



# Edézhíe

## Newsletter

XAYE (WINTER) Edition

## EDÉZHÍE

### 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.

MARCH 31, 2022

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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# Edézhíe Management Board



## **Herb Norwegian**

Edézhíe Management Board Chairman



## **Margaret Ireland**

Tthets'ek'ehdelj / Jean Marie Community Representative



## **Tim Lennie**

Pehdzeh Kí / Wrigley Community Representative



## **Jim Antoine (Interim)**

Ííidlj Kúé / Fort Simpson Community Representative



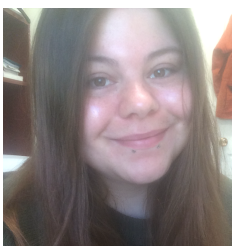
## **Louis Constant**

Deh Gáh Got'ie Kúé / Fort Providence Community Representative



## **Lindsay Armer**

Edézhíe Management Board – Environment and Climate Change Representative



## **Ramona Pearson (Menicoche)**

Dehcho First Nations Representative



## Edézhíe Management Board Meetings

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- October 13, 2021  
(Zoom)
- November 26, 2021  
(Zoom)
- January 13, 2022  
(Zoom)
- In-Person Meeting held  
March 1-3, 2022 in  
Łíídlıı Kúé.

## Meetings of the Parties (DFN & ECCC)

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- December 15, 2021  
(Zoom)
- January 17, 2022  
(Zoom)
- Management  
Planning will be  
scheduled into the  
New Year of 2022,  
and each Edézhíe-  
affected community  
and its respective  
Métis organization  
will have a chance to  
participate.

# Management Planning

## Path Forward for Management Planning

The Board cancelled the OTL Management Planning session, and made plans for a replacement model.

## The Community-driven model/Staff-driven model hybrid

The Board has developed a new community-driven approach to developing the Edézhíe Management Plan. **From December 2021- February 2022, the planning team visited with three communities to work through key management questions.** The Board discussed the results at its March meeting, and directed the next steps in plan development. Due to COVID concerns, Pehdzeh Ki will be scheduled in Spring.

DFN will start building the plan through regular virtual meetings, bringing progress to the Board for input and guidance. The planning team will return for a **second community tour** over the summer to work through the next set of questions with communities.



## Management Planning Community Visits

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- Deh Gáh Got'ie Kúé (with Tthets'éhk'edél), December 6-9, 2021
- Pehdzeh Ki re-scheduled for Spring.
- Łııdlıı Kúé, February 15-17, 2022

## Dene Worldview

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- The Board has requested input from DFN leadership on how to incorporate Dene Worldview in its management planning. This discussion will be on the next DFN Leadership Meeting Agenda.



## Management Planning (cont)

This model helps increase community participation and will allow Board and EHC members to participate in their community planning sessions with the Edézhíe planning team, ensuring that all vital inputs are gathered at once and concerns are addressed early.

The planning team consists of Herb Norwegian (Board Chair), Heidi Wiebe (Board Planner), and Ashley Menicoche (Regional Coordinator). ECCC may have a staff person join the planning team for the second round.



# Management Planning (cont)

The first workshop was held in Deh Gáh Got'ie Kúé on December 6-9, 2021.

Tthets'éhk'edéłı representatives joined this workshop. Members of the Elders/Harvester Committees and Dene and Métis leadership began to develop:

- the **Harvesting Protocol**,
- the **Vision** and **Goals** for Edézhíe,
- **Values** and their current health,
- **Threats** to Edézhíe, and **strategies** to address them.

Participants discussed how Dene Worldview should be reflected in planning, and the types of land uses participants foresee happening in Edézhíe by Dehcho Dene, and non-S. 35 Rights holders. Community members discussed monitoring for threats and the indicators to measure for healthy wildlife and land protection in Edézhíe.



# Management Planning (cont)

The first workshop was held in Łııdlıı Kúé on February 15-17, 2021. Łııdlıı Kúé members of the Elders/Harvester Committees and community members began to develop:

- the **Harvesting Protocol**,
- the **Vision** and **Goals** for Edézhíe,
- **Values** and their current health,
- **Threats** to Edézhíe, and **strategies** to address them.

Participants discussed how Dene Athít'e and self-expression of section 35 rights would be aligned with conservation planning, and how to approach permitting in Edézhíe. Positive Dene/section 35 engagement with the land was added to the list of healthy outcomes.

Pehdzeh Ki will organize their meeting in Spring, 2022.



## Management Planning (cont.)

### Treaty and Inherent Rights

DFN is contracting a legal review of the Edézhíe Establishment Agreement in relation to treaty and inherent Rights to ensure that Dehcho rights are not being impacted.

DFN does not have a land claim agreement yet and the DFN has not given up their land or treaty rights. There are concerns that the use of federal legislation might impact Dehcho Dene rights to use the land. Edézhíe was put forward by DFN for protection and is a community-driven process. **The Establishment Agreement confirms the ongoing exercise of harvesting rights in Edézhíe once fully established as a National Wildlife Area on May 5, 2022.**

One of the key questions for Board and the Parties to resolve is the extent which the Edézhíe Management Plan can restrict non-Dehcho Dene section 35 rights holders from using Edézhíe. The Board may set principles for use through a Harvesting Protocol that could manage non-Dehcho Dene access on a case-by-case basis.

# Management / Operational Decisions

## **National Wildlife Area Establishment**

ECCC completed the preliminary screening process. Final establishment of Edézhíe as a National Wildlife Area is expected to be completed by May 5, 2022.

## **Edézhíe Fund**

DFN has finalized the Edézhíe Fund as of March 31, 2022. DFN can use the interest from the Fund for the annual management and operational expenses of Edézhíe. ECCC has provided \$10 million and DFN will utilize the development of a fundraising strategy to find matching funds.

## **Communications**

EMB meetings will be recorded for use in future communications. The Edézhíe team are expanding their social media presence to keep community members informed of the activities relating to management and operations in Edézhíe.





# Dehcho K'éhodi

## Tracking Guardian Harvests

ECCC requested that guardians start tracking the harvesting they are involved in. Food security is a benefit to DFN from the guardians program. Monetizing the value of harvests will help in future reviews and assessments of the Establishment Agreement. DFN committed to track the actual benefits post establishment.

## Guardians Activities

Guardians from each of the communities assisted ECCC to deploy wildlife cameras and ARUs (acoustic recording devices) from November 3rd-10th, 2021. They went out in two teams, deploying equipment at 155 stations throughout Edehzhie.

While patrolling, Guardians collect information about wildlife, traffic, and people on the land. Through monitoring they further understand how to gather and keep data. Regional/Community coordinators will develop a protocol/template to record patrol data.



## Dehcho K'éhodi (cont.)

### **Trail clearing is to take place over the winter months 2021/2022.**

Communities plan to have cabin materials brought to their sites in spring and built by Fall, 2022.

Guardians are available to help with community activities to gain experience, training, and to be out on the land. Edézhíe work will be prioritized over community work in the event of conflicts.

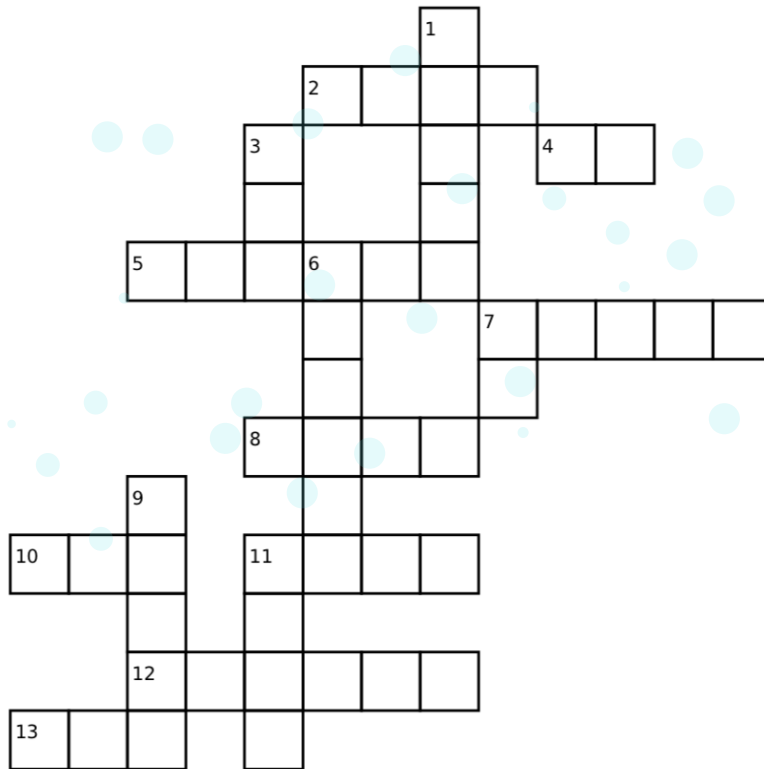
### **Research and Monitoring**

ENR is planning to do boreal woodland caribou collaring and aerial suveys in the Dehcho (including over Edézhíe) in February and March, 2022. The Board has accepted their Wildlife Research Permit Application.

If communities receive applications for research or land use in Edézhíe, please forward them to your local Edézhíe Community Coordinator or board member. **Project leaders must seek permission from the Board for work in Edézhíe.**



# Crossword Puzzle



## Down:

1. Where the weather is.
3. Round shoes like caribou feet.
6. The color of snowfall.
7. In the winter it covers all the rivers and streams.
9. A safe place when the blizzard comes.
11. Put hot water and leaves together to make this.

## Across:

2. In the winter it covers the land and your roof.
4. Freezes plants in spring and fall - covers everything in winter.
5. What's the temperature like in winter? (One word adjective).
7. A perfect food for warming up your belly.
8. The name of the season.
10. Coverings for your hands in the cold.
11. Put your tea and coffee in this.
12. Set them on the trail.
13. They sleep all winter.



# Puzzle answers from Fall 2021

## Match the Words

Dahkáá

Łue

Net'é

Tthah

Detsili

Xah

Et'ó

Mbeh

Detsili detthoi

Jíe

Tłı

Xat'áá

Jíh

Detthoi denítłe

K'ı

Etthılu

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





## Edézhíe Protected Area

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### Staff Contact

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#### Edézhíe Community Coordinators

Trisha Landry      Deh Gáh Got'ie Kúé / Fort Providence Community Coordinator

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Arial Sanguéz      Tthets'éhk'edél / Jean Marie River Community Coordinator

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Rose Moses      Pehdzeh Ki / Wrigley Community Coordinator

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#### Edézhíe Administrative Assistant

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Lafferty      Edézhíe Administrative Assistant

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**MARCH 31, 2022**