



DEVELOPMENT TITLE: *Black Feather Guided River Outfitting in Nahanni and Nááts'j'ch'oh National Park Reserves*

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT DATE(S): June 1 - Sep 30, 2023

DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION:

Many visitors accessing Nahanni National Park Reserve (Nahanni) and Nááts'j'ch'oh National Park Reserve (Nááts'j'ch'oh) do so as clients of commercial outfitting companies. Guided river outfitting typically begins at earliest the first week of June (more often, the second to third week of June) and, on average, run until the first week of September. They range anywhere from one to three weeks in length and include river tripping and hiking as primary activities. A commercial river outfitter must obtain a Parks Canada business licence to operate in Nahanni.

The Guidelines for Licensing of Guided River Outfitting in Nahanni and Nááts'j'ch'oh National Park Reserves outline the considerations for safety and sustainability, set quotas for visitation and limit the number of licences Parks Canada issues in Nahanni National Park Reserve. There will only be 4 licences issued, one of which is reserved for an Indigenous Dehcho business. The guidelines were developed through detailed public consultations, stakeholder engagement and in consultation with cooperative management partners in Nááts'j'ch'oh and Nahanni National Park Reserves.

Black Feather has changed ownership in the last year. As per the licensing guidelines and dependent on the outcome of this preliminary screening, Parks Canada is considering the issuance of a new business licence to Black Feather to offer guided river outfitting services in Nahanni and Nááts'j'ch'oh National Park Reserves. The allocations for this business licence would be unchanged from the previous, allowing the licensee to guide up to 5 trips in June, 11 trips in July and 10 trips in August. A maximum of 15 people (including guides) would be permitted on each guided excursion. According to the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA)*, a Parks Canada business licence must undergo preliminary screening. This preliminary screening includes the following activities and locations:

Activities

- *Water-based:* canoeing, rafting, kayaking, stand up paddle board, and packrafting (packrafting only on the Broken Skull, Little and South Nahanni, and Flat rivers)
- *Land-based:* camping, day hiking, backpacking (overnight camping), and base camping (only by the above companies who are licenced for base camping at Níonep'ene? Tué and for no longer than 14 days)



Locations (see map, Appendix 1)

WATER-BASED ACTIVITY START LOCATIONS	
Qtaa Tué Fehto (Divide Lake), Nááts'jch'oh	Access to Píj'p'enéh léetóq Deé (Broken Skull River) which travels through both parks and for Tátsók'áá Deé (Raven's Throat River) (river outside of the park; outfitters may heli-sling over)
Nááts'jch'oh Tué (Moose Ponds), Nááts'jch'oh	Access to headwaters of South Nahanni River, which travels through both parks
Túoch'ee Tué (O'Grady Lake), Nááts'jch'oh	Access for the Túoch'ee Deé (Natla River) (most of the river is outside of the park – there is a small portion in the park, connecting two parts of Túoch'ee Tué (O'Grady Lake), but most groups put in downstream of this connector section)
Island Lakes, Nahanni	Access for the South Nahanni River
Bunny Bar, Nahanni	
Gahnjthah Mje, Nahanni	
Nájljcho, Nahanni	
Flat Lakes, NT	Access to Little Nahanni River, which travels through both parks
Divide Lake, NT (<i>Note: near Flat Lakes; this is a different location than the Divide Lake in Nááts'jch'oh</i>)	Access to Flat River which begins outside Nahanni park boundary in NT and travels into Nahanni National Park Reserve joining up with South Nahanni River below Nájljcho.

WATER-BASED ACTIVITY END LOCATIONS	
Gahnjthah Mje, Nahanni	Blackstone Territorial Park, NT
Nájljcho, Nahanni	Łíídlj Kúé, NT
Nahanni Butte, NT	Tulita, NT
Lindberg's Landing, NT	

WATER-BASED ACTIVITY CAMP LOCATIONS	
<i>Nahanni</i>	
Nájljcho	Gahnjthah Mje
Glacier Lake	
Random camp locations along the Broken Skull, Little and South Nahanni, and Flat river corridors	
<i>Nááts'jch'oh</i>	
Qtaa Tué Fehto (Divide Lake)	Nááts'jch'oh Tué (Moose Ponds) (on old tundra tire strip)
Níonep'ene? Tué (Backbone Lake/Grizzly Bear Lake)	Túoch'ee Tué (O'Grady Lake) (on sand peninsula)
Random camp locations. Most frequently used: Creek junction above Swallow Falls; Creek junction of creek flowing from Sadée Shúh Gaofáá (Grizzly Bear Hot Springs) and Broken Skull River; Broken Skull Hot Springs, access campsite; Three Valley Confluence (White Wolf Creek, Rainbow Creek and Broken Skull River)	

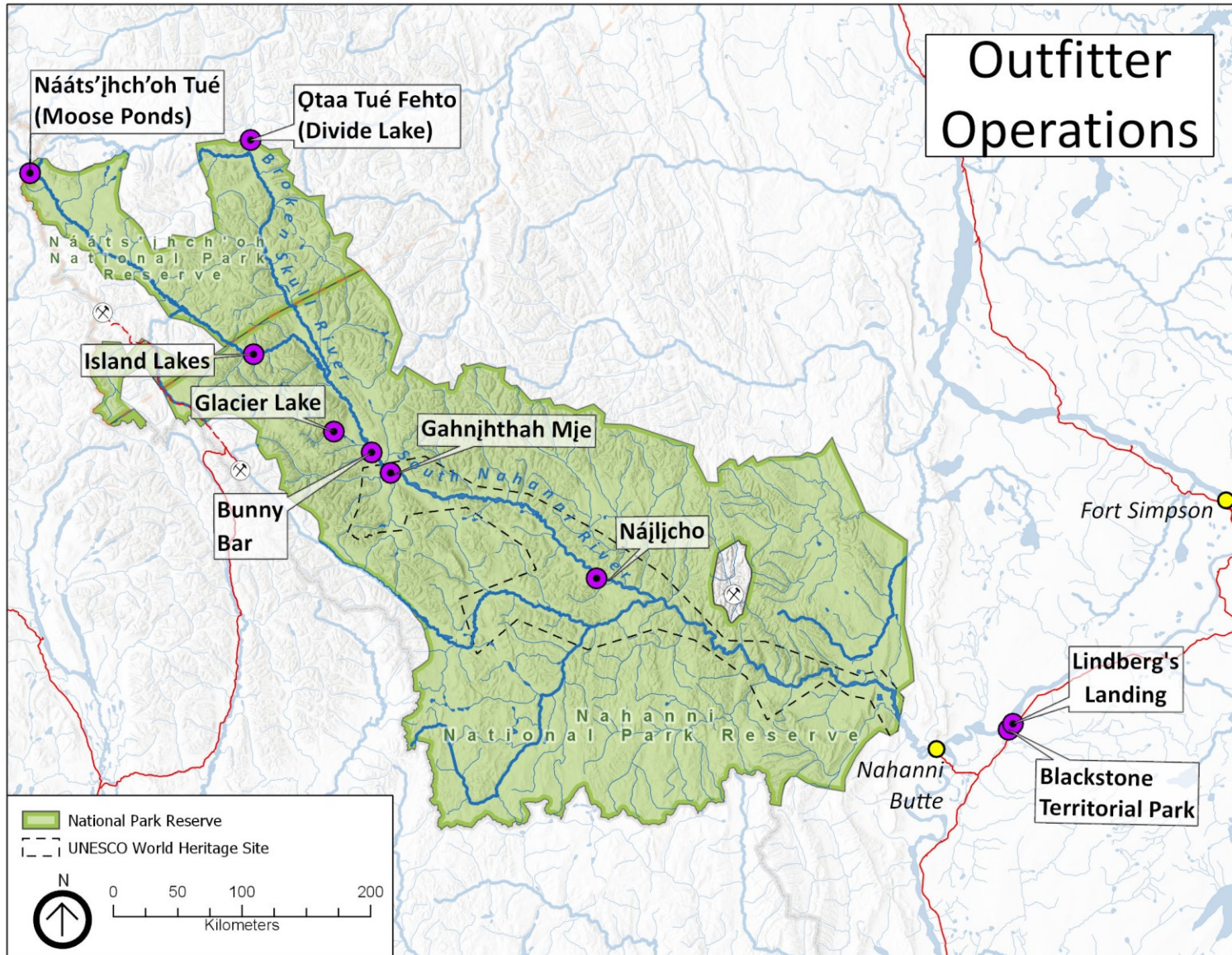


HIKING / BACKPACKING ROUTES (Note: all are backcountry/non-maintained routes)	
<i>Nahanni</i>	
South Nahanni River to Glacier Lake (multi-night)	Glacier Lake to Fairy Meadows (multi-night)
Gahnjthah Mje to Gahnjthah Tufa Mounds (day)	Gahnjthah Portage and Campground (day)
Sunblood Mountain (day)	Marengo Creek (day)
Pulpit Rock and Gate Viewpoint (day)	Painted Canyon (day)
Scow Creek (day)	Lafferty's Creek (day)
Other exploratory day hike routes along river corridors	Ram Plateau (rarely)
<i>Nááts'jhch'oh</i>	
Tuededéveh Tué (Clearwater Lake) / Sedzeeféetó Piehtéh (Broken Heart Plateau) (multi-night)	Níonep'ene? Tué (Backbone Lake/Grizzly Bear Lake) (multi-night or day hikes)
Níonep'ene? Tué (Backbone Lake/Grizzly Bear Lake) to Sadée Shúh Gaofáá (Grizzly Bear Hot Spring) (day)	Píí'p'enéh íéetóó Deé (Broken Skull River) to Píí'p'enéh íéetóó Gaofáá (Broken Skull Hot Springs) (day)

Mitigations

Black Feather will follow a leave-no-trace camping/wilderness use ethic and will adhere to the mitigations described in the *Parks Canada Best Management Practice for Commercially Guided Eco-tourism Activities in Nahanni and Nááts'jhch'oh National Park Reserves of Canada*.

Appendix 1



Appendix 2 - Distribution List

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board	preliminaryscreening@reviewboard.ca
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board	jpotten@mvlwb.com; tyree@mvlwb.com
Grand Chief Herb Norwegian Dehcho First Nations	herb_norwegian@dehcho.org
Executive Director Alison de Pelham Dehcho First Nations	Executivedirector@dehcho.org
Chief Kele Antoine Liidlii Kue First Nation	chief@liidliikue.com
Executive Director Liza McPherson Liidlii Kue First Nation	exdir@liidliikue.com
Chief Nolene Hardisty JMR First Nation	chief@jmrfn.com
Chief Steve Vital Nahanni Butte Dene Band	chiefsteve.nbdb@gmail.com
Chief Michael Vandell Deh Gah Gotie First Nation	chief@dehgahgotie.ca
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Chief Dolphus Jumbo Sambaa K'e Dene Band	chief@sambaakefn.com
Chief Lloyd Moses Pehdzeh Ki First Nation	info@pkfn.ca
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President Clifford McLeod Fort Providence Métis Council	finance_pvmetis@northwestel.net
President Darlene Sibbeston Fort Simpson Métis Local	metisnation52@northwestel.net
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North-Wright Airways Ltd	info@north-wrightairways.com
Simpson Air 1981 Ltd	info@simpsonair.ca
Solitude Excursions Ltd	hike@helihikenahanni.com

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Goose Flying Services	info@flygoose.ca
Black Feather The Wilderness Adventure Company	info@blackfeather.com
Nahanni Wilderness Adventures	adventures@nahanniwild.com
Canoe North Adventures	info@canoenorthadventures.com
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Douglas Dillon (Aboriginal Tourism Development Officer, Industry, Tourism and Investment - Tourism and Parks Division Government of the Northwest Territories)	Douglas_Dillon@gov.nt.ca
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Tulít'a, Renewable Resources Council	trrc@northwestel.net
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