



Parks Canada
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February 18, 2022

Re: Notification of Completion of Preliminary Screening of Guide Outfitter Operations

To: Distribution List (including Review Board)

In accordance with s. 125 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, Parks Canada has conducted a preliminary screening of Guide Outfitter Operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. Parks Canada has decided **not** to refer the development (i.e., application for guide outfitter business licence) to environmental assessment.

If Parks Canada does not receive notice of referral to environmental assessment, it will proceed with the issuance of business licences for guide outfitter company applicants on April 1, 2022.

Attached is the preliminary screening of proposed guide outfitter operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve for the 2021/22 season. I will continue to be available for a 10-day pause period (**until March 1, 2022**) should you have any questions or concerns.

With kind regards,

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Parks Canada Preliminary Screening under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*

TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT:

- New
- Amended
- Requires a permit, licence or authorization under the *Preliminary Screening Requirement Regulations* (issuance of a Business Licence pursuant to the *National Parks of Canada Business Regulations* s 4.1)
- Does not require permit, licence or authorization and is proposed by PCA

1. DEVELOPMENT TITLE & LOCATION

Guide Outfitter Operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve

2. PROPONENT INFORMATION

See “Ecotourism companies” on page 2 of this screening

3. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT DATES

Planned commencement: 2022-04-01

Planned completion: 2023-03-31

4. INTERNAL FILE

TDN2022-001

5. DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION (as posted on the preliminary screening section of the Mackenzie Valley Review Board’s public registry).

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve is located on the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories. The park reserve is a component of Thaidene Nënë Indigenous Protected Area (IPA), which also includes a Territorial Protected Area and a proposed Wildlife Conservation Area (see map). Visitors can access Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve independently, or as a client of commercial guides, outfitters, and tour operator companies. Companies that wish to do business in a national park require a business licence¹. Parks Canada conducts preliminary screenings before issuing/reissuing business licences to determine any public concern, or adverse environmental, social or cultural impacts according to the requirements of the *Mackenzie Valley Resources Management Act*.

Guide outfitter operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve occur throughout the year, with most operations occurring between late June until September when Great Slave Lake is



ice-free and air temperatures are warm. Guided trips range in length from single-day sightseeing tours to multi-day fishing excursions, cultural tours or paddling tours. This preliminary screening pertains to proposed guide outfitter operations by companies applying for a 2022/2023 business licence reissuance for Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve.

Guide outfitter operations include the activities and potential impacts associated with recreating visitors, ecological research, and park management while being accompanied by commercial guides, outfitters and tour operator companies. The following activities and locations are being proposed by the eco-tourism companies listed below, including up to five additional companies that may propose similar guide outfitter operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve after this preliminary screening has been completed:

Ecotourism companies

- Chase East Arm Adventures
- East Arm Pop Up Camp
- Frontier Lodge
- Great Slave Lake Tours
- Hoarfrost River Huskies Ltd.
- Jackpine Paddle
- River's East Arm Tours
- Trophy Lodge

Activities

- Sightseeing tours
- Cultural tours
- Boat charters
- Sport fishing
- Canoeing
- Kayaking
- Overnight accommodation/camping
- Hiking
- Dog sledding

Locations

Camping and other recreational activities are currently permitted throughout Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. However, activities may be managed through area closures (e.g., visitor safety concerns) or Superintendent's Orders to ensure the protection of areas identified as culturally or environmentally sensitive.

The following list includes the core areas proposed by the abovementioned eco-tourism companies (see map):

- Artillery Lake
- Great Slave Lake



- Charlton Bay
- Christie Bay
- McLeod Bay
- Reliance
- Wildbread Bay
- Eileen Lake area (south eastern portion of the park)
- Fort Reliance National Historic Site
- Pike's Portage
- Stark Lake

6. VALUED COMPONENTS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED

Indigenous Peoples, and the Social and Cultural Environment

The National Park Reserve is part of Thaidene Nënë Indigenous Protected Area (IPA). Management of the National Park Reserve is shared between Parks Canada and Indigenous Governments: Łutsël K'édene First Nation, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Deninu Kųę First Nation, and Yellowknives Dene First Nation. Work is conducted collaboratively, and consensus-based decisions are made through two management boards.

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve is a living legacy for all: a place where Indigenous peoples can continue to practice their ways of life, while also coming together to welcome the world. Here, Indigenous peoples continue resource harvesting, cultural, and spiritual practices in accordance with their constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights.

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve not only protects the ecological integrity, but also the cultural continuity of its unique landscape for the benefit, education and enjoyment of future generations and visitors from around the world.

• Indigenous People

The lands now within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve have provided sustenance and have been travelled by Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. The Park Reserve encompasses numerous sites of spiritual and cultural importance to Łutsël K'édene First Nation, Deninu Kųę First Nation, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the Northwest Territory Métis Nation. Mųwhì Gogha Dè Nųttlèè, the Tųchų traditional area overlaps the northwestern park boundary. North Slave Metis Alliance who asserts traditional territory in the national park reserve.

Use of the land continues today, as articulated above, including harvesting, travelling, spiritual gatherings, and monitoring. Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve is a living landscape where culture thrives. Thaidene Nënë Indigenous Protected Area, declared by Łutsël K'édene First Nation under Dene Law, encompasses the National Park Reserve.



- Heritage Resources

Heritage resources are defined as a human work, an object, or a place that is determined, on the basis of its heritage value, to be directly associated with an important aspect or aspects of human history and culture of a heritage area. Examples of heritage resources include archaeological or historic sites, burial sites, artifacts and other objects of historical, cultural, or religious significance, and historical or cultural records.

Heritage resources exist throughout Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve, including known cultural sites, cabins and graveyards located within the Lockhart River – Artillery Lake corridor. Ts’akui Theda (Lady of the Falls – Parry Falls) is also of great cultural importance. Every August, Łutsël K’é community members meet for their annual spiritual gathering near the mouth of the Lockhart River. Fort Reliance – now recognized as a National Historic Site – is another heritage resource. This location was built as a base of operations for expeditions in 1833 and briefly operated as a fur trade post in the 1850s. The Métis have a history of involvement in the fur trade and as expedition guides in the region.

Given the history of the area, additional heritage resources will likely be identified during future archaeological surveys. Areas with spiritual or cultural significance within the National Park Reserve may have specific management requirements and special protection status.

- Visitor Experience

It is estimated that approximately 500 people visit Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve on an annual basis. A wide variety of recreational activities are currently enjoyed throughout the area, including: sailing, kayaking, canoeing and motor-boating, hiking, snowmobiling, dog-sledding, cross-country skiing, fishing and berry picking. Visitation is expected to increase with new service offers from guide outfitter operations, and greater promotion of the National Park Reserve.

Besides air access, boating is the only method of travel into the area. Visitation is generally managed according to the Canada National Parks Act (CNPA). However, if any adverse impacts are foreseen (e.g., excessive soil compaction, fire pit scars and garbage at popular day use and camping areas), mitigation measures will be considered by the cooperative management boards and implemented.

Natural Environment

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve protects approximately 14,000 km² of nationally significant boreal forest, freshwater and tundra ecosystems, and represents the Northwestern Boreal Uplands Natural Region in the National Parks System Plan. The area exemplifies the transition from the Taiga Shield Ecoregion to the Southern Arctic Ecoregion – the boundary of which is defined by tree line. It is characterized as having low to moderate relief with innumerable interlocking lakes and large areas of exposed bedrock. Glacial erosion and deposition created these and other unique landscape features, including archipelagos, steep



eskers, gorges and waterfalls. The National Park Reserve is situated within the sub-Arctic climate zone and, to a lesser extent, the Boreal climate zone. The western half of the area is underlain by isolated permafrost patches, while the eastern half is underlain by continuous permafrost. Overall, Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve represents an outstanding example of an intact, remote wilderness area.

- Soil

Soil development and nutrient availability are significant factors influencing the distribution and abundance of vascular plants (e.g., trees, shrubs, flowering herbs etc.). Soil development is dependent on regional source materials, climate and hydrology. The source materials found in and around Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve include granite bedrock, marine clays, and glacial till. Soils within the region are Cryosolic, which is a term used to describe soil development in areas with permafrost. Soil development is considered to be very slow (i.e., a few millimetres per century), with the exception of peat materials that tend to accumulate more quickly.

- Air

No formal observations of air/noise quality have occurred in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. However, it is expected that these valued components are representative of their natural state as Łutsël K'é is the only nearby community, and industrial activity in the surrounding area is relatively low. Reduced air quality from regional/national forest fires may seasonally occur.

- Water

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve overlaps the east arm of Great Slave Lake, which is the deepest (and fifth largest) lake in North America. The National Park Reserve encompasses Artillery Lake and several freshwater tributaries including the Lockhart and Snowdrift Rivers. Ts'akui Theda (Lady of the Falls – Parry Falls) and the Lockhart River have great cultural and spiritual importance.

Water quality within the National Park Reserve is expected to be pristine as relatively low inputs of industrial and community-related pollutants potentially come from the surrounding area. The Water Survey of Canada (Environment and Climate Change Canada) operates one monitoring station in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. The station is located on the Lockhart River at the southern end of Artillery Lake and is dedicated to providing only hydrometric information (water level and flow). Data available from 2000 to 2005 indicate no abnormal flow conditions for the site. The Ni Hat'ni Dene Rangers have been monitoring water quality in and around the community of Łutsël K'é, Macleod Bay and Christie Bay since 2008, and have periodically shared this data with the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). Data analysis can be used to detect any changes in water quality over time.

- Vegetation



The shores of lakes and rivers within the forested parts of Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve are lined with dense stands of black spruce, white spruce, and white birch. Southern inland areas are occupied by stands of white spruce and jack pine, with understories consisting of blueberries and cranberries, feather moss and lichens. Northern inland areas are occupied by open stands of black spruce covering thick understories of lichen. In areas that transition from the boreal forest to the barrenlands, stunted black spruce and tamarack sparsely cover dwarf tundra vegetation and exposed bedrock. Greater detail about the distribution and status of vascular plants in the National Park Reserve will be determined with species inventories. Historical records indicate that one 'At Risk' species may occur in the area. The Canadian Museum of Nature retains a sample of Mackenzie Hairgrass (*Deschampsia mackenzieana*), a plant listed as Special Concern on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*, that was collected near Fort Reliance in 1927.

- Wildlife

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve is home to plethora of wildlife species. Information, particularly traditional knowledge, is most abundant for large bodied mammals and fur bearers because of their cultural and social importance within Indigenous cultures. Hunting and trapping of caribou, moose, muskox, wolf, lynx, wolverine, beaver, red fox, otter, marten, muskrat, mink, snowshoe and Arctic hare provide food and economic benefit to Indigenous peoples. In total, 42 species of mammals are known to inhabit the National Park Reserve. Of those, 4 species are listed on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*: Little Brown Myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*), and Northern Myotis (*Myotis septentrionalis*) are listed as Endangered; and Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*) and Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*) are listed as Special Concern. Four herds of Barren-ground Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*) – the Bathurst, Beverly, Ahiak, and Qamanirjuaq - are of vital importance to Indigenous peoples and are known to occur in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. Although not yet listed on Schedule 1, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has assessed Barren-ground Caribou as Threatened. All three herds are listed as Threatened under NWT species at risk legislation, with the Bathurst herd being intensely managed after a continued and significant decline in numbers. In light of this, Łutsël K'édene First Nation has developed a Caribou Stewardship Plan (called *Yúnethé Xá ʔetthën Hádi*) that includes a self-imposed moratorium on hunting caribou from the Bathurst herd. Other plans (e.g., Bathurst Caribou Plan), co-management boards and harvest restrictions have also been established to protect and manage these herds.

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve is also home to approximately 171 bird species; however, species inventories and consistent monitoring are needed to confirm the numbers and status of landbirds, waterfowl and shorebirds. Of note, ten species of hawks and falcons, two eagle species, osprey and six owl species also occur in the area. Islands and cliffs in the area are known to be important nesting habitat for breeding birds and many rocky islands host colonies of gulls and terns. Several species thought to be present in the National Park Reserve are listed on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*: Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*), Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*), and Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) are listed as Threatened; and Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*), Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*), Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*), and Rusty Blackbird



(*Euphagus carolinus*) are listed as Special Concern. Harris's Sparrow (*Zonotrichia querula*) is not listed on Schedule 1, but it has been assessed by COSEWIC as a species of Special Concern.

Although not yet confirmed, 5 amphibian species (i.e., frogs, toads and salamanders) are expected to occur in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. Of these, only one species is considered to be 'At Risk'. The Northern Leopard Frog (*Lithobates pipiens*) is listed as Endangered on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act*.

There are 28 species of freshwater and anadromous fish known to occur in Great Slave Lake and its tributaries. Sport and subsistence fishing activities occur throughout the area. Fish species of particular importance within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve include: Lake Trout, Lake Whitefish, Burbot, Northern Pike, Walleye and Arctic Grayling.

7. IMPACT ASSESSMENT (posted as part of the Development Description on the preliminary screening section of the Mackenzie Valley Review Board's public registry)

See "*Interim Best Management Practices for Guide Outfitter Operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve*".

8. MITIGATION MEASURES (posted as part of the Development Description on the preliminary screening section of the Mackenzie Valley Review Board's public registry)

As part of the terms and condition of a business licence, operators will adhere to the mitigations described in the *Interim Best Management Practices for Guide Outfitter Operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve* and, when applicable, the *Interim Best Management Practices for Fuel Caching in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve*.

9. SIGNIFICANCE OF RESIDUAL ADVERSE EFFECTS

Given the limited magnitude of effects and the application of mitigation measures, guide outfitter operations are not expected to cause residual adverse effects to natural, social or cultural environments.

10. ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

Parks Canada staff worked with designated contacts from Łutsël K'édene First Nation and Northwest Territory Métis Nation to develop and review the *Interim Best Management Practices for Guide Outfitter Operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve*, and the *Interim Best Management Practices for Fuel Caching in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve* in 2020.

The Development Description for Guide Outfitter Operations has not changed since 2020, with the exception of a few minor changes. This document was originally reviewed by the Indigenous partners involved with managing the national park reserve. This year, the reissuance of business licences to existing Aircraft Operators was discussed with members of Thaidene



Nënë xá dá yáłti (those who speak for Thaidene Nënë) prior to the January 21, 2022 notification commencing a 30-day public review of the Development Description.

This preliminary screening document has also not changed since 2020, with the exception of minor changes. It was originally reviewed by the two Indigenous partners who, through their establishment agreements, help guide park operations: Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation and Northwest Territories Métis Nation.

11.1 Bibliography

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12. DECISION

Parks Canada has conducted this preliminary screening of "Guide Outfitter Operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve " (the proposed development) pursuant to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (ss. 124(2) and 125(1)), and has concluded that it is **not** referring the proposal to the Mackenzie Valley Review Board for environmental assessment.


Taking into account the analysis and implementation of mitigation measures outlined in the analysis, the development:

- Might have a significant adverse impact on the environment, and the proposal should be referred to the *Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board* for environmental assessment.
- ✓ Does not have a likelihood of causing significant adverse impact on the environment.
- Might be a cause for public concern, and the proposal should be referred to the *Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board* for environmental assessment.
- ✓ Does not have a likelihood of causing public concern.

13. APPROVAL

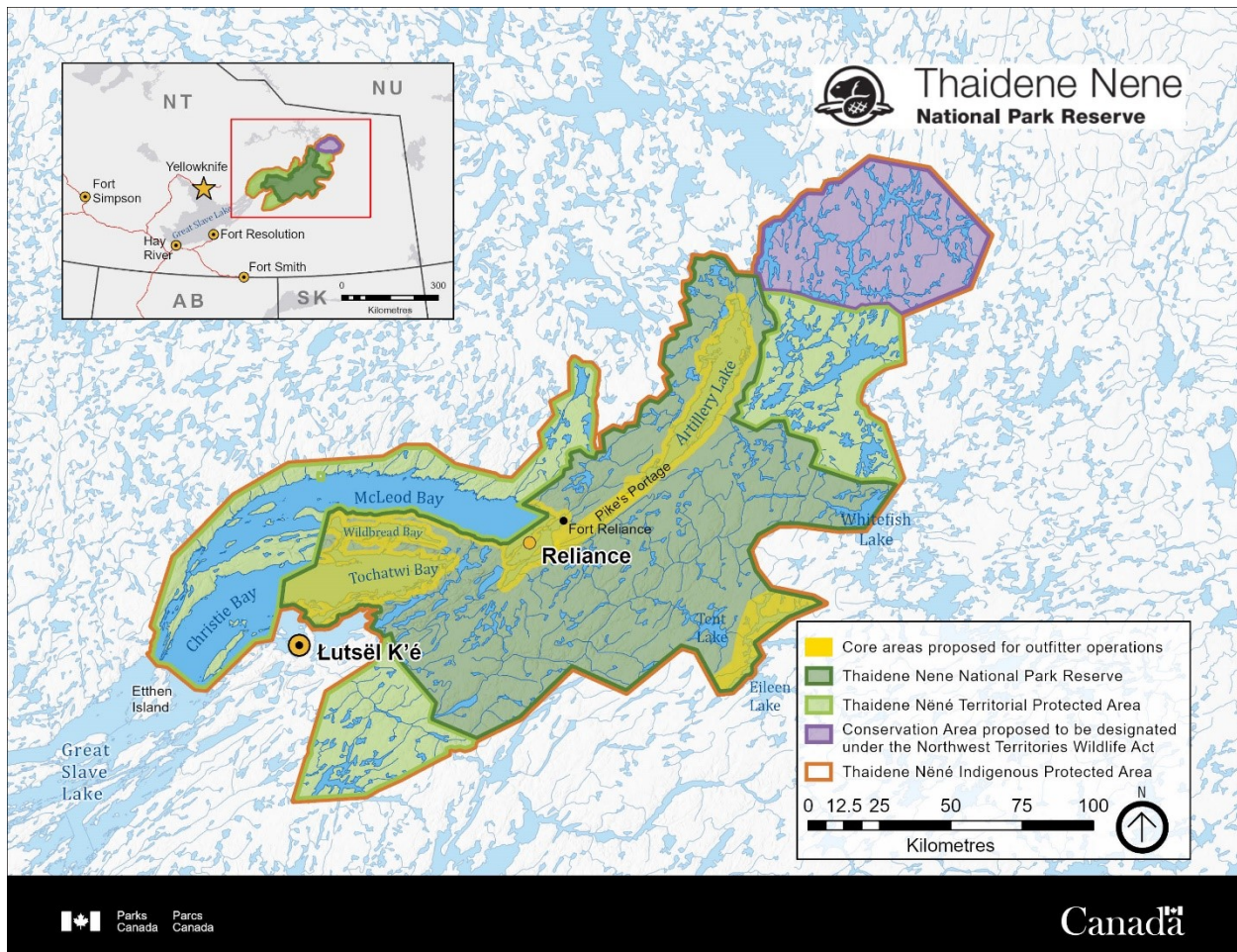
<p>Updated by:</p> <p><i>Danielle Thompson</i> Ecosystem Scientist, SWNWT Field Unit</p>	<p>Date:</p> <p>February 17, 2022</p>
<p>Originally recommended by:</p> <p>Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation (Iris Catholique, Thaidene Néné Department and Steve Ellis)</p>	<p>Date:</p> <p>June 8, 2020</p>



Originally recommended by: Northwest Territory Métis Nation (Arthur Beck, Paul Harrington, Betty Villeneuve)	Date: June 15, 2020
Approved by:  <hr/> <i>Laani Uunila</i> Implementation Manager, Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve	Date: February 18, 2022



Map: Map of Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve, showing Thaidene Nënë Indigenous Protected Area, Territorial Protected Area, the proposed Wildlife Conservation Area, and core areas proposed for guide outfitter operations within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve.





Interim Best Management Practices for Guide Outfitter Operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve

v.2020.06.17

Context

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve is located on the East Arm of Great Slave Lake, in the Northwest Territories. The Park Reserve is part of Thaidene Nënë Indigenous Protected Area (IPA), which also includes a Territorial Protected Area and a proposed Conservation Area.

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve is co-operatively managed by Parks Canada and Indigenous partners: Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation, the Northwest Territories Métis Nation, Deninu Kųę First Nation, and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. Here, Indigenous peoples will continue resource harvesting, cultural, and spiritual practices in accordance with their constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. Areas with spiritual or cultural significance within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve may have specific management requirements and special protection status.

Carrying these relationships into the future, the ecological integrity and Indigenous way of life will be a living legacy for all, where Indigenous peoples and Parks Canada will welcome the world. Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve is a destination known for spectacular fishing, boating and recreational opportunities. Guide outfitter companies offer various single and multi-day excursions, providing visitors with the expertise, equipment and local area knowledge needed for safe travel in remote wilderness.

Scope

These Best Management Practices (BMPs) apply to guide outfitter operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. Guide outfitter operations include any charters and commercially-based recreation, and the associated impacts that may occur (e.g., human waste, soil compaction, human-wildlife conflict etc.). These BMPs do not apply to leased lands.

The following recreation activities may be guided by ecotourism companies licenced to operate in the National Park Reserve:

- Hiking
- Overnight camping
- Non-motorized boating (e.g., canoeing, kayaking, stand up paddleboard, pack raft, and associated portaging)
- Motorized boating
- Sport fishing
- Cultural tours
- Over-snow vehicles (OSV)
- Dog sledding
- Non-motorized winter sports (e.g., snowshoeing, cross-country skiing)

These BMPs are a key component of the preliminary screening process as defined in the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. Abiding by these BMPs will be a requirement of the terms and conditions specified on guide outfitter business licences issued by Parks Canada.

Goal

The overarching goal of these BMPs is to support guide outfitter companies operating in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve, while minimizing potential impacts associated with guide outfitter operations on the natural, cultural and social environments.

Impact Assessment

The impacts of guide outfitter operations on the natural environment include potential damage to soil, air, water, vegetation, and wildlife. Several species at risk are known to inhabit Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve; however, impacts from guide outfitter operations should be negligible if these BMPs are applied.

Soil

- Rutting and compaction at campsites, landing sites and along hiking and portage trails
- Contamination from improper human waste management, grey water, fuel spills
- Garbage that is left behind and not packed out

Air

- Reduced localized air quality from campfires and engine exhaust
- Localized noise disturbance from engines, group interactions

Water

- Contamination from human waste, grey water, fuel spills

Vegetation

- Overharvest of plants (and berries)
- Physical damage/destruction at campsites, landing sites and along hiking and portage trails
- Introduction of non-native and invasive species

Wildlife

- Stress responses
- Altered movement patterns
- Nest disturbance and/or abandonment
- Human habituation (loss of natural wariness)
- Food conditioning
- Mortality from human-wildlife conflict and illegal harvesting

The potential impacts of guide outfitter operations on the cultural and social environments include negative effects on Indigenous people and heritage resources¹, within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. Again, impacts from guide outfitter operations should be negligible if these BMPs are applied. Moreover, several

Indigenous business owners will likely benefit from associated tourism activity within local communities.

Indigenous People

- Interference with traditional harvesting rights and on-the-land activities
- Noise disturbance
- Reduced soil, air and water quality

Heritage Resources

- Unauthorized access to current and historic cultural and ceremonial sites
- Physical damage/destruction of cultural and ceremonial sites
- Removal/destruction of historical artifacts

The potential impacts of guide outfitter operations on social environments may also include negative effects on the visitor experience within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. Again, impacts from guide outfitter operations should be negligible if these BMPs are applied.

Visitor Experience

- Overcrowding at popular recreation sites
- Degraded wilderness experience
- Threats to human health and safety from recreation-related accidents

Best Management Practices

It is anticipated that guide outfitter operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve will grow with increasing interest in and knowledge of the Park and the Indigenous Protected Area. With that in mind, the following BMPs are recommended to minimize the potential negative impacts associated with commercially-based recreation on the natural, social and cultural environment of the area.

If an Indigenous tour operator is proposing activities that do not align with these Best Management Practices, the proposed activities can be reviewed through the Operational Management Board (Thaidene Nënë xá dá yá lti) so culturally appropriate best management practices can be developed.

¹ Heritage resources are defined as archaeological or historic sites, burial sites, artifacts and other objects of historical, cultural, or religious significance, and historical or cultural records directly associated with an important aspect or aspects of human history.

Registration and Permits

Visitors are required to register for travel within Thaidene Nene Indigenous Protected Area. Guide outfitters (e.g., flightseeing tours, cultural tours, sea kayak tours) are expected to register their clients. Self-guided groups, such as those using a boat or air charter to access the park, must register themselves. Groups are asked to limit themselves to 15 people. If your group is larger than 15, please contact us in advance.

A permit is required to fish in the National Park Reserve. Fishing permits can be obtained from www.pc.gc.ca/thaidene-nene

A permit is required to cache fuel within the National Park Reserve. More information can be found in the *Interim Best Management Practices for Fuel Caching in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve*.

Protect the Natural Environment

As part of the pre-trip briefing all park visitors must be:

1. Informed that natural and cultural resources cannot be removed, defaced, damaged or destroyed. Picking of berries and medicinal plants, as well as the collection of wood for campfires are allowed for personal use in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve.
2. Asked to remove mud and/or seeds from their footwear, clothing, and pets prior to departure to prevent the introduction of non-native/invasive species into the National Park Reserve.
3. Encouraged to use washroom facilities before departing for the National Park Reserve for a day trip.
4. Reminded to pack out all items brought into the Park, including personal belongings and **garbage**.
5. Informed that they are in bear country. Visitors should always be aware of their surroundings (i.e., be watching for fresh tracks, scat, digs). Bear spray is recommended for effective self defence. People should be familiar with its use before travelling into the park, and have quick (and unimpeded) access to it at all times.
6. Informed that firearms are permitted in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve for wildlife defence only – visitors are not permitted to hunt. All firearms must be properly locked and stored when travelling.

Please note: Traditional harvest by Indigenous peoples continues in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. Lease holders within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve with a NWT hunting licence (small game only), or holders of a Special Harvesters Licence, are permitted to hunt.

To minimise compaction and damage to soils and vegetation:

7. Bring motorized and non-motorized boats to shore at the same general location to minimize the overall footprint of the landing site.
8. Choose landing sites with durable surfaces (e.g., rock, talus, gravel or sand), when possible.
9. Encourage clients to avoid trampling down flowers and vegetation during stopovers (e.g., lunchbreaks) or while recreating in the National Park Reserve.

To minimize contamination from improper human waste management:

10. Use outhouse facilities where available.
11. Move at least 60 m away from the landing sites, heritage resources, hiking trails, camping areas, and water bodies before urinating/defecating.
12. Bury solids in a shallow hole (e.g., 15 to 20 cm deep) in soil-covered areas and a deep hole (1 – 2 ft) in snow-covered areas. Avoid disturbing plant communities.
13. Pack out or bury ~~it~~ (in the hole ~~or a fire box~~) all used toilet paper. Pack out all garbage.
14. Properly dispose of grey water by filtering out solids (must be burned or packed out with all other garbage) and pouring the liquid into fast-flowing water (e.g., creek or river) or spread over the ground at least 100 m from landing sites or campsites.

To minimize impacts to wildlife:

15. Keep dogs on a leash and under physical control at all times. Off-leash dogs can cause wildlife to feel threatened and become aggressive. Aggressive animals pose a significant risk to human safety.
16. Avoid recreating in or near wildlife travel corridors, feeding areas, and calving grounds.
17. Ensure clients stay at least 100 m away from known den or nest sites.
18. Remind clients to never approach wildlife or encourage wildlife to approach them. This can cause wildlife to lose their natural wariness of people. Habituated animals are at greater risk of human-wildlife conflict.
19. Be respectful when photographing wildlife. Animal behaviour is unpredictable – keep a safe viewing distance (100 m) at all times.
20. Calmly back away if a large carnivore (e.g., bear, wolf) is encountered. Never run – it may trigger a pursuit.
21. Dispose of fish offal into fast-flowing or deep water. Fish offal left onshore can attract wildlife and increase the potential for human-wildlife conflict.

Please note: Activities that intentionally disturb wildlife for viewing or photographic opportunities can result in a business licence being revoked or charges being laid under

the *Canada National Parks Act*. Feeding wildlife is also illegal and can result in charges. This includes feeding them directly by offering them food, or indirectly by leaving food/garbage behind for them to find.

Protect Indigenous rights, and the Cultural and Social Environment

To minimize potential impacts to Indigenous people, clients must be informed during the pre-trip briefing that:

22. Indigenous people can and may be exercising their traditional rights (e.g., harvesting wildlife and other on the land activities) within the National Park Reserve and that these rights must be respected.
23. Certain areas of the park may be closed due to cultural significance or activities. Please check for area closures prior to travel.

To minimize potential impacts to heritage resources and visitor experience, clients must be informed during the pre-trip briefing that:

24. Heritage resources cannot be removed or otherwise disturbed. This includes rocks from any features that look, even remotely, like they were human-made, such as cairns (rock piles), tent rings, and food caches.
25. Inuksuit are not culturally appropriate and should not be built.
26. Parks Canada and Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation equipment and boats are not for public use.
27. Turn off boat engines while at landing sites to reduce exhaust fumes and noise.
28. Limit group noise and disturbances when other visitors are present in the area.

Camping

To minimize the impacts of camping and its associated activities:

29. Camp at the same general location to minimize the overall footprint of overnight camping activities.
30. Choose tent sites with durable surfaces when possible.
31. Set up portable stoves and other cooking implements on durable, heat resistant surfaces and away from vegetation or leaf litter where possible.
32. Ensure fire pits are located on durable surfaces, away from vegetation and trees. Use of a firebox is recommended, but not mandatory.
33. Check that all fires are completely extinguished before leaving the area, regardless of the duration of time away.
34. Remove all evidence of fire scars (e.g., unburnt wood, ashes) so as to leave the site in pristine condition in support of traditional use and visitor experience. If rocks are used to secure tents, return them to their original locations.
35. Prepare and cook food away a minimum of 50m from sleeping areas to help avoid attracting wildlife into campsites.

36. Ensure all food and other wildlife attractants (e.g., toiletries, dish detergent, fuel) are stored in bear resistant containers or hung in a tree a minimum of 50 m away from sleeping areas.

Boating (motorized and non-motorized)

To minimize the impacts of activities related to boating in general:

37. Avoid disturbances to birds and wildlife that are on land or in the water. Approach wildlife slowly (i.e., 5 knots) and do not chase, herd or cause animals to change course by blocking their direction of travel. Avoid rapid movements and loud noises while viewing and during departure.
38. Stay at least 100 m back from large colonies of birds and nesting waterfowl, and at least 100 m away from other wildlife on shore. Do not approach swimming wildlife (e.g., moose, bear etc.).

Motorized Boating

To minimize the impacts of motorized boating and its associated activities:

39. Empty the bilge and remove any mud and vegetation from the hull and propeller of your boat before transferring it from one body of water to another. This helps to keep non-native and invasive species from establishing in areas where they don't belong.
40. Travel slowly in shallow waters to protect important fish spawning and egg-rearing habitat.
41. Approach landing sites at slow to no wake speed (i.e., 5 knots) to minimize disturbances to banks, shorelines, and shallow water habitats.
42. When refuelling a boat, use extra caution and avoid spills if possible. Deal with any spill immediately. Have a cloth at hand to catch any spills. Use one for the filler and one for the fuel tank vent.
43. Refuel portable fuel tanks and engine-mounted tanks (where feasible) onshore (at least 50m from water). Use a funnel and refuel over an impermeable surface or absorbent material. Have your spill kit ready to mop up a spill, if necessary.

Dog Sledding

To minimize the impacts of dog sledding and its associated activities:

44. All dogs must be on leashes or fixed lines at all times including while at camp; no dogs are allowed to run free. They must be in their harnesses and picketed to self-carried anchors.
45. Do not line out or picket your dogs at the same location each trip.
46. Store all dog food in bear resistant containers or hung in a tree at least 50 m from sleeping areas.
47. Provide Parks Canada with records (e.g., dates) of your de-worming program and vaccinations (i.e., distemper, parvovirus, and rabies).

48. To help control the spread of giardia, do not leave dog faeces on a lake surface (ice). Instead, move the faeces to a location on land (i.e., at least 50 m inland) and bury it following the same protocol used to bury human waste. That said, dog sledding guides are encouraged to pack out all dog-related waste from the National Park Reserve.

Over-Snow Vehicles (OSV)

To minimize the impacts of snowmobiling and its associated activities:

49. Travel over ice, when safe, to avoid damaging underlying soil and vegetation.
50. Follow existing snowmobile tracks whenever possible.
51. Select locations where snow cover is thick enough to buffer the shoreline from tread damage when crossing water bodies. Approach at a 90° angle when possible to minimize disturbance to underlying soil and vegetation.
52. Do not follow fresh wildlife tracks to minimize potential disturbances to animals.
53. Store fuel in sealed containers and use appropriate nozzles/funnels for refueling to avoid potential spills.
54. Refuel at least 50 m away from water bodies and over an impermeable barrier (e.g. rock or a tray or tarp). Have your spill kit ready to mop up a spill, if necessary.

Fishing

To minimize the impacts of fishing and its associated activities:

55. Remove all mud and debris from all waders and gear that will enter the water to avoid introducing non-native and invasive species. If waders or equipment is known to come from an area affected by whirling disease, disinfect them with bleach (1-part chlorine to 9-parts water for 10 minutes), rinse and let dry in the shade.
56. Only use barbless hooks.
57. Decide quickly whether to keep the fish or not. Do not retain fish on stringers or in live wells to be set free when a larger fish is caught.
58. Educate clients about the importance of non-sport fish to prevent destruction of these species when they are accidentally caught.
59. Avoid wading in water bodies where fish are spawning.
60. Retrieve as many snagged hooks and lines as possible.
61. Dispose of entrails by puncturing the swim bladder and depositing them into deep or moving water downstream of your camp, using a boat if available.
62. Always clean your catch at least 50 m away from campsites, picnic sites, rest areas, or other facilities.

Information specific to catch and release:

63. Fish cradles are recommended to minimize fish injury or death during catch and release.
64. Do not play fish to exhaustion.

65. Wet your hands when handling live fish. Dry hands and gloves will remove the protective mucous coating and scales.
66. Handle fish in fish cradle (or net) in the water, rather than handling them in the boat. Grasp them across the back and head for firm but gentle control.
67. Turn fish belly up when removing hooks. This disorients them momentarily for easier, quicker handling.
68. Do not remove swallowed hooks. Just cut the line next to the fish's mouth.
69. Do not keep fish out of the water more than 10-15 seconds. Fragile gills are damaged after that, especially in cold weather.
70. Revive fish before releasing. Hold it under the belly and by the tail, keeping it in an upright position underwater. If you are fishing in a river or stream, hold the fish facing the current. Be patient and give the fish as much time as it needs to recover and swim away on its own.
71. When bringing a fish up from depths of 10 m or greater, do so slowly. This allows them to decompress and increases chances of survival. Pause while reeling the fish in and allow air or gas from the swim bladder to rise to the surface.

In Case of Emergency

If you observe anything or you are involved in a situation that requires *immediate* assistance, please call:

Parks Canada Dispatch (24hr emergency line) at 1-877-852-3100 (toll free), 1-780-852-3100 (landline), or email jasperdispatch@canada.ca.

Please report all *minor incidents* (at the end of your trip) to:

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve (non-emergency line)
Parks Canada Yellowknife Office (M-F; 9-5)
867-766-8460 (landline), or e-mail pc.thaidene.nene.pc@canada.ca.



Interim Best Management Practices for Fuel Caching in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve

V. 2020.07.07

Background

Parks Canada is committed to the continuance of the fuel cache site at Reliance, located in Police Bay at the east end of McLeod Bay. The Reliance fuel cache is popular with aircraft operators and some boaters. The site provides an ideal stopover for long-distance trips, adequate shelter from adverse weather and is accessible by barge. In any given year over one hundred fuel drums are stored at the site. To manage barrel volume, placement and spills, Parks Canada is implementing the *Interim Best Management Practices for Fuel Caching in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve*. These Best Management Practices (BMPs) are intended to be a working document that evolves as park operations grow. Its purpose is to provide best management practices for caching fuel within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve to safeguard the natural, social and cultural environment for generations to come.

Scope

The *Interim Best Management Practices for Fuel Caching in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve* applies to the storage of fuel on lands administered by Parks Canada within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve (excluding leased properties). It identifies the minimum standards that are required to cache fuel at Reliance (Figure 1) and other approved sites.

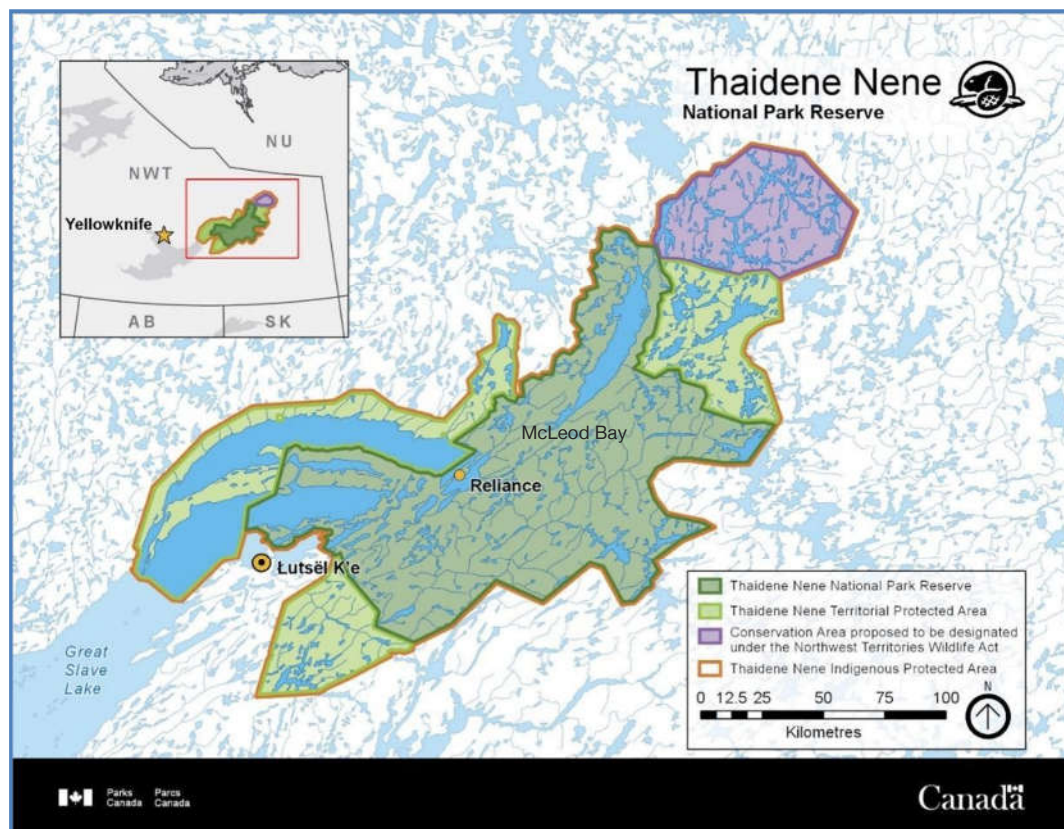


Figure 1. Map showing the location of Reliance, where the fuel cache is located in Police Bay at the east end of McLeod Bay in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve.

Goal and Objectives

The overarching goal of this fuel caching protocol is to support the operations relating to Indigenous partners, business licence holders and park management, while protecting the ecological and cultural integrity of Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. Within this goal, there are three objectives:

- 1) Develop fuel drum inventory and storage systems to prevent spills and leaks as a result of mishandling, age and corrosion.
- 2) Standardize emergency response procedures for damaged drums and spill containment.
- 3) Maintain a clean and orderly fuel cache at Reliance in support of traditional use and visitor experience.

Authorization Process for Caching Fuel

If you want to cache fuel at Reliance, please plan for a minimum of 30 days from the date that your application is submitted to receipt of authorization. If you want to cache fuel at another site, please allow for a minimum of 90 days for your request to be considered.

Your application form (sample in Appendix 1) will be reviewed and, if approved, a permit will be issued, which will allow you to cache fuel subject to the protocols outlined in this document. Additional terms and conditions may be applied.

To request a Fuel Cache Application form, or for questions about these protocols or the authorization process for caching fuel in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve, please contact:

Laani Uunila
Thaidene Nene Implementation Manager,
Southwest NWT Field Unit
Parks Canada
P.O. Box 1166 Yellowknife Main Post Office Yellowknife, NT, X1A 1C0
Office: (867) 766-8460
Email: pc.thaidene.nene.pc@canada.ca

Forms are available on-line at <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/nt/thaidene-nene/gestion-management/permits/carburant-fuel-cache>

Interim Best Management Practices for Caching Fuel

- All persons, with the exception of Indigenous partners, who wish to cache fuel at Reliance or other approved sites within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve must apply for a permit (see Authorization Process for Caching Fuel above).
- Fuel can only be cached at authorized sites as stated on the permit.
- Cached fuel must be in drums.

- The maximum time period for cached fuel drums may not exceed two years from the date of permit issuance.
- Fuel drums must be new or in pristine condition – free of visible damage or corrosion.
- Visually inspect all fuel drums for punctures, seam and bung leaks during delivery or refueling activities and before leaving the cache site.
- Fuel drums stored at Reliance must be placed in the designated area.
- At sites other than Reliance, fuel drums must be placed at least 100 meters above the high water mark of any water body, including seasonal drainages.
- Place all fuel drums in neat rows, on their sides, with bungs positioned at 3 and 9 o'clock.
- All fuel drums must be clearly marked with the following information:
 - Type of fuel
 - Name of company/individual
 - Year
 - Fuel Cache Permit #

For 2020 only, please notify Parks Canada if your bulk fuel order will be delivered in advance of your permit being authorized. For future years, permit applications should be received and processed before fuel deliveries are completed.

- Parks Canada will provide a back-up spill kit at the Reliance fuel cache (Appendix 2); however, permit holders are required to carry and/or store their own spill kit at their fuel caches. Spill kits must be adequate to contain and clean up potential spills that occur on land and/or water, depending on the size and nature of operations. Should a spill occur, permit holders are responsible for the cost of the cleanup. The following three websites provide information about the types and size of spill kits that are available for purchase:

Acklands Grainger Inc.: www.acklandsgrainger.com

Arcus Absorbents Inc.: www.arcusabsorbents.com

Can-Ross Environmental Services Ltd.: www.canross.com

- Secondary containment (Appendix 3) is required at any fuel cache site not at the current cache at Reliance. Secondary containment will be phased in at Reliance over the next few years.
- Provide Parks Canada with an updated fuel drum inventory at the end of each operational season (e.g., mid-September). Complete the Fuel Cache Inventory Form (Appendix 4) and send it to: pc.thaidene.nene.pc@canada.ca

Failure to comply with the *Interim Best Management Practices for Fuel Caching in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve* may result in fuel drum and container removal and disposal by Parks Canada at the permit holder's expense. Non-compliance may also affect the issuance of future fuel cache permits and business licences. Moreover, depending on the non-compliance, charges may result under the *Canada National Parks Act*.

Emergency Response

Damaged Drum

1. Maneuver drum so damage is on top to reduce leaking.
2. If possible, patch the leak. There are several kinds of drum repair kits available for purchase.
3. If the drum cannot be patched, mark it and remove it from the fuel cache site as soon as possible.

Spill Containment

1. Use absorbents from the spill kit to soak up as much free product as possible. Use a shovel, if available, to dig up product-soaked soil. Use booms to soak up contaminants if fuel spilled into a body of water.
2. Place all contaminated materials (e.g., absorbents, booms, soil) in the spill kit drum or tarp, if available.
3. Remove all contaminated material from the fuel cache site as soon as possible.

Report all spills to Parks Canada (Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve) and the Northwest Territories Spill Line using the GNWT Spill Report Form (Appendix 5). You are legally required to immediately report any spills anywhere in the Northwest Territories greater than 100 liters.

Emergency Contacts

Parks Canada Dispatch: 1-877-852-3100 (toll free)
 1-780-852-3100 (landline)
 jasperdispatch@canada.ca

Northwest Territories Spill Line
24hr Report line: 867-920-8130
 spills@gov.nt.ca




Non-Emergency Contacts

Parks Canada
Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve 867-766-8460
 pc.thaidene.nene.pc@canada.ca

Appendix 1: Sample Fuel Caching Application Form

Downloadable form is available on-line: <https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/nt/thaidene-nene/gestion-management/permits/carburant-fuel-cache>

Via e-mail pc.thaidene.nene.pc@canada.ca or phone 867-766-8460

 		
Fuel Cache Application Form		
<p>Permission to cache fuel in national parks is generally not granted. In Thaidene Nene, there is a commitment to maintain a public fuel cache at Reliance. If you require a fuel cache, please complete this application form. Fuel cached in the park must be done in a manner consistent with the <i>Interim Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve Fuel Caching Protocol</i>. Fuel stored in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve will require secondary containment appropriate to the fuel cache site. There will be a transition period for fuel cached at Reliance, as it will take time to assess the site and needs. Any new fuel cache sites, if approved, will require secondary containment.</p>		
Company Name (if applicable):		
Applicant Name:		
Phone:	Email:	
Caching Fuel at Reliance (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Type of Fuel:	Amount of Fuel (litres and number of drums):	
Proposed date for caching:	Proposed date for fuel/drum removal:	
Why is caching fuel at Reliance necessary?		
Proposed measures to reduce environmental impact:		
Request for a Fuel Cache in a Location Other than Reliance (complete only if needed)		
Type of Fuel:	Amount of Fuel (liters and number of drums):	
Name of Proposed Cache Location:	Latitude/Longitude of Proposed Cache Location:	
Proposed date for caching:	Proposed date for fuel/drum removal:	
Why is the fuel cache necessary?		
Proposed measures to reduce environmental impact:		
Provide details on proposed secondary containment system:		

Appendix 2: Contents of the Back-up Spill Kit at the Reliance Fuel Cache

Permit holders are required to carry and/or store their own spill kit at their permitted fuel caches.

Parks Canada (Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve) will provide a back-up spill kit (for oil and fuel only) at the Reliance fuel cache site in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. The kit will be contained within a 55-gallon plastic drum. Please contact Parks Canada so you are aware of the spill kit location at Reliance. If you use the kit, please let us know ASAP.

Each kit includes:

- 1 X 55-gallon yellow or blue poly drum with lid and band
- 100 X sorbent pads
- 12 X sorbent booms
- 5 X sorbent pillows
- 1 X pair of gloves
- 1X disposal bag
- 1 X pair of goggles
- 1 X disposable coveralls
- 1 X Plug-n-Dyke drum calking
- 1 X shovel
- 2 X Tarps



Appendix 3: Examples of Secondary Containment Units

Secondary containment units are designed to minimize environmental damage from a fuel spill resulting from a failure in the drum, a loose bung or damaged bung seal. We are open to suggestions on the best system or types of system(s) to install at Reliance. Your feedback is important to us. Please let us know the following:

- What containment systems do you like?
- Pros and cons of the systems you have used or are familiar with?
- What type(s) of secondary containment do you think are feasible at Reliance?

Below are images of secondary containment units that Parks Canada is using elsewhere in northern Canada.

1) Outdoor Barrel Containment Unit

Available at:

- Pye Brothers Fuels Ltd. www.pyebrothers.ca/Accessories/index.htm



2) Covered Snap-Up Stinger Berms

Available at:

- Acklands-Grainger Inc.: www.acklandsgrainger.com
- Clean Spill: (905) 293-9995
- ENPAC Corporation: www.enpac.com



3) Drum Hardcover and Spillpallet

Available at:

- ENPAC Corporation: www.enpac.com



4) Fuel shed

Available at:

- Pro-tec: www.laden.ca



Appendix 4: Sample Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve Fuel Cache Inventory Form

The form is available via e-mail pc.thaidene.nene.pc@canada.ca or phone 867-766-8460



Fuel Cache Inventory Form

At the end of each operational season (e.g., mid-September), permit holders that have cached fuel in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve are required to provide Parks Canada – Southwest NWT Field Unit with an updated fuel drum inventory. Please fill out this Fuel Cache Inventory form and send to the address proved below. Thank you!

Name of Company/individual:	Date:
Contact Person:	
Phone #:	Email:
Fuel Cache Permit #:	

Fuel Cache Site	Fuel Type	# Full Drums	# Partial Drums	# Empty Drums	Year Placed at Site

Comments:

Send Completed Fuel Inventory Form to:

Parks Canada
 Southwest NWT Field Unit
 P.O. Box 1166 Yellowknife Main Post Office
 Yellowknife, NT, X1A 1C0
 Office: (867) 766-8460
 Email: pc.thaidene.nene.pc@canada.ca



Appendix 5: GNWT Spill Report Form

NT-NU SPILL REPORT

OIL, GASOLINE, CHEMICALS AND
OTHER HAZARDOUS MATERIALS



NT-NU 24-HOUR SPILL REPORT LINE

Tel: (867) 920-8130 • Fax: (867) 873-6924 • Email: spills@gov.nt.ca

REPORT LINE USE ONLY

A	Report Date: MM DD YY	Report Time:	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Spill Report OR <input type="checkbox"/> Update # _____ to the Original Spill Report		Report Number:
	Occurrence Date: MM DD YY	Occurrence Time:			
C	Land Use Permit Number (if applicable):		Water Licence Number (if applicable):		
D	Geographic Place Name or Distance and Direction from the Named Location:			Region: <input type="checkbox"/> NT <input type="checkbox"/> Nunavut <input type="checkbox"/> Adjacent Jurisdiction or Ocean	
E	Latitude: _____ Degrees _____ Minutes _____ Seconds		Longitude: _____ Degrees _____ Minutes _____ Seconds		
F	Responsible Party or Vessel Name:		Responsible Party Address or Office Location:		
G	Any Contractor Involved:		Contractor Address or Office Location:		
H	Product Spilled: <input type="checkbox"/> Potential Spill	Quantity in Litres, Kilograms or Cubic Metres:	U.N. Number:		
I	Spill Source:	Spill Cause:	Area of Contamination in Square Metres:		
J	Factors Affecting Spill or Recovery:	Describe Any Assistance Required:	Hazards to Persons, Property or Environment:		
K	Additional Information, Comments, Actions Proposed or Taken to Contain, Recover or Dispose of Spilled Product and Contaminated Materials:				
L	Reported to Spill Line by:	Position:	Employer:	Location Calling From:	Telephone:
M	Any Alternate Contact:	Position:	Employer:	Alternate Contact Location:	Alternate Telephone:

REPORT LINE USE ONLY

N	Received at Spill Line by:	Position:	Employer:	Location Called:	Report Line Number:
Lead Agency: <input type="checkbox"/> EC <input type="checkbox"/> CCGTCMSS <input type="checkbox"/> GNWT <input type="checkbox"/> GN <input type="checkbox"/> ILA			Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> Minor		File Status: <input type="checkbox"/> Open
<input type="checkbox"/> AANDC <input type="checkbox"/> NEB <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			<input type="checkbox"/> Major <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		<input type="checkbox"/> Closed
Agency:	Contact Name:	Contact Time:	Remarks:		
Lead Agency:					
First Support Agency:					
Second Support Agency:					
Third Support Agency:					