

DRAFT

Key Strategy #1: Taking Care of Nahʔą Dehé

The highest mountains and largest glaciers in the Northwest Territories, some of the deepest canyons in Canada, and prime habitat for grizzly bears, northern mountain caribou and Dall's sheep are all found in Nahʔą Dehé. The park includes a Canadian Heritage River and is a world-renowned UNESCO World Heritage Site. Wildlife species such as the migratory caribou do not stay within park boundary; likewise, fire does not respect lines drawn on a map, thus NNPR must work with others to help maintain the highest possible standards of quality for the waters, lands, air and wildlife of Nahʔą Dehé.

Understanding this area is a big task which is best undertaken through monitoring and research conducted not only by Parks Canada, but in partnership with Dehcho First Nations, traditional users, academic institutions, other government agencies, and independent researchers. The scientific work conducted in Nahʔą Dehé presents exciting opportunities to enhance management, education and visitor programs.

Objective 1:	
	A cooperative management approach is used to guide decision-making, and protect the ecological integrity of the entire Nahʔą Dehé watershed.
Target:	
1.1	All major resource management decisions are made by the Nahʔą Dehé Consensus Team.
Actions:	
1.1.1	Meetings of Nahʔą Dehé Consensus Team are held regularly (at least 8 times per year) with ongoing reviews of resource management issues.
Target:	
1.2	The park participates in major regional land and resource management initiatives,

	which may have an impact on the management or ecological integrity of Nahʔą Dehé.
Actions:	
1.2.1	Work with Dehcho resource management authorities.
1.2.2	Ensure Parks Canada's mandate of protection ecological integrity is met through active participation in the environmental assessment and review process for development and operational activities associated with Prairie Creek, Tungsten and any other mining or industrial proposals in the watershed.

Objective 2:	
	Natural ecological processes remain the primary forces shaping the ecosystem.
Target:	
2.1	Natural fires will be permitted to burn in the majority of the park area.
Actions:	
2.1.1	Prepare a fire management plan by 2014 which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes the role of fire as a natural ecosystem process • Identifies a fire suppression zone east of Yohin Ridge and in other key areas. • Maintains an observation zone for all remaining areas of the park. • Includes a communication strategy to convey information about active fires and the approach to fire management.
2.1.2	Determine the natural fire cycle and develop methods for a fire effects monitoring program.
2.1.3	Maintain network of climate stations to establish weather norms, aiding the understanding of climate change and local impacts in relation to fire and other ecosystem processes.

Objective 3:	
	NNPR is a centre for northern mountain research, where science ¹ and traditional knowledge contribute to the long-term protection of the park and enhance public understanding of its ecosystems.

¹ Science is intended to include both natural and social science.

Target:	
3.1	All research led by Parks Canada includes at least one other organization as an active partner, or in a consultation or review role.
Actions:	
3.1.1	Seek to establish a formal partnership with one or more post-secondary institutions to establish Nahanni as a location for research and long-term monitoring.
3.1.2	Promote inter-agency cooperation between adjacent federal, territorial and Aboriginal organizations.
Target:	
3.2	All research in NNPR incorporates traditional knowledge where appropriate and feasible.
Actions:	
3.2.1	All research proposals will be considered by the Nah?a Dehé Consensus Team to identify opportunities for incorporating traditional knowledge.
Target:	
3.3	Research is well communicated. 100% of park visitors who participate in interpretive programming learn about park research.
Actions:	
3.3.1	Use the park's interpretation, public outreach education and communication programs to share research results, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual newsletter, which includes information on park research. • A bi-annual research and monitoring report.
3.3.2	Publish park research in peer-reviewed journals.
Target:	
3.4	Increase hands-on stewardship opportunities by 2012.
Actions:	
3.4.1	Develop a strategic volunteer program including opportunities to participate in NNPR's research program.

Objective 4:	
The high level of biodiversity in Nah?ą Dehé is retained, including naturally occurring plant and animal species. Unique and sensitive landscape features are protected.	
Target:	
4.1	Species composition and distribution remains representative of the Mackenzie Mountains Natural Region.
Actions:	
4.1.1	Determine species composition and distribution relative to Mackenzie Mountains historical condition as part of the 2014 State of the Park Report.
Target:	
4.2	The park's Ecological Integrity Monitoring Program is fully implemented by 2014, and includes appropriate biodiversity measures for each indicator.
Actions:	
4.2.1	Investigate and assess remote sensing methods for monitoring biodiversity, phenology and primary productivity.
4.2.2	Determine methods and implement vegetation monitoring in Alpine Tundra indicator.
Target:	
4.3	Improve understanding and documentation of rare and endemic species and habitats.
Actions:	
4.3.1	Known populations of Nahanni Aster are re-assessed, and new potential sites investigated.
Target:	
4.4	Sensitive terrain features in the park are protected.
Actions:	
4.4.1	Assess and identify any sensitive terrain features in the park (not already designated) for consideration as Special Preservation (Zone I) Areas, or other appropriate management strategies.
Target:	

4.5	Cooperative research and partnerships significantly improve the level of understanding on how to maintain and improve caribou populations by 2014 so that Mountain caribou continue to thrive in Nahʔa Dehé.
Actions:	
4.5.1	Current cooperative research projects on South Nahanni and Coal River caribou herds are completed.
4.5.2	Mountain caribou herds continue to be cooperatively monitored with Yukon and NWT territorial governments.
4.5.3	Caribou management recommendations are developed in cooperation with First Nations, Métis and research partners, and implemented by 2014.

Objective 5:	
	Nahʔa Dehé serves as a regional model for cultural resource management, respecting traditional users and interests while complying with Parks Canada's CRM Policy and Directives.
Target:	
5.1	Cultural resource management for NNPR meets or exceeds Parks Canada guidelines.
Actions:	
5.1.1	Collaborate with the Nahʔa Dehé Consensus Team and other partners on the documentation, protection and presentation of cultural resources in NNPR.
5.1.2	The Nahʔa Dehé Consensus Team will document and recommend recognition of traditional place names to the Canadian Geographic Place Names Committee.
5.1.2	Develop a <i>Cultural Resource Values Statement</i> (CRVS) for the park by 2014.
5.1.3	Expand the cultural resource inventory for the park to include the expansion area.
5.1.4	Prepare a <i>Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Strategy</i> for the park by 2014