



Ms. Heather Bourassa
Chair
Sahtu Land Use Planning Board
PO BOX 235
FORT GOOD HOPE NT X0E 0H0

OCT 08 2020

Dear Ms. Bourassa:

SLUPB Background Report - Amending the Sahtú Land Use Plan's Zone 65 PCI Following the Creation of Ts'udé Nǫ́lǫ́né Tuyeta Protected Area

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is pleased to see the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board (SLUPB) has commenced the process to amend the Sahtu Land Use Plan following the creation of the Ts'udé Nǫ́lǫ́né Tuyeta Protected Area. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the SLUPB's Background Report to the amendment process.

The Department of Lands has completed a coordinated GNWT review of the Background Report. Please find attached the GNWT's comments in Appendix A.

Should you or the SLUPB staff have further questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Justin Adams, Manager, Land Use Planning at Justin_Adams@gov.nt.ca.

Sincerely,

Gina Ridgely
Director
Land Use and Sustainability

APPENDIX A:

GNWT Comments on the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board Background Report - *Amending the Sahtú Land Use Plan's Zone 65 PCI (Proposed Conservation Initiative) Following the Creation of Ts'udé Njłjné Tuyeta Protected Area*

This document is a summary of GNWT comments and recommendations on the background report. The comments and recommendations provided below are based on an internal GNWT review of the background report.

Specific Comments

Access

Access to Government Reserves in the PCI - There are 41 government reserves within the Zone 65 PCI, 3 of these reserves are within the Ts'ude Niline Tuyeta boundary and 38 are outside the boundary in the remaining areas of Zone 65. These reserves are for a variety of public purposes including navigation, stream gauging and fire control. Further information on the location of these reserves can be provided to the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board upon request. Maintaining and accessing these reserves is a consideration for this amendment.

General Comments

The following comments are provided as recommendations should the information in the background report be used in preparing the Ts'udé Njłjné Tuyeta Zone 65 amendment application.

Timeline of regulations

Page 11 - The background report states that the development of regulations for Ts'udé Njłjné Tuyeta under the *NWT Protected Areas Act* is expected to be completed by February 2021. This date is no longer accurate.

Recommendation: Change the timing that regulations are expected to be completed to "Spring 2021."

Maps

Resolution - At the current resolution, the maps are generally difficult to read, even when zoomed in. Recommendation: For these and all maps used in the amendment package, increase the resolution to enhance readability of maps.

Map 2 Legend - Page 8 - The legend for Map 2 does not display the diagonal line shading that appears to represent Ts'udé Njłjné Tuyeta Protected Area.

Recommendation: If this map is to be used in the amendment package, update the legend for Map 2.

Editorial comments

Use of terms “remnants” and “left outside of” - throughout document - The amendments to the Sahtu Land Use Plan should use the term “excluded” and the concept of exclusion or inclusion in the final protected area boundary. It would be more accurate to use this language in place “remnants” or “left outside of”.

Page 10 – The language used in the following phrase is not precise.

Recommendation: Revise the sentence as follows: “At this point it was determined that the Ts’udé Njłjné Tuyeta area had sufficient protection through the Sahtu Land Use Plan (SLUP) under the Zone 65 Proposed Conservation Initiative designation, that another extension of the land withdrawal was not ~~needed.~~ required.”

Page 13 - The use of “assure” in the following phrase is inaccurate.

Recommendation: Revise to “ensure” as follows: “With this, it is possible to analyse what parts of the area fall within the same watershed and would merit protection to ~~assure~~ ensure the integrity of the legislated protected area.”