



# Edézhíe

## Newsletter

XAT'ÁÁ (Fall) Edition

## E D É H Z H Í E

### Updates

This newsletter provides an update from Dehcho First Nations and the Edézhíe Management Board on the establishment, management, and operation of the Edézhíe 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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# Edézhzhíe Management Board

## **Herb Norwegian**

Edézhzhíe Management Board Chairman



## **Margaret Ireland**

Tthets'ek'ehdelj / Jean Marie Community Representative



## **Tim Lennie**

Pehdzeh Kí / Wrigley Community Representative



## **Jim Antoine (Interim)**

Éíidlj Kúé / Fort Simpson Community Representative



## **Louis Constant**

Deh Gáh Got'ie Kúé / Fort Providence Community Representative



## **Lindsay Armer**

Edézhzhíe Management Board – Environment and Climate Change Representative



## **Ramona Pearson (Menicoche)**

Dehcho First Nations Representative



## Meetings

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- 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 in-person meetings.

## Next Meeting

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- 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.

## Tłıchq Involvement

The Board discussed how and when the Tłıchq Government should be involved in developing the Edézhíe Management Plan. The Tłıchq Government agreed to protecting Edézhíe, but they are not part of the Edézhíe Establishment Agreement and do not have a representative on the board. The EMB expects to consult with the Tłıchq when they have a draft plan. Herb Norwegian (Board Chair) will speak to the Grand Chief following the Tłıchq 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 animals & habitat	Wolves, boreal woodland caribou <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harvesting, habitat, population size</li> </ul>
Winged Animals	Waterfowl, Species at Risk, Peregrine Falcon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nesting areas, harvesting, species richness &amp; diversity</li> </ul>
Aquatic Species & environment	Water, freshwater invertebrates, fish, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health (mercury), abundance, diversity</li> </ul>
Terrestrial Assets	Traditional trails, Sacred/Spiritual Sites, camps/cabins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of the land</li> </ul>
Relationships	Dene relationship to land, animals, culture, themselves, others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to go out on the land</li> <li>• To what extent do they have these relationships</li> </ul>
Healing	Medicinal plants, berries, mental health, Edehzhie as a refuge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extent that Edehzhie is used for these purposes</li> </ul>
Dene Ahthit'e	Protection of Edehzhie contributing to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural programming in Edehzhie (especially youth)</li> <li>• Developing the conservation economy (jobs)</li> <li>• Exercise of Treaty Rights in Edehzhie</li> <li>• Guardianship</li> <li>• Building survival skills and knowledge of the land</li> <li>• Learning the stories, place names, language</li> </ul>

## 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 habitat	Linear development, fires, climate change, overharvesting, predation
Abundance of Waterfowl	High water levels caused by climate change and downstream 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 Trout	Sports fishing, invasive species (chum salmon), big boats 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 the Land	Limited resources, no access, TK and language not being passed on



# Management / Operational Decisions

## **Interim Wood Bison Management in Edézhíe**

The Board updated its previous decision on wood bison management in Edézhíe 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 Edézhíe 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 Edézhíe-specific management questions and report to the Edézhíe Management Board.

## **Data Sharing Agreement**

OKT Law is supporting Edézhíe 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 Edézhíe.

# Management / Operational Decisions (cont.)

## Forest Measurements

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

## 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.

# Management / Operational Decisions (cont.)

## Cabin Lease

A lease for a non-commercial outpost camp in Edézhíe 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 Kúé, 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'ó

Mbeh

Detsili detthoi

Jíe

Tłj

Xat'áá

Jíh

Detthoi denítłe

K'í

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







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