Introduction

This annual newsletter provides brief status reports on projects concerning the establishment and development of new parks and conservation initiatives in northern Canada. Aboriginal land claims remain a key factor in the establishment of parks and protected areas.

Eleven of Yukon’s 14 First Nations have Final Agreements and Self-Government Agreements in place. The Council of Yukon First Nations is the central political organization for the First Nation people of the Yukon.


Government and the Dehcho First Nations signed a Framework Agreement and an Interim Measures Agreement in 2001, marking significant steps in the Dehcho Process toward negotiating a final agreement. The Northwest Territory Métis Nation is currently working with government toward an agreement-in-principal. Land claim and treaty land entitlement considerations for all areas where claims are not settled will strongly influence the timing of conservation proposals in those areas.

The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (1993) provides a process for the establishment of national parks, territorial parks and conservation areas in Nunavut. Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements must be concluded for all existing territorial parks and for management plans for all existing parks and conservation areas.

Further information on land claim agreements may be found at the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada site at http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100030583/1100100030584

These claim areas are indicated on the front-page map.

Judi Cozzetto, Editor

Editor’s note: 2013 is the last year I will be putting this publication together. It is unknown if New Parks North will continue in 2014 and beyond. I hope that you’ve enjoyed the work that the partners have put together over the years. Enjoy your read!

Yukon, NWT and Nunavut Land Claim Settlement Regions

Quick Reference
1. Council for Yukon First Nations Claims Area
2. Inuvialuit Settlement Region
3. Gwich’in Settlement Area
4. Sahtu Settlement Area
5. Dehcho
6. North Slave (Treaty 11)*
7. South Slave (Treaty 8)*
8. Nunavut Settlement Region

* Overlap exists in claim areas

Highlights

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**Nunavut**

**Government of Nunavut – Department of Environment**  
*Nunavut Parks and Special Places Division*

**Program Development and Planning**  
The Government of Nunavut (GN), Department of Environment’s (DoE), Nunavut Parks and Special Places (NP&SP) Division continues to make progress in redefining its core program and planning tools. Included in this is the advancement of a new NP&SP Program and finalizing new frameworks for park management plans, master plans and inventories of park resources. Revisions to the Territorial Parks Act and its Regulations to reflect the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, as well as review of the Territorial Parks System Plan, are also underway.

In keeping with the Umbrella Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement (IIBA) for Territorial Parks, the GN represented by DoE, remains committed to working with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and each of the three Regional Inuit Associations in the joint planning, management and establishment of impact and benefit measures related to protected areas in Nunavut. The parties continue to focus on implementing the IIBA and negotiate funding of its 17 Articles with the federal government.

**Continued Support for National Protected Area Initiatives**

DoE, with NP&SP acting as the lead, has provided support for many federal protected area initiatives in Nunavut. DoE has supported feasibility studies for Ukkusiksalik National Park of Canada and Qausuitutuq, the proposed national park on northern Bathurst Island. The department has also supported the feasibility study and development of Parks Canada’s proposed Lancaster Sound marine conservation area. DoE’s involvement at the federal level also includes support for a national marine conservation area framework through work with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

**Territorial Park Feasibility Studies and New Park Initiatives**

Based on attraction development projects initiated in 2001, DoE’s mandate under the Territorial Parks Act and existing land use, community and economic development plans, NP&SP continues to work with Clyde River and Kugaaruk to advance proposed park projects in these areas. Furthermore, within the context of the development of the Nunavut Parks Program, NP&SP is also working with local communities to study three additional locations in Nunavut, including Napartulik/Alex Heiberg Island, the Belcher Islands (Sanikiluaq), and the area surrounding Arviat in the Qikiqtaaluk and Kivalliq regions. The focus is on protecting and preserving these areas’ natural and cultural heritage, and enhancing opportunities for recreation, tourism and economic development.

**Aggutinni – proposed Territorial Park**

Clyde River sits in the midst of a spectacular fiord landscape on the east coast of Baffin Island. Each fiord has its own unique sculpted rock walls with dramatic formations, like the monumental cliffs at the junction of Sam Ford Fiord and Walker Arm and the high vertical cliffs of the meandering China wall. The area around Clyde River includes open-ocean, deep inlets, icebergs, sheer mountain walls, glaciers, rivers, valleys and tundra. Wildlife includes polar bears, seals, narwhal, bowhead whales, caribou, hare, arctic fox, and numerous species of birds. The rolling hills of the Barnes Plateau, found at the end of the fiords, continue to be important caribou hunting grounds for Nunavummiut.

DoE has been working with the community of Clyde River, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) and various stakeholders toward advancing a new territorial park in the region. Key community representatives from the Clyde River Hunters and Trappers Organization, Hamlet Council, Community Lands and Resources Committee, Elders Council and Youth Council led the feasibility process. In December 2012, Nunavut’s Cabinet gave approval to proceed to the master planning phase of the territorial park establishment process.

DoE will commence work on the
master plan in close co-operation with the community of Clyde River, the QIA and relevant stakeholders in keeping with the Umbrella IIBA for Territorial Parks and the territorial park establishment process.

Kugaaruk

The community of Kugaaruk and NP&SP staff have worked together for many years toward a proposed territorial park in the Pelly Bay region. In 2010/11, the Hamlet of Kugaaruk and the Park Advisory Committee endorsed a final feasibility study and recommended park concept for a proposed park on the east and west sides of Pelly Bay. Following discussions between the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, DoE and the community in 2011/12, an alternative proposed park concept was recommended by the community. The alternative concept proposes a two-phased approach to park establishment be pursued, with immediate focus on the Kugaaruk stone church site, Kugaaruk River Valley and St. Peter Bay Islands. DoE will continue to work with the community of Kugaaruk and relevant stakeholders toward the establishment of a proposed territorial park in keeping with the Territorial Parks IIBA and the territorial park establishment process.

Napartulik / Axel Heiberg Island Fossil Forest Sites

Napartulik is on uninhabited Axel Heiberg Island, Canada’s seventh-largest and second-most northern island. It is located in the Qikiqtaaluk Region approximately 385 km north of Grise Fiord, Canada’s northern-most community, about 1,895 km from Iqaluit and an amazing 3,860 km north of Ottawa. This makes Axel Heiberg closer to the capitals of Norway and Iceland than Canada’s capital. It is also relatively close to Quttinirpaaq National Park of Canada.

The fossil forests of Napartulik are approximately 45 million years old, yet their remains – stumps, leaves, branches, trunks and cones – are still clearly visible on the surface of the high arctic soil. Even more intriguing is the fact that the abundant plant material is not fossilized but perfectly preserved in a mummified state. Napartulik is an extremely rare site with only two or three similar places known to exist in the world, but none that boast such an ancient or well-preserved collection of plant life. In addition to mummified plants, Napartulik is also known for several major fossil animal discoveries. It may also hold the key to understanding one of the most ancient and devastating global extinction events in Earth’s history.

DoE finalized a background study in late 2011 that collected information in support of a feasibility determination for a territorial park at Napartulik to help preserve these astounding and globally significant fossils and its sensitive natural environment. Inuit, Government and stakeholder review of the background study, and consultations to determine how best to proceed, are in progress.

Sanikiluaq (Belcher Islands)

Nunavut Parks is currently working to collect information and explore options for a territorial park or special place development in this area. A final background study, coupled with a community supported park option, will flow from this process to help guide the determination for a potential park or special place.
For more information please contact the Canadian Wildlife Service at: 867-975-4642.
The community of Sanikiluaq and the surrounding islands, located 150 kms from mainland Quebec in the south eastern part of Hudson Bay, represents a unique marine/coastal landscape that is not currently represented in the Nunavut Parks Program. Consisting of over 1,500 islands with a total land area of over 1,300 km², this distinct location offers one of the most southerly extensions for many high arctic species making it an important area for further study and future protection.

Breeding bird populations, including ptarmigan and eider duck, and seasonal species such as harbour seal, beluga and white whale are prominent among the islands. Outstanding scenic features of waterfalls, distinct geological formations, sandy beaches, twisting inlets and bays make the islands a prime location for water-based recreation and attraction-based tourism development. The islands also feature an abundance of historic and cultural resources. Over 67 documented archaeological sites dating back to the Dorset have been identified. Park or special place establishment would allow for the preservation of these cultural resources while offering opportunities for interpretation and heritage appreciation by residents and visitors alike.

Arviat
Arviat is the second-most southern community in Nunavut, located in the Kivalliq Region approximately 260 km north of Churchill, MB and about 100 km away from the tree line. Arviat is located in close proximity to the McConnell Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Arviqjuaq and Qikiqtarjuaq National Historic Sites of Canada, and is surrounded by a number of rivers that wind through the open tundra.

DoE and the community of Arviat are nearing completion on a protected area background study that gathered information about the area and developed park concepts in keeping with the goals and objectives of the community and Nunavut Parks Program.

Be available for use by community Elders free of charge, but will also be available to community members and groups for special events for a reasonable fee. Now completed, a grand opening is planned for the 2013 summer season.

Kugluk (Bloody Falls) Territorial Park
Kugluk (Bloody Falls) Park is located 15 km southwest of the community of Kugluktuk, on the lower, Canadian Heritage River nominated, Coppermine River. The 10 hectare area contains remnants of Thule winter houses used more than 500 years ago, archaeological evidence of caribou hunting camps of more than 1,500 years ago, Pre-Dorset use of the site more than 3,500 years ago, and a rich history of fishing and Arctic exploration.

Due to the local proximity of the park to the community of Kugluktuk, local use of the area is increasing. Issues such as trail erosion,
increased ATV use, archaeological site disturbance and willow tree management have emerged. In response, DoE, in partnership with community of Kugluktuk and the Park Advisory Committee, have undertaken visitor surveys, inventory, trail signage, and site and interpretive planning measures to minimize harm to the park resources; maximize human movement through the park; manage future uses and impacts; and increase the interpretive potential. This work remains ongoing in 2013.

**Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park**

Located one kilometre from the heart of Iqaluit, Sylvia Grinnell Territorial Park provides an opportunity for many visitors and residents to easily access an Arctic landscape. The park provides visitors with a chance to see a variety of Arctic plants, mammals and birds. Cultural heritage in the park area includes traditional fishing sites at the Sylvia Grinnell River rapids, stone cairns and Thule ruins. A recent recreation study in Iqaluit found demand and use has made Sylvia Grinnell Iqaluit’s number one recreation site.

DoE continues to work on the development of camping sites and access roads within the park. New walking trails and adjacent parking stalls were completed in 2011 and work continues into 2012/13.

**Northwest Territories**

**Government of Canada – Parks Canada Agency**

**National Parks**

**Nááts’ihch’oh National Park Reserve of Canada**

Canada’s 44th national park, Nááts’ihch’oh National Park Reserve was announced by Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Norman Wells on August 22nd, 2012. The ceremony took place on the banks of the Mackenzie River with over a hundred people in attendance. Distinguished guests included approximately 45 individuals representing Tulita and Norman Wells Sahtu Dene and Métis, Members of Parliament, Government of the NWT Premier and Members of the Legislative Assembly, Parks Canada Agency (PCA) officials and numerous Norman Wells community leaders and members. Prime Minister Harper, Premier Bob McLeod, The Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for Parks Canada, Rick Hardy, Sahtu Dene and Métis Chief Negotiator for the Nááts’ihch’oh National Park Reserve Impact and Benefit Plan (IBP), and Sahtu Grand Chief Frank Andrew spoke at the event. In his speech, the Prime Minister said, “Any day there’s a park announcement is a good day.”

The Prime Minister also unveiled a plaque which will be placed at the base of the mountain, Nááts’ihch’oh. The plaque commemorates the Sahtu Dene and Métis Elders of the Tulita District who considered their cultural and spiritual roots in deciding on the name for the new park and the iconic mountain that is its namesake.

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The day before the announcement, a small party accompanied the Prime Minister on an overflight of the park reserve. They landed on the Moose Ponds where they hiked around the area and relaxed in a small clearing overlooking the Moose Ponds with the majesty of Naats’ihch’oh facing them.

Measuring 4,850 km², Naats’ihch’oh National Park Reserve adjoins the northern boundary of Nahanni National Park Reserve and reaches the Yukon boundary to the west. This area has been travelled and valued for hunting, trading and its spiritual importance by the Shuhtagot’ine (Mountain Dene) of the Tulita District for many generations. The mountain from which the park takes its name is credited with great spiritual powers.

Naats’ihch’oh National Park Reserve will serve as a launching area for visitors wanting to experience the spectacular landscapes of the upper reaches of the world-famous South Nahanni River, and to hike, canoe, raft and climb in the new Naats’ihch’oh

**History and Archaeology in the Selwyn and Mackenzie Mountains**

In the summer of 2012, an archaeological team from the University of Alberta and the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC), and Shuhtagot’ine Dene worked in the remote Selwyn Mountains of the NWT near the northern edge of the recently created Naats’ihch’oh National Park Reserve of Canada. Our goals are to learn more about the ancient caribou hunting, fishing and resource use in alpine habitats by the Shuhtagot’ine Dene and their ancestors. Archaeological work involved surveys of O’Grady Lake and neighbouring ice patches, which have yielded amazingly well-preserved arrows and darts dropped by alpine caribou hunters thousands of years ago. This project is part of on-going research in the area by the PWHNC.

The 2012 crew found eight new prehistoric sites with stone tools and animal bones and these sites will be returned to in 2013 for further excavation. The field season revealed tantalizing evidence of First Nations heritage, including a possible dwelling, cooking areas, and stone tool raw materials that had been traded or carried for hundreds of kilometres. The archaeological finds will be supplemented by oral history research, traditional knowledge interviews with Shuhtagot’ine Elders and DNA analyses of ice patch animal remains.

Permafrost river slumps at the inlet of O’Grady Lake in 2012 created large sedimentary profiles spanning the last 8,000 years. The profiles were cleaned and sampled for plant remains and volcanic ash that blanketed the landscape around 1,200 years ago. Radiocarbon samples collected from the profile will be analysed, along with the record of vegetation change, to reveal the environmental conditions that ancient people adapted to over the millennia. An additional goal of the project is to learn how archaeological information can be shared with the First Nation community of Tulita, NWT, in respectful and meaningful ways, including the use of illustrations and digital storytelling. To learn more about the project, please contact Todd Kristensen at toddk@ualberta.ca

© photo by Jason Ransom, 22 August 2012

**Plaque unveiling on the shores of the Mackenzie River, Norman Wells, NWT**

(l-r) Robert Kent, Field Unit Superintendent, SWNWT Field Unit; Gordon Hamre (ret.), Senior Advisor, Parks Establishment; the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada; Lee Montgomery, Manager, Northern National Parks Establishment; Alan Latourelle, CEO, Parks Canada.

Excavation site at O’Grady Lake, summer 2012.

Todd Kristensen is a PhD Student at the Department of Anthropology, University of Alberta, and this work will form the basis of his PhD.
and recently expanded Nahanni National Park Reserves. Within the park reserves, habitat for mountain woodland caribou, grizzly bears, Dall’s sheep, mountain goats and Trumpeter swans will be preserved.

The signing of the IBP was also officially announced on August 22nd. This agreement between PCA and the Sahtu Dene and Métis of the Tulita District covers aspects of the economic, employment and park management relationships that will guide the park operations. Two financial grants were provided to the Tulita District Benefit Corporation (TDBC); one provides for negotiations of PCA offices and facilities and the second provides for a scholarship program. The IBP has provisions for TDBC to construct an office building in which PCA will eventually be a long-term lease holder.

The Sahtu Dene and Métis Land Corporations and Renewable Resources Councils (RRC) of the Tulita District and PCA have begun to implement the IBP. The RRC and the Minister responsible for PCA have appointed their membership to the Nááts’ihch’oh Management Committee which has met three times to begin management actions. Hiring for the new park reserve will begin in 2013, along with the opening of the temporary park offices.

National Historic Sites

Saoyú-Áehdacho National Historic Site of Canada

Through a PCA contribution agreement, the Délı̨nę Land Corporation organized and held the annual community cultural camp on Saoyú in July 2012 at Thì’rehda or Dog Point (Cloud Bay on English maps). Up to 75 people took part, including 17 youth and additional little ones, 12 Elders and most of the Co-operative Management Board, including the new Western Arctic Field Unit Superintendent, Diane Wilson, and a PCA New Media Officer. Hunters shot ducks and two moose and netted fish. Elders showed young people how to properly prepare and smoke the fish and meat - including the moose heads - and how to pluck, singe and roast ducks. Elder women also showed girls how to collect spruce pitch and boil it over the fire to make medicine. The youth were provided with five video cameras and asked to record the experience from their perspective. This was a great success, encouraging interactions between Elders and youth. There was much celebration when the Rangers arrived in camp for the last evening, on their way back from a training exercise, and the camp closed with a Feeding of the Fire ceremony.

The Management Board consistently emphasizes that developing capacity in the community is critical, particularly in the documentation of heritage. In response, PCA ran an intensive five-day video workshop in Délı̨nę following the cultural camp. With direction from Neil Ingroville, PCA New Media Officer, Morris Neyelle, Candice F. Baton, and Felix Kargegie used raw video footage from the Saoyú cultural camp to create a short video that expresses the essence of the camp. The keen students stayed late some evenings to ensure that they learned all the steps in making a video product. The ultimate goal is to post the video to the Saoyú-Áehdacho website and the PCA YouTube channel.

The parties to the Saoyú-Áehdacho Management Agreement committed to using traditional Sahtugot’éné names whenever possible. PCA is aiming to exceed this basic requirement on the Saoyú-Áehdacho website, which is scheduled to go live in early 2013. The site will feature North Slavey text on both the English and French sites and it is planned that in the future visitors will have the option to listen to North Slavey audio as well.

Saoyú-Áehdacho National Historic Site (SENHS) is now in the Conservation Areas Reporting and Tracking System (CARTS) database as a Category VI protected area and will be included in future protected areas status reports. Following the Management Board’s approval in spring 2012, PCA submitted the site for inclusion in the CARTS database, the authoritative collection of protected areas in Canada. The database provides a single web site where people can view all Canadian protected areas. To be included, an area must meet the definition of protected area developed by the IUCN.

“A clearly defined geographical space, recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means, to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values.”

In Category VI, the emphasis is on sustainable use of natural resources through activities such as hunting, as well as the protection of natural ecosystems and ecological processes. SENHS is the first national historic site administered by PCA that is IUCN-designated. The CARTS project is being managed by the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas, a non-profit organization with members from federal, provincial and territorial governments.
Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy

Protecting Important Places in the Northwest Territories

“The land takes care of us, we take care of the land.”

This is the NWT Protected Areas Strategy (PAS) motto, and it gets to the heart of what we are trying to do together. The land, the wildlife and the water in the NWT are special, and we all rely on them. One way the people of the NWT are making sure their special places are preserved for the next generation is by working together to create protected areas.

Protected Areas Strategy: A Partnership

The NWT PAS is a community-based process to establish a network of protected areas across the NWT. That means that the inspiration for protecting an area comes from the people who live there and are connected with that place. The PAS process works with communities to help them choose the type of area designations that match their values, vision, and cultural and economic needs. For example, a designation may allow outfitting while preserving certain values to meet the desires of the community, or perhaps another designation protects different values or needs and allows other commercial ventures that would be a better fit. Communities may consider combinations of territorial, federal and regional designations, depending on the type and degree of protection desired.

Protected Areas Strategy: The Goals

One of the goals of the PAS is to protect core representative areas within each of the NWT ecoregions. These core areas have no industrial development and capture a range of different landforms, vegetation and wildlife to help protect biodiversity of the region. Core representative areas are needed because:

- they help some species adapt to climate change;
- they can be used as monitoring areas to help measure the effects of development; and
- they are an ‘insurance policy’ as people learn more about the land and human impacts on it.

Core areas have long-term, year-round protection; are ecologically intact, primarily for the protection of nature; and are effectively managed. A systematic planning approach is necessary to identify core areas.

To date the PAS has used the ecoregions of the 1996 Ecological Framework for Canada to measure success in meeting the goal of protecting core representative areas in each ecoregion of the NWT. Over the past several years, the Government of the NWT (GNWT) has reviewed and updated these ecoregion boundaries. The map (see page 12) shows the revised boundaries along with candidate protected areas in the NWT.

The other goal of the PAS is to protect special natural and cultural areas in the NWT. Depending on their designation, these areas may be core areas or include ‘conservation lands’ having less stringent protection than core areas. Conservation lands still have conservation value and contribute to the maintenance of ecosystems, species and the protection of important traditional and cultural areas. Industrial development could occur in conservation lands, but only if it does not compromise the values being protected.

There are several mechanisms (e.g. legislation, policy, land use planning) that can be used to establish core or conservation lands.

Edézhíe National Wildlife Area

Edézhíe was the first candidate protected area in the NWT and it is the closest to being established as a National Wildlife Area (NWA) under the Canada Wildlife Act. The area includes the Horn Plateau, Mills Lake and Willow Lake River, and provides important habitat for boreal woodland caribou, wood bison, migratory waterfowl and waterbirds. The Dehcho First Nation and Tłı̨chǫ Government have actively pursued Edézhíe’s establishment. Edézhíe is a step closer to final establishment, with the Dehcho First Nation winning assurances from the federal and territorial governments that work will proceed to protect Edézhíe as an NWA under the Canada Wildlife Act.

“Edézhíe is very good water… pure water,” said Edwin Sabourin from Fort Providence. “This is our survival in the future. That is very important thing to our community, that water up there.”

The choice of NWA protection for Edézhíe is suited to its importance as both a site of traditional harvesting activities and scientific research. Edézhíe would be open to and welcome to all visitors, though no visitor facilities are anticipated. Activities like hunting (outfitted or sport) may be allowed in the NWA, but a permit is required from Environment Canada (EC). Aboriginal harvesting rights, including subsistence hunting and trapping are respected in an NWA.

Establishing protected areas like NWAs are a way of conserving land so people can continue to hunt for generations.

EC would administer the surface lands of the NWA, while subsurface lands would be administered by another agency, currently the Government of Canada, Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. Withdrawal of subsurface rights under the Territorial Lands Act is an option to prevent industrial development, such as oil and gas activities or mining.

EC’s Canadian Wildlife Service works with its partners to prepare management plans for each NWA. The management plan provides details on the activities allowed in the NWA: activities that will help reach or maintain the NWA’s goals are allowed, activities that will harm the wildlife or damage the land are usually not allowed. Management plans respect Aboriginal rights and practices.
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut

**Yukon**  
01. Agay Mene (proposed TP)  
02. AJ Goddard Shipwreck (Lake Laberge) THS  
03. Alek CHR  
04. Asi Keyi (proposed TP)  
05. Big Island HPA  
06. Bonnet Plume CHR  
07. Canyon City THS  
08. Coal River Springs TP  
09. Dawson City Telegraph Office; Yukon Sawmill Company Office THS  
10. Devil’s Elbow HPA  
11. Ddhaw Ghro HPA  
12. Fort Selkirk THS  
13. Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy & Fort Constantine THS  
14. Herschel Island-Qikkiparuk TP  
15. Horsethief Slough HPA  
16. Ivavik NP  
17. Kluane NP  
18. Kluane NFR  
19. Kusawa (proposed TP)  
20. Lansing Post THS  
21. Lewes Marsh (proposed HPA)  
22. L’Hutsaw Wetlands HPA  
23. Mabel McIntyre House, Mayo Legion Hall THS  
24. N’înînî’ Njik (Fishing Branch) TP  
25. Old Crow Flats (Van Tat K’at’änahhtii) HPA  
26. Pickhandle Lakes (proposed HPA)  
27. Rampart House THS  
28. Ridge Road Heritage Trail  
29. Shilshake THS  
30. Summit Lake/Bell River (proposed TP)  
31. Tagish Narrows (proposed HPA)  
32. Ta’tía Mun SMA  
33. Tatshenshini CHR  
34. The Caribou Hotel (Carcross) THS  
35. Thirty Mile (Yukon River) CHR  
36. Tombstone TP  
37. T’ôchëk NHS  
38. Taškwnjik Chu (Nordenskiöld) HPA  
39. Vuntut NP  
40. Whitefish Wetlands (proposed HPA)  

**NWT (see also NWT PAS map on page 12)**  
41. Anderson River Delta MBS  
42. Arctic Red River CHR  
43. Aulavik NP  
44. Banks Island No. 1 MBS  
45. Banks Island No. 2 MBS  
46. Canol Trail/Dodo Canyon TP  
47. Cape Parry MBS  
48. Délina Fishery & Fort Franklin NHS  
49. Ehdeaa NHS  
50. Fort Smith Mission TP  
51. Kendall Island MBS  
52. Kitigaryuit NHS  
53. Mackenzie River (or portions thereof (proposed CHR)  
54. Náatì/ibîchkat (proposed NPR)  
55. Naigeerkooyojik NHS  
56. Nahanni NFR  
57. Pingo Canadian Landmark  
58. Saoyu / Fehdacho NHS  
59. South Nahanni CHR  
60. Thaidene Nene (proposed NPR)  
61. Tuktut Nogait NP  
62. Wood Buffalo NP
Nunavut (also see CWS map on page 4)

63. Arvi'jaq NHS
64. Auyuittuq NP
65. Beechey Island TP
66. Coppermine River CHR
67. Fall Caribou Crossing NHS
68. Fossil Creek Trail/Alikivik TP
69. Iqalugaarjuaq Nunanga TP
70. Katannilik TP
71. Kazan River CHR
72. Kekerten TP
73. Kuglun/Bloody Falls TP
74. Lancaster Sound NMCA (proposed NMCA)
75. Malikjuaq TP
76. Northwest Passage Trail TP
77. Ovayok TP
78. Qaumarryvik TP
79. Qausuittuq (proposed NP)
80. Cuntinirpas,P NP
81. Sirmilik NP
82. Soper River CHR
83. Sylvia Grinnell TP
84. Thelon River CHR
85. Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary
86. Tuktut Nogait (area of interest)
87. Ukkusiksalik NP

Other
88. Torngat Mountains NP, NL
89. Wapusk NP, MB

Legend
■ Existing Parks, Park Reserves, and Sanctuaries
■ Proposed Parks
■ Territorial Parks (TP), Park Reserves and Historic Sites (THS)
◆ National Parks (NP), Park Reserves (NPR), Landmark and National Historic Sites (NHS)
☆ Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBS) and National Wildlife Areas (NWA)
★ Areas of Interest
◆ National Park and National Historic Site Proposals
★ Heritage Rivers
▼ Territorial Park and Historic Site Proposals
▲ Proposed Heritage Rivers
Other Conservation Areas
◆ National Marine Conservation Areas (NMCA) Proposals
Other Areas

There are several other areas communities have proposed for conservation or protection. These areas have gone through various stages of the PAS process. After Edéhzhie, the working group for Ts’ude niline Tu’eyeta (Ramparts River and Wetlands) has completed their recommendation report, now being considered by surrounding communities in the Sahtu region. Working groups for Ka’a’gee Tu, Sambaa K’e, and the North Arm in the southern part of the NWT are also preparing to issue their reports. The smaller areas of Lue Túé Sùlái (Five Fish Lakes) and Ejié Túé Ndáde (Buffalo Lake, River and Trails) are also being considered under territorial legislation.

In light of the pending devolution final agreement, the GNWT is evaluating its emerging role for the management of lands and resources in the NWT. As a result, the GNWT is now in a better position to define its approach to land use and management, specifically in relation to the PAS. The GNWT is committed to the PAS and land use planning post-devolution. In the interim, the GNWT has proposed to Canada that no additional commitments for NWAs be made until after devolution.

The GNWT will actively promote the use of northern tools as complements or alternatives for these and future candidate areas. The impending devolution of lands and resources to the GNWT will necessitate the evolution of northern tools. In addition to legislation currently found in the territorial parks and wildlife acts, land use planning will be one such instrument the GNWT is proposing to employ to meet the conservation goals of these proposed protected areas. The GNWT will continue to support the extension of interim land withdrawals for candidate areas until final decisions are made post-devolution.

Get Involved

The PAS is a joint effort between many organizations. The Steering Committee is made up of eight Aboriginal groups and governments, two industry groups, two environmental non-government groups, and the federal and territorial governments.

Akaitcho Territory Government
Dehcho First Nations
Gwich’in Tribal Council
Inuvialuit
North Slave Métis Alliance
Northwest Territory Métis Nation
Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
Tłı̨chǫ Government
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – NWT Chapter
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Government of Canada
Government of the NWT

If you would like more details, have an opinion or some information that you would like to share, contact the NWT PAS Secretariat in Yellowknife at (867) 920-3179 or by e-mail at nwt_pas@gov.nt.ca.

Yukon

Government of Yukon – Tourism and Heritage
Cultural Services Branch

Thirty Mile (Yukon) Heritage River

The Thirty Mile River is one of the most scenic and historic sections of the upper Yukon River, and was designated a Canadian Heritage River (CHR) in 1991. It was also the most challenging part for navigators, which the presence of many sternwheeler wrecks will attest to. There are several settlements along this part of the river, including Lower Laberge and Hootalinqua. Shipyard Island hosts the impressive remains of the S.S. Evelyn/Norcom. (also see article on page 16)

At Lower Laberge, the first stage of structural stabilization of the Telegraph Building began with the delivery of foundation logs to the site.
A Yukon River Survey was initiated, with questionnaires available at Lower Laberge and Fort Selkirk. The goal of this survey is to determine the nature of visitors to Yukon River historic sites, and to learn about their experience on the river. For those who have travelled the Yukon River, the questionnaire is available online: www.yukonhistoricplaces.ca

Fort Selkirk Historic Site

Fort Selkirk is viewed by many as the crown jewel of Yukon heritage. The site has been used by people for thousands of years and its over 40 standing structures, dating from as far back as 1892, represent a meeting place and home for two cultures. The restoration and interpretation program at Fort Selkirk was initiated 25 years ago, and the Selkirk First Nation / Government of Yukon (YG) partnership realized numerous accomplishments at the site in 2012.

The Joe Roberts Cabin was recipient of a new foundation, floor, log gable ends and roof. The roof had become structurally unstable so had to be dismantled to permit this work. To enhance the longevity of this and other buildings traditionally fitted with sod-covered pole roofs, an impermeable synthetic rubber membrane is now being used between the poles and the sod. The T&D Stable, which is associated with Fort Selkirk’s role as the terminus of the Dalton Trail, is currently the major storage structure for building materials. The building had deteriorated to the point where near total reconstruction was required. This is being done in two phases: the south half of the building walls have been rebuilt, and the north half will be completed this summer, assisted by a wintertime log acquisition project.

Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site

This site, established in 1886, is famous for being Yukon’s first gold mining community, having the first Northwest Mounted Police post and mission school, and being the location where the first Klondike Gold Rush claims were registered. There is evidence of human activity at the site 2,000 years prior to the gold prospector’s arrival.

Numerous activities occurred at Forty Mile in 2012. The Roadhouse, which was stabilized in 2011, has been fitted with interior improvements to allow for its use as maintenance workers’ accommodations. Wall tents over wood and plywood frames have been installed for interpreters’ housing and for wet weather visitors’ shelters. Access to the site is being improved with the upgrade of the pedestrian footbridge over a seasonally flooded slough. As well, the landing at the end of the access road, about one kilometre from the historic site, has been upgraded, with a thorough cleanup, directional signage, and repairs to the kitchen shelter.

Rampart and Lapierre House Historic Sites

Rampart House Historic Site, located near the mouth of Boundary Creek (Shånàghán K’ólnjík) at the boundary between the United States and Canada, was an important gathering place for Gwich’in living along the Porcupine River. It was one of the earliest Yukon places where Gwich’in met and interacted with fur traders, missionaries, police, and
government officials. It was home to several Gwich’in families and continues to be visited regularly by Gwich’in from Yukon and Alaska.

Work on the Anglican Rectory continued in 2012, with replacement of the foundation and lower rounds of the log walls, installation of the floor joists and precutting roof rafters. The work was carried out by Vuntut Gwitchin workers: Kibbe Tetlichi as site supervisor, Harvey Kassi, Joseph Bruce and Wilfred Josie as log workers, Devyn Kassi as assistant and Faye Elias and Saniz Catholique as cooks.

A team composed of YG and Vuntut Gwitchin staff visited Lapierre House to inspect the site and start planning for the installation of visitor facilities, including interpretive signage, boardwalks and an outhouse.

**Herschel Island Territorial Park**

Herschel Island - Qikiqtaruk (island in Inuvialuit) is Yukon’s only island in the Beaufort Sea. It has been occupied for at least 1,000 years by Inuvialuit and their ancestors, and came to prominence during the late 19th century commercial whaling boom. Its first European settlement was by whalers who overwintered with their ships at Pauline Cove. Anglican missionaries, fur traders and Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) arrived soon thereafter. The site declined with the end of

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**It Takes a Village to Raise a House on Herschel Island**

In summer 2012, Yukon Parks Branch undertook a challenging and unique construction project: building new living quarters for Park Rangers at Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park. Designing and building a house involves a considerable amount of work under normal circumstances. Imagine meeting modern building codes and historical and archaeological requirements for a construction project on a remote island in the Beaufort Sea.

In April a chartered DC-3 made three flights from Inuvik to Herschel to position lumber and building materials, which accounted for over half of the total budget. A work crew of three arrived on July 18 and with the assistance of Park Rangers, researchers and others, construction was completed on August 9.

The 20 x 24 building has a small footprint and was carefully designed to meet historical design considerations. The new structure is sited on a dry spot within the existing cluster of buildings at Pauline Cove, and it was built on elevated bracing to allow for relocation.

To minimize disturbance, planners also factored in Herschel’s wildlife and human visitors. In addition to being a staging area for migratory birds, the immediate area around the buildings is frequently used by ducks for nesting. Polar bears also frequent the island. During the summer cruise ships visit Herschel. Parks Branch worked with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, and available data, to schedule construction around all of the various visitors.

The project involved many partners including Yukon Historic Sites Unit, Herschel Island – Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park Rangers, staff from Yukon Parks in Whitehorse, Yukon Parks Klondike Region, as well as Environment Information Management & Technology.
whaling, and the closing of the RCMP detachment left the MacKenzie family as the last year-round Inuvialuit residents. Herschel Island Territorial Park was created under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, which gave Yukon Historic Sites responsibility for the historic settlement at Pauline Cove. Conservation and interpretation have been carried out on these resources since the mid-1980s.

A new Interpretive Plan has been created for the historic component of Herschel Island, and two projects have been undertaken under the plan. A DVD is being produced for distribution on the cruise ships that will introduce the island and its resources to the visitors, and describe the etiquette expected from visitors. This should save much time for the Park Rangers who have had to do this onboard prior to people debarking for the island. As well, a new system of rail based hangers is being installed in the Community House, where visitor interpretation is conducted, to permit interpretive posters to be displayed in a more coherent way without creating a multitude of holes in the historic wall panels.

Major building conservation work focussed on the Community House in 2012. This building sits on wood sills, which are permanently frozen to the ground year-round. After 120 years these sills are starting to rot and are gradually being replaced. The kitchen window was modified so it could open to assist with lowering moisture levels in the building and to allow the smell of cooking muktuk to escape. The other buildings received minor conservation projects including partial floor replacement in the Northern Whaling & Trading Co. Shed and door hardware upgrades in other buildings.

Environment Yukon
Parks and Conservation

By virtue of permanent withdrawal status, 11.3% of Yukon's land area is protected for conservation purposes. More protected areas will come in the future as a consequence of regional land use planning mandated by Yukon First Nation land claims. Four waterways have also been designated as CHRs. Progress was made in several areas over the course of 2012.

Canadian Heritage Rivers

The Tatshenshini River, the Thirty-Mile section of the Yukon River, the Alsek River and the Bonnet Plume River are designated CHRs. The Parks Branch of Environment Yukon monitors industrial use (e.g., mineral exploration activities) on the Tatshenshini, Bonnet Plume and Thirty-Mile. Parks Canada has the mandate to manage the Alsek River as a CHR.

Initial results from the second Backcountry Recreational Impact Monitoring (BRIM) program on the Thirty Mile section of the Yukon River indicate some overuse of the campsites. Further research using the 2006 and 2011 BRIM results determined the overall impacts. A mandatory 20-year monitoring report is now being prepared which will outline actions needed to protect the river in future. The monitoring report will also present a review of how the management plan for the Thirty Mile has been implemented since 1990, when the CHR designation was made. The report will be submitted to the CHR Board in 2013 and, once accepted, be available on the Environment Yukon website (www.env.gov.yk.ca). (also see article on page 13)

The Bonnet Plume River lies in the Peel River watershed and is remote even by Yukon standards. A public review of the final recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan generated significant public debate in 2012. The YG will make a decision once it reviews all the feedback received by the February 25, 2013, deadline on how to proceed to finalize the land use planning process for the Peel Watershed Region. The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, First Nation of Na-cho Nyäk Dun, Tr'ondëk Hwëch’in First Nation and Gwich’in Tribal Council are also involved with finalizing the plan.

Special Management Areas

Many Yukon First Nation final agreements provide for the creation of Special Management Areas (SMAs) to support the preservation of ecological values as well as traditional First Nation use. SMAs can protect First Nations’ settlement lands, territorial lands and/or federal lands. SMAs can acquire additional protection through designation as a Habitat Protection Area (HPA) under
the territory’s Wildlife Act or as a territorial park under the Parks and Land Certainty Act.

**Summit Lake – Bell River**

The North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan calls for protecting the pristine Bell River and Summit Lake area, by the Yukon-NWT border. This area contains some of the highest wildlife, fish, cultural, and heritage values in the region, including important concentrated use areas for the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

The Summit Lake-Bell River area also has high wilderness tourism and recreation value and potential. It is an important subsistence and cultural use area for Vuntut Gwitch’in, Tetlit Gwich’in and Inuvialuit residents. The YG and Vuntut Gwitch’in First Nation are working together to determine the boundary for the SMA and how it should be designated, e.g., Ecological Reserve.

**Parks**

Environment Yukon manages four territorial parks: Tombstone, Herschel Island - Qikiqtaruk, Ni’iinlii Njik (Fishing Branch) and Coal River Springs.

Yukon First Nation Final Agreements call for three additional territorial parks to be established: Kusawa, Agay Mene, and Asi Keyi. Each will have a park management plan which must consider natural and heritage resource protection, park management structures, and existing recreational use.

**Tombstone Territorial Park**

The Tombstone Interpretive Centre’s third full year of operations saw more than 12,000 visitors, of which 15% were part of organized tours by licensed wilderness tourism operators.
The park management plan provides for employment and economic opportunities for Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in citizens and directs activities in the park. The YG – Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Management Committee is undertaking a review of the three-year-old plan, to be completed in 2013, which will include public participation.

Tombstone’s 2,100 km² of diverse landscape, spectacular scenery and cultural history make it a popular destination for hikers and other travelers. Backcountry campsites can be reserved at Grizzly, Divide and Talus lakes. The park also has a 36-site campground for road travelers.

**Habitat Protection Areas**

An HPA is an area identified as requiring special protection under Yukon’s *Wildlife Act*. HPAs are used to manage areas where a wildlife species is concentrated at certain times of year, a habitat type is rare in the Yukon, or a site is particularly fragile.

Seven HPAs have been designated in Yukon to date, protecting about 5,770 km² of exceptional habitat. Four more will be designated in future: Ddhaw Ghro, Lewes Marsh, Pickhandle Lakes and Tagish Narrows. Most HPAs were called for in First Nation Final Agreements. Detailed information about Yukon HPAs is available at [www.env.gov.yk.ca/hpa](http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/hpa).

**Pickhandle Lakes**

A steering committee of Kluane First Nation, White River First Nation and YG members continued the management planning process for the 51 km² HPA in 2012. The Pickhandle Lakes, located along the Alaska flyway, are an important waterfowl nesting and staging area that also supports healthy populations of furbearers and moose. The *Kluane First Nation Final Agreement* called for an HPA here. For more information visit [www.yfwcm.ca/pickhandle](http://www.yfwcm.ca/pickhandle).

**Whitefish Wetlands**

The *North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan* recommended that the 468 km² Whitefish Wetlands be protected. The wetlands are an important subsistence and cultural use area for the Vuntut Gwitchin and Tetlit Gwich’in First Nations. This area includes Vuntut Gwitchin settlement lands. The YG and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation will begin the planning process in 2013/14.

**Regional Land Use Planning**

The Yukon and First Nations governments use regional land use planning in order to ensure that use of lands and resources is consistent with social, cultural, economic and environmental values, as well as to prevent land use and resource conflicts. Yukon First Nation Final Agreements set out the process, which includes building upon the traditional knowledge and experience of the residents of each region.

There are eight regional planning regions in Yukon, with boundaries that generally reflect the boundaries of First Nation traditional territories. The North Yukon Land Use Plan was approved in 2009. In 2012, YG launched a public review of the *Final Recommended Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan* ([www.peelconsultation.ca](http://www.peelconsultation.ca)).

Work continued on the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan ([www.dawson.planyukon.ca](http://www.dawson.planyukon.ca)).

The regional land use process can be used to establish parks, HPAs and other protected areas not directly called for in First Nation Final Agreements. A good example of this is the North Yukon Plan, which recommends the Bell River – Summit Lake area and Whitefish Wetlands be protected. For more information about regional land use planning in Yukon visit [www.planyukon.ca](http://www.planyukon.ca).
For More Information

Additional information on the initiatives described in New Parks North can be obtained from the following offices:

**Nunavut Parks and Special Places**
Department of Environment  
Government of Nunavut  
Box 1000, Station 1340  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0  
[www.nunavutparks.com](http://www.nunavutparks.com)  
Attention: Nick Burnaby  
Park Planner  
phone: (867) 975-7753  
fax: (867) 975-7747  
e-mail: nburnaby@gov.nu.ca

**Yukon Historic Sites**
Department of Tourism and Culture  
Historic Sites Unit  
Government of Yukon  
Box 2703 (L-2)  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6  
[www.tc.gov.yk/historicsites](http://www.tc.gov.yk/historicsites) or  
[www.yukonhistoricplaces.ca](http://www.yukonhistoricplaces.ca)  
Attention: Bruce Barrett  
Historic Sites Project Officer  
phone: (867) 667-3463  
fax: (867) 667-8023  
e-mail: bruce.barrett@gov.yk.ca

**NWT Protected Areas Strategy**
Environment and Natural Resources  
Government of the NWT  
Box 1320  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9  
[www.nwtpas.ca](http://www.nwtpas.ca)  
Attention: Darin Bagshaw  
Protected Areas Strategy Secretariat  
phone: (867) 920-6336  
fax: (867) 873-0293  
e-mail: nwt_pas@gov.nt.ca

**NU Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas**
Environment Canada  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Box 1714  
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0  
[www.mb.ec.gc.ca](http://www.mb.ec.gc.ca)  
Attention: Siu-Ling Han  
Head, Eastern Arctic  
phone: (867) 975-4633  
fax: (867) 975-4645  
e-mail: siu-ling.han@ec.gc.ca

**Yukon Territorial Parks and Heritage Rivers**
Environment Yukon  
Box 2703 (V-4)  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6  
[www.env.gov.yk.ca](http://www.env.gov.yk.ca)  
Attention: Dave Ladret  
Special Projects Officer  
phone: (867) 667-3595  
fax: (867) 393-6223  
toll free: 1-800-661-0408  
e-mail: dave.ladret@gov.yk.ca

**NWT Migratory Bird Sanctuaries and National Wildlife Areas**
Environment Canada  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Box 2310 (#401, 5019 52nd Street)  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P7  
[www.mb.ec.gc.ca](http://www.mb.ec.gc.ca)  
Attention: Bruce MacDonald  
Manager, Northern Conservation Section  
phone: (867) 669-4779  
fax: (867) 873-6776  
e-mail: brucea.macdonald@ec.gc.ca

All of the agencies listed here have contributed to this publication over the years. Our goal has been to provide a single, annual publication of interest to everyone following northern natural and cultural heritage conservation issues in a convenient and economical medium. Your comments are welcome, addressed to the Editor at the National Parks, National Historic Sites and National Marine Conservation Areas address above.