

Edéhzhíe Newsletter

XAT'ÁÁ (Fall) Edition

EDÉHZHÍE

Updates

This newsletter provides an update from Dehcho First Nations and the Edéhzhíe Management Board on the establishment, management, and operation of the Edéhzhíe Dehcho Protected Area as a National Wildlife Area and management planning.

DECEMBER 30, 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has limited some activities due to health & safety restrictions. Our team is following GNWT health and safety guidelines.



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Edéhzhíe Management Board

Herb Norwegian Edéhzhíe Management Board Chairman

Margaret Ireland

Tthets'ek'ehdelį / Jean Marie Community Representative

Tim Lennie

Pehdzeh Kı / Wrigley Community Representative

Jim Antoine (Interim)

Łíidlįį Kų́ę́ / Fort Simpson Community Representative

Louis Constant

Deh Gáh Got'ıę Kų́ę́ / Fort Providence Community Representative

Lindsay Armer

Edéhzhíe Management Board – Environment and Climate Change Representative

Ramona Pearson (Menicoche)

Dehcho First Nations Representative

Meetings

- In-person meeting held in Deh Gáh Got'ie Kúé, June 8-9, 2021.
- Videoconferences (Zoom) held July 6 & 7, 2021 and August 11, 2021.
- In-person meetings typically focus on management planning and operational decisions, while videoconferences are used for administrative business, and deal with urgent items that arise between inperson meetings.

Next Meeting

 October 5-7, 2021 in Deh Gáh Got'ie Kúé.

Management Planning

Dene Worldview

Board members reviewed a report on an April meeting held by Dene board members to discuss how to incorporate Dene Worldview into the management planning process. Board members directed that further revision be done to improve what was captured at the Dene Worldview meeting, as the meeting was conducted in Dene Zhatie and careful attention to translation is necessary.

Tłįchǫ Involvement

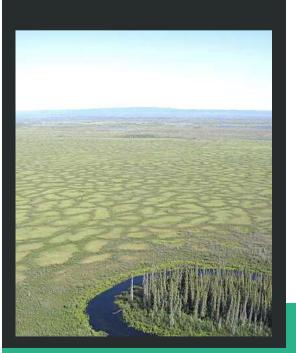
The Board discussed how and when the Tłįchǫ Government should be involved in developing the Edéhzhíe Management Plan. The Tłįchǫ Government agreed to protecting Edéhzhíe, but they are not part of the Edéhzhíe Establishment Agreement and do not have a representative on the board. The EMB expects to consult with the Tłįchǫ when they have a draft plan. Herb Norwegian (Board Chair) will speak to the Grand Chief following the Tłįchǫ election to discuss their level of involvement in plan development.

On-The-Land Management Planning Workshop

 This meeting was canceled in August

2021-22 Workplan & Budget

 The Board approved the current year's workplan and budget. It was later approved by both DFN and ECCC.



Management Planning (cont.)

Values to be Protected

The Board developed a list of values and set priorities for management planning.

Value Group	Key Values and Features
Four-legged	Wolves, boreal woodland caribou
animals & habitat	 Harvesting, habitat, population size
Winged Animals	Waterfowl, Species at Risk, Peregrine Falcon
	 Nesting areas, harvesting, species richness & diversity
Aquatic Species &	Water, freshwater invertebrates, fish,
environment	 Health (mercury), abundance, diversity
Terrestrial Assets	Traditional trails, Sacred/Spiritual Sites, camps/cabins
	Use of the land
Relationships	Dene relationship to land, animals, culture, themselves, others
	 Ability to go out on the land
	 To what extent do they have these relationships
Healing	Medicinal plants, berries, mental health, Edehzhie as a refuge
	 Extent that Edehzhie is used for these purposes
Dene Ahthit'e	Protection of Edehzhie contributing to:
	 Cultural programming in Edehzhie (especially youth)
	 Developing the conservation economy (jobs)
	 Exercise of Treaty Rights in Edehzhie
	Guardianship
	 Building survival skills and knowledge of the land
	 Learning the stories, place names, language

Threats / Management Considerations Board members began work to determine key threats to each value. Discussions will continue at the next Board meeting.

Value	Key Threats
Boreal Caribou	Linear development, fires, climate change, overharvesting,
habitat	predation
Abundance of	High water levels caused by climate change and downstream
Waterfowl	effects from BC dams restricts access to food and nesting areas
	so the birds go elsewhere. High water also makes it harder for
	harvesters to get into some areas (cabins under water)
Songbirds	Need to monitor population levels and diversity – they are
	decreasing in many places due to climate change – birds coming
	later and missing insect hatching – Edehzhie could be a
	benchmark for monitoring
Whitefish and	Sports fishing, invasive species (chum salmon), big boats
Trout	damaging spawning habitat, pollution from throwing fish guts in water
Dene Ahthit'e	Level of engagement in programming: Political influence,
	competing programs, organizations won't accept cultural
	immersion on Edehzhie as a resource, time restrictions
Going out on	Limited resources, no access, TK and language not being passed
the Land	on



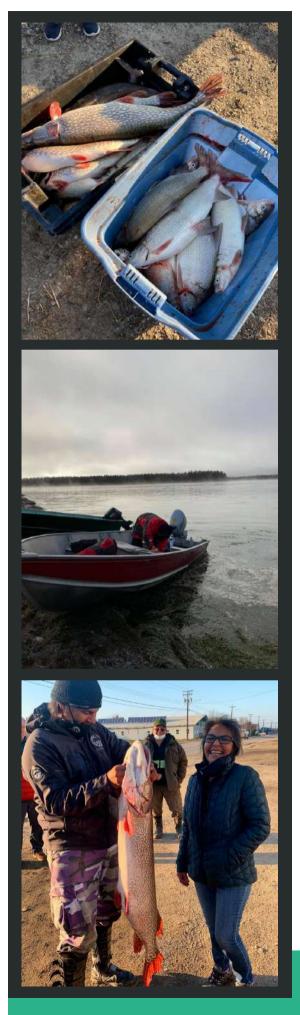
Management / Operational Decisions

Interim Wood Bison Management in Edéhzhíe

The Board updated its previous decision on wood bison management in Edéhzhíe based on new information received from the GNWT and direction from Deh Gáh Got'ie Kúé Leadership. The Board agreed to continue using the existing system for Wood Bison Management, until the Edéhzhíe Management Plan is complete. Any changes in wood bison management will be considered within the broader context of the management plan. Final decisions will be written into the management plan. ECCC will be invited to join the Mackenzie Wood Bison Working Group to be able to address Edéhzhíespecific management questions and report to the Edéhzhíe Management Board.

Data Sharing Agreement

OKT Law is supporting Edéhzhíe staff to develop a data sharing agreement. This agreement between DFN and ECCC, provides data licensing protocols for third parties who may want to use data generated in the management and operations of Edéhzhíe.



Management / Operational Decisions (cont.)

Forest Measurements

The Board approved a request by ENR to re-measure two existing forestry plots in Edéhzhíe (measured approximately every 10 years). ENR will take a Guardian with them. Edéhzhíe staff will work with ENR to develop a long-term approach for this work. There are 10 plots overall in Edéhzhíe.

AAROM Research

The Board approved AAROM researchers' request to conduct water sampling on Willow Lake, Big Island Lake, and Mustard Lake. The Board asked that they also measure water levels on these lakes. Two Guardians will join the AAROM researchers. Due to COVID, this research has been postponed.

MOTUS Station

ECCC requested permission to install a MOTUS bird monitoring station at Mills Lake. It records when a bird that has been banded flies over it. Board members had many questions. ECCC staff will bring responses back for further discussion at a future meeting.

*Photos by Beth Hudson, Trisha Landry (DGG), and Ramona Pearson.



Management / Operational Decisions (cont.)

Cabin Lease

A lease for a non-commercial outpost camp in Edéhzhíe has expired. The Board had previously directed ECCC to work with the lease holder to clean up the site and terminate the lease. However, the lease holder wished to transfer the lease to an Indigenous person living in Deh Gáh Got'ie Kų́ę́, who wished to use it for On-the-Land programming for a school. The Board was asked to reconsider its initial decision in light of this new information.

The Board decided to uphold its original decision to clean up the site and terminate the lease.



Match the Words

Dahkáá Łue Netł'é Tthah Detsili Xah Et'ý Mbeh Detsili detthoi Jíe Τłį Xat'ą́ą Jíh Detthoi denítłe K'į́ Etthílu Edhéh K'ahe Elá

Brown Berry/Fruit High bush cranberry Carrot Orange Goose Knife Raspberry Red Fish hook Hide Porcupine Fall Arrow Fish Boat Low bush cranberry Dog Leaf





Edéhzhíe Protected Area

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DECEMBER 31, 2021