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Area Management Approach: Expansion Area

The new boundaries of Nahanni National Park Reserve protect a diverse array of unique landforms and important wildlife habitat. The tallest mountain in the Northwest Territories, which has no official name, is situated within the new boundaries, as are the territories largest glaciers. Important habitat for wide-ranging species such as northern mountain caribou and grizzly bears is now protected. The globally unique Nahanni North Karst, containing caves, limestone pavements, canyons, poljes, sinkholes, and extensive underground drainage systems are contained within the new park boundary which now encompasses more than 30,000 square kilometers of the Mackenzie Mountains natural region.

Canadians and international visitors will be able to experience Nahanni in new and exciting ways. Nah?a Dehé has world-renowned places for canoeing, rafting, backpacking, climbing, mountaineering, camping, flight-seeing and day hikes. Places with exciting names and even more exciting features, such as Cirque of the Unclimbables, Death Lake, the Broken Skull River, the Vampire Peaks and the Tlogotsho Plateau, are now protected for all time.

The expansion area is a welcome addition, and brings with it the need for several new partnerships, and possibilities for expanded recreation and visitor opportunities. In addition, cultural resources, ecological integrity, public safety, environmental hazards, and appropriate zoning, must all be considered. An AMA is proposed for the expansion area to allow for focused management, research, and relationship-building.

The Expansion Area AMA is envisioned to have a life span of five years. This time period will enable management direction for the expansion area to be fully developed. Direction for the expansion area is also included in sections 8 to 10 (access, zoning, and administration and operations).

Objective 1:	
Build greater understanding of the expansion area, so as to include detailed management direction in the 2015 management plan. Base any decisions in the interim on the precautionary principle and through adaptive management.	
Target:	
1.1	Baseline information is gathered and assessed over the next five years.
Actions:	
1.1.1	Baseline inventory work including occurrence of rare or endemic species, sensitive landscape features, and cultural or archaeological resources is conducted.
1.1.2	Interim actions in the expansion area will be based on precautionary principles and the best information available to park staff. Actions will be guided by the direction provided by the Consensus Team and the park management plan.
Target:	
1.2	Current park guidance is updated to include the expansion area.
Actions:	
1.2.1	Planning documents including the Public Safety Plan, Fire Management Plan, and Bear Management Plan will be reviewed and updated to ensure the park expansion area is included.
1.2.2	The process for awarding business licences for non-river use will be assessed and implemented.
Target:	
2.2	A thorough pre-trip information program per activity/user group is developed before a new visitor experience is promoted.
Actions:	
2.2.1	Work with stakeholders and specialists to investigate the visitor experience potential in the expansion area.

2.2.2	Consult with members of specialized activity communities (ie: rock, climbing, mountaineering, caving) to develop a service offer which meets the needs of current and future visitors participating in a specialised activity.
2.2.3	Develop a code of practice for climbing.
2.2.4	Develop a pre-trip planning information package that is targeted at each new activity or key location to identify specific safety issues or travel requirements
Target:	
2.3	All backcountry users (ex. climbers, sport hunters) will understand the extent of services provided by NNPR and have an accessible system for registration, de-registration and backcountry fee payment.
Actions:	
2.3.1	Develop methods for visitor registration, de-registration and payment of required fees which compliments current means of access.
2.3.2	Communicate the northern backcountry user fee system to all users.
Target:	
2.4	Assess the need for infrastructure to support visitor experience, public safety and other park management needs by 2014.
Actions:	
2.4.1	Assess the requirements for visitor infrastructure and staff facilities at Glacier Lake.
2.4.2	Assess the current facilities and services (outhouse, food caches and satellite phone) provided at the Fairy Meadows, examining visitor, public safety and ecological concerns. Develop an action plan.

Objective 3:	
	All impacted sites in the expansion area are returned to a natural state.
Target:	

3.1	Clean-up of identified sites is complete by September 2014.
Actions:	
3.1.1	Identify and inventory sites in the expansion area that require some form of remediation (by August 2011).
3.1.2	Develop a prioritized plan for clean-up and remediation of identified sites (by March 2012).
Target:	
3.2	All fuel caches which are used for operations by Parks Canada or business licence holders in the park have secondary containment by 2011.
Actions:	
3.2.1	Identify, assess and designate fuel caches.
3.2.2	Install secondary containment facilities at all selected official caches

Objective 4:	
Expand recognition of Canadian Heritage River and World Heritage Site to include the expansion area, and that of the proposed park in the upper watershed.	
Target:	
1.1	If and when, a national park in upper watershed of Nah?ą Dehé is established, work with the cooperative management boards and appropriate organizations to expand recognition of both programs to the entire Nah?ą Dehé watershed.
Actions:	
1.1.1	Apply to Canadian Heritage River System to include the entire length of the South Nahanni River as a Canadian Heritage River.
1.1.2	Apply to UNESCO to extend the World Heritage status to the entire Nah?ą Dehé watershed.

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