



June 16, 2015

Heather Bourassa,
Chair Sahtu Land Use Planning Board
PO Box 235
Fort Good Hope, NT X0E 0H0

Re: Comments from Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – NWT Chapter (CPAWS-NWT) regarding the SLUP Amendment Process Following the Establishment of Nááts'ihch'oh NPR

Dear Ms. Bourassa,

On behalf of CPAWS-NWT I thank the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board (SLUPB) for the opportunity to comment on the Background Report - *Amending the Sahtu Land Use Plan Following the Creation of the Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve*.

CPAWS has long supported regional efforts to protect the South Nahanni Watershed. We see Nááts'ihch'oh NPR as a conservation outcome that is a gift from the Sahtu Dene and Metis to all people of the Northwest Territories and Canada. We now have an ongoing interest in the successful implementation of the Nááts'ihch'oh park management plan, and in the management of adjacent lands now being considered for zoning through amendment of your Sahtu Land Use Plan.

Our focus in this amendment process is concern with the significant area left unprotected by the Nááts'ihch'oh boundary which includes headwaters of the South Nahanni river and crucial habitat for mountain woodland caribou, grizzly bear and Dall's sheep. We are hopeful that the amendment outcome for Proposed Conservation Initiative PCI - Zone 41 (Nááts'ihch'oh) will provide for conservation of the considered area to ensure future healthy populations of these species and to maintain ecological integrity within Nááts'ihch'oh, across the South Nahanni watershed and in the Sahtu in general.

Please consider the following suggestion and comments as you develop your agenda for the July public meetings.

Values to be Protected – Watershed and Ecosystem Protection and Wildlife

Consideration of Cumulative Effects

We suggest that discussion of “the impacts of potential land use activities” expand to include a broader discussion of the cumulative effects of current and likely future disturbance from road infrastructure resource exploration and development within and surrounding PCI - Zone 41.

A focus on cumulative effects would help to explicitly highlight areas within (PCI) Zone 41 that have been identified during the Nááts'ihch'oh NPR establishment process as being crucial habitat for mountain woodland caribou, grizzly bear and Dall's sheep within the context of current and likely future developments.

This discussion could also assist in further consideration of conditions for careful management, in areas that will be accessed and developed, such that conditions are aligned with the needs of each of these wildlife species.

Thank-you for the opportunity to comment and to engage in the implementation of the Sahtu Land Use Plan. We look forward to participating in the July public meetings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris Brekke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kris Brekke
Executive Director
CPAWS-NWT
kris@cpaws.org