



CPAWS-NWT submission to Parks Canada Preliminary Screening For the establishment of Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve

July 2, 2019

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society -NWT chapter (CPAWS-NWT) was established by volunteers in 1996, and since 1999 it has been supported by a local volunteer Board of Directors, and staff who work with public and Indigenous governments and organizations, communities, other non-government organizations and individuals to achieve collective conservation goals.

We confirm our ongoing support for the establishment of Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve. CPAWS-NWT has strongly supported Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation's (LKDFN) vision of protecting Thaidene Nene for a decade and actively participated in the federal and territorial Thaidene Nene public consultations. We are pleased that the National Park Reserve and Territorial Protected Areas will soon become reality. In Thaidene Nene there is an opportunity to ensure continuity of cultural and ecological values and diversification into conservation based local economic activity. NWT residents and visitors will continue to enjoy a wide range of recreational activities in the area as they do today. We believe that Thaidene Nene is a **positive** outcome for the NWT that will have a significant **positive** impact on the environment. Of note is the significant value of Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve and the Territorial designations in protecting large areas of caribou habitat adjacent to lands that are in high demand for infrastructure and industrial development.

The boundary that was agreed on includes the interests of industry, the GNWT and Canada. It was reduced significantly in the northwestern portion of the study area despite that caribou use the habitat annually, and during this time of great uncertainty about the future of barren ground caribou herds. In the context of Thaidene Nene and caribou, an Environmental assessment (EA) will be appropriate when industrial developments are proposed to occur in these areas **excluded** from the final Thaidene Nene boundary or in other areas adjacent to the National Park Reserve. The management plan for Thaidene Nene NPR is an incredibly important resource for caribou co-management within Thaidene Nene and will be a resource for informing EA's as they occur outside of the protected areas. Investment in the management plan and in the Ni Hat'ni Dene program is a good way to ensure that Thaidene Nene contributes to a positive impact on the environment, inside and outside of the boundaries.

We look forward to celebrating Thaidene Nene in the near future,

Kris Brekke - Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kris Brekke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society –NWT CHAPTER