

Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve
P.O. Box 157
Tulita, NT X0E 0K0

February 19, 2020

Re: Notification of Preliminary Screening of a Guided River Outfitting Business Licence in Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve

To: Mackenzie Valley Review Board, Tulita Land/Financial Corporation, Fort Norman Métis Land Corporation, Norman Wells Land Corporation, Tulita Renewable Resources Council, Norman Wells Renewable Resources Council, Tulita District Land Corporation, Tulita Dene Band, Hamlet of Tulita, Town of Norman Wells, Sahtu Renewable Resources Board, Mackenzie Valley Review Board, Sahtu Land and Water Board and Sahtu Land Use Planning Board.

Under section 124 (1) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, Parks Canada is conducting a preliminary screening of *Canoe North Adventures Ltd.*'s business licence application. The application is for Guided River Outfitting on Pijp'enéh Léetóq Deé (Broken Skull River) in Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve.

Under Schedule I, Part II, Item 16 of the Preliminary Screening Requirement Regulations, issuing a National Parks Guided Outfitter license requires a preliminary screening. Attached is a description of the proposed activities. **If you have comments, please submit them to Nadine Gauvin (Nadine.gauvin@canada.ca) by March 11, 2020.**

Sincerely,



Nadine Gauvin
Park Superintendent
Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve



1. DEVELOPMENT TITLE: Canoe North Adventures Ltd. Guided River Outfitting in Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve.

2. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT DATES: June 20 – September 1 (2020 operating season)

3. DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION:

The most popular visitor activity in Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve (Nááts'ihch'oh) is canoe river tripping. In 2019 Pijip'enéh Łéetóó Deé (Broken Skull River) was the most popular with a total of 13 trips (9 independent; 4 guided). Commercially guided trips on Pijip'enéh Łéetóó Deé last 7-10 days and include canoe paddling, hiking and backcountry camping. Trips start in Nááts'ihch'oh at Qtaa Tu Fehto (Divide Lake) which flows into Pijip'enéh Łéetóó Deé and the Tehjeh Deé (South Nahanni River). Trips usually end at Gahnihthah Mje (Rabbitkettle Lake) in Nahanni National Park Reserve (Nahanni). To operate in Nááts'ihch'oh, commercial river outfitting companies must hold a valid Parks Canada business license. According to the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, a Parks Canada business license for Guided River Outfitting must undergo a preliminary screening.

The *Guidelines for Licensing of Guided River Outfitting in Nahanni and Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserves* (Jan. 2019) includes considerations for Shúhtaot'ine (Mountain Dene) and Métis culture, visitor safety, visitor quotas, and the licensing process. In Nááts'ihch'oh, visitor access to Mount Nááts'ihch'oh, including hiking and climbing, is prohibited. At Qtaa Tu Fehto, a cabin and outhouse are available for visitors. To reduce wilderness disturbance, trip start dates are limited to one group per day. Commercially guided trips are limited to 15 people including guides.

Based on the guidelines, results and comments received in this preliminary screening, Parks Canada is considering granting a business license to Canoe North Adventures Ltd. The license will allow them to offer guided river outfitting services at Pijip'enéh Łéetóó Deé in Nááts'ihch'oh. This includes 2 trips on the river with a maximum of 15 people (including guides) per trip. The trips will begin at Qtaa Tu Fehto and end at Gahnihthah Mje in Nahanni. In consideration of Nááts'ihch'oh's Management Plan and Impact and Benefit Plan, Canoe North Adventures Ltd.'s license will include specific conditions.



3.1 Activities

| Water-based – Canoeing | |
|--|---|
| Start Location | Qtaa Tu Fehto (Divide Lake) – Access to Pijip’eneh Léetóó Deé, Nááts’ihch’oh National Park Reserve |
| Route | Pijip’eneh Léetóó Deé (Broken Skull River) including smaller creeks flowing from Qtaa Tu Fehto, Nááts’ihch’oh National Park Reserve |
| Camp Locations | Random sites along Pijip’eneh Léetóó Deé *Note – Nááts’ihch’oh has no designated or maintained camping areas |
| End Location | Gahnihthah Mje (Rabbitkettle Lake), Nahanni National Park Reserve |
| Land-based – Hiking (*Note – Routes are backcountry/not maintained) | |
| Hike Routes | Qtaa Tu Fehto Ridge, Tu ʔulah Shúh (Singing Water Mountain), Three Valley Confluence, other locations |
| Hike Destinations | Níonep’eneʔ Tué (Backbone Lake, formerly Grizzly Bear Lake), Sadée Shúh Gaʔfáá (Sunlight Mountain Hot Springs), Pijip’eneh Léetóó Gaʔfáá (Broken Skull Hot Springs) |

3.2 Mitigations:

To reduce impacts, Canoe North Adventure Ltd. will follow the *Parks Canada Best Management Practices for Commercially Guided Eco-Tourism Activities in Nahanni and Nááts’ihch’oh National Park Reserves of Canada*. These practices address waste management, hiking, and non-motorized boating and are available from Parks Canada offices in Tulita, NT (Nááts’ihch’oh National Park Reserve) or Fort Simpson, NT (Nahanni National Park Reserve). In addition, Canoe North Adventures Ltd. will follow Superintendent Orders specific to Nááts’ihch’oh while in the park’s boundaries. All licenses granted to Guided River Outfitters in Nááts’ihch’oh will include conditions to meet the goals of Nááts’ihch’oh’s Management Plan and Impact and Benefit Plan.

4. REFERENCES:

Nahanni and Nááts’ihch’oh National Park Reserves: Superintendent’s Orders: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/nt/naatsihchoh/bulletins/3CD90B9A-F896-4D6E-8FCD-7B217C8FFCC9> (July 2018)

*These notices DO NOT apply to Indigenous persons who are engaged in traditional renewable resource harvesting.

Guidelines for Licensing of Guided River Outfitting in Nahanni and Nááts’ihch’oh National Park Reserves (January 2019)

<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/nt/nahanni/info/guides>

5. NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT – DISTRIBUTION AND CONTACT LIST

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Canoe North Development Description

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