

DRAFT

Key Strategy #3: Waters for Life

Communities in the Dehcho rely on the life sustaining waters of Nahʔą Dehé. Clean water has been a significant concern for Dehcho First Nations serving as the impetus for park expansion. Water is key to culture and interconnections. It is important for the people, wildlife and plants that live in and are connected to Nahʔą Dehé and for the people who visit the area.

Water quality will continue to be important in the future for park management, given the primary recreational experience is travelling the South Nahanni River and that there is regional industrial development in close proximity to the park.

Objective 1:	
The waters of Nahʔą Dehé are high quality and unimpaired by activities outside park boundaries.	
Target:	
1.1	Water quality remains within recommended federal and local site-specific guidelines.
Actions:	
1.1.1	Continue baseline water quality monitoring, in cooperation with Environment Canada, other agencies and local communities as appropriate
1.1.2	Update site-specific water quality guidelines with current monitoring data, and present to users and regulators.
Target:	
1.2	Upstream industrial activity has no detectable effect on park waters.
Actions:	
1.2.1	Actively monitor water quality at potentially impacted watercourses (<i>e.g.</i> Flat River and Prairie Creek).

1.2.2	Complete South Nahanni Watershed Study, and implement resulting recommendations for stream monitoring.
Target:	
1.3	The park's Ecological Integrity Monitoring Program is fully implemented, including all water-related indicators, by 2014.
Actions:	
1.3.1	Ensure monitoring measures are in place for Freshwater, Wetland and Glacier indicators; at minimum, each indicator will have adequate measures for assessment in 2014.
Target:	
1.4	The condition of all water-related indicators reported in 2009 <i>State of the Park Report</i> have been maintained or improved by 2014.
Actions:	
1.4.1	Indicators and measures with low rankings in 2009 are addressed; <i>e.g.</i> glacier monitoring is further developed, in cooperation with NRCan Glaciology group.

Objective 2:

Local communities understand and are involved in water quality issues and management.	
Target:	
2.1	Increased capacity and better information helps local communities to be aware of water quality monitoring results.
Actions:	
2.1.1	Opportunities for training in water quality monitoring are provided to enable local communities to participate in monitoring programs.
2.1.2	Results of water monitoring are communicated on an annual basis with local communities.
2.2.1	Prompt notification of any significant changes to water quality is made to Dehcho First Nations leadership.

Objective 3:

The South Nahanni River continues to be the primary multi-day recreational	
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	experience for park visitors.
Target:	
3.1	The river corridor remains an exceptional backcountry experience for visitors.
Actions:	
3.1.1	Continue the campsite monitoring program, allowing staff to take action when necessary to ensure minimal impact to the ecology and experience of visitors.
3.1.2	Visitors are informed of low-impact backcountry practices and are encouraged to use facilities where provided.
Target:	
3.2	Human waste management in the park will be improved in order to reduce the risk of water contamination, as well as, reducing the environmental footprint and cost of handling waste removal.
3.2.1	Review the management of human waste along the river corridor (and in the park).