



AIRCRAFT ACCESS

A new management plan is being developed for Nahanni to provide a long-term vision and strategic direction for the park. The following is draft content for aircraft access. Be involved in management planning and share your views.

Designated Landing Sites

Currently, there are two designated landing sites for visitors in the park. An additional six locations are proposed to provide visitor access (see table).

Location	Float plane	Wheeled Plane	Helicopter	Type of Use	
				Day-use	Overnight Access
Nájljicho (Virginia Falls)	✓		✓	✓	✓
Gahnjthah Mie (Rabbitkettle Lake)	✓		✓		✓
Bunny Bar 62° 01' 35" N 127° 19' 35" W	✓	✓	✓		✓
Island Lakes (Haywire Lake) 62° 21' 15" N 128° 13' 50" W	✓		✓		✓
Island Lakes (Honeymoon Lake) 62° 20' 50" N 128° 11' 00" W	✓		✓		✓
Glacier Lake 62° 05' 00" N 127° 34' 00" W	✓		✓	✓	✓
Fairy Meadows 62° 06' 05" N 127° 39' 40" W			✓	?	✓
Seaplane Lake 61° 24' 50" N 126° 49' 00" W	✓		✓		✓

Access to Other Areas

Aircraft access into the park, apart from the designated areas, may be permitted by the Park Superintendant on a case-by-case basis. When making the decision for permitting access, consideration will be given to other reasonable means of access, the potential for

significant adverse effects to ecological integrity, wilderness character, public safety, visitor experience and enjoyment, as well as impacts on traditional use. Permission for aircraft access to areas not identified for landing in the designated wilderness in the original park, such as Hole-in-the Wall Lake, will be facilitated through an application form submitted to the Superintendent.

Fuel caches in the park

Existing fuel caches (no matter the number of containers) will be inventoried and assessed. Discussion with stakeholders will lead to the designation of official caches. A clean-up of existing sites will occur, and proper environmental containment will be put-in place at the designated caches.



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Plan Goals, Objectives and Actions

Many of the proposed actions are from the 2004 plan. New items are noted in blue.

Access to the park will be managed to ensure that the park's ecological integrity and wilderness experience are complemented and respected

- Maintain the wilderness quality of the park while allowing air access.
 - ~~Limit~~ Primary aircraft access for visitors ~~to~~ is via the eight designated landing sites in the park.
 - Encourage regional air charter operators to reduce disruption to visitors' wilderness experience caused by low level flights by decreasing the frequency and intensity of aircraft flights along the river corridor.
 - Monitor the effects of motorized access to ensure they do not result in detrimental impacts to either the ecological integrity of the park, or to the wilderness experience of the visitor.
- Maintain or increase visitor numbers
 - Maintain the current carrying capacity for South Nahanni River users.
 - Increase the use of the park area outside of the South Nahanni River corridor.

Commercial activities will be consistent with the maintenance and protection of the ecological integrity of the park, the quality of visitor experience, traditional use and offer opportunities for Aboriginal training and employment as per the Interim Park Management Agreement between Parks Canada and Dehcho First Nations.

- Seek ways to improve the ability for Aboriginal commercial operations to benefit from, and contribute to, the park, while respecting the commitment and investment of current commercial operators.
 - Initiate a review of the distribution and allocation of commercial business licenses.
- Monitor the activities of commercial operators to ensure the ecological integrity of the park and quality visitor experience is maintained.
 - Continue to collaborate with air charter companies and river outfitters to ensure quality delivery of commercial services to visitors.
 - In collaboration with commercial operations, prepare Codes of Good Practice to reduce the potential impact to the ecological integrity of the park and the quality of visitor experience.

Comments:

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