diameter and filled with moss, bubbles gently. The out-flowing stream flows over an apron of travertine precipitated from the springwaters. Surrounded by lush vegetation dominated by *Picea glauca*-*Alnus crispa*-*Betula glandulosa* associations, and smaller areas. Small snail of genus *Lymnaea* occurs in great abundance in wet meadow, downstream from spring. Major soils: carbonated Rego Gleysols, Orthic Eutric Brunisols, Rego Humic Gleysols, orthic and Gleyed Regosols.

EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST: Hot springs in the area provide unusual habitat conditions for some specialized flora. A snail, perhaps an endemic sub-species of *Lymnaea bulmoides* is abundant and active year-round. Area probably used as a mineral lick by ungulates.

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MIRROR LAKE-SITE NUMBER: 74

DESCRIPTION: An elongate lake lying at the eastern extremity of the Carcajou Range of the Mackenzie Mountains; surrounding area of weakly glaciated mountainous terrain. Shoreline Carex marsh, closed black spruce forests, white spruce forests on lower slopes, sub-alpine meadow slopes, wind-blown alpine slopes, screes. Glacial meltwater channel of Late Wisconsin Age. Major soils: Immature Soils, Rego Gleysols.

EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST: Because Mirror Lake is on the boundary between two large physiographic regions, the Mackenzie Mountains to the west and the Mackenzie Plains to the east, it affords an opportunity to compare representative flora from each. Also of interest would be studies comparing this lake site to other melt-water channel lakes of differing post-glacial ages in the Mackenzie Mountains, eg. #72 CARCAJOU LAKE which is in a channel at Early Wisconsin Age. Other studies of interest for the future would be of plant succession after fires, and of solifluction on the slopes.

PORT RADIUM: SITE NUMBER: 51

DESCRIPTION: An area of flat, peaty soil overlying thin glacial till; vegetation dominated by low "colony" of *Vaccinium uliginosum* of no more than 400 square metres extent. Several clonal variant forms of *Vaccinium* and *Epilobium angustifolium* in the site. Colonies adjacent to abandoned pitchblende mine. New species of *Grimmia* on highly-mineralized outcrop near extremely rich vein of pitchblende.

EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST: This area of natural, high radioactivity is of special interest because of (1) the mutant *Epilobium* and *Vaccinium* "colonies" first studied there in 1948 by Shacklette, (2) type locality of a new moss species, *Grimmia arctolimnia*, collected in 1948 and described by Steere, thought to be a new "copper moss", (3) the site of the first unquestionable report of a moss *Mnium spinosum* in North America, and (4) site is in the general region where a new Family, Genus, and Species of a moss (*Pseudoditrichum mirabile*) was collected and reported by Steere.

CARCAJOU LAKE: SITE NUMBER: 72

DESCRIPTION: A post-glacial lake formed between two fans in the Little Keele River; river appears to be entrenching a glaciated but bedrock-controlled valley. Wide bench lands lie on either side of the lake. Special landscape features include hoodoos, colluvial fans, screes, stone nets, frozen soils. Lichen dominated slope by the lake, niggerhead slopes, *Salix-Carex* upland areas dominated by tundra vegetation. Important Dall's sheep winter range. Major soils: Alpine Eutric Brunisols, Orthic and Alpine Eutric Brunisols, Cryic Gleysols, Cumulic Regosols, and frozen immature soils.

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EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST: This lake, which occupies a meltwater channel believed to be of early Wisconsin age or older, is of interest for future studies determining differences (in flora, fauna and stage of eutrophication as determined by age) between this lake and those occupying meltwater channels of late Wisconsin age (eg. Site No. 31 Florence Lake). Of some interest are the hoodoos of cemented till

SCULPIN SPRINGS: SITE NUMBER: 70

DESCRIPTION: A warm mineral spring on a south-facing slope above the valley floor; slimy sculpin, a new species of *Lymnaea* and a nesting kilideer within the site. .

EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST: Of interest for its relict flora and the presence of slimy sculpin in the shallow, warm spring water.

TUITYE HOTSPRINGS: SITE NUMBER: 71

DESCRIPTION: A cone shaped precipitate deposit below a spring at the base of a gully along the east-facing well of a river valley. Warm, saline, sulphurous and calcareous waters. Some slumping in the valley wall. Mineral lick; deeply cut trails on the slope above leading to the spring indicate that the "lick" has been in use for many years; Dall's sheep visit spring in large numbers. Historic site of a medicinal bath for Mountain Indians who travelled in that area. *li@lus@ balsamifera* immediately adjacent to spring are larger than those farther away. Major soils: Regosols, Gleysols.

EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST: Warm, mineral spring heavily used as a "lick" by ungulates; unusual plant habitat.

WILLOW LAKE (BRACKETT LAKE): SITE NUMBER: 24

DESCRIPTION: Old intermountain lake basin of the advanced thermokarst type within the floodplain of the Brackett River; deep t speckled with many ponds and lakes overlying thick peat ice-rich lacustrine sediments in extensive wet lowlands. High water table, many small lakes and ponds. Much of the area covered by a complex of black spruce, larch, Labrador tea, ground birch, willows, and other shrubs and forbs at all stages of regeneration after fire. Extensive raised peat areas sparsely covered with trees, closed cover of Labrador tea and reindeer moss. Shores of lakes and ponds lined with sedge meadows. Abundant waterfowl and moose; black bear, lynx, arctic hare, muskrat, beaver, mink and marten common. Major soils: Cryic Sphagno and Hypno Fibrisols, Cryie and Sphagno Mesisols, Rego Gleysols, all underlain by permafrost; occupied village at northwest corner of lake.

EXCEPTIONAL INTEREST: Bog successions and pond invasion successions in relation to the formation or breakdown of peat and permafrost land- forms; fire successions; pedological

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interest in relation to organic soil development; important staging area for Waterfowl; traditional native hunting and fishing area; palynological record within the organic deposits. River otter (uncommon elsewhere) is abundant here.

6.11 Parks and Northwest Territories - Protected Areas Strategy

Four Conservation Zones: Canol Trail, Kelly Lake, Scented Grass Hills and Grizzly Bear Mountain, and Tukturn Nogait National Park Extension currently have both surface and subsurface lands withdrawn from development.

Park or other management plans are being drafted by agencies, other than the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board, for these Zones and as such these Zones will not be discussed further herein.

There are two additional sites that are currently in advanced stages of becoming candidates for protected areas through the NWT Protected Zones Strategy. These are the Nahanni River Headwaters and the Ramparts River and Wetlands. Further details about these two sites can be found in the Conservation Zone Descriptions. It is possible that additional sites will enter the NWT Protected Area Strategy.

NWT Protected Areas Strategy

Protected Areas are defined as “areas of land or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and its associated natural and cultural resources, managed through legal or other effective means” (International Union for the Conservation of Nature). Types of Protected Areas include National Parks, National Wildlife Areas, National Historic Sites, Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, Wilderness Areas, and Cultural Conservation Areas.

The Sahtu Final Agreement has two main chapters about the establishment of Protected Areas: Chapter 16 (National Parks) and Chapter 17 (Protected Areas). As well, Chapter 26 (Heritage Resources) lists heritage places that should be considered (see Section ** of this Plan: *‘Places We Take Care Of’*)

Canol Trail/Dodo Canyon and Kelly Lake are given some limited protection under Chapter 17. Mostly the Sahtu Final Agreement describes the conditions under which a Protected Area can be established, but it doesn’t actually establish protected areas.

The process for establishing Protected Areas in the NWT was agreed to between the Territorial and Federal Governments in 1999, when they signed the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS). The PAS was developed and is implemented by federal, territorial and regional governments/organizations, environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGO’s), and industry. The NWT PAS conforms to all land claim agreements, Aboriginal/inherent and treaty

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rights, and self-government agreements. An SSI representative sits on the Steering Committee. The PAS also has an implementation plan called the Mackenzie Valley Action Plan (2005-2010).

The PAS is a balanced approach that allows communities to benefit from both protecting significant areas and from economic development.

There are two main goals in the NWT PAS:

Goal 1: Protect special natural and cultural areas

Goal 2: Protect Core Representative Areas in each natural region (ecoregion) of the NWT.

Difference between a Protected Area and a Conservation Zone:

A Protected Area is protected for the long term (permanent) and is less flexible in terms of changing boundaries or type of activity allowed on the area. A Conservation Zone can be reviewed every five-years under the Sahtu Land Use Plan.

The NWT PAS process consists of eight-steps:

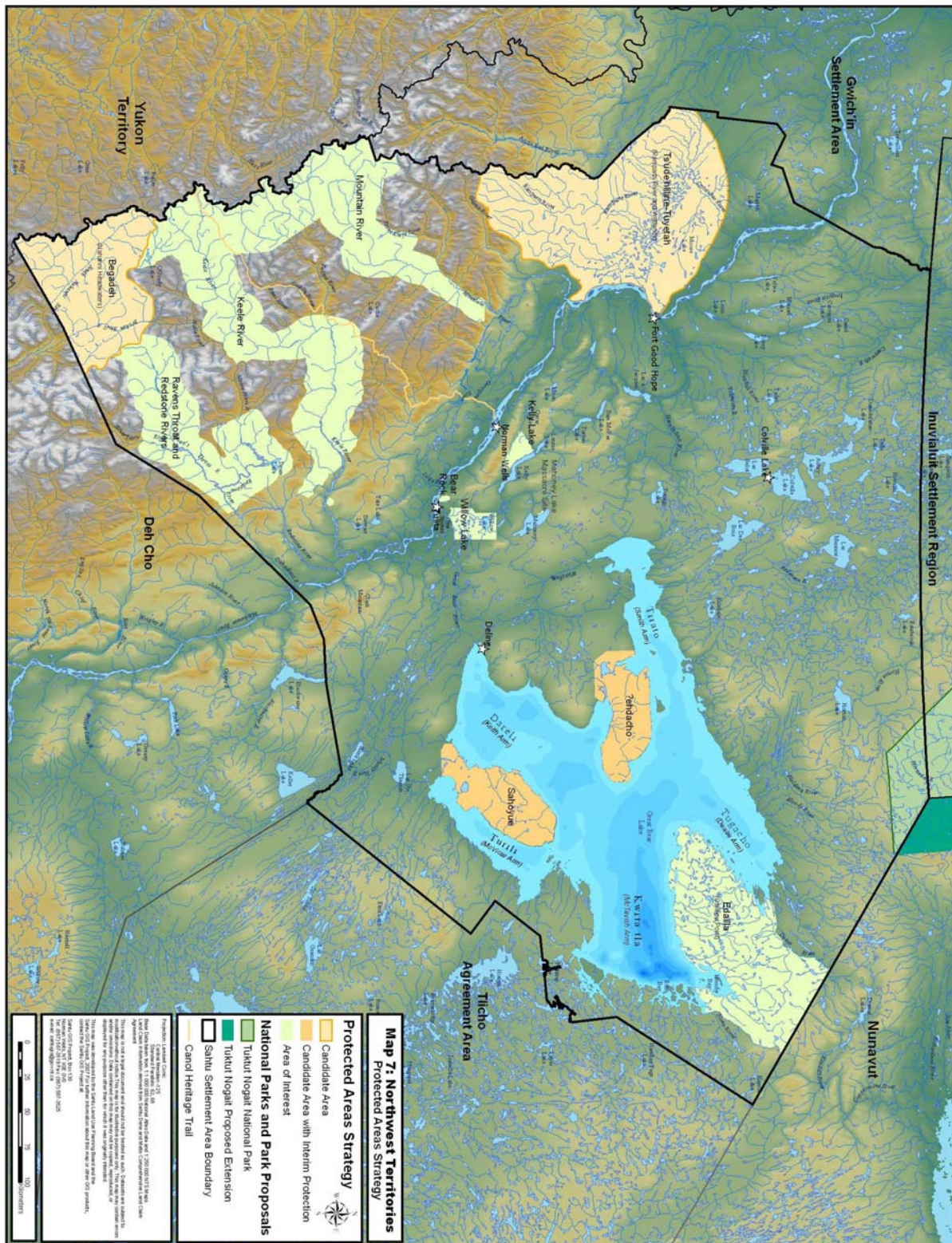
The process is community-driven, and requires that all values for an area be evaluated.

1. Communities or others identify the area that they want to protect
2. A proposal for the protected area is prepared, with support from the community and regional organizations
3. The regional and territorial governments review the proposal. A sponsoring agency with the legislative mandate for protection is chosen if necessary.
4. If required, the area can receive interim protection, which means that the area is off-limits to development while detailed evaluations of the candidate protected area are done.
5. Ecological, cultural and economic assessments are completed for the candidate area. A public review is a part of this evaluation. A final proposal is then written for the area
6. The formal proposal to have the area an “official protected area” is evaluated by the government.
7. If appropriate, the sponsoring agency and regional partner then approve and announce the protected area.
8. Implementation, monitoring and reviewing the protected area will vary by the type of area that is established and the regional land claim legislation.

In each Sahtu District, there is a combination of areas being put forward as protected areas and as conservation zones. If any area were to be put forward as an additional Protected Area in the future, it would need to be approved by three signatories to the LUP, so would mean an amendment to the LUP.

More details on the PAS are available at www.nwtpas.ca.

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6.12 Economic Development and Tourism

The need for a pipeline connecting significant oil and gas reserves in the Mackenzie Delta-Beaufort Sea region with southern markets has been recognized since the 1970's. Given the current interest in gas reserves in the Delta-Beaufort region, it is probable that a pipeline will be proposed within the next five years. Several corridors have been identified in the past and a number of those corridors are currently being assessed for their feasibility. Corridors have been identified through the Mackenzie River / Deh Cho Special Management - Heritage Zone.

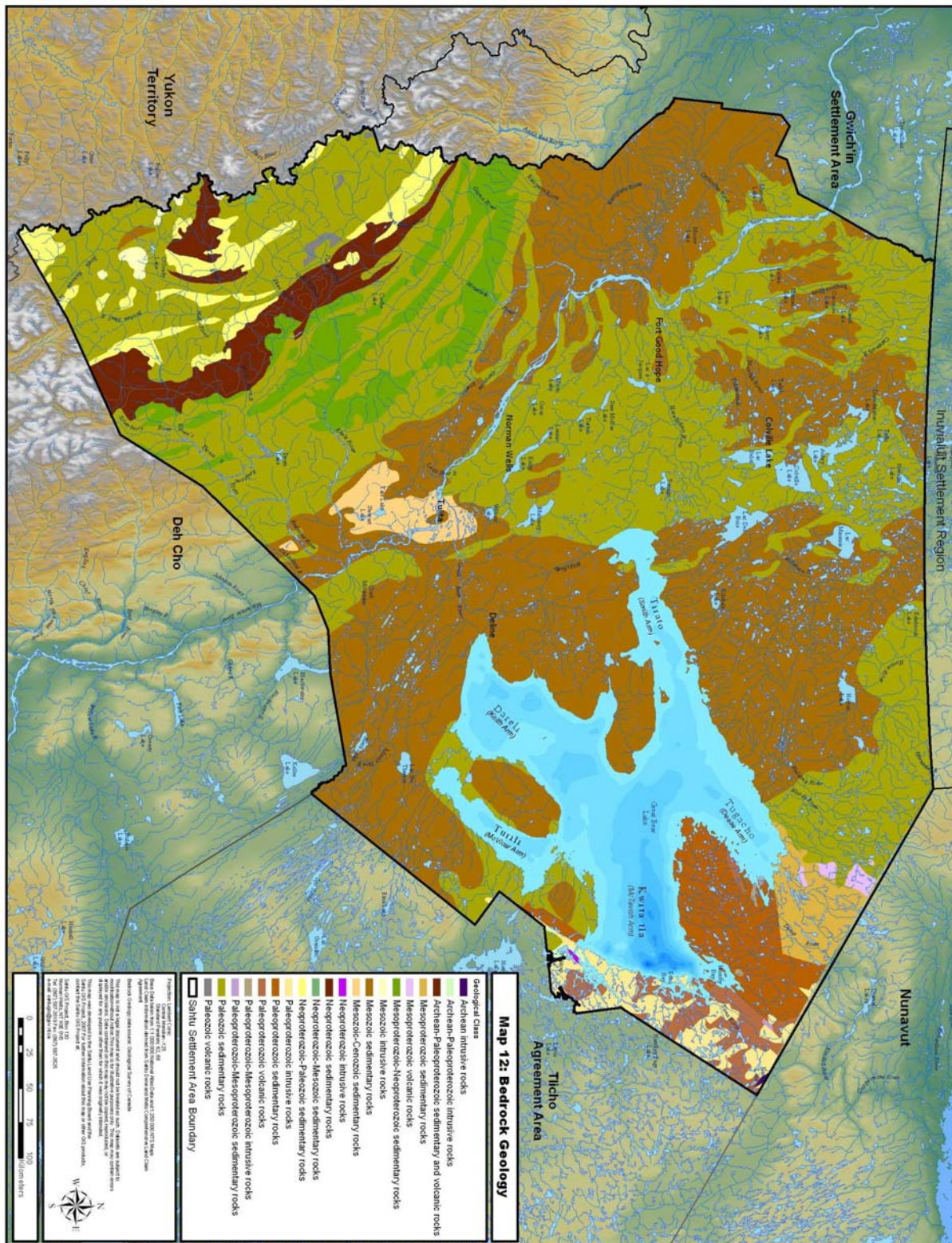
The tourism industry would like to see the wilderness aspect of the Sahtu maintained. The remoteness and perceived pristine nature of the environment is a major factor in guiding and outfitting activities. This includes the need for buffer zones around cabins and campsites, rotating harvest as part of a conservation strategy, protecting wildlife during birthing seasons and securing adequate harvest levels to maintain and grow the industry.

6.13 Bedrock Geology of the Sahtu

(Section partially developed - to be completed for second draft).

Background of Geology in the Sahtu to be developed in conjunction with INAC.

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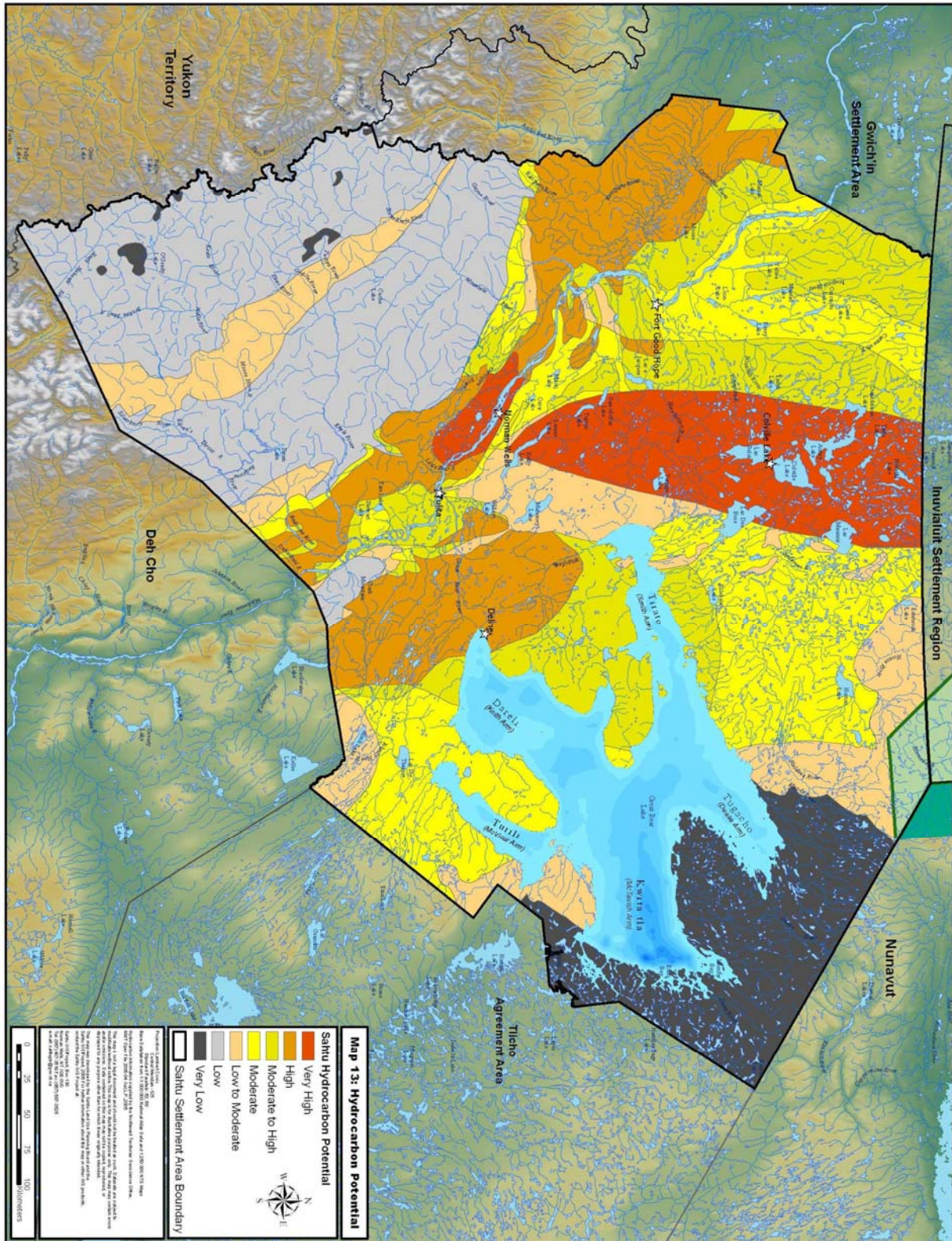


6.14 Sahtu Hydrocarbon Potential

(Section partially developed - to be completed for second draft).

Background on Hydrocarbon Potential in the Sahtu to be developed in conjunction with INAC.

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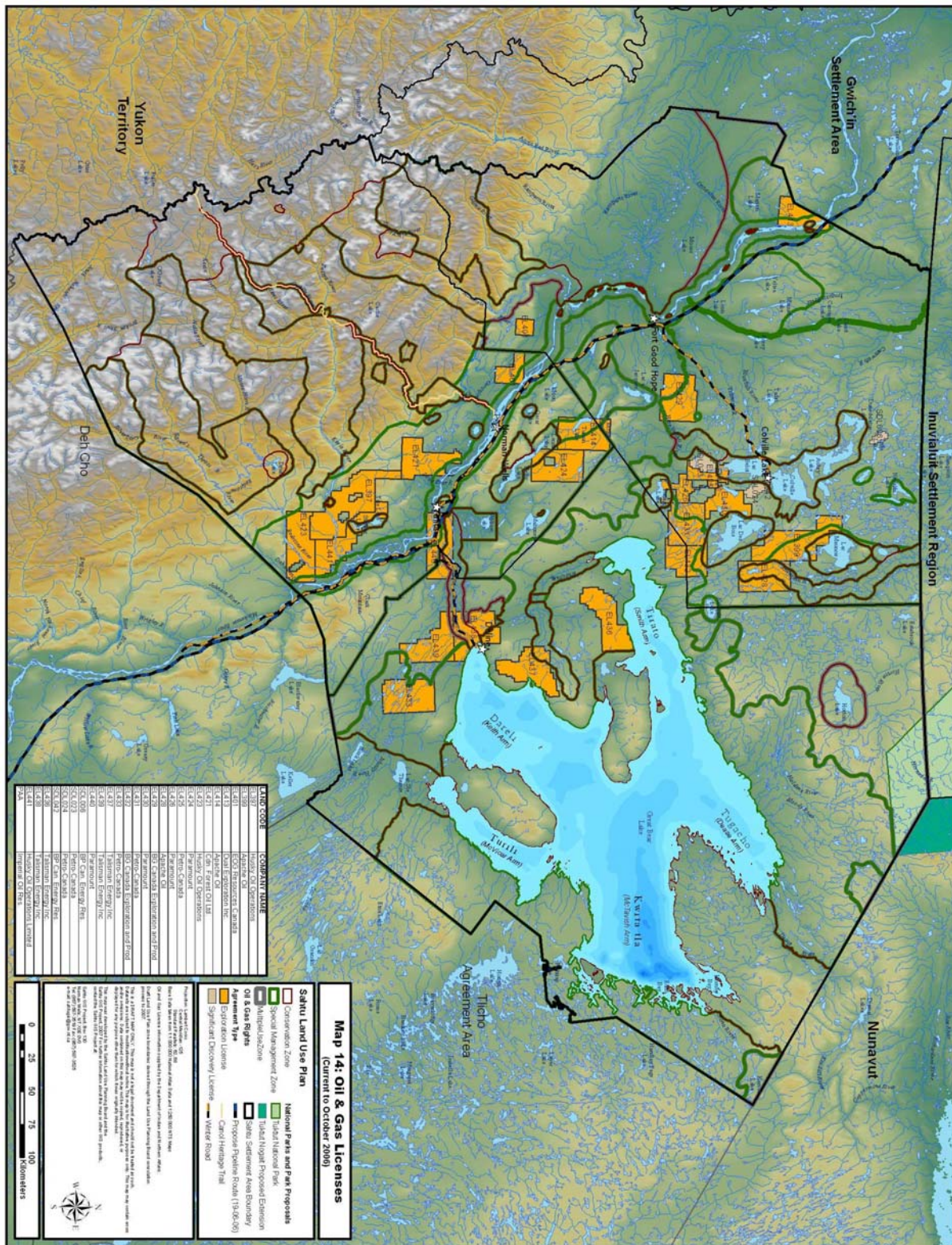


6.15 Oil and Gas Licensing Process

(Section partially developed - to be completed for second draft).

To be developed in conjunction with INAC.

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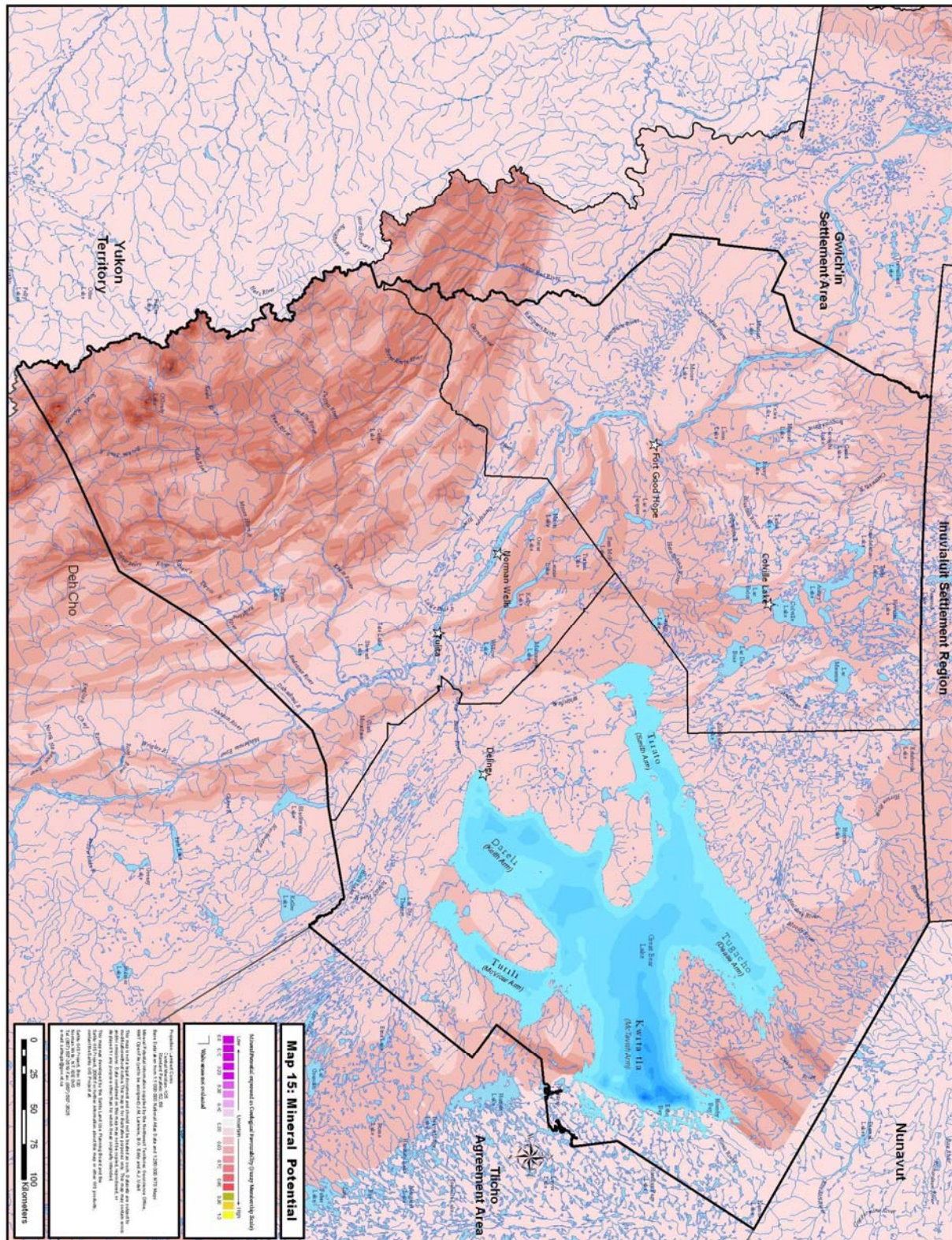


6.16 Sahtu Mineral Development Potential

(Section partially developed - to be completed for second draft).

To be developed in conjunction with INAC.

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6.17 Mineral License, Claim, and Permit Process

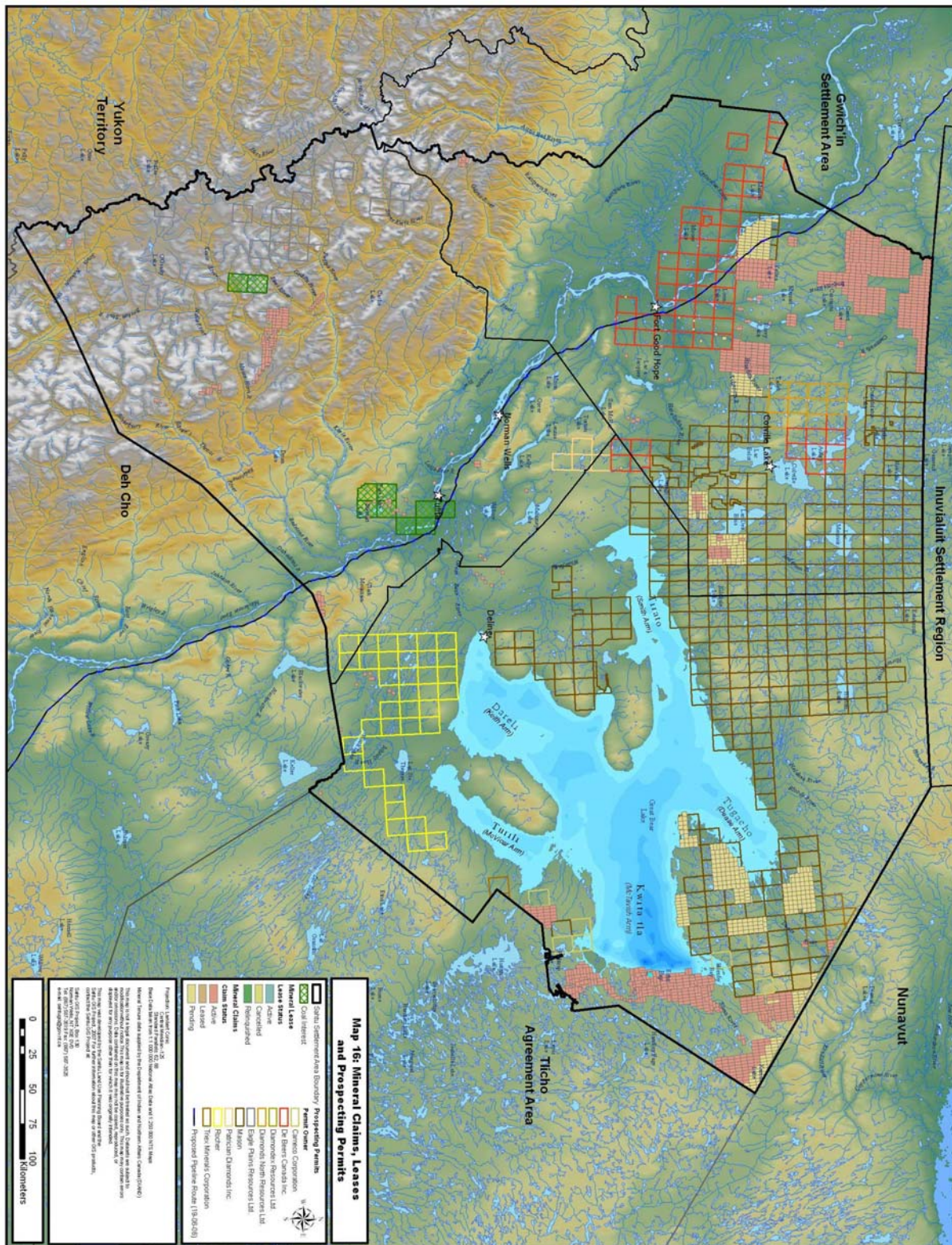
Prospecting permits have a period of 3 years. They give the permit holder the exclusive right to prospect for minerals, to locate mineral claims and to record mineral claims within the boundaries of the permit, provided that the permit holder meets work requirements set out in the *Canada Mining Regulations*⁹⁰. With the recording of a claim, the claim holder has the exclusive right, subject to various regulations in force at the time, to prospect for minerals and develop any mine within the boundaries of the recorded claim.

The prospecting permits complicate the establishment and management of Conservation Zones. Conservation Zones and Protected Areas typically prohibit mineral exploration, development and transportation. If there are third party mineral rights within these sorts of area on their establishment, the area is made subject to these mineral rights or (more rarely) the mineral rights are bought out. When such areas are established subject to pre-existing mineral rights, these rights are usually in the form of registered claims or mineral leases. Such rights are limited in their geographic scope and potential impacts. In the case of prospecting permits, however, the right to prospect for minerals, locate mineral claims and record mineral claims extends anywhere within the area of the prospecting permit. These are large areas, and the affected Conservation Zones are thus potentially subject to extensive mineral activity. On the other hand, it should be born in mind that only a small percentage of registered claims ever result in the establishment of a mine and the transportation of minerals.

(Section partially developed - to be completed for second draft).

To be developed in conjunction with INAC.

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6.18 Sahtu Communities

There are five communities in the Sahtu Settlement Area: Colville Lake, Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells, Tulita and Deline.

The total population as reported in the 2001 Census Canada is 2,326. Aboriginal people's make up the majority of the population. The number of people in each community range from 102 to 666. The Sahtu's population is very young with approximately 45% under 25 years of age.

Colville Lake is the smallest and most remote and traditional community. There were several homes already established when a Catholic Church was constructed in 1962.

(Population 102- Population under 25 years of age -45%)

Fort Good Hope, established in 1805, is the oldest fur trading post in the lower Mackenzie. It was relocated several times. In 1836 it was established at its present location on the east bank of the Mackenzie River, 27 kilometers south of the Arctic Circle.

(Total population 549 – Population under 25 years of age -50%)

Deline was originally established as a trading post in the 1800s under the name Fort Franklin for Sir John Franklin, leader of several expeditions mapping the arctic coast in search of a Northwest Passage. Deline means "where the water flows" indicating its location near the outlet of Great Bear Lake.

(Total population 536 – Population under 25 years of age – 50%)

Tulita, formerly named Fort Norman, means "where the waters meet." It was established in 1810 by the North West Company at the mouth of the Great Bear and Mackenzie Rivers.

(Total Population 473 – Population under 25 years of age – 52%)

Norman Wells is the largest community of the Sahtu. It was created in 1921 when oil was discovered. The Dene name is Le Gohlini, which means "where the oil is."

(Total Population 666 – Population under 25 years of age – 35%)

ⁱ From "THE WATER HEART" - Federal policy prohibits bulk water removal from any major drainage basin within the NWT. The policy defines bulk water removal as any water transferred out of a river basin in any individual container greater than 40 litres in volume, or removal by any means that involves permanent out-of-basin transfer, whether it is by diversion (including pipelines, canal, tunnel, aqueduct or channel), tanker or other mechanism. Bulk water removal does not include "bottled water" in containers of 40 litres or less, which is regulated under environmental assessment processes and licencing under applicable legislation. In addition to the bottled water exemption, the policy allows removal of freshwater from a drainage basin for water required: to meet short-term health and safety needs (such as fire fighting); for human or animal consumption during travel and water needed to carry

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foodstuffs, for road construction and maintenance; and other such local uses, in so far as these are consistent with water resource management objectives and environmental considerations: Canada, *A Policy Respecting the Prohibition of Bulk Water Removal from Major Drainage Basins in the Northwest Territories* (undated) at 2.