Introduction

This annual newsletter provides brief status reports on projects concerning the establishment and development of new parks, related heritage areas and other conservation initiatives in northern Canada. Aboriginal land claims remain a key factor in the establishment of parks and other protected areas.

The Yukon First Nations Umbrella Final Agreement (1993) has led to eight First Nation Final Agreements: Champagne and Aishihik, Vuntut Gwitchin, Nacho Nyak Dun, Teslin T'ingit Council, Little Salmon/Canucks, Selkirk, T'loko Nehetch and Ta'An Kwäch'än. Six First Nations claims remain to be finalized. The development of a Yukon territorial park system must follow or complement the land claims process.

Within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, approximately 18% is conserved by national parks and managed in a co-operative manner by Parks Canada and agencies created under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (1984) or otherwise by agreement with Inuvialuit.

The Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992) and the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1993) address natural areas, wildlife and heritage conservation issues. Three national historic sites have been designated within these claim areas. The Tagly Land Claims and Self-government Agreement was initialled on 4 September 2002, during a ceremony in Wha Ti, NWT. In May 2001, government and the Deh Cho First Nations signed a Framework Agreement and an Interim Measures Agreement. These Agreements mark significant first steps in the Deh Cho Process toward negotiating a final agreement. The Northwest Territory Metis Nation (formerly known as the South Slave Metis) is currently working with government toward an agreement-in-principal. Land claim and treaty land entitlement considerations for all areas where claims are not settled will strongly influence the timing of conservation proposals in these areas.

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (1993) provides a process for the establishment of national parks, territorial parks, and conservation areas in Nunavut. Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements must be concluded for all existing territorial parks and for management plans for all existing parks and conservation areas. New Parks North has been organized by claim area or settlement region. These areas are indicated on the map on the front page.

-Judi Cozzetto, Editor

Yukon, WWT and Nunavut Land Claim Settlement Regions

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* Overlap exists in claim areas
Aboriginal Land Claims

Editors’ Note: The following article was compiled from several government sources. It is included here to provide a brief introduction to aboriginal land claims for persons not familiar with them.

A Brief Overview
In Canada, the common law concept of aboriginal rights and title has been recognized by the courts. The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of aboriginal peoples have also been recognized and affirmed under section 35 (3) of the Constitution Act, 1982.

The evolution and development of the federal government’s land claims policy have been closely linked to court decisions. The first claims policy statement in 1973 was initiated by a decision of the Supreme Court of Canada (the 1973 Calder decision) which acknowledged the existence of aboriginal title in Canadian law. In order to address uncertainties created by the decision, the federal government announced its intention to negotiate claim settlements. As the policy developed, claims were divided into two types:

• comprehensive claims - based on the concept of continuing aboriginal rights and title that have not been dealt with by treaty or other legal means; and
• specific claims - arising from alleged non-fulfillment of Indian treaties and other lawful obligations, or the improper administration of lands and other assets under the Indian Act or formal agreements.

In recent years, an unnamed third category of claims has developed to deal with aboriginal grievances that fall within the spirit of the comprehensive and specific claims policies, but do not meet strict acceptance criteria.

Comprehensive Claims
The primary purpose of comprehensive claims settlements is to conclude agreements with aboriginal groups that will resolve the legal ambiguities associated with the common law concept of aboriginal rights. The objective is to negotiate modern treaties which provide clear, certain, and long-lasting definition of rights to lands and resources.

Negotiated comprehensive claim settlements provide for certainty for governments and third parties in exchange for a clearly defined package of rights and benefits for the aboriginal beneficiaries codified in constitutionally-protected settlement agreements. Comprehensive claim agreements define a wide range of rights and benefits to be exercised and enjoyed by claimant groups. These may include full ownership of certain lands, guaranteed wildlife harvesting rights, participation in land and resource management throughout the settlement area, financial transfers, resource revenue-sharing and economic development measures. If a national park is established in a settlement area through the claim process, the claimant group continues to exercise its traditional harvesting activities, as well as management of the ecosystem. The federal government is prepared to consider constitutional protection of certain aspects of self-government where the parties agree to a comprehensive treaty agreement. Each claim is handled separately from other specific claims.

Specific Claims and Treaty Land Entitlement
Specific claims relate to the fulfillment of treaties and to the federal government’s administration of Indian reserves, band funds and other assets. The government’s primary objective with respect to specific claims is to discharge its lawful obligations to First Nations. Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE) is a large category of claims that relate primarily to a group of treaties that were signed with First Nations, mainly in the Prairie provinces. All these First Nations received the full amount of land promised. Claims from First Nations for outstanding entitlements are categorized as TLE claims and are handled separately from other specific claims.

Other Claims
The federal government is reaching or negotiating settlement of a number of other aboriginal grievances, which have sometimes been referred to as claims of a third kind. These grievances fall within the spirit of the comprehensive and specific claims policies, but do not meet strict acceptance criteria.

Deh Cho
After the failure of the Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement in 1990, the Deh Cho First Nations (DFCN) requested the establishment of a Deh Cho Treaty. The Deh Cho Process is the governance, lands and resources negotiations among federal and territorial governments and the DCFN. Negotiations have resulted in a draft Framework Agreement and a draft Interim Measures Agreement. The Framework Agreement sets the scope, process, topics and parameters for negotiation of an agreement-in-principle and a final agreement. The Interim Measures Agreement provides for participation of the DCFN in the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management regime; a request for parallel planning process that will facilitate resource development; an interim management arrangement for Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada; and interim land withdrawals and the negotiation of a resource development agreement. DCFN and Parks Canada formed the Nahani Deh Cho Consensus Team, a team of six people consisting of three appointees by Deh Cho and three by Parks Canada. The team has provided advice on the Ecological Integrity Statement and the Park Management Plan for Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada. The Consensus Team may make recommendations to the Deh Cho Process main table on interim management arrangements for Nahanni.

Northwest Territory Métis Nation
In 2002 this group, formally known as the South Slave Métis, changed its name to the Northwest Territory Métis Nation. When the Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement was rejected by the aboriginal peoples in 1990, the federal government decided to enter into regional claims in the Mackenzie Valley. However, in the South Slave District, Dene First Nations originally opted to seek fulfillment of their Treaty 8 and Treaty 11 entitlements. This left some Métis in this area without a vehicle to press for their concerns. A Framework Agreement was signed in August 1996 that outlines a two-stage negotiation process - land recognition, and after the signing of an agreement-in-principle, negotiation of self-government issues.

Akatitch Treaty 8
In 2000 negotiations began between Canada and the approximately 2000 Akatitch Treaty 8 Dene who assert traditional use of lands primarily south and east of Great Slave Lake, and north-easterly as far as the Barrenland. Legal disputes have hampered progress but the parties expect to resume talks in 2003.

Tłı̨chǫ First Nation
The Tłı̨chǫ First Nation (TCFN) and the government of Canada and the NWT initiated a final agreement on land and self-government negotiations in September 2002. It confirms that approximately 39,000 km² of land, including subsurface resources, will be identified for the TCFN, and that TCFN government will have law-making authority primarily over Dogrib lands and Dogrib Citizens. The date for the ratification vote has not yet been determined. More information can be obtained at www.dogrib.ca.
Several Elders in the community spoke of the fences, which were used into the early 20th century to corral and kill large numbers of caribou on their annual migration through Vuntut Gwitchin territory. The fences are seen as symbols of the long term Gwich’in relationship with the Porcupine caribou herd and the close connections between the people and the land.

To meet the community’s interests in preserving these critical heritage elements and communicate their value to Canadians, Parks Canada initiated a three year cultural resource management project in 2002. With the aid of young people from Old Crow, an archaeological field crew carried out detailed recordings of some of these fences. Over the next two summer field seasons it was anticipated that all of the fences in the park will be completely documented. At the same time research using the extensive oral history records at the Vuntut Gwich’in Heritage Office will attempt to describe the character of the peoples’ relationship with the caribou and their land. This information will be used to prepare an interactive computer simulation of the caribou fence in use so that all Canadians can learn about and respect the Vuntut Gwich’in cultural heritage.

Introduction
Since 1999, the percentage of permanent designated protected areas in the Yukon has increased from 8.7% to approximately 11.8%. Additional areas could bring the total just under 14% subject to ratification of several land claims agreements anticipated in 2003. In 2002 implementing the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy (YPAS) was limited to cabinet approval of the Eagle Plains area as a candidate terrestrial park. A strong YPAS initiatives, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society-Yukon Chapter focused on community conservation work, public education on land use planning, conservation mapping and leadership training.

Peel River Watershed
One of Canada’s most striking and pristine watershed, the Peel River collects the waters of tributaries such as the Ogilvie, Blackstone, Hart, Wind, Snake and Bonnet Plume. These rivers, with their long cultural history, clear flowing waters, free-ranging wildlife and rugged northern beauty, constitute a natural area of global importance that has sustained aboriginal peoples through time.

A national park will only move forward in Region 7 with the support of the affected community and First Nation. Specific terms of a park agreement would be protected under the land claim, and the community would be represented on the park management board.

Wolf Lake
Several years ago, Parks Canada released a study showing that the Wolf Lake area was a candidate for protection in Natural Region 7. This region covers the northern interior of British Columbia from the Spatzizi Plateau, north through Jennings Lake, on to the Wolf Lake and up to the Tombstone Range in central Yukon.

The Wolf Lake/Nisutlin ecosystem is located on one of the largest caribou herds range, and rich wetland and riparian areas. This watershed plays a key ecological role in sustaining the integrity of the Nisutlin National Wildlife Area, a staging area for thousands of migratory waterfowl. The Wolf and Nisutlin Rivers support spawning salmon at the head of the longest Chinook salmon run in the world - the 1,000 mile long salmon journey.

The combined archaeological and cultural research supported the designation of Tr’ohëk as a National Historic Site of Canada in the summer of 2002. The Tr’ohëk Heritage Steering Committee completed the Site Management Plan in March 2003. In conjunction with research and planning for Tr’ohëk, the Elders have undertaken a community cultural development program addressing Hän language training, regional place names, the development of a school curriculum, the organization of their government records, seasonal cultural camps and the construction and operation of the Dâncjo Zho Culture Centre. Dâncjo Zho, with its exhibit and interpretive programs, will be the entry to Tr’ohëk National Historic Site of Canada.

Government of Yukon—Cultural Services Branch
Caribou Fences of Vuntut National Park
The Vuntut Gwitch’i Gwich’in First Nation Final Agreement (1993) included provisions for the establishment and joint management of Vuntut National Park of Canada. In the consultations leading to the preparation of the Park Management Plan, Vuntut Gwitch’in identified the caribou fences in the park as cultural heritage sites of great importance.

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Government of Yukon—Cultural Services Branch
Fort Selkirk Historic Site
Work began on the interior restoration of the Taylor & Druy Store in 2002. Shelving was reconstructed based on ghost images left on the walls and historic photos of store shelving used elsewhere at the site. Materials were also obtained in preparation for the re-installation of ceiling paneling. Other restoration
work involved repair and construction of doors, windows and fence gates. The work allowed for the training of site staff in different woodworking techniques. All work at the site is based upon the Fort Selkirk Management Plan (2001). Guided walking tours rear a lot of ground as over 40 historic buildings extend for a kilometre along the bank of the Yukon River. See www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/FortSelkirk for an introduction to the site. Fort Selkirk Historic Site is co-owned and co-managed by the Selkirk First Nation and the Government of Yukon according to the Selkirk Parks Final Agreement.

Forty Mile, Fort Cudaby and Fort Constantine Historic Site

Forty Mile is the most important salmon-spawning stream in the Canadian portion of the Yukon River system. It supports unusually large runs of salmon, and is associated with the local grizzly bear population. There are three different levels of protection in the immediate area. The Fishing Branch River is the most

Parks Branch

Mammoth Conference

The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and the Government of Yukon according to the

Forty Mile Historic Site

restoration on the exterior of the one-and-a-half storey house at Rampart House was complete last summer. Started three summers ago, the log building has been completely disassembled and put back together, replacing rotted members. The logs were beamed square and fitted between vertical posts to form the walls, and split poles were used to form the roof. A crew of log workers from Old Crow learned hewing and splitting skills during the reconstruction phases. Restoration of the interior, windows, doors and interior remains to be completed.

Rampart House Historic Site is co-owned and co-managed by the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and the Government of Yukon according to the Vuntut Gwitchin Final Agreement and the subsequent 1999 management plan. The Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Lands Oral History Study entered its fourth and final year. Final products will include the translated, transcribed and indexed oral history, a comprehensive publication of published and unpublished materials, school curriculum kits and a publishable manuscript on Vuntut Gwitchin history.

Tombstone Territorial Park

Work continues on the management plans for Tombstone Territorial Park and the Tombstone Corridor. As part of the planning process, heritage, resource surveys were undertaken in partnership with the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in and the Yukon government.

Mammoth Conference

The Department of Environment Parks Branch Fishing Branch Protected Area

The Fishing Branch River is the most important salmon-spawning stream in the Canadian portion of the Yukon River system. It supports unusually large runs of salmon and has very high wildlife values associated with the local grizzly bear population. There are three different levels of protection in the immediate area.
The first is a core ecological reserve established as a Special Management Area in the Vuntut Gwitchín First Nation Final Agreement. The second is the proposed Fishing Branch Wilderness Preserve that surrounds the ecological reserve and provides a higher level of protection for the core area. The third is a proposed habitat protection area adjacent to the Wilderness Preserve.

A park management plan was approved for the Special Management Area in April 2000 and the land is subject to a permanent subsurface mineral withdrawal. The legal boundary description for the Wilderness Preserve and Habitat Protection Area was completed to allow for the transfer of land. The administration and management of the 5,217 km² Wilderness Preserve was transferred to the Government of Yukon in October 2001. The Wilderness Preserve and the Habitat Protection Area final management plan is nearing completion. Designation under the Parks and Land Certainty Act and Wildlife Act will follow.

Tombstone Territorial Park
The commitment to establish Tombstone as a Yukon territorial park arose from the Special Management Areas provisions in the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation Final Agreement (1998). Commitments were made to identify a park boundary that captures representative parts of the Mackenzie ecoregion, along with important physical and biological features and sites of archaeological and cultural values. Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in and the Government of Yukon appointed a steering committee to recommend a park boundary and prepare a park management plan (also see article on page 7). The work of the Tombstone Steering Committee has lead to a boundary encompassing 2,164 km² of land for designation under the Parks and Land Certainty Act. Application to transfer the control and administration of the land to the Government of Yukon, which is a requirement prior to the area being designated as parkland, is expected in the near future. A permanent subsurface mineral withdrawal will be implemented once the land is transferred.

The Steering Committee presented its park management plan to Tr'ondëk Hwëch’in and the Government of Yukon in January 2003 for their review and approval. Adoption of the proposed Tombstone park management plan will lead to the designation of the area as a territorial park under the Parks and Land Certainty Act, and will protect the unique diversity of habitats, wildlife, landforms and cultural resources of the area.

Yukon Protected Areas Strategy
The Government of Yukon put the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy (YPAS) on hold in early 2003. The YPAS process identifies and designates protected areas in each of the unrepresented ecoregions in the Yukon. Scientific and technical assessment work within the ecoregions will continue. This work is in direct support of existing Special Management Areas arising from governments of Yukon and Canada. The management plan identifies natural and cultural resources for protection. The signing of the Ta'An Kwačän First Nation Final Agreement (2002) more clearly defines ownership of certain properties and management responsibilities along the Thirty Mile. The Government of Yukon owns a small portion of the historic site of Lower Laberge, where the Thirty Mile River begins at the outlet of Lake Laberge, as well as the historic sites of Hootalinqua and Shipyard Island at the end of the Thirty Mile River, opposite where the Teslin River enters the Yukon River. Hootalinqua, being at the juncture of the Yukon and Teslin Rivers, was an important shipping point, and Shipyard Island provided ways for making repairs to boats and winter storage.

Work began on improvements to, and restoration of, Hootalinqua in 2002. Brush was cleared at Hootalinqua and nearby Shipyard Island to open up the sites for camping and viewing. This also provided some protection for historic resources including several buildings and the hulk of the SS Evelyn paddlewheeler.

Department of the Environment
Parks Branch
Tatshenshini River
Work on establishing the Yukon portion of the Tatshenshini River as a Canadian heritage river is progressing. The Tatshenshini was
Aulavik National Park of Canada

Aulavik National Park of Canada is located on northern Banks Island and represents the Western Arctic Lowlands Natural Region. Inuvialuit and the Government of Canada signed an agreement to establish the park in 1992.

Inuvialuit Settlement Region

The announcement is significant for northern Canada as it provides for the establishment of a number of national parks. For areas in which a comprehensive design plan are proceeding for a visitor reception centre in Sachs Harbour.

Ivvavik National Park of Canada

Ivvavik National Park of Canada, located in northern Yukon, represents the Northern Yukon and Mackenzie Delta Natural Regions. It was established through the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (1994).

Ecological monitoring activities carried out during the 2002 field season focused on climate, vegetation and habitat, and the impact of human use on natural and cultural resources. Activities included water quality testing from two automatic two-year round weather stations, and the delivery of the Environmental Stewardship Certificate Program to grades four to six school children in Sachs Harbour, and the sponsorship of an Inuvialuit youth as an assistant to park staff during a park patrol.

Community consultations and a comprehensive design plan are proceeding for a visitor reception centre in Sachs Harbour.

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Day use opportunities in the park are being considered. An aircraft landing site was near the Babbage River, currently under environmental assessment, would accommodate short take-off and landing-capable aircraft on tundra tires.

As a means of streamlining management processes and research, Ivvavik’s Ecosystem Conservation Plan and Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan have been integrated into one plan. This plan will set priorities for the entire Yukon North Slope for environmental protection, research, monitoring and management.

Pingo Canadian Landmark

The Canadian Pingo Landmark, the only landmark in Canada, represents the permafrost and pingos terrain characteristic of the Tuktoyuktuk Peninsula.

Over the last two years, 35 community consultations, GSCI presented a draft traditional knowledge policy to the Gwich’in Tribal Council Board of Directors for approval. The policy will ensure that the collection, management and dissemination of traditional knowledge is carried out in an ethical and respectful manner, and acknowledges the Gwich’in people as holders of this knowledge. Approved in principle, GSCI is now finalizing the policy and preparing an implementation strategy. Once finalized, the policy will apply to all traditional knowledge work conducted in the Gwich’in Settlement Area.

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Gwich’in Settlement Area

The Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI) has a mandate “to document, preserve and promote the practice of Gwich’in culture, language, traditional knowledge, and values.” This mandate is carried out through a comprehensive program of research, language and cultural education. A five year business plan was completed in May 2002 that outlines how GSCI should continue to document, preserve and promote Gwich’in culture and language through further oral history, traditional knowledge, place names and other ethnographic research. The plan also outlines how increased responsibilities associated with heritage resource management obligations and language renewal can possibly be met.
Teetl'it Gwich'in National Historic Site Project

In the fall of 2002 the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute (GSCI), working in partnership with the community of Fort McPherson and Parks Canada, began the process of identifying a national historic site within the Teetl’it Gwich’in traditional land use area. An 11 member Teetl’it Gwich’in Community Steering Committee, made up of Elders, younger people and band members, was established to provide direction for the project. This Committee met with Parks Canada and approved in June 2002. The Committee will now work toward finalizing the draft Comprehensive Integrity Statement.

Gwich’in in the 19th Century

The Gwich’in language is the most endangered of all the Athapaskan languages in the Mackenzie Valley. According to 1998 statistics, 15% of Gwich’in beneficiaries living in the NWT speak the language, but only two percent speak the language in their homes. In order to reverse this trend eight pairs of fluent speakers (mentors) have been matched with learners (apprentices). Started in mid-November, the pairs met for a minimum of four hours per week, to the end of January 2003, to improve Gwich’in language skills. After review, this program shows potential, additional programs will be carried out in all the Gwich’in communities.

Nagwichoonjik National Historic Site Project

Nagwichoonjik is Canada’s longest national historic site. It stretches 175 km from Point Separation to one km upstream from the confluence of the Mackenzie and Thunder Rivers. In January 2002, the Nagwichoonjik Community Steering Committee and the Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute met with Parks Canada and the Gwich’in Tribal Council to decide on a boundary for the site. Using maps showing traditional place names and other heritage resources, the Committee decided on a five km boundary inland from the high water mark on each shore of the river, running the entire length of the site. The boundary was submitted to the Heritage Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and approved in June 2002. The Committee will now work toward finalizing the draft Comprehensive Integrity Statement.

Sahtu Settlement Area

Sahyoue/Edacho National Historic Site of Canada

These two large peninsulas on Great Bear Lake are sacred places and, together, they constitute one of Canada’s largest national historic sites. Sahyoue (Grizzly Bear Mountain)/Edacho (Scented Grass Hills) are cultural landscapes commemorated to celebrate the Sahtu Dene relationship between oral history (stories) and the land. It is through the telling of stories that Sahtu Dene pass on knowledge about past life ways, traditions, law, history, and origins of Sahtu Dene culture, spiritual values, and land use.

Parks Canada continues to work with the community of Deline toward the long-term protection of Sahyoue/Edacho through the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS). The Sahyoue/Edacho Working Group consists of Sahtu Dene representatives and participants from Parks Canada, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Government of the NWT, and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – NWT Chapter. Sahyoue is the first NWT PAS candidate site to achieve interim protection (also see article on page 20).

In February 2001, the Minister of Canadian Heritage sponsored interim protection for Sahyoue/Edacho for a five year period. This signaled completion of four of the eight steps outlined in the PAS. As part of the NWT PAS fifth step, the working group is currently in year two of a three-year work plan to determine the most effective means of long term protection. Year one and two of the work focused on ecological, cultural and economic values. In year three, all evaluations will be compiled into one comprehensive report. The findings, along with management options, will be presented at community and public consultation sessions. Based on the evaluation process and input from the public review, recommendations for long-term protection will be presented to the community and to the Ministers as represented by the Working Group.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – NWT Chapter

Sahyoue/Edacho and the Waters of Great Bear Lake

Working through the Sahyoue/Edacho Working Group, and in partnership with the community of Deline and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development of the Government of the NWT, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - NWT Chapter (CPAWS-NWT) organized the completion of the ecological assessment of Sahyoue/Edacho in 2002 as part of Step 5 of the Protected Areas Strategy. Participation in the Working Group toward obtaining full and permanent protection for Sahyoue/Edacho continued (also see article on page 20).

Though significant, these two western peninsulas of Great Bear Lake are not enough to protect Sahtu culture or the biodiversity within the lake’s watershed. CPAWS-NWT has broadened its work to look at management options for maintaining water quality and is working with many partners toward a shared vision: “Great Bear Lake must be kept clean and beautiful for all time.” A workshop held in Deline in March 2003, continues the work toward a management strategy for the watershed.
Deh Cho

Government of Canada—Parks Canada

National Parks

Nahanni National Park Reserve of Canada

For many years Parks Canada has been on record as wanting to expand the boundaries of Nahanni National Park Reserve. In the 1980s three candidate areas were identified for inclusion, namely the Tlohotso Plateau, the Ragged Range, and a Kart area north of First Canyon. Completing the park by expanding into these areas would contribute to better representation of the Mackenzie Mountains Natural Region and protection of the ecological integrity of the park. Final determination of park boundaries, as well as establishment of Nahanni as a national park will occur as part of the Deh Cho Process. As a participant in the Deh Cho Process, Parks Canada took information on high conservation value around Nahanni National Park Reserve in November 2001. Parks Canada’s data, along with information submitted by other federal and territorial departments and the Deh Cho First Nations, has been used to determine areas within the Deh Cho region that will be subject to an interim land withdrawal pending conclusion of a Deh Cho final agreement. The results of public consultations, the interim land withdrawal is scheduled for March 2003. Parks Canada expects that much of the areas of high conservation value will be within the lands protected by the interim land withdrawal.

Government of Canada—Parks Canada

National Historic Sites

Ehdaa National Historic Site of Canada

Ehdaa was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in July 2002. The plaque, commemorating the national historic importance of the site, was blessed by Pope John Paul II during the 2002 World Youth Day celebrations in Canada. In 1987, the Pope visited Ehdaa to speak to assembled First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

Located at the southeastern end of Fort Simpson Island, near the confluence of the Mackenzie (Delcho) and Liard (Nachtene Dèhe) Rivers, Ehdaa has been an important gathering place of Dene since before contact with Europeans. A low-lying open flat land, Ehdaa has long been used for seasonal gatherings by Dene. Here, land use was allocated by Elders, puberty rites and games were played, and buffalo were butchered in the park reserve. Within the Deh Cho First Nations’ (DCFN) traditional territory.

The Deh Cho Process interim land withdrawal negotiations present an opportunity to gain interim protection of the watershed. The DCFN recently called on the Government of Canada to provide interim protection for the entire Deh Cho portion of the watershed. CPAWS-NWT supported this provision, which would leave options open to create a permanent, protected area in the Mackenzie region. Canada has not agreed to the DCFN request. CPAWS-NWT will continue to work to protect the watershed from negative impacts of industrial development by participating in regional regulatory and environmental assessment processes.

Canadian Parks and Wildlife Society—NWT Chapter

South Nahanni Watershed

Canadian Parks and Wildlife Society - NWT Chapter (CPAWS-NWT) has been working to better protect Nahanni for many years. A recent highlight was the Prime Minister of Canada’s announcement in the fall of 2002 that included plans for the completion of Nahanni and its establishment as a National Park of Canada. While the current park reserve, in part, protects the waterfalls, canyons and hot springs in a corridor along the river, it leaves out most of the South Nahanni watershed which contains critical habitat for wildlife species such as woodland caribou and grizzly bear. The majority of the watershed, which surrounds and buffers the park reserve, lies within the Deh Cho First Nations’ (DCFN) traditional territory.

The future of this proposal remains a disagreement between the Akaitcho First Nations and the federal government over boundaries of the adjacent Dogrib Treaty 8 First Nations based in Yellowknife, Detah, N’Dilo and Fort Resolution through the Akaitcho Process. Negotiations in these teams have been suspended pending settlement of other issues, but those issues are being resolved and the parties expect to resume negotiations early in 2003. To prepare for dealing with the national park in negotiations, Parks Canada is working with the Akaitcho’s X Deh Cho First Nation to gather information and conduct community workshops on matters pertaining to the proposed national park.

On September 4, 2002, the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council and the governments of the NWT and Canada initiated a Land Claims and Self-governement Agreement, the T'gëch Agreement. This Agreement addresses some matters pertaining to T'gëch Citizens’ relationship to the park in the East Arm, should it be established. Provision for actual establishment of the park is left to other processes.

One of the matters leading to suspension of Akaitcho Process negotiations was a disagreement between the Akaitcho First Nations and the federal government over boundaries of the adjacent Dogrib Treaty 11 Claim. In November 2002 the Dogrib and Akaitcho leadership reached a boundary overlap agreement. Other First Nation and Métis interests in the East Arm are becoming clearer as claims and treaty negotiations with these groups progress.

Traditional Trail in Wood Buffalo National Park

Discussions regarding the possible development of a traditional trail in Wood Buffalo National Park were held by Smith’s Landing First Nation as part of their Land Claim process. The trail would be established at the Ehdaa site’s Drum Circle.

The Drum Circle is an important location where traditional ceremonies are held by a Smith’s Landing representative in August 2002. Located visible sections of the trail, along with distinctive land features. This information can be incorporated into an environmental assessment for any future work identified.

As a participant in the Deh Cho Process, Parks Canada has been on record as wanting to expand the boundaries of Nahanni National Park Reserve. In the 1980s three candidate areas were identified for inclusion, namely the Tlohotso Plateau, the Ragged Range, and a Kart area north of First Canyon. Completing the park by expanding into these areas would contribute to better representation of the Mackenzie Mountains Natural Region and protection of the ecological integrity of the park. Final determination of park boundaries, as well as establishment of Nahanni as a national park will occur as part of the Deh Cho Process.

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Territorial Parks, Park Reserves and Historic Sites

1. Blackstone
2. Coal Trail/Dodo Canyon
3. Canyon City
4. Coal River Springs
5. Fishing Branch Wilderness Reserve
6. Fort Selkirk
7. Fort Smith Mission
8. Forty Mile, Fort Cuthaby and Fort Constantine
9. Chuksha
10. Herschel Island
11. Hidden Lake
12. Ledyard
13. Kekerten
14. Katannilik
15. Kuklok
16. Lansing Post
17. LaPierre House
18. Mallikjuaq
19. Montague Road House
20. Robinson Road House
21. Qaummaarvitt
22. Rampart House
23. Ridge Road Heritage Trail
24. Robinson Road House
25. Rum Creek
26. Sylvia Grinnell
27. Tombstone Natural Environment Park
28. Tweed Falls Gorge

National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark, National Historic Sites (NHS)
29. Arva (Nan NHS)
30. Aukwaik NP
31. Auyuittuq NP
32. Delina Fishery and Fort Franklin NHS
33. Eklutna NHS
34. Faro Caribou Crossing NHS
35. Inukjuak NP
36. Kangiqsualujjuaq NHS (Dawson City)
37. Khans NF
38. Kluane NP
39. Nakina NHS
40. Nauigloq NHS
41. Nahanni NHS
42. Our Lady of Good Hope Church NHS
43. Pangnirtung NHS
44. Saxtun and Etahorq NHS
45. Siimik NP
46. Tuktoyaktuk NHS
47. Tulita (Depot) NHS
48. Unuk NHS
49. Vuntut NHS

Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) and National Wildlife Areas (NWA)
50. Niggigamak NHS
51. Pearson River MBS
52. Prince Leopold Island MBS
53. Qaunirqut NHS
54. Qassigak MBS
55. Qaununktuk NHS
56. Qaquluit and Akpait NWA (proposed)
57. Queen Maud Gulf MBS
58. Seymour Island MBS

Heritage Rivers
59. Alsek
60. Arctic Red River
61. Bonnet Plume
62. Bonneville
63. Brule
64. South Nahanni
65. Thelon
66. Thirty Mile (Yukon River)

Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals
67. Akpatok Island
68. Kusawa Lake
69. Northwest Passage/Franklin Expedition
70. Akpatok Island
71. Thompson Lake
72. Ukkusiksalik

Proposed Heritage Rivers
73. Coppermine
74. Mackenzie (or portions thereof)

Areas Under Study
75. East Arm of Great Slave Lake
76. Northern Bathurst Island
77. Tulton Mountains
78. Utkuk Nogait
79. Utkuk Nogait
80. Utkuk Nogait

Areas Under Study
81. Aklavik
82. Arctic Red River
83. Bonnet Plume
84. Bonneville
85. Brule
86. South Nahanni
87. Thelon
88. Thirty Mile (Yukon River)

Proposed Heritage Rivers
89. Coppermine
90. Mackenzie (or portions thereof)

Proposed Heritage Rivers
91. Coppermine
92. Mackenzie (or portions thereof)

Proposed Heritage Rivers
93. Coppermine
94. Mackenzie (or portions thereof)

Other Conservation Areas
95. Aklavik Special Management Area (proposed)
96. Beaver River Special Management Area
97. Caribou River Special Management Area
98. Caribou River Wildlife Sanctuary
99. Colburne Special Management Area
100. Eagle Nest Special Management Area
101. Fond du Lac Special Management Area
102. Horseshoe Bay Special Management Area
103. Kobuk Special Management Area
104. Northwest Special Management Area
105. Yukon Special Management Area
106. Other Conservation Areas

Legend

National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Game Sanctuaries
Proposed Parks
Territorial Parks, Park Reserves and Historic Sites
National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark, National Historic Sites (NHS)
Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) and National Wildlife Areas (NWA)
Areas Under Study
National Park and National Historic Site Proposals
Heritage Rivers
Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals
Proposed Heritage Rivers
Other Conservation Areas

Areas Under Study
91. Aklavik
92. Arctic Red River
93. Bonnet Plume
94. Bonneville
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104. Caribou River Wildlife Sanctuary
105. Colburne Special Management Area
106. Fond du Lac Special Management Area
107. Horseshoe Bay Special Management Area
108. Kobuk Special Management Area
109. Northwest Special Management Area
110. Yukon Special Management Area
111. Other Conservation Areas

Legend

Existing Parks, Park Reserves, Game Sanctuaries
Proposed Parks
Territorial Parks, Park Reserves and Historic Sites
National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark, National Historic Sites (NHS)
Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) and National Wildlife Areas (NWA)
Areas Under Study
National Park and National Historic Site Proposals
Heritage Rivers
Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals
Proposed Heritage Rivers
Other Conservation Areas
Initiatives Spanning Two or More Claim Areas

Government of Canada—Parks Canada

**National Parks**

**Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada**

Located east of the community of Paulatuk, Inuvik, as well as from the Arctic Ocean, and partially represents the Tundra Hills Natural Region. An agreement to establish the park was signed in 1996.

**Inuvialuit Settlement Region**

When Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada was created, two other areas remained to be added for the proper representation of Inuvialuit interests. Inuvialuit Settlement Region and Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada, which is located east of the community of Paulatuk, Inuvik, and partially represents the Tundra Hills Natural Region. An agreement to establish the park was signed in 1996.

- **Sahtu Settlement Area**
  - The work to add approximately 1,850 km² to the already established 14,340 km² has progressed well. Negotiation of an Impact and Benefit Plan is proceeding in accordance with the terms of the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, and the parties hope to bring this to a conclusion within the year.

- **Nunavut**
  - At the time of establishment in 1998, lands remained withdrawn in the Nunavut and Sahtu Settlement Areas for the completion of Tuktut Nogait National Park. Consideration for adding the Nunavut lands is tied into the West Keewatin Land Planning process. Parks Canada is continuing to participate in this process, recommending that the final land use plan allow for the potential establishment of the Bluenose Lake area as part of the park.

**National Historic Sites**

**Commemoration of Metis Women in the NWT**

Now in its third year, this New Sites Initiative project focused on a submission to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBCC) on Catherine Beausoleil Bourque Lamoureux of Fort Providence. An outstanding representative of the Deh Cho and North Slave regions, a cultural broker, mentor, trail blazer and entrepreneur, Mme Bourque-Lamoureux is remembered as a matrarch or “mother of all of us”. The submission was prepared in collaboration with Albert Laflamme and the Fort Providence Metis Council. The HSMBCC has deferred the designation pending additional information on oral history methodology and comparative Metis history. The presentation of the papers highlighted the challenges of documenting women, in general, and Metis women who are largely “hidden from history”, in particular. Further attempts were also made to identify and document Metis women of Gwich’in heritage in the Delta region. References and interviews were provided by the Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute and oral history interviews were carried out with women from Aklavik and Tulita.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans

**Beaufort Sea Beluga Management Plan - Zone 1a**

Assessment of the Beluga Management Plan - Zone 1a as a potential Marine Protected Area (MPA) under Canada’s Oceans Act is in the final stages. The beginning of the assessment process for Zone 1a formally got underway in June 2000 when the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and key Inuvialuit organizations, including the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, Inuvialuit Game Council, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (representing industry), agreed to establish a Senior Management Committee (SMC). At the same time the Beaufort Sea Integrated Management Planning Initiative (BSMP) Working Group was established to oversee the preparation of the various assessments and community consultations. The working group is comprised of representatives from the same organizations as represented on the SMC, with the addition of a member from the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. A DFO staffed Secretariat provides technical and
Introduction

The NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) is a guide for making decisions to protect lands using the best available knowledge. It envisions a future that safeguards special natural and cultural areas for future generations, while keeping resource development options open.

Planning Steps of the NWT Protected Areas Strategy

1. Identify priority areas of interest.
2. Prepare and review protected area proposal at regional level.
3. Review and submit proposal to a sponsoring agency for consideration.
4. Consider/approve interim protection to the candidate area.
5. Evaluate the ecological, cultural and economic values of the candidate area.
6. Seek formal establishment of protected area.
7. Approve and designate protected area.
8. Implement, monitor and review protected area.
9. Prepare and review plan and project proposals at provincial and federal levels.
10. Coordinate implementation across jurisdictions.
11. Develop and implement monitoring and evaluation plans.
12. Parry Islands Plateau
13. Banks Island Coastal Plain
14. Banks Island Lowland
15. Amundsen Gulf Lowlands
16. Shaler Mountains
17. Victoria Islands Lowlands
18. Yukon Coastal Plain
19. Tuktoyaktuk Coastal Plain
20. Anderson River Plain
21. Dease Arm Plain
22. Coronation Hills
23. Slave River Lowland
24. British-Richardson Mountains
25. Mackenzie Mountains
26. Selwyn Mountains
27. Hyland Highland
28. Victoria Islands Lowlands
29. Yukon Coastal Plain
30. Tuktoyaktuk Coastal Plain
31. Anderson River Plain
32. Dease Arm Plain
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49. Hyland Highland

Process Overview

The NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) is a guide for making decisions to protect lands using the best available knowledge. It envisions a future that safeguards special natural and cultural areas for future generations, while keeping resource development options open.

The implementation of the NWT PAS has been underway since 1999, under the guidance of the PAS Implementation Advisory Committee. The committee consists of representatives from regional aboriginal organizations, government non-government organizations, industry and the governments of the NWT and Canada. Meetings are held several times a year and over the year the committee has gathered in Fort Smith, Yellowknife and Inuvik.

The focus of implementation is advancing new candidate protected areas to meet two goals:

1. To protect special natural and cultural areas, where development could be permitted when compatible with the values being protected.
2. To protect core representative areas within each ecoregion where resource-based development such as mining, logging, hydroelectric projects, agriculture, oil and gas surface work, and associated infrastructure will not be permitted.

Implementation of the NWT PAS has been on priority areas identified by communities and regional organizations. Fort Good Hope, Lutsel K’e, Fort Resolution, Wrigley and the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council have identified areas of interest through the PAS. These areas have only advanced through the first steps in the PAS.

Terrestrial Ecoregions of the Northwest Territories

Ecoregions

1. 11. Sverdrup Islands Lowland
12. Parry Islands Plateau
13. Banks Island Coastal Plain
14. Banks Island Lowland
15. Amundsen Gulf Lowlands
16. Shaler Mountains
17. Victoria Islands Lowlands
18. Yukon Coastal Plain
19. Tuktoyaktuk Coastal Plain
20. Anderson River Plain
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22. Coronation Hills
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27. Hyland Highland

Looking for whales. (DFO)
process. Two candidate protected areas, Edéhzhíe and Sahyoue/Edacho, have advanced to step 5 of the PAS process (also see articles on page 13). To an extent, these areas are contributing to the goal of ecoregion representation. There are 42 ecoregions in the NWT, 12 of which are adequately represented by existing protected areas.

Edéhzhíe

Edéhzhíe has been granted an interim land withdrawal from industrial exploration and development until 2007. The Canadian ... mineral claims in good standing. There are, however, provisions for a pipeline corridor at the western tip of Edéhzhíe.

First Nation leaders in the NWT welcomed the interim land withdrawal for Edéhzhíe, and see it as an important step in safeguarding their culture and the environment. The DCFN and TCFN requested protection for this important cultural and spiritual gathering place. The land is ecologically important and is a traditional hunting ground when harvesting is poor in the valley below.

Located west of Great Slave Lake and north of the Mackenzie River, Edéhzhíe covers an area of 25,000 km². It rises abruptly up to 600 metres above the surrounding flat landscape and stores huge quantities of freshwater in its headwater lakes and muskeg. Key migratory bird habitat at Mills Lake and the Horn River are found there. Edéhzhíe also supports a population of woodland caribou, a species listed as “threatened” by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. The Horn Plateau, a major part of Edéhzhíe, is designated as an International Biological Program Site due to its extensive, deep lichen development over raised peat. During the five year period, more consultations will be held and cultural, ecological and economic resources will be further assessed in order to determine the final boundaries and level of protection under the Canada Wildlife Act. A working group, set up to oversee the evaluation and consultation process, includes representatives from the DCFN and TCFN, the communities of Fort Providence, Kitíig Siis (Fort Simpson), Jean Marie River and Pebble Lake (Wrangell), CWFL, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Government of the NWT, Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, NWT Chamber of Mines, World Wildlife Fund and Duruk Unlimited.

Free communities from the DCFN and TCFN, working in partnership with the PAS (Protected Areas Strategy) Secretariat and non-governmental organizations, have shown that the community-driven PAS process works in the NWT. This is the second site under the NWT PAS to attain interim protection; the first was Sahyoue/Edacho in 2001.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society—NWT Chapter

Protected Areas in the Mackenzie Valley in Advance of Industrial Development

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society—NWT Chapter (CPAWS-NWT) is supporting full conservation measures prior to any major industrial activity in the Mackenzie Valley, in particular, the proposed Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline. These measures include the completion of a network of protected areas in the Mackenzie Valley through the NWT Protected Areas Strategy process. CPAWS-NWT and partners are looking for an accelerated timetable of assessing and protecting a network of environmentally and culturally important sites over the next three years. This will help maintain the ecological and cultural integrity of the Mackenzie Valley and well fund communities may by both the federal and territorial governments.

Grand Chief Joe Robensa and Grand Chief Michael Niedr (NWT PAS Secretariat)”

Nunavut

Government of Canada—Parks Canada

Northern Bathurst Island
Northern Bathurst Island represents the Western High Arctic natural region, with its unique combination of geology, landforms, vegetation and wildlife. Bathurst Island is also home to the Peary caribou, an endangered species found only in Canada’s Arctic Islands. Within the proposed national park is found important habitat for this species, including calving areas and summer and winter range habitat.

Parks Canada has been working with the community of Resolute Bay and other government departments and interested groups to establish a national park at Northern Bathurst Island since the early 1990s. Lands have been reserved for national park purposes since 1996.

The Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment (MERA) for this proposed national park was published by the Geological Survey of Canada in 1997 and concluded that the land along the east coast of Bathurst Island have very high mineral and hydrocarbon potential. The MERA indicates that there is an overlap in mineral and hydrocarbon potential, calving areas for Peary caribou, and other important wildlife and park values.

The next step in the park establishment process is to begin formal negotiations between Parks Canada and Inuit regarding terms and conditions of park establishment. Pursuant to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, these terms and conditions will be set forth in an Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement. These negotiations are subject to new funding, and the location of the park boundary will be an important point of negotiation.

Ukkusiksualik (Wager Bay)

Ukkusiksualik represents the Central Tundra Natural Region, and encompasses approximately 23,000 km². At the heart of the park proposal is Wager Bay, an inland sea that extends 100 km westward from Resolute Bay. The proposed area includes an impressive variety of land forms, and a wide range of habitats supporting such wildlife as caribou, muskox, wolf, Arctic hare, ptarmigan, gyrfalcon, polar bear, beluga, and ringed and bearded seal. Inuit residents from Kivalliq communities continue to travel to the area to hunt and fish.

Negotiations have been completed for the creation of a national park at Wager Bay. As required by the

Northern Bathurst Island

Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the governments of Canada and Nunavut, and the Inuvialuit Impact Association, on behalf of all Inuit, have negotiated an Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement (IBA). This Agreement sets out the conditions under which a national park can be created and includes such topics as: park boundary; access;
economic benefits to Inuit; cooperative management of the park; management of emergency kills of polar bears, outpost camps, and Inuit access to earning stone. Interim protection for the proposed parklands has been extended until October 1, 2004. The parties to the IBA are anticipating that a signing ceremony will be held in the near future.

Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Hudson Bay Integrated Management Planning Initiative

Canada\'s Oceans Act (1997) approaches oceans management by involving coastal communities in the conservation of oceans resources. Integrated management planning under the Act is a comprehensive way of planning and managing human activities so that they do not conflict with one another, and so that all factors are considered for the management and sustainable use of marine resources and shared ocean spaces.

In the fall of 2000, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) began an integrated management planning process for Hudson Bay by hosting two (western) Hudson Bay workshops. The workshops brought together community members, governments (federal, territorial, provincial and municipal), Nunavut Inuit organizations, First Nations, academics, consultants, industry, non-government organizations, and scientists to discuss the health and management of Hudson Bay. Nunavut participants recommended that consultations take place with affected coastal communities in the development of the management plan.

In March 2001, DFO travelled to Iqaluit and the communities of the western Hudson Bay region: Churchill, Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove; Arviat, Coral Harbour; Repulse Bay; and Chesterfield Inlet, to share information about DFO\'s new management responsibilities for marine waters, and to learn what management issues were important to coastal communities. Some of the key issues identified were climate change, the importance of traditional knowledge, the jurisdictional complexity in Hudson Bay, contaminants, and subsistence wildlife harvesting.

The first Hudson Bay Ocean Working Group (HBOWG) was held in October 2001 in Rankin Inlet, where work began on the development of an integrated management plan for Hudson Bay. The focus is on the western coastal area, recognizing the linkages to the rest of the Bay. Some of the goals include:

- establishing reasonable and open processes to facilitate development of the integrated management plan;
- fostering sustainable development practices in Hudson Bay;
- educating interested parties about Hudson Bay issues and the work being carried out by the Working Group;
- promoting stewardship of Hudson Bay by all interested parties.

Three subsequent HBOWG meetings have been held in Rankin Inlet and Churchill. The HBOWG is comprised of eight working committees (communications, economic development, research, finance, jurisprudence, wildlife, environment, and traditional knowledge) which are priorities and deal with issue specific concerns in the western Hudson Bay. Northerners agree that co-operative decision-making processes should be part of the approach to developing a long-term management planning process for Hudson Bay. By building partnerships and an understanding with interested parties, the HBOWG is working together to plan for the future of this important ecosystem. To learn more about this initiative, visit the website at: http://www.canadian-oceans.ca/academic/institutes/natural_resources/ims/hudson_bay.html or contact Steve Newton, Integrated Management Planner (204) 984-5661 or stevenp@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Environment Canada—Canadian Wildlife Service

New Initiatives and Existing Conservation Areas

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) devotes an entire chapter to conservation areas, including two National Wildlife Areas and 11 Migratory Bird Sanctuaries that are administered by the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS). Requirements of the NLCA include negotiation of an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IBA) for most conservation areas, and the production of management plans for all conservation areas. In 2001, CWS and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. began negotiations on an Umbrella IBA to cover conservation areas in Nunavut, with site-specific appendices to this document to deal with issues relevant to certain sanctuaries or wildlife areas.

CWS has identified priority sites for protection of critical wildlife habitat. Communities have also nominated other sites to be protected by CWS legislation. Progress on some of these initiatives is also described below.

Iqaluit National Wildlife Area

In 1992, the community of Clyde River proposed the creation of Igaliqtuuq National Wildlife Area (NWA) to protect important bowhead whale habitat at Isabella Bay, Baffin Island. The boundaries for Igaliqtuuq were approved by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in June 1994. After many delays, Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IBA) negotiations for this site are being conducted in concert with the Umbrella IBA process for existing conservation areas. Upon conclusion of the IIBA, the Canadian Wildlife Service will execute the formal designation process for the NWA, and will then begin habitat mapping and biogeochemical inventory work at Isabella Bay with the community of Clyde River.

In 2001, Environment Canada provided financial support to the World Wildlife Fund and the Igaliqtuuq Steering Committee, through the Habitat Stewardship Program, to conduct fieldwork and local employee training on monitoring bowhead whales at Isabella Bay. This work continued in 2002 with additional sightings and the identification of individual bowhead whales.

National Wildlife Areas at Qaquluit (Cape Searle) and Akpait (Red Bay)

Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) studies in the 1970s identified important seabird colonies at Cape Searle (Qaquluit) and Red Bay (Akpait), two sites approximately 100 km southeast of Gjoa Haven. While there was little support for protection of these sites in the 1980s and 1990s, the Haniala of Gjoa Haven received support from the National Parks Visitors Association (NPVA). Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and Gjoa Haven Inuit Association (GHA), and the Gjoa Haven Community Land Development Committee to reopen the discussions toward protection of these sites in 1999.

At a public meeting in May 2000, the community voted to proceed with the work required to create a new National Wildlife Area (NWA). Since March 2000, four site visits have been made to gather baseline ecological data at Cape Searle. A community knowledge study has also been conducted, led by the Nativik HTO and sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund. In June 2001 and 2002, a census and mapping
In 2001 and 2002, Nunavut Parks carried out feasibility studies to
residents of Nunavut are proud of
parkscapes and conservation areas have been protected in Nunavut - an area approximately one half the size of Alberta.
Kekerten Territorial Park
In 2002, Nunavut entered into the
Nunavut (“our land”) was formed on
Mirnguiqsirviit (“Nunavut Parks”)
In Nunavut and the NWT, approximately 60 species of birds, representing more than 15 million individuals, rely on marine habitats for breeding, feeding, migration and wintering. In 2002, CWS drafted a document identifying 34 sites important to the NWT that are key marine habitat sites for migratory birds (sites that support more than 1% of the Canadian population of a species at some point through their annual cycle). Peer review is underway, and publication is expected in 2003.

In 2001 and 2002, Nunavut Parks carried out feasibility studies to determine the desirability of parks and conservation areas, and further defines an approach to the establishment of protected areas within Nunavut - which includes meaningful community involvement, management, and impact and benefit measures related to protected areas. Meeting these obligations is an important step in the establishment and expansion of parks and conservation areas.

In 2002, Nunavut Parks, Tunngertuk Inc., and Kivalivik, Eknitaotik and Giaqut Ikat, successfully negotiated and signed an Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IBA). The IBA is a comprehensive agreement that recognizes the role of territorial parks in Nunavut. The Agreement will assist in the development of Iultic tourism opportunities and benefits associated with parks and conserving training opportunities related to parks, helping Inuit take advantage of economic opportunities related to the establishment and operation of the parks, and establishing a framework for joint management and planning of the lands and resources in existing and future territorial parks.

One focus on implementing the IIBA is the establishment of a Nunavut Joint Planning and Management Committee, whose role it will be to oversee the planning, establishment, operations and management of territorial parks.

A New Nunavut Parks Program
In keeping with the development of the new Parks Program, Nunavut Parks has undertaken the development of a visual identity program. The purpose of the visual identity program is to present a consistent and professional presence throughout Nunavut. The Parks Program will provide Neavut parks from all over, and enhance public awareness of Nunavut in a clear and prominent way. Since 1999, the visual identity program has included the development of the Mirnguiqsirviit name and logo, the re-launched parks website, and the design standards for Nunavut park signage and facilities. The objective of the design standards is to ensure a consistent and necessary first step in the development of parks and conservation areas system plan. Related changes to policies and legislation will guide future development of parks and conservation areas in Nunavut. The Parks Program will be developed, through a Nunavut Joint Planning and Management Committee to ensure that the program reflects the interests of Nunavuttumut.

Visual Identity
In keeping with the development of the new Parks Program, the Parks Program will provide the potential benefits to each of the communities.

Campgrounds
In 2002, Nunavut Parks began the process of re-developing three existing campgrounds, and establishing and developing two new campgrounds in Resolute Bay and Kimmirut. This multi-year project will include the provision of surfaced platforms and pads, windbreaks, and picnic facilities. Community involvement in the planning and development of campgrounds includes the selection of sites, type and number of facilities, and the identification of the campground name.

Ijiriliq Territorial Park
Just inland from the west coast of Hudson Bay, about 10 km northwest of the community of Rankin Inlet, lies Ijiriliq Territorial Park. The park provides opportunities for water-based recreation including rafting, canoeing and kayaking, as well as hiking, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. Ijiriliq stretches northward from the top of Pleasant Inlet along the west coast of Hudson Strait (just outside of the community of Kimmirut) toward the south shore of Frobisher Bay, following the Soper River and a traditional overland trail. The park extends east and west beyond the valley, encompassing some of the river, deep gorges, sloping valleys, lakes and tills that make up the relief of the lower plateau.

In 2002, a pilot visitor registration package was developed for Katannilik Park. The package informs visitors of conditions in the park, provides safe and enjoyable experiences that visitors can have in Katannilik, and is being finalized over the next few years. Development of a campground within the community of Kimmirut is to be completed in 2003.

Keloqen Territorial Park
Kekoqen, located 55 km from Pangnirtung within Cumbredor Friend, was a highly used location during the 1890s and 1900s. Knowledge of the whales, the area, and survival in the Arctic made it an essential part of the commercial whaling industry. A number of artifacts remain as part of the whaling stations, including the 1873 foundation stones for the warehouses, large cast-iron pots, and restored tent frames and buildings. In 2002, Kekoqen was listed into the second phase of a restoration project.
that will increase economic development opportunities in Pangnirtung, while enhancing the awareness of the area’s whaling history. The development of the Skotchat Whaling Station at Keerken will support local outfitting providing tours to the park by increasing the interpretive potential of the site including the relationship of trust with the inuksuit. The park is still at the architectural design stage and the completion of the project is expected in 2006.

Kuklok Territorial Park
Kuklok Park is located 15 km upstream from the community of Kugluktuk. Rolling tundra, escarpments and rocky outcrops, and steep cliffs at the falls and along the river provide great opportunities for wildlife watching, fishing, hiking and camping. Bloody Falls, declared a national historic site in 1798, is found within Kuklok Park and is the site of perhaps the most famous battle in the north. The site contains remnants of Thule houses used more than 500 years ago, archaeological ev...
Western Arctic Handbook Committee
2002 Natural History of the Western Arctic. Published by Western Arctic Handbook Project. 98pp. Black and white photos and illustrations; soft cover. ISBN 0-9687910-1-8 ($19.95)

This is a companion book to “Canada’s Western Arctic: Including the Dempster Highway”. It contains additional information on the land and water, plants and animals, and the wildlife, history and geography of the Western Queen Elizabeth Islands.

Finkelstein, Max W. 2003 Canoeing a Continent: On the Trail of Alexander Mackenzie. Published by Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc. 288 pp. English text with black and white photos and illustrations; soft cover. ISBN 1-896219-00-4 ($25.95)

This book is a personal account of the travels of the author as he retraces, some 200 years later, the route of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the first European to cross North America. The voyages of the author, interwoven with those of Mackenzie, help the reader to grasp the outstanding effort put forward in traversing this vast and varied land en route to the Pacific Ocean. Not only is this book a tribute to Mackenzie, it also references the lives of the First Nation peoples who travelled the same waterways for untold centuries before. Mackenzie’s water trail is now commemorated as the Alexander Mackenzie Voyager Route.

For More Information...

Additional information on the initiatives described in New Parks North can be obtained from the following offices:

**National Parks and Heritages Sites**
- Parks Canada
  - Box 1116
  - Yellowknife, NT
  - X1A 2N8
  - www.parks.canada.gc.ca
  - Attention: The Editor
  - Phone: (867) 669-2820
  - Fax: (867) 669-2829
  - E-mail: newparksnorth@pc.gc.ca

**Yukon Territory Parks and Heritages Rivers**
- Department of Sustainable Development
  - Parks and Tourism Division
  - Government of Yukon
  - Box 1000, Station 1120
  - Inglis, Yukon
  - X0A 0R0
  - www.yukonterritorialparks.com
  - Attention: Heather Griselin
  - Manager, Parks and Conservation Areas
  - Phone: (867) 975-5989
  - Fax: (867) 975-5990
  - E-mail: hgriselin@gov.yk.ca

**NWT Territorial Parks and Heritage Rivers, NWT Protected Areas Strategy**
- Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
- Parks and Tourism
- Government of the NWT
- Box 1320
- Yellowknife, NT
- X1A 2L9
- www.rewd.gov.nt.ca
- Attention: David Purchase
- Co-ordinator, Protected Areas
- Secretariat
- Phone: (867) 873-0163
- Fax: (867) 873-0162
- E-mail: david.purchase@gov.nw.ca

**Additional Publications**
- Andre, Aleistine and Alan Fehr 2003 Gwich’in Ethnobotany: Plants Used by the Gwich’in for Food, Medicine, Shelter and Tools - 2002 Revised Edition
  - Published by Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute and Aurora Research Institute. 68pp.
  - Black and white and colour photographs; soft cover. ISBN 1-896337-09-0 ($15.00)
  - Over thousands of years, Gwich’in have used a variety of trees, shrubs and berries for food, medicine, shelter and tools. This publication presents information recorded from Gwich’in Elders on the use of 32 plants and three types of rocks and minerals. The book includes information on the Gwich’in names for these plants (in both the Gwichya and Teetl’it Gwich’in dialects), where they are found, and how they can be used. Several recipes for making medicine and preparing food are also included. This book is available in northern bookstores, as well as the Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute office in Inuvik, and the Aurora Research Institute office in Inuvik.

- McCartney, Leslie 2002 Gwich’in Elders’ Calendar. Published by Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute 16 pp. 11” x 17” Sepia and glossy white.
  - ISBN 1-896337-02-2 ($15.00)
  - This calendar presents summaries in Gwich’in and English of the life histories of 13 Elders living in the communities of Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Inuvik, and Tsiigehtchic in the Gwich’in Settlement Area. Also included are the months and days in both the Gwichya and Teetl’it Gwich’in dialects. Includes large portrait photos of each Elder. The 2003 calendar is available from the Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute office in Inuvik, the Book Cellar in Yellowknife, the Fireweed Bookstore in Whitehorse and all the Gwich’in Band offices.

- Western Arctic Handbook Committee 2002 Canada’s Western Arctic, Including the Dempster Highway: The definitive guide to Canada’s Western Arctic. Published by Western Arctic Handbook Committee. 92pp. Colour and black and white photos; colour illustrations; soft cover. ISBN 0-9687910-0-X ($29.95)
  - “Canada’s Western Arctic, Including the Dempster Highway” covers the NWT and Yukon above the Arctic Circle. Information in the book includes in-depth introductions to the history of Gwich’in and Inuvialuit people, and natural history information about topics like permafrost, the Mackenzie Delta, and the plants and animals that inhabit the Western Arctic. Also included are maps and detailed guides to all nine communities in the region, as well as descriptions of all of the territorial and federal parks, and heritage and historical sites.
  - Chapters include Planning Your Trip, Life in the Western Arctic, Activities, Destinations, People, Land and Water, and Plants and Animals. The colour photographs are stunning, and many local people are featured. The Resources section contains a comprehensive list of books and other documents about the Western Arctic region.

  - Since its publication in 1999, work has continued on the collection and verification of Gwich’in words, in both the Gwichya and Teetl’it Gwich’in dialects, for the dictionary. Numerous words, including several terms, animal names and bird names, have been collected and verified. Bird names collected for the dictionary also appear in the “Field Guide to the Birds of the Mackenzie Delta” put out by the Aurora Research Centre in Inuvik. A section on Gwich’in grammar will also be incorporated into this edition of the dictionary. The dictionary and grammar is available from the Fireweed and Fort McPherson offices of the Gwich’in Social and Cultural Institute.

- Finkelstein, Max W. 2002 Trail of Alexander Mackenzie. Published by Natural Heritage/Natural History Inc. 298 pp. English text with black and white photos and illustrations; soft cover. ISBN 1-896219-00-4


This is a companion book to “Canada’s Western Arctic: Including the Dempster Highway”. It contains additional information on the land and water, plants and animals, and the wildlife, history and geography of the Western Queen Elizabeth Islands.
All of the agencies listed here have contributed to this publication. Our goal is to provide a single, annual publication of interest to everyone following new northern natural and cultural heritage conservation issues in a convenient and economical medium. Your comments are welcome, addressed to theEditor at the National Parks and National Historic Sites address above.