



November 24, 2016

Sahtu Land Use and Planning Board
P.O. Box 235
Fort Good Hope, NT
X0E 0H0

Re. Sahtu Land Use Plan Amendment

As the largest land manager adjacent to the proposed new zones in the Sahtu Land Use Plan (SLUP), Parks Canada appreciates the opportunity to provide comments. Our submission focuses principally on recreational and ecological values, as well as, sharing what we have heard from our partners and stakeholders.

Proposed Nááts'ihch'oh Conservation Zones 68A, B, C-G, H-J and K-P

The proposed conservation zones are located within the watershed, adjacent to the boundaries of the national park reserve. Parks Canada has no concerns regarding the proposed conservation zones that are adjacent to the northern and eastern boundary of the park. It is useful for conservation management to have lands with complementary management regimes adjacent to each other.

Over the years, Parks Canada has heard from various Sahtu people, leaders and organizations, that they envision a future park expansion. This view has been reflected by the Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve Management Committee, which has indicated they would like to see more of the watershed protected in the national park reserve. The use of Conservation Zones 68A through P in the SLUP proposal is supportive of this vision from our partners.

Proposed Nááts'ihch'oh Special Management Zones 67A and B

These two zones do not adjoin any major recreation areas within the national park reserve. However, Zones 67A and B are in the South Nahanni watershed and downstream effects of activities in these areas will be felt in the park. These areas are ecologically important, in particular to Mountain Goat and the Redstone Caribou herd.

Proposed Nááts'ihch'oh Special Management Zones 67C and D

Parks Canada appreciates that wildlife are noted as one of the values to be respected and that recreation areas are “values to be taken into account” in these zones.

The Little Nahanni area is important for the South Nahanni herd, as it includes a portion of their calving, summer and rut ranges. The conservation of caribou is a key issue that arises with the Nááts'ihch'oh Management Committee with concerns expressed about impacts on the health of the population due to increased accessibility on the Howard's Pass Access Road, as well as, their exposure to stresses from traffic.

Mountain Goats can also be found in both zones. Zone 67C contains a very high concentration of Grizzly Bears, and is also an important wildlife area for Dall's Sheep. As all these large mammals move from area to area, uses that may cause impacts to them outside the national park reserve will affect populations inside the park.

The Little Nahanni River corridor is an important visitor experience for Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve. The Little Nahanni is used not only by paddlers seeking a challenge, but also by climbers who use the river as a means of transportation to the Cirque of the Unclimbables in Nahanni National Park Reserve.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Laani Uunila', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Laani Uunila
Superintendent
Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve
PO Box 157
Tulita, NT
XOE OKO

867-445-1483