



Photo: Following the Caribou Trail by Miriam Korner

NWT CONSERVATION NEWS

Proposed Zoning Amendment Would Further Reduce Conservation of South Nahanni Headwaters

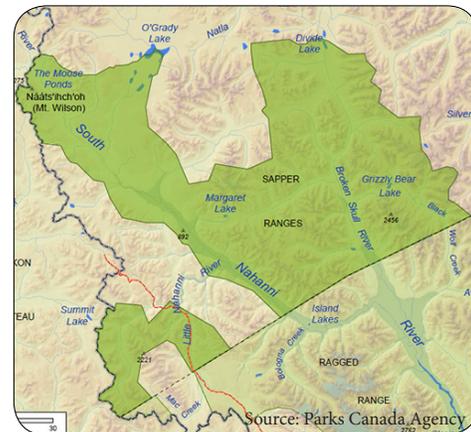
Kris Brekke, Executive Director

On January 9, 2017 the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board (SLUPB) made an application to amend the Sahtu Land Use Plan following boundary changes that occurred after the creation of Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve (NANPR). The amendment proposes zoning and special management conditions for the areas that were left outside of the park boundaries.

CPAWS-NWT provided comments to the SLUPB stating that we do not support the proposed amendment which would zone a majority of the area as Special Management. This zoning would allow for development around unprotected headwaters of the South Nahanni Watershed and of habitat that has significant ecological value to a number of species, such as grizzly bear, mountain caribou and Dall's Sheep. The amendment is also a further reduction of the intended conservation outcome for NANPR. At the conclusion of the park establishment process in February of 2012, an agreed upon boundary that included a much greater area and held the highest conservation values was subsequently reduced by the Government of Canada.

CPAWS-NWT maintains that NANPR should be expanded to include these areas that were removed from the boundary. The SLUP Amendment should zone the areas originally intended for protection in Nááts'ihch'oh as Conservation Zones so that the land remains unimpaired until the boundary can be revisited in the future.

- Read CPAWS-NWT's Comments [HERE](#)
- The amendment application and other comments can be found [HERE](#)



Above: The current boundary only protects 70% of upper South Nahanni watershed, 70% of grizzly habitat and 44% of mountain caribou summer habitat.

NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework

Shannon Moore, Communications Manager

CPAWS-NWT submitted recommendations to the Gov't of the NWT during their feedback phase of developing a territorial *Climate Change Strategic Framework* in December of 2016. Our submission encouraged the government to recognize within the framework the important role of northern ecosystems in reducing emissions, and helping all species (including humans) adapt to a changing climate. To read our full submission, [CLICK HERE](#).



Ted Simonett - CPAWS Wildlands League

NWT Releases Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy

Shannon Moore, Communications Manager

The Strategy was released on February 27, 2017 and marks a positive step toward the conservation of this Threatened species. CPAWS-NWT will review the strategy, and looks forward to working with territorial and regional Indigenous governments to continue to strengthen protection for boreal caribou in the territory.

To read the strategy, [CLICK HERE](#).

CPAWS-NWT supporting Northern Mountain Caribou stewardship in the Sahtú

Tee Lim, Project Manager



Curious northern mountain caribou cows. Photo by Dana Haggerty, Parks Canada.

CPAWS-NWT was invited to attend the Sahtú Environmental Research and Monitoring Forum in Tulít'a, February 6-10, 2017. The focus of this year's Forum was to develop a research and monitoring strategy for the region. There was also special emphasis on research and monitoring (including for caribou) in the mountains, with work done on a proposal for a Mountain Research Network Centre of Excellence. We participated in a number of engaging breakout groups on caribou and other wildlife, alongside Elders, harvesters and researchers. Topics ranged from caribou genetics to Traditional Knowledge and community engagement research protocols.

During the Forum, CPAWS-NWT also participated in discussions with representatives from the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board, Tulít'a Dene

Band, Tulít'a and Norman Wells Renewable Resource Councils (RRCs) and the Ross River Dena Council on our joint work to develop a Shúhta ʔepé (Northern Mountain Caribou) Stewardship Plan. This proactive and collaborative conservation planning work is timely given present concerns around the impacts of visitors in the Mile 222 area, growing risks presented by climate change and habitat fragmentation, and other pressures such as direct and induced disturbances linked to the Howard's Pass Access Road. CPAWS-NWT will continue to be closely involved in the Stewardship Initiative over the coming year.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Survival in the Snow

Shannon Moore, Communications Manager

On February 4th, CPAWS-NWT & Arctic Response held a fantastic Survival in the Snow event, sponsored by Arctic Response and the NWT-RPA's Get Active fund.

Participants were taught the priorities for staying alive in case of an accident in harsh winter conditions. The group learned how to use signal mirrors, many fire starting techniques, and how to warm a cold victim in a hypothermia wrap.

Big thanks to Julie and Arctic Response! For first aid or wilderness survival courses, or to book your own group course, check out their site: <http://arcticresponse.ca>



Practicing a hypothermia wrap on a volunteer "victim". Photo by Audrey Marceau

Watch for our next Get Active event, "Be the 'Bou" Relay Race at the Long John Jamboree!

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

Support us in our work to conserve the land, water and wildlife of the NWT for current and future generations by donating to our Chapter!

CPAWS charity #10686 5272 RR0001

DONATE HERE

CONTACT US:

5112 52nd Street
PO Box 1934
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P5

Phone: 867-873-9893
E-mail: nwtadmin@cpaws.org
www.cpawsnwt.org

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STAFF

Kris Brekke, Tee Lim,
Shannon Moore

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