



# Thaidene Nënë Proposed National Park Reserve

Public Consultation in Yellowknife, NWT  
December 2015

Protected Areas Establishment Branch  
Parks Canada Agency





# Parks Canada's Vision and Mandate

## **VISION**

Canada's treasured natural and historic places will be a living legacy, connecting hearts and minds to a stronger, deeper understanding of the very essence of Canada.

## **THE MANDATE**

On behalf of the people of Canada, we protect and present nationally significant examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage and foster public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment in ways that ensure ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations.







# Protected Areas Managed by Parks Canada

Parks Canada is a federal agency, created by Parliament through the *Parks Canada Agency Act*, that manages several national programs.

National parks (and national park reserves) are established by Parliament under the *Canada National Parks Act* (e.g. Aulavik National Park and Nahanni National Park Reserve)

National marine conservation areas (NMCAs) are established by Parliament through the *Canada National Marine Conservation Areas Act*

Parks Canada also administers a system of national historic sites (e.g. Saoyu´ - ʔehdacho National Historic Site), and plays a lead role in World Heritage Sites and the Canadian Heritage Rivers program.



# Purpose of Consultations

Parks Canada is consulting with Aboriginal groups and communities, third parties, stakeholders and the public to understand and address the various interests in the proposed Thaidene Nënë national park reserve.





# Consultation Timeline

- Met with third party interests and stakeholders (2015)
- Consultations with Aboriginal groups and communities (Ongoing)
- Public meetings (Dec 2015 – Jan 2016)
- Review submissions and meeting records, summarize key issues and comments, and address them
- Follow up with groups and individuals
- Report on the consultation results and responses to issues





## Historical Background

1969 - Government of Canada approached Chief Pierre Catholique of Łutsël K'e Dene First Nation (ŁKDFN) with a proposal for a national park.

1970 – a 7,349 km<sup>2</sup> land withdrawal was put in place, with no expiry date.

2005 - ŁKDFN requested Government of Canada reconsider boundaries of the 1970 land withdrawal. Parks Canada initiated a study to reassess the 'area of interest' for a national park.

2006 - ŁKDFN Chief Adeline Jonasson and Minister Responsible for Parks Canada signed a Memorandum of Understanding.

2007 - interim land withdrawal of 26,350 km<sup>2</sup> added to the 1970 land withdrawal bringing the total study area to 33,690 km<sup>2</sup>.

2013 – The Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment for the Thaidene Nene area was published





## Historical Background (cont.)

2013 - Parks Canada and ŁKDFN negotiators reached an agreement in principle, absent a finalized boundary and financial commitments, on an establishment agreement.

April 1, 2014 – The Northwest Territories Devolution Act came into effect. The Thaidene Nënë interim land withdrawal was renewed under the GNWT's *Northwest Territories Lands Act* until March 31, 2016.

2015 – The GNWT initiated work on developing a matrix of protected area designations and northern tools for the 33,600 km<sup>2</sup> land withdrawal area. GNWT, ŁKDFN, Parks Canada, and leaders of other Aboriginal groups agreed to consult on a proposal that includes territorial designations and a national park reserve.

2015 - Parks Canada and Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN) negotiators reached an agreement in principle, absent a finalized boundary and financial commitments, on an impact and benefit agreement.

July 29, 2015 - the Government of Canada announced consultations on a proposed 14,000 km<sup>2</sup> boundary for a national park reserve in the Thaidene Nënë area.



## National Parks System Plan

- was adopted in the 1970s to guide national park establishment towards the representation of Canada's diverse landscapes.
- divides Canada into 39 natural regions based on physiography and vegetation (landforms, hydrology, soil, vegetation, wildlife, etc.)

Parliament, through the *Parks Canada Agency Act*, has affirmed that it is in the national interest to represent Canada's natural regions in the national parks system.

Parks Canada's goal is to establish at least one national park in each natural region, and, as of 2015, 30 natural regions are represented.

Thaidene Nënë would represent the Northwestern Boreal Uplands Natural Region.



# Canada's National Parks System Plan

## Western Mountains

1. Pacific Coast Mountains
2. Strait of Georgia Lowlands
3. Interior Dry Plateau
4. Columbia Mountains
5. Rocky Mountains
6. Northern Coast Mountains
7. Northern Interior Plateaux and Mountains
8. Mackenzie Mountains
9. Northern Yukon

## Interior Plains

10. Mackenzie Delta
11. Northern Boreal Plains
12. Southern Boreal Plains and Plateaux
13. Prairie Grasslands
14. Manitoba Lowlands

## Canadian Shield

15. Tundra Hills
16. Central Tundra
17. Northwestern Boreal Uplands
18. Central Boreal Uplands
- 19a. West Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Precambrian Region
- 19b. Central Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Precambrian Region
- 19c. East Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Precambrian Region
20. Laurentian Boreal Highlands

21. East Coast Boreal Region
22. Boreal Lake Plateau
23. Whale River
24. Northern Labrador Mountains
25. Ungava Tundra Plateau
26. Northern Davis Region

## Hudson Bay Lowlands

27. Hudson-James Lowlands
28. Southampton Plain

## St. Lawrence Lowlands

- 29a. West St. Lawrence Lowland
- 29b. Central St. Lawrence Lowland
- 29c. East St. Lawrence Lowland

## Appalachian Region

30. Notre Dame – Megantic Mountains
31. Maritime Acadian Highlands
32. Maritime Plain
33. Atlantic Coast Uplands
34. Western Newfoundland Highlands
35. Eastern Newfoundland Atlantic Region

## Arctic Lowlands

36. Western Arctic Lowlands
37. Eastern Arctic Lowlands

## High Arctic Islands

38. Western High Arctic
39. Eastern High Arctic





# Thaidene Nënë National Park Reserve Boundary

The proposed 14,000 km<sup>2</sup> boundary for consultation:

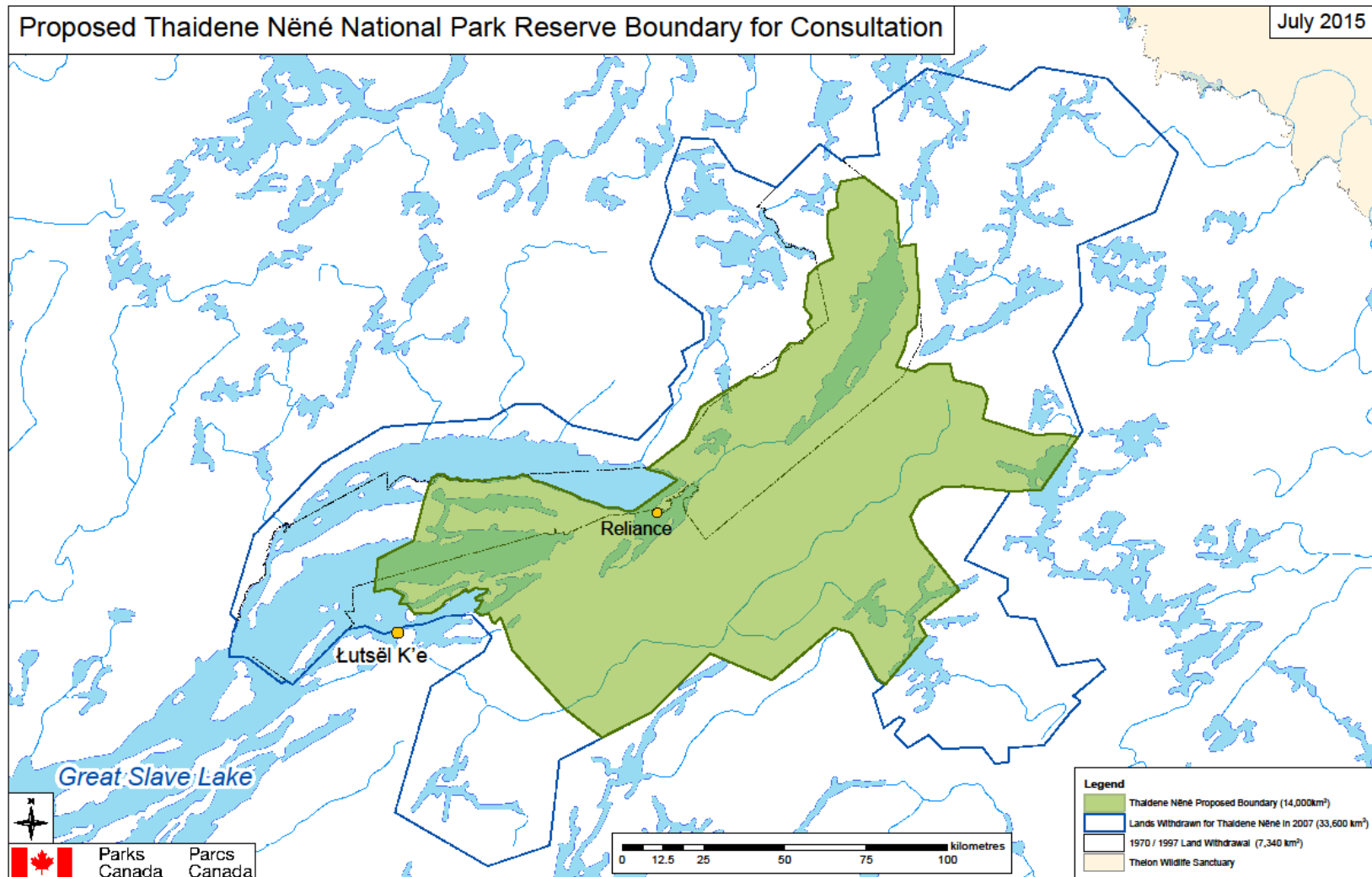
- Excellent representation of the Northwestern Boreal Uplands natural region of the national park system
- Has a configuration that will allow for the maintenance of ecological integrity
- Includes areas that will provide iconic visitor experiences
- Will allow for tourism investments that benefit communities
- Excludes areas of high mineral potential
- Includes areas of importance to Aboriginal communities





# Proposed Thaidene Nënë National Park Reserve Boundary for Consultation

July 2015

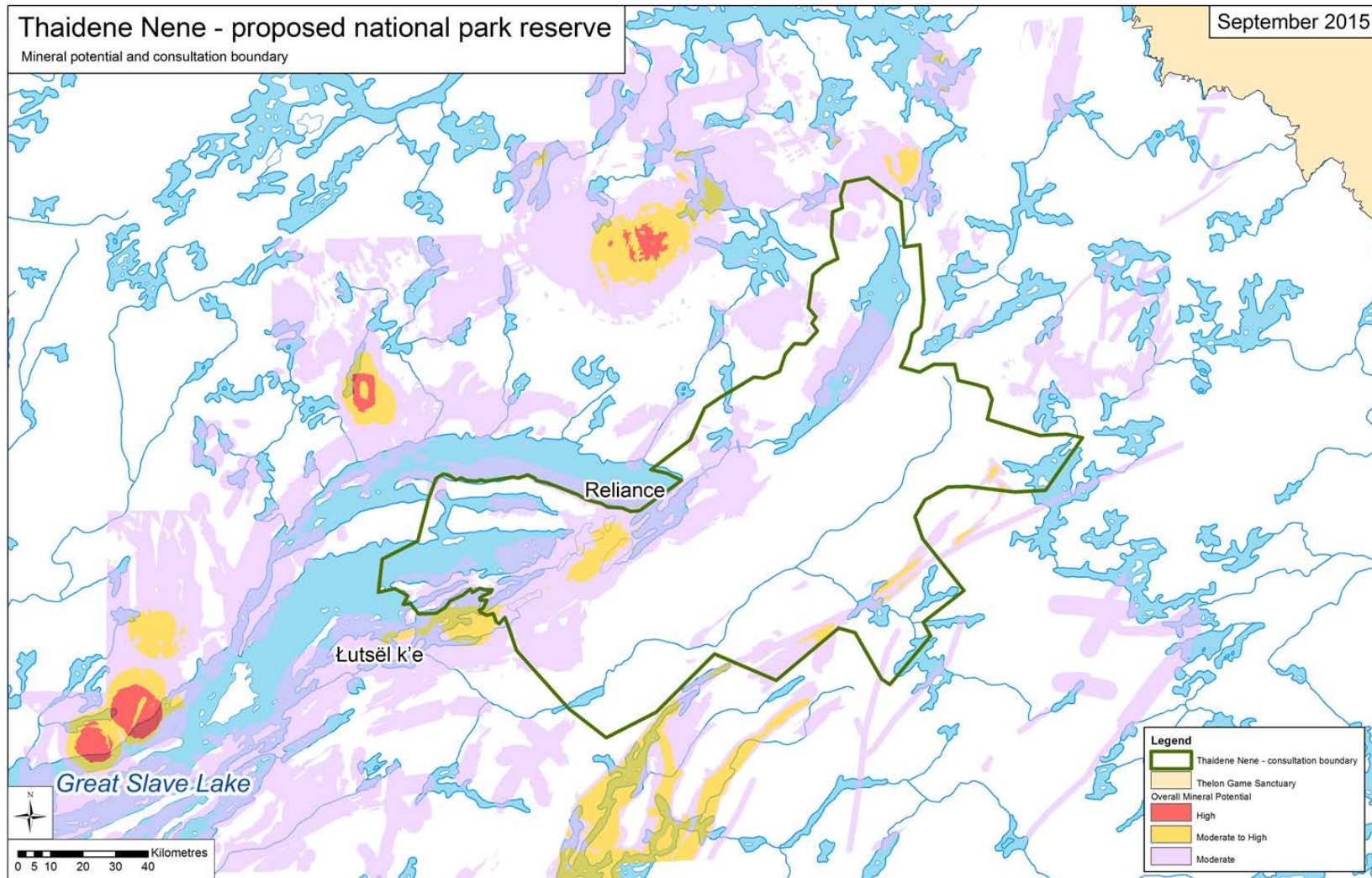




# Thaidene Nene - proposed national park reserve

Mineral potential and consultation boundary

September 2015





# Thaidene Nënë Features

## Outstanding landscape features:

- Cliffs and cuervas of the peninsulas
- Waterfalls and canyons of the Lockhart River
- Deepest waters in North America
- Remarkable eskers and other glacial formations
- Transition from boreal forest to tundra at Artillery Lake

## Tundra, boreal and freshwater habitats and wildlife populations:

- Caribou, moose, muskoxen, wolf, fox, lynx, lake trout, etc.
- Caribou crossings
- Raptor (eagles, hawks, falcons) nesting
- Waterfowl staging

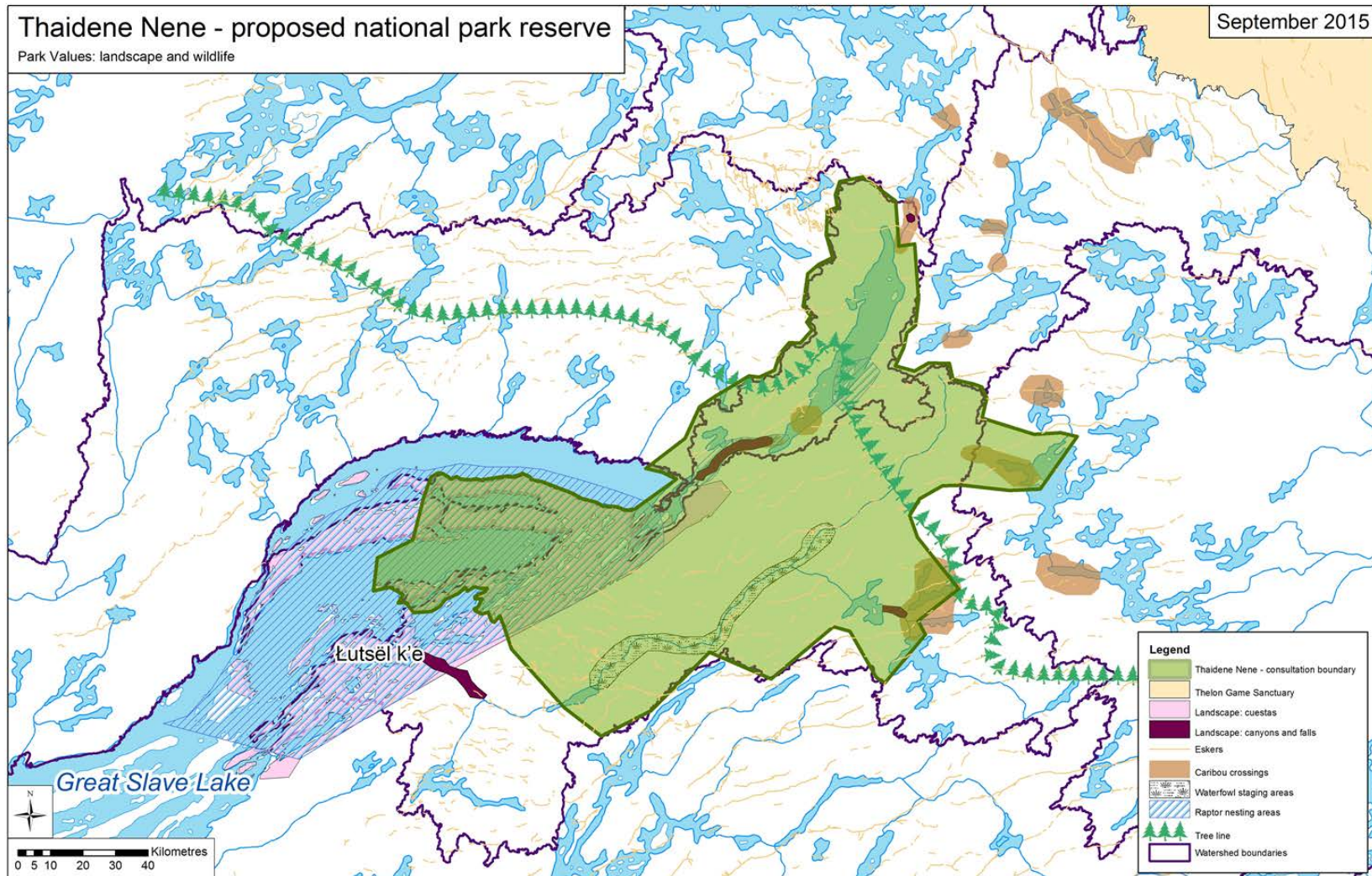




# Thaidene Nene - proposed national park reserve

Park Values: landscape and wildlife

September 2015







# Thaidene Nënë Features (cont.)

## Rich cultural history

- An important area to the Dene people
- Interesting exploration history (e.g. Old Fort Reliance)

## Outstanding visitor experiences:

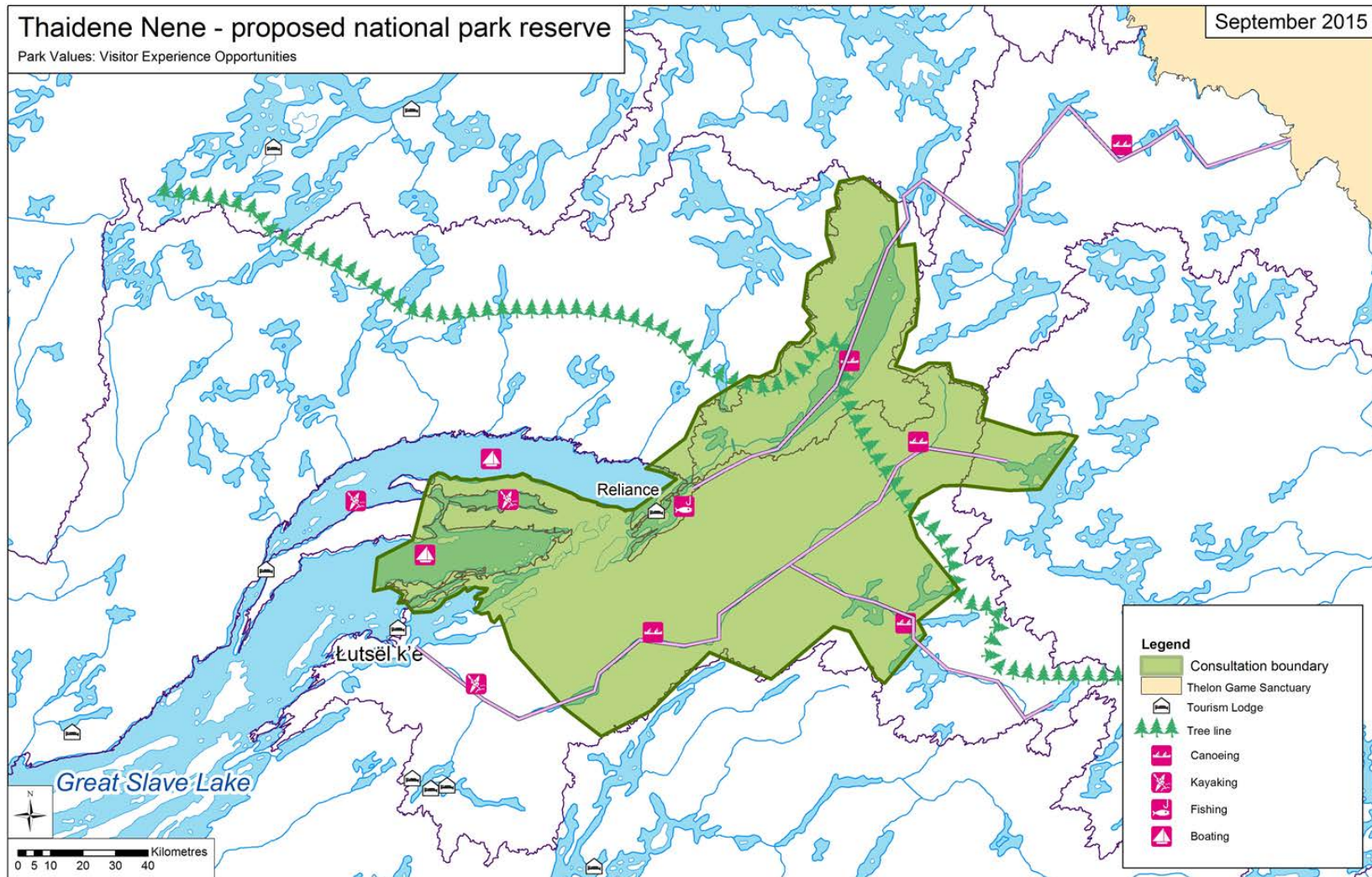
- Boating on the East Arm
- Canoeing the Snowdrift River and Artillery Lake
- World class fishing
- Hiking, climbing, camping and experiencing wild nature



# Thaidene Nene - proposed national park reserve

Park Values: Visitor Experience Opportunities

September 2015

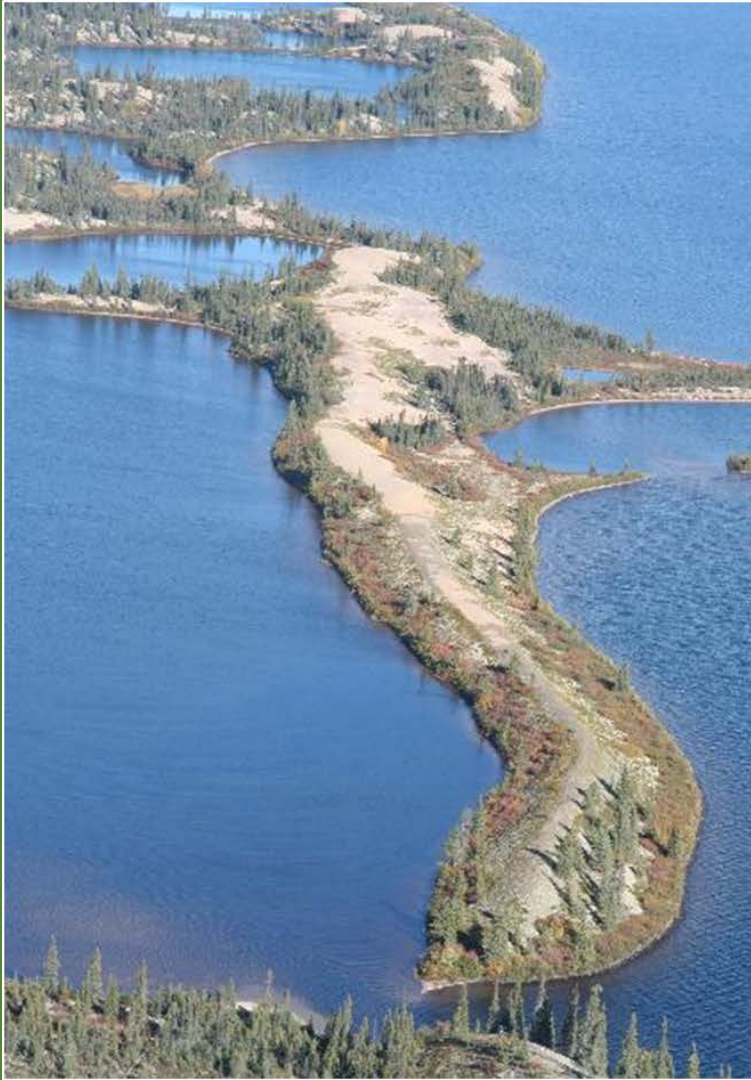




# Park Management

- Management of Thaidene Nene national park reserve will be guided by the *Canada National Parks Act* and policy, agreements between Parks Canada and GNWT, ŁKDFN and NWTMN, and a park management plan that will be developed with public input.
- Cooperative management will be developed with ŁKDFN and NWTMN
- Provisions for NWT resident use of the area, including activities such as: fishing, camping, hiking, skiing, canoeing, kayaking, motor boating, sailing, berry picking, collecting wood and building campfires
- Recreational hunting and guided outfitted hunting would not be permitted
- Aboriginal harvest would continue
- No park entry fee will be charged









## Activities and Uses

Parks Canada will be flexible on a range of uses and access to Thaidene Nënë national park reserve. Some activities not usually permitted in national parks will be considered in Thaidene Nene and Parks Canada is seeking input on such potential activities as:

- Non-aboriginal subsistence activities within the national park reserve
- Access by snowmobiles for subsistence activities
- Residents carrying firearms across national park lands
- Provisions for people to protect themselves from bears

**Input from these consultations will assist Parks Canada in determining how to manage these activities.**



# Local Use in National Parks

Several national parks allow for different types of local use and activities, specific to the place

## Wapusk National Park

- Defined local residents
- Park agreement sets out the permitted activities

## Mealy Mountains National Park Reserve

- Defined “Traditional Users”
- List of activities that are considered part of the traditional Labrador way of life.
- Based on set of Management Principles



## Air Access

Air access to the proposed park will be allowed and is expected to be a normal method of access, for visitors, park management and service providers.

Use of fuel caches in the park in support of air access within and beyond the park will also be allowed

### Fuel caches

- Reliance fuel cache will continue
- Other caches will be considered within national park reserve
- Fueling station is a potential business activity in Łutsel K'e



## Business Opportunities

Thaidene Nene is an outstanding area and a national park will attract many visitors

Parks Canada welcomes visitors and businesses that will provide visitor services, such as:

- Access by air and water
- Guiding
- Accommodation





## Next Steps

Parks Canada will be seeking the views and input of Aboriginal organizations, third parties, stakeholders, local residents and other interested parties. This is an essential part of the national park establishment process.

The proposal will be informed by what we learn about the current range of land uses and interests in the area as well as ideas about potential opportunities.

Should governments agree to proceed, Parks Canada and GNWT will negotiate a national park reserve establishment agreement.

Parks Canada will complete negotiation of establishment agreements with ŁKDFN and NWTMN.

# Contact us!

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