

Parks Canada
PO Box 1166
#220 5101, 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N8

February 24, 2023

Re: Notification of Commencement of Preliminary Screening of Guide-Outfitter Operations

To: Distribution List

Parks Canada will be conducting a preliminary screening of operations associated with commercial guides, outfitters, and tour operator companies applying for a business licence in Thaidene National Park Reserve. As per the requirements of the *Mackenzie Valley Resources Management Act*, Parks Canada must determine any public concern, or adverse environmental, social or cultural impacts before issuing a business licence in a national park.

Attached is a description of proposed guide-outfitter operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve for the 2023/2024 season. If you have any comments on this proposal, please submit them to me by **March 17, 2023**.

Thank you. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Jared Ellenor

Ecosystem Scientist, SWNWT Field Unit
Parks Canada
Phone: (867) 445-1083
Email: jared.ellenor@pc.gc.ca



DEVELOPMENT TITLE: Guide-Outfitter Operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT DATES: April 01, 2023 - March 31, 2024

DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION:

Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve extends from the East Arm of Great Slave Lake to the Barrenlands and includes nationally significant boreal forest, freshwater and tundra ecosystems. The park reserve is a component of Thaidene Nënë Indigenous Protected Area (IPA), which also includes a territorial protected area and a wildlife conservation area (Map 1). Visitors can access Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve independently, or as a client of commercial guides, outfitters, lodges, 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 business licences to determine any public concern, or adverse environmental, social, or cultural impacts as per 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 waterbodies are ice-free and air temperatures are warmer. Guided trips range from single-day sightseeing tours to multi-day fishing excursions, lodge experiences, cultural tours, or paddling tours. This preliminary screening pertains to proposed guide-outfitter operations by companies who have applied for a 2023/2024 business licence for Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve.

An assessment of guide outfitter operations includes the activities and potential impacts associated with recreating visitors. The following activities and locations are being proposed by the guide-outfitters 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:

Guide-outfitter companies

- Frontier Lodge
- Great Slave Lake Tours
- Hoarfrost River Huskies Ltd.
- Jackpine Paddle
- Redcliff Adventures (formerly East Arm Pop Up Camp)

Activities

- Sightseeing tours
- Cultural programming
- Boat charters or outfitting

¹ National Parks of Canada Businesses Regulations, s. 4(1).



- Sport fishing
- Canoeing
- Kayaking
- Overnight accommodation/camping
- Hiking
- Dog sledding

Locations

The following table includes areas of activity proposed for each guide-outfitter company. Licenced operators may, on occasion, apply for modification to their area of activity. These changes are subject to review and approval by Thaidene Nënë Xá Dá Yaltı (the Operational Management Board), the parties to the Board, and the Superintendent for Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. Operators licensed for Kaché (Charlton Bay and the Reliance area) will have additional terms and conditions on their licences due to culturally sensitive areas, and will have limited areas of operation identified. (see also Map 2):

Company	Proposed Areas of Activity
Frontier Lodge	Stark Lake, Christie Bay, Wildbread Bay, Tochatwi Bay
Great Slave Lake Tours	Boat tours (including sport fishing and sightseeing) and charters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McLeod Bay Marine transportation charters for Łutsël K'édene First Nation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McLeod Bay to Charlton Bay to Desnéthchéé
Hoarfrost River Huskies	Dogsledding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area southeast of Lac LaPrise • Occasional alternate routes include Pike's Portage / Artillery Lake, and via Float Lake (Tochatwi Lake) into Christie Bay Hiking day trips: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tent Creek area • Kahocheilla Peninsula (accessed via McLeod Bay)
Jackpine Paddle	Eileen Lake area
Redcliff Adventures (formerly East Arm Pop Up Camp)	Christie Bay and Wildbread Bay

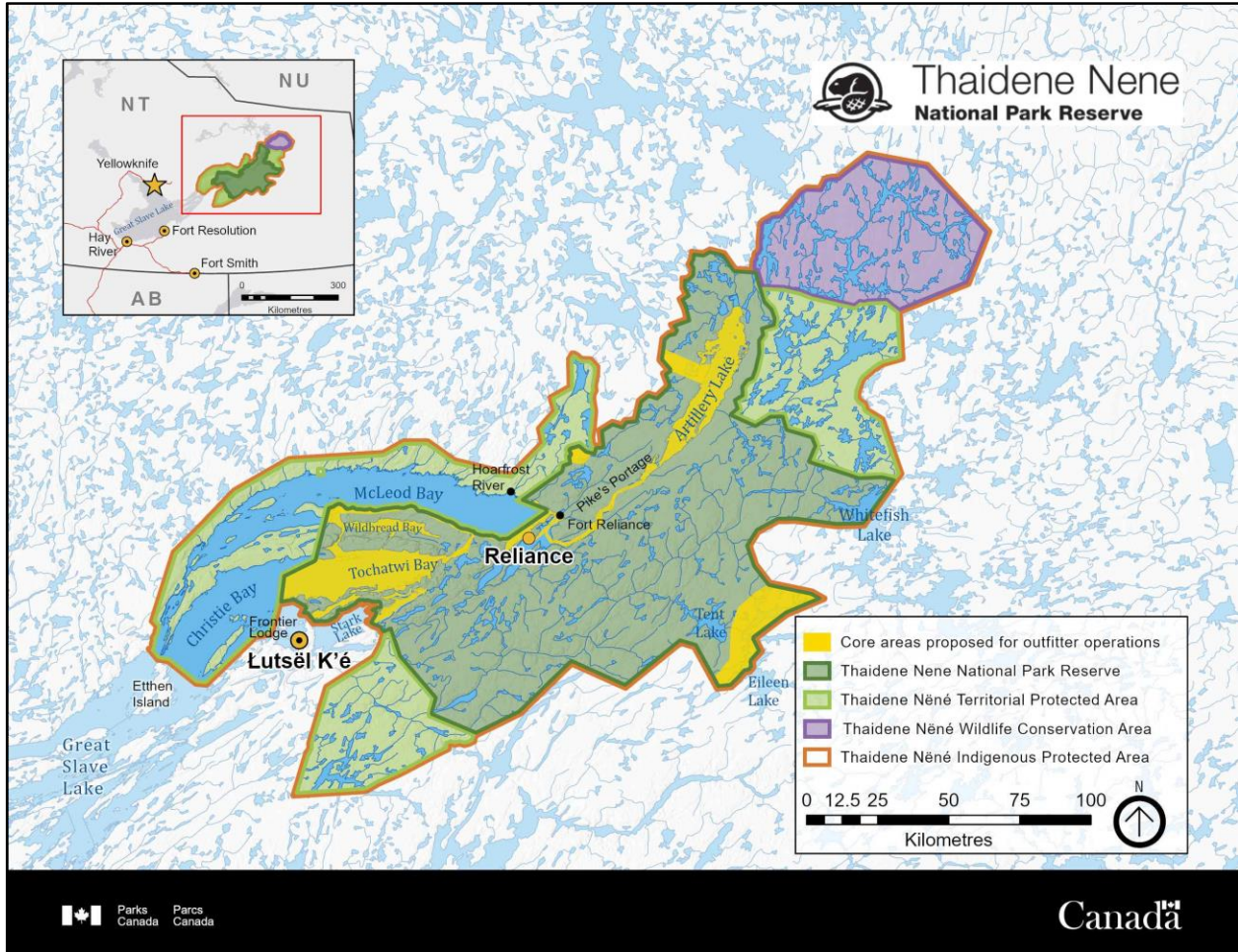


MITIGATIONS:

Guide-outfitter companies will follow the Visitor Guidelines, including visitor ethics and leave no trace principles (<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/pn-np/nt/thaidene-nene/visit/directive-guideline>), and will adhere to the mitigations described in the *Interim Best Management Practices for Guide Outfitter Operations in Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve*. Business licences will include general and specific terms and conditions which prescribe permitted activities and areas of operation. Activities may be further managed through area closures and/or Superintendent's Orders to ensure to ensure visitor safety and/or the protection of areas identified as culturally or environmentally sensitive. Anyone fishing within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve is required to possess a valid Parks Canada fishing licence and must adhere to the terms and conditions therein.



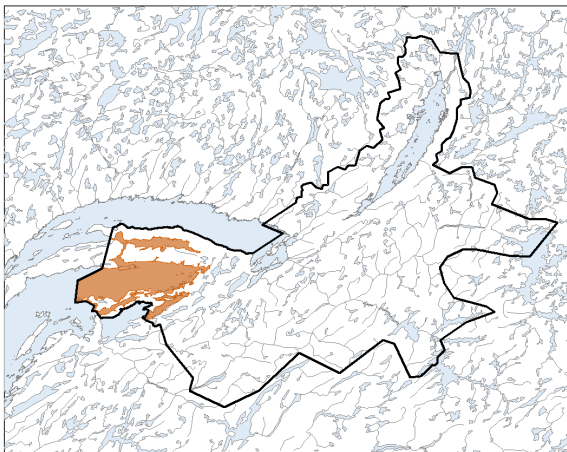
Map 1: Map of Thaidene Nënë Indigenous Protected Area showing, the National Park Reserve, Territorial Protected Area, Wildlife Conservation Area, and core areas proposed for guide outfitter operations within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve.



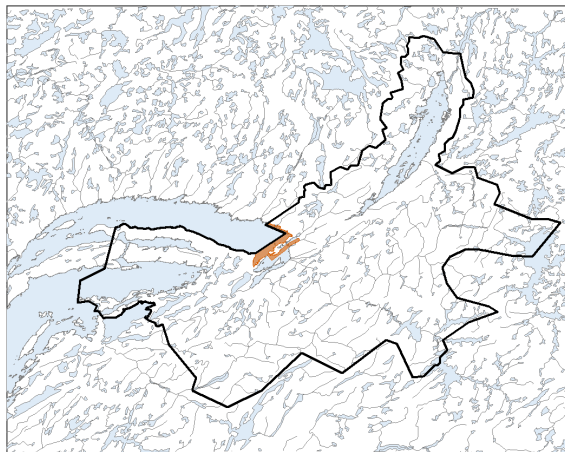


Map 2: Maps of proposed areas of activity for guide outfitter operations within Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve for: a) Frontier Lodge, b) Great Slave Lake Tours, c) Hoarfrost River Huskies, d) Jackpine Paddle, and e) Redcliff Adventures.

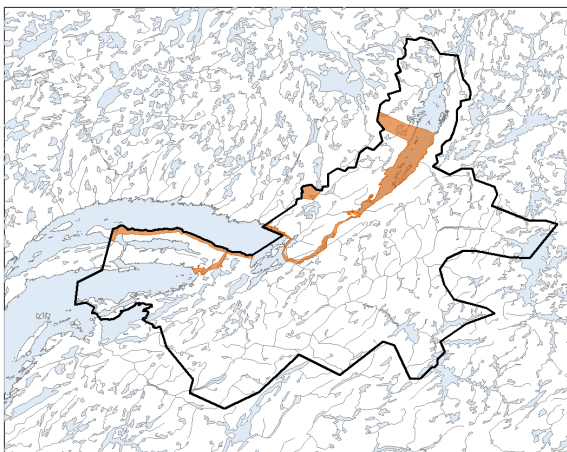
a) Frontier Lodge



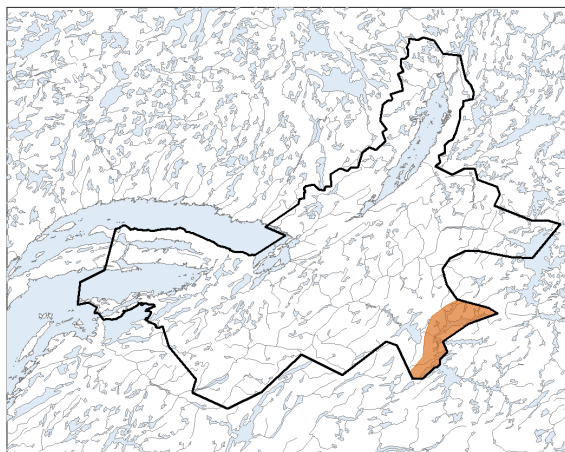
b) Great Slave Lake Tours



c) Hoarfrost River Huskies



d) Jackpine Paddle



e) Redcliff Adventures

