

**From:** Anita Ogaa Anita\_Ogaa@gov.nt.ca   
**Subject:** GNWT follow up to Nov. 5 SLUPB Tripartite Meeting  
**Date:** December 1, 2020 at 5:00 PM  
**To:** Heidi Wiebe heidi.wiebe@gmail.com  
**Cc:** Justin Stoyko planner@sahtulanduseplan.org, Justin Adams Justin\_Adams@gov.nt.ca

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Dear Heidi,

This email is to follow-up with further information on the GNWT's interests that were shared at the November 5, 2020 tripartite meeting. We have also completed an initial assessment of the four zoning options provided at the meeting for discussion purposes, relative to the GNWT's interests.

**Zoning:**

- **Southern Area:** In the excluded area of Zone 65 to the south of the Ts'udé Nǫ́lǫ́né Tuyeta Protected Area, GNWT has an interest in providing consideration of Dall's Sheep and Northern Mountain Caribou habitat, and glacial refugia, in permitting decisions on land use activities in that area. The GNWT has an interest in ensuring that potential resource development activities are permitted as the area possesses very high lead-zinc potential.

Special management zoning is recommended for this area. This zoning will meet GNWT's interests and provide some consistency with the surrounding zoning to the west (Gwich'in) and east, although the special values may differ. In addition we recommend that Conformity Requirement #14 – Protection of Special Values – apply to that area.

- **North/Western Area:** In the excluded area of Zone 65 to the north and west of the Ts'udé Nǫ́lǫ́né Tuyeta Protected Area, GNWT has an interest in ensuring that potential resource development activities are permitted as the area has a high oil and gas potential and low to moderate diamond potential. The GNWT also has an interest in providing consideration for boreal woodland caribou, which is a threatened species, realizing that all the areas excluded from the protected area boundary fall in the range of boreal woodland caribou range.

General Use zoning is recommended for the whole of the western/northern area as this would allow for potential development of resources while the existing Conformity Requirement #7 (Fish and Wildlife) in the plan will address impacts to caribou and their habitat. This zoning designation would also be relatively consistent with the majority of neighboring zoning in both the Sahtu and Gwich'in land use plans.

- Based on the Board's preliminary zone options, Option 1 would not satisfy the GNWT's interests as conservation zoning would prohibit potential resource development. The GNWT's preference is for zoning based on the GNWT's interests summarized above.

**Potential Conformity Requirements:** The GNWT also recommends that the Board consider the following conformity requirements when drafting the Amendment Application

- **Landscape connectivity:** It is important to look at best-practices in conservation planning when determining zoning interest. Lands outside protected areas should be reviewed with a goal of balancing development with ensuring connectivity of ecosystem components so that protected areas do not become ecological islands and fragmented from other protected lands.

Recommendation: Consider a conformity requirement that land use activities be designed to minimize impact on landscape connectivity between Ts'udé Nǫ́lǫ́né Tuyeta Protected Area and other conserved lands.

- Engagement with the Ts'udé Nǫ́lǫ́né Tuyeta management board: Approved activities that are adjacent to the Ts'udé Nǫ́lǫ́né Tuyeta Protected Area should take into consideration and minimize impacts to conservation values within the Ts'udé Nǫ́lǫ́né Tuyeta Protected Area. It is important that prospective land users and regulators seek the input of the Ts'udé Nǫ́lǫ́né Tuyeta management board for activities adjacent to the Ts'udé Nǫ́lǫ́né Tuyeta Protected Area.

Recommendation: Consider a conformity requirement that land users and regulators with activities within 1000 m of the Ts'udé Nǫ́lǫ́né Tuyeta protected area boundary that could impact the protected area seek feedback from the Ts'udé Nǫ́lǫ́né Tuyeta management board to minimize potential impacts on the Ts'udé Nǫ́lǫ́né Tuyeta protected area.

**Additional technical comments:** The GNWT suggests that the Board consider the following technical comments when drafting the Amendment Application

- Carbon Storage/Sequestration: Zoning should consider how the potential development could impact carbon sequestration in the protected area and how climate change may affect the project, as well as the project's effect on climate change.  
Recommendation: Zoning and any new potential development in the area adjacent to the Ts'udé Nǫ́lǫ́né Tuyeta Protected Area should take into account how the project may impact carbon storage and/or sequestration within the protected area, how climate change may impact the project (e.g. infrastructure stability), and the project's impact on climate change (i.e. contribution of greenhouse gas emissions). Carbon accounting should be implemented in a way that is practical for all scales of operations.
- Background Report – Terminology: P 21, last paragraph, second sentence – “Its forests, wetlands, peatlands, tundra, shrub, and grassland both sequester and store carbon dioxide”.  
Recommendation: These landscape types store carbon, not carbon dioxide. This should be changed. Peatlands are a type of wetland – this can be removed from the above sentence should this be used in the amendment application.

The GNWT looks forward to reviewing the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board's first draft of the Amendment Application in December.

Best regards,  
Anita

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