



Sahtú Land Use Planning Board

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Notice of Amendment Application Sahtú Land Use Plan

To: SLUPB DISTRIBUTION LIST

RE: Sahtú Land Use Plan Draft Amendment Application: Ts'udé Nǫlǫné Tuyeta (AM2020-01)

Applicant and Scope of Amendment

An application to amend the Sahtú Land Use Plan ("SLUP" or "Plan") has been made by the Sahtú Land Use Planning Board ("SLUPB" or "Board"). The application is made following the creation of the Ts'udé Nǫlǫné Tuyeta Protected Area within the SLUP Zone 65 PCI (Proposed Conservation Initiative). Section 2.2 of the Plan indicates that "the Plan will provide no further management direction to EPAs" (Established Protected Areas), and that "a change in the boundary...[of] a protected area or change in status of an area being proposed for protection, affects the Plan's zoning and will require a Plan amendment, as per section 4.7".

This Plan amendment seeks to zone the Ts'udé Nǫlǫné Tuyeta Protected Area as an EPA, and recommend new zoning and conformity requirements for the lands excluded from the Protected Area that fall within the original SLUP Zone 65 PCI. The application also includes other minor amendments throughout the plan to integrate these changes appropriately.

Description of Proposed Amendments

The Amendment Application contains 60 proposed amendments. The significant amendments and the Board's reasons are described below. Proposed zoning changes are illustrated on Page 3.

This amendment application is based on the changes to the SLUP as presented in the 5-year review amendment application. Should approval of the 5-year amendment application result in changes to the plan from what the SLUPB proposed, this amendment application will adopt those changes where they are not further amended through this application.

1. The zone designation of the Ts'udé Nǫlǫné Tuyeta Protected Area will change from PCI to EPA.

Reason: This is a required change in accordance with S. 2.2 of the SLUP to recognize the change in status of the area.

2. The Board proposes that:
 - a. Zone 1 Behsele Nǫlǫné Special Management Zone (SMZ) be extended to include the portions of the river that were excluded from the Ts'udé Nǫlǫné Tuyeta Protected Area, using the same 1 km buffer around the river;



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- b. the small remaining portion of the wetlands to the northwest of the Ts'udé Nɪlɪné Tuyeta Protected Area be zoned as a new Zone 65 Shɪdéléré Special Management Zone (SMZ); and
 - c. the remaining lands to the north of the protected area that were previously part of Zone 65 PCI be zoned as General Use (GUZ).

Reason: The remaining portion of the wetlands that was excluded is small, important for wildlife, and is part of the same wetlands that forms the protected area. It should maintain some protection and be managed consistently with lands inside the protected area as the landscape is similar. The SMZ designation provides a degree of protection to those special features within the area, while allowing the opportunity for future development of the non-renewable resources in the area. Fewer ecological or cultural values were identified outside the wetlands, so GUZ is the appropriate designation there. This zoning is consistent with the reasons for which the area was excluded from the protected area by the Ts'udé Nɪlɪné Tuyeta Working Group, and is consistent with adjacent zoning.

3. The Board proposes that the entire area south of the Ts'udé Nɪlɪné Tuyeta Protected Area be zoned as a SMZ.

Reason: This area contains the headwaters for both Belada Nɪlɪné (Hume River) and Ts'udé Nɪlɪné (Ramparts River), important habitat for mountain woodland caribou and Dall's Sheep, and glacial refugia, which are ecologically unique areas that escaped previous glaciations. The area is also mineral rich. A SMZ designation provides specific protection to the features that make it special, while allowing the opportunity for future development of the non-renewable resources in the area. This zoning is consistent with the reasons for which the area was excluded from the protected area by the Ts'udé Nɪlɪné Tuyeta Working Group, and is consistent with adjacent zoning.

4. The Board proposes a new CR (CR #21) requiring that the newly established Ts'udé Nɪlɪné Tuyeta Management Board be engaged with respect to any land uses occurring within 5 km of the boundary of the Ts'udé Nɪlɪné Tuyeta Established Protected Area.

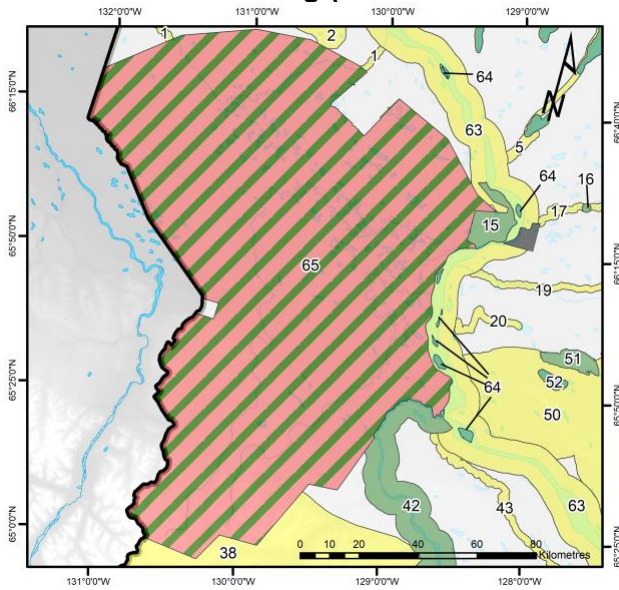
Reason: Activities occurring outside the protected area may impact values within the protected area. The intent of this new CR is to provide the management board the opportunity to discuss potential impacts with project proponents to that appropriate measures can be taken to address their concerns and minimize impacts to the protected area.

5. The Board is proposing to amend CR #7 – Fish and Wildlife to incorporate the range of a herd of northern mountain woodland caribou as documented by residents of Fort Good Hope during our engagement sessions.

Reason: CR #7 is used to protect sensitive wildlife areas during sensitive periods by applying minimum flight altitudes and horizontal setbacks to be followed by proponents working in those areas during those seasons. This is a softer approach than zoning, that allows for ongoing land use, while avoiding disturbance to these lands during sensitive times. Adding this new area of caribou range to CR #7 is consistent with how caribou habitat has previously been addressed in the SLUP.



Previous SLUP Zoning (5-Year Review Amendment):



Legend

Sahtu Land Use Plan Zoning

- General Use Zone
- Special Management Zone
- Conservation Zone
- Proposed Conservation Initiative
- Established Protected Area

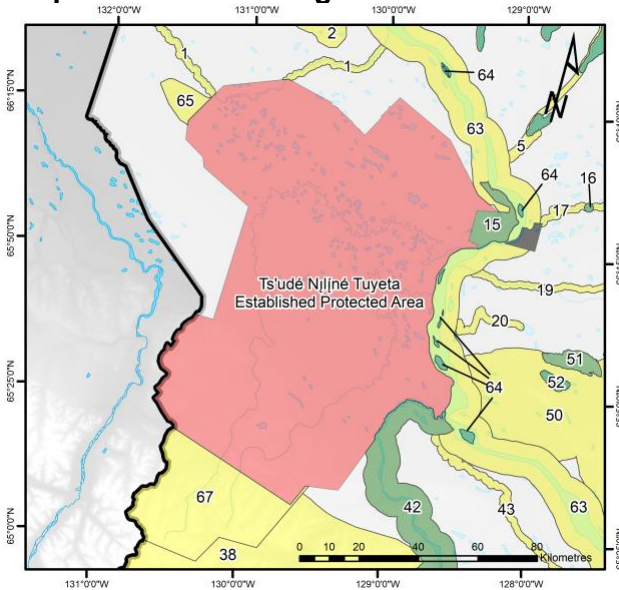
Other Areas

- Community Boundary
- Established National Park Reserve and/or Historic Site

Base Data

- Sahtu Settlement Area Boundary
- Large Rivers and Lakes
- Small Rivers

Proposed SLUP Zoning:



Accessing Materials Relating to the Amendment Application

The Amendment Application and related materials are available at the SLUPB office in Fort Good Hope and on the SLUPB on-line registry at: <https://sahtulanduseplan.org/am2020-01>

All questions regarding the Amendment Application should be directed to:

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867-447-0961



Public Comments and Next Steps

For the next 60 days (until April 9th), the Board invites comments from planning partners on the content of this Draft Amendment Application. All comments received will be posted to the SLUPB's on-line registry.

During this same period, the Board will again engage communities and planning partners to present the amendment application, answer questions and hear oral comments. Further information will be distributed on engagement sessions once dates have been set.

The Board will review all comments received (both oral and written) and these will inform a final meeting with the approving parties to build consensus around the final revisions to this amendment application. Following that meeting, the Board will finalize and adopt the Amendment Application, then send it to SSI, the GNWT, and CIRNAC to begin their approval processes.

Written comments should be addressed to the SLUPB Chair and received by email, fax, post, or hand delivery by **5:00 PM** on **April 9, 2021**.

Heather Bourassa, Chair
Sahtu Land Use Planning Board
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Issued

This notice was issued at Fort Good Hope, NWT on February 8, 2021 by the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board.