

Draft Park Vision

A vision for Nahanni National Park Reserve is a key element of the management plan. The vision should paint an inspiring picture of the future desired state of the park. The planning team has developed a draft vision statement.

Travelling through the land of the Nahʔa Dene, who have lived on this land since time immemorial, local legends excite the imagination. Dene culture, so intimately linked to the ecology of Nahʔa Dehé, is respected. A moment of solitude brings a humbling realization of size amongst the immense walls of First Canyon and the thundering power of Náįlįcho.

The Creator of the Dene blessed Dehcho elders with the foresight to protect the life sustaining waters of Nahʔa Dehé, a place of mystery, spirituality and healing. Protecting the flowing water, rhythms of the earth and the way of animals respects equality with the land and all living things. Dene are inseparable from the land. Cultural practices and traditional subsistence harvesting are integral and sustainable parts of the ecosystem, occurring in accordance with Dene laws and principles.

Nahʔa Dehé protects a wilderness watershed in the Mackenzie Mountains where natural processes such as fires and floods are the dominant forces shaping the land. Special features of the park, and cultural and spiritual sites are preserved. Naturally-occurring plant communities flourish and native animal species, including woodland caribou and grizzly bears thrive.

Nahanni National Park Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a model of cooperative management with Dehcho First Nations where ecological and cultural integrity are protected, wilderness experiences and enjoyment are encouraged. Nahʔa Dehé serves as a national long-term ecological research and monitoring site, and promotes excellence in the conduct of science and cooperative resource protection.

Communities, volunteers and stakeholders continue to be actively engaged in the collaborative protection and presentation of Nahʔa Dehé, ensuring respect for the land continues into future generations.

Visitors have diverse, world-class opportunities to experience and learn about the natural and cultural heritage of Nahʔa Dehé. Flying into the park, range after range of rocky peaks, vast plateaux and canyons hundreds of metres deep unfold below the wings. Once on the ground, watchful eyes may catch a glimpse of wildlife: a bear passing in the bush, moose browsing at the side of pond, or Dall's sheep leaping nimbly on rocky hillsides. Day after day, paddlers explore ever changing currents, rewarded near the end of their journey with hot springs to relax their aching muscles.

Nahʔa Dehé will touch and inspire people who may never dip their paddles in the waters of this Canadian Heritage River, climb the rough granite rock walls or fly into this remote watershed. Nahʔa Dehé is in the hearts and minds of all Canadians.