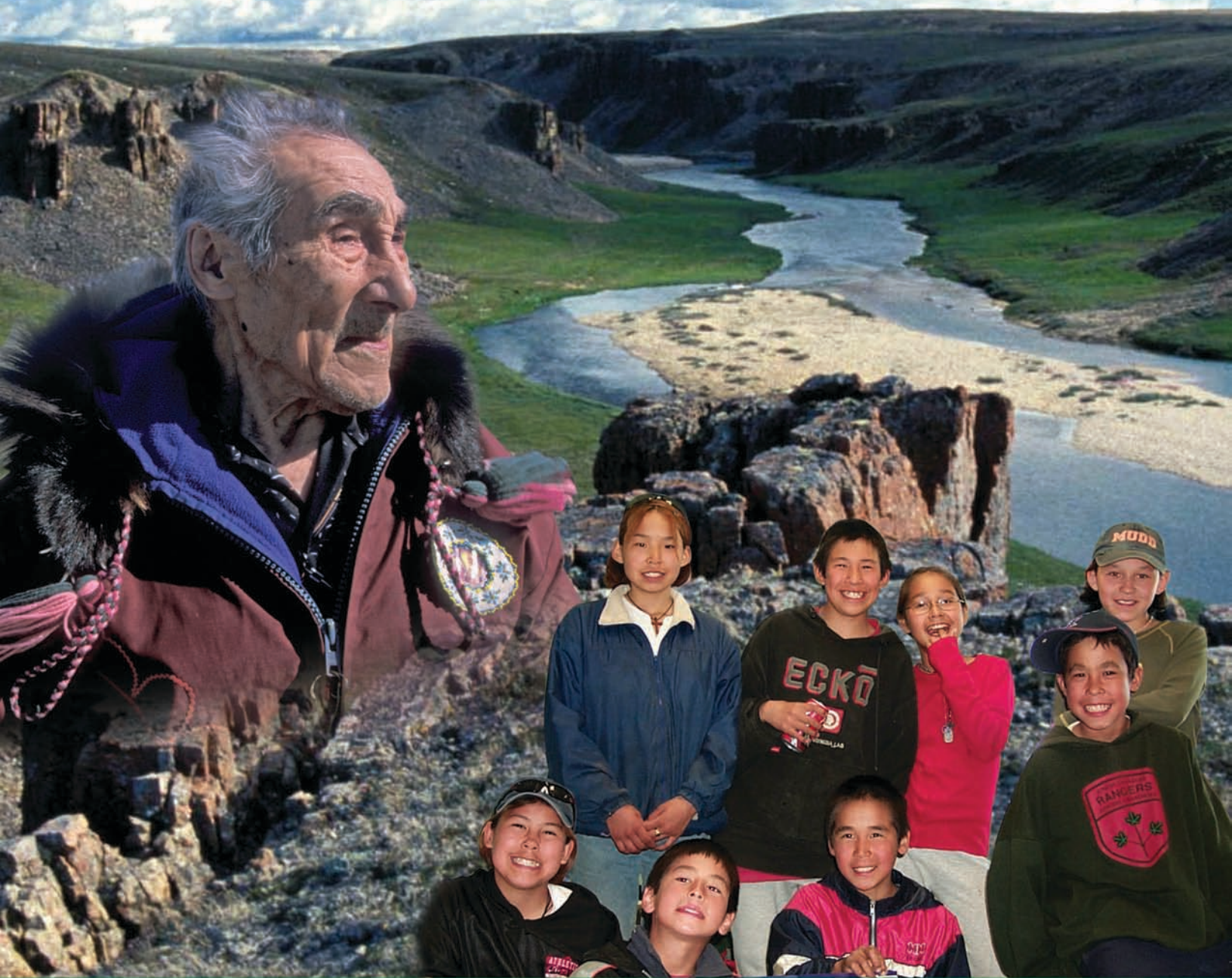




TUKTUT NOGAI

NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA

Management Plan



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TUKTUT NOGAI

NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA

Management Plan

October 2007

FOREWORD



Canada's national historic sites, national parks and national marine conservation areas offer Canadians from coast-to-coast-to-coast unique opportunities to experience and understand our wonderful country. They are places of learning, recreation and fun where Canadians can connect with our past and appreciate the natural, cultural and social forces that shaped Canada.

From our smallest national park to our most visited national historic site to our largest national marine conservation area, each of these places offers Canadians and visitors unique opportunities to experience Canada. These places of beauty, wonder and learning are valued by Canadians - they are part of our past, our present and our future.

Our Government's goal is to ensure that each of these special places is conserved.

We see a future in which these special places will further Canadians' appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of Canada, the economic well-being of communities, and the vitality of our society.

Our Government's vision is to build a culture of heritage conservation in Canada by offering Canadians exceptional opportunities to experience our natural and cultural heritage.

These values form the foundation of the new management plan for Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada. I offer my appreciation to the many thoughtful Canadians who helped to develop this plan, particularly to our dedicated team from Parks Canada, and to all those local organizations and individuals who have demonstrated their good will, hard work, spirit of co-operation and extraordinary sense of stewardship.

In this same spirit of partnership and responsibility, I am pleased to approve the Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada Management Plan.

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

John Baird
Minister of the Environment

**LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION
FROM TUKTUT NOGAI NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT BOARD**



**TUKTUT NOGAI NATIONAL PARK
MANAGEMENT BOARD**
P.O. Box 91, Paulatuk, NT, X0E 1N0


The Honourable Rona Ambrose;
Minister of the Environment

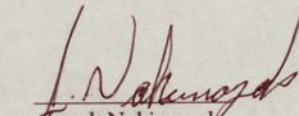
April 2006

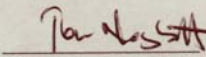
Dear Minister Ambrose;

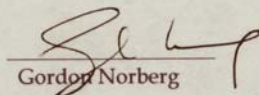
This Management Plan represents the consensus of many organizations. These organizations have different interests and priorities; they bring different perspectives to the task. But they have learned to work together in the spirit of cooperation, to find common ground, and to put the interests of the land and future generations of people and other creatures first. The Tuktut Nogait Management Board is privileged to be the primary institution through which these organizations work together and find consensus. It wishes to thank them all. In particular, the Board wishes to thank those organizations and individuals that collaborated from 2001 to 2005 in drafting this Management Plan, and that cooperate directly in the ongoing management of Tuktut Nogait National Park: Parks Canada, the Paulatuk Community Corporation, the Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee, the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Fisheries Joint Management Committee and the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT). There have been and there will always be different perspectives on the management of a place as unique as Tuktut Nogait National Park. That is healthy. Our experience suggests that cooperation and consensus can and will prevail. It is in this spirit of cooperation and consensus that the Board recommends the Tuktut Nogait Management Plan to you.

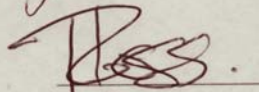
Sincerely,

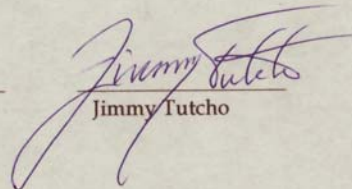

John Max (Muffa) Kudlak


Jonah Nakimayak


Tom Nesbitt (Chair)


Gordon Norberg


Ian Ross

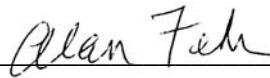

Jimmy Tutcho

**TUKTUT NOGAI NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

This plan has been recommended by:



Alan Latourelle
Chief Executive Officer
Parks Canada



Alan Fehr
Superintendent
Western Arctic Field Unit

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada (Tuktut Nogait) is a benchmark of ecological integrity, the wilderness experience and cooperation in management. There are currently no facilities of any kind; wildlife is abundant; and many agencies and organizations cooperate in its management. Tuktut Nogait's wealth of archaeological sites indicates a long-standing use of the area by different peoples through time. Their descendants have continued the tradition of use and harvesting of the land's resources. While the Park currently sees low numbers of visitors, it is capable of sustaining many more while still preserving both the Park's resources and a visitor experience of near-absolute solitude and pristine wilderness.

Tuktut Nogait lies within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, above the Arctic Circle and in the northeast corner of the mainland Northwest Territories (*see Map 1*). The closest community is the Hamlet of Paulatuk (population 300), located 40 km west of the Park boundary. At 16,340 km², Tuktut Nogait is one of Canada's largest national parks. With the addition of lands in the Sahtu Settlement Area, the total size of the Park is 18,181 km².

The community of Paulatuk first proposed the establishment of a national park in 1988, to protect the calving grounds of the Bluenose caribou herd. In 1996, the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Paulatuk Community Corporation, and the Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee signed the Tuktut Nogait Agreement (Parks Canada, 1996). In December 1998, Parliament established the Park in legislation.

Tuktut Nogait functions in a cooperative management context, which fosters collaboration and assures the incorporation of both traditional and scientific knowledge into management decisions. The Tuktut Nogait Agreement established the Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board (the Board) to advise the Minister of the Environment, and other ministers as appropriate, on all aspects of park planning, operation and management, and on the means of accomplishing the Park's defined purposes. The Board and Parks Canada have prepared this management plan collaboratively.

Under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1984) two further cooperative management bodies are responsible for advising the appropriate ministers on wildlife and fisheries management matters in Tuktut Nogait: the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) and the Fisheries Joint Management Committee. The Board and Parks Canada have thus consulted closely with these cooperative management bodies in preparing this management plan.

This management plan reflects several park purposes, originally identified in the Tuktut Nogait Agreement. These include: protection of the Bluenose-West caribou herd and its core calving and post-calving areas; representation of the Tundra Hills Natural Region; maintenance of ecological integrity of the Park; and the enhancement of economic opportunities, cooperation, and understanding of the natural and cultural history in the Park.

Ecological integrity is the first priority in park management, and Tuktut Nogait currently enjoys a very high level of ecological integrity. Nevertheless, there are several potential stressors on the Park's integrity. To anticipate, prevent and mitigate potential impacts, the Board and Parks

Canada have implemented an extensive research and monitoring program in Tuktut Nogait. Together with their cooperative management partners, they have also implemented species-specific management plans in the Park and the surrounding area. They have also reviewed and, where necessary, revised the regulations protecting the integrity of Tuktut Nogait.

A strong heritage presentation program is an essential component of park management. Since Tuktut Nogait's creation in 1996, Parks Canada and the Board have devoted considerable effort to public education, outreach and interpretation. They will continue these efforts. A well-informed public will help to ensure the cultural values and ecological integrity of Tuktut Nogait, reduce the occurrence of law enforcement and public safety incidents in the Park, and encourage public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of Canada's national parks.

In addition to protecting natural and cultural resources, Tuktut Nogait's purposes include enhancing the local and regional economies. Indeed, the Board and Parks Canada see sustainable tourism as complementary to ecological integrity. This management plan thus outlines goals and strategies to facilitate ecotourism and increase the number of visitors to the Park, while also maintaining ecological integrity.

Tuktut Nogait currently has very few visitors. As visitation increases, more information will be gathered and analysed, so as to develop a better understanding of visitor patterns, preferred activities, routes, potential impacts, and how these impacts can be prevented and mitigated. This plan does not present a formal zoning system for Tuktut Nogait. In a spirit of cooperation with Inuvialuit authorities and recognizing the infancy of the Park and the ecotourism industry in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, this management plan defers formal zoning designation until the issue can be examined during the next five years. Zoning will be incorporated into the next management plan.

As a first step in the zoning process, this management plan identifies appropriate visitor activities. It also makes a commitment to natural and cultural resource research and monitoring, to social science research regarding visitor use profiles, and to an ongoing evaluation, through the Board, of the need for management action to ensure ecological integrity. Through these mechanisms, the Board and Parks Canada are confident that the ecological integrity of Tuktut Nogait is assured, while still supporting the regional tourism industry.

The Board and Parks Canada currently have no plans to construct shelters or other infrastructure in Tuktut Nogait. Visitors must be self-reliant and possess the skills to face the challenges and risks that are inherent in a remote Arctic park. During the next five years, the Board and Parks Canada will however, monitor and address the need for shelters/infrastructure at specific locations in the Park on a case-by-case basis. Moreover, when more reliable visitor use information is available, the Board and Parks Canada will examine this issue more comprehensively. Currently, Park visitors are permitted and encouraged to participate in a number of activities, including canoeing and hiking. Visitors can access the Park in a variety of ways: by boat and foot from Paulatuk, and by air, although air access to the Park is limited due to limitations on suitable landing sites. Landing sites are currently being investigated by Parks Canada and the Board.

Inuvialuit harvesting rights are set out in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. Sahtu Dene and Metis rights are recognized in the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement

Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada Management Plan

(Indian Affairs and Northern Development, 1993). Further, if the Park is enlarged to encompass lands within the Nunavut Settlement Area, Inuit harvesting rights will also be respected in Tuktut Nogait, in accordance with the applicable land claim agreement.

This management plan presents several strategic goals, objectives and actions that are necessary to its successful implementation over the next five years. To this end, the Board and Parks Canada emphasize strong relationships with community and regional aboriginal authorities, other cooperative management bodies, and other government agencies. Effective communication and consultation are key elements of the management plan.

Tuktut Nogait helps to represent the Tundra Hills Natural Region, as identified in Parks Canada's National Parks System Plan (Parks Canada, 1997). The Park also comprises a significant portion of the core calving and post-calving grounds for the Bluenose-West caribou herd. This herd is vital to the subsistence harvesters of the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Sahtu land claim areas.

An impact and benefit plan was signed in August, 2005 that provided for the expansion of the Park into the Sahtu Settlement Area. Discussions on integrating the management of this additional area with that in the rest of the Park are underway. Any agreements or initiatives that result will be reflected in the next management plan.

In keeping with the *Canada National Parks Act* (2000), this plan will be reviewed, with public involvement, every five years.

Commitments identified in this plan will be addressed within the Parks Canada Field Unit budget.

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Introduction



La Roncière Falls on the Hornaday River

1.0 INTRODUCTION

“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 their ecological and commemorative integrity for present and future generations.”

Parks Canada Mandate

1.1 Purpose of the Management Plan

The *Canada National Parks Act* (2000) requires each national park to have a management plan. These plans are prepared in consultation with Canadians and reflect the policies and legislation of Parks Canada, comprehensive land claim agreements and park establishment agreements. Park management plans are approved by the Minister responsible for Parks Canada and are tabled in Parliament and reviewed every five years.

This is the first management plan for Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada (hereafter referred to as Tuktut Nogait, or the Park). Its purpose is to provide a long-term strategic direction for the management of the Park for the next ten to fifteen years. In preparing it, the Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board (the Board) and Parks Canada were guided by the following documents:

- The Western Arctic Claim: The Inuvialuit Final Agreement (1984)
- Parks Canada Guiding Principles and Operational Policies (1994)
- Tuktut Nogait Agreement: An agreement to establish a national park in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region near Paulatuk, Northwest Territories (1996)
- Research in Tuktut Nogait National Park (1998)
- Tuktut Nogait National Park Research Needs Report (2002)
- *Canada National Parks Act*
- Tuktut Nogait National Park Interim Management Guidelines (2000)
- Unimpaired for Future Generations, the Report of the Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks (2000)
- Parks Canada Action Plan in Response to the Report of the Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks (2000)
- Paulatuk Community Conservation Plan (2000)
- Parks Canada Guide to Management Planning (2000)
- Northern Parks - A New Way, A Report of the Subcommittee on Aboriginal Economic Development in relation to Northern National Parks (2001)
- Engaging Canadians: Parks Canada's Strategy for External Communications (2001)
- Paulatuk Community Development Plan (2001, 2003)
- Aulavik National Park Management Plan (2002)
- Paulatuk Char Management Plan (2003)
- Draft Ivvavik National Park Management Plan (2003)

1.2 Management Planning Process

Several organizations and individuals with an interest in Tuktut Nogait played a part in shaping this management plan. Their involvement occurred at two levels. First, Parks Canada and the Board developed the plan cooperatively, with the in-depth involvement of several Inuvialuit authorities and other cooperative management bodies in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Second, general public involvement took place through public consultation meetings in the communities of Paulatuk, Inuvik, Déline and Yellowknife, through newsletters, and through the Parks Canada web site.

1.3 Traditional and Scientific Knowledge

Traditional and scientific knowledge form the information base of this management plan. These complementary bodies of knowledge are gathered through research and cooperative management structures. Tuktut Nogait is managed in a cooperative management setting in which government and Inuvialuit representatives on the Board advise the Minister of the Environment on all aspects of park planning, operation and management. This cooperative arrangement fosters dialogue, consensus and the inclusion of both scientific and traditional knowledge in management decisions. The employment of both bodies of knowledge is also a principle of wildlife management in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1984; *Section 14(5)*). Traditional and scientific knowledge also play a critical role in the content and design of heritage presentation, and in the maintenance of Tuktut Nogait's ecological integrity. Public consultation and the ongoing operation of the Board assure that both types of knowledge are considered when making management decisions.

1.4 Park Purposes and Objectives

As stated in the Tuktut Nogait Agreement (Parks Canada, 1996), the purposes and objectives of Tuktut Nogait are to:

- protect the Bluenose-West caribou herd and its calving and post-calving habitat;
- protect for all time a representative natural area of Canadian significance in the Tundra Hills Natural Region, and encourage public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of the area so as to leave it unimpaired for future generations;
- enhance co-operation between the Inuvialuit and the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories in planning, operating and managing the Park;
- enhance and support local employment and business, and strengthen the local and regional economies, while making provision for subsistence usage within the Park;
- encourage greater understanding of and respect for the cultural heritage of the Inuvialuit and the natural environment in which it has evolved;
- provide a setting in which long-term ecological and cultural heritage research may be undertaken; and
- maintain the ecological integrity of the Park, and thereby contribute to the maintenance of the ecological integrity of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region as a whole.

1.5 The Role of Tuktut Nogait National Park in the National Park System

National parks are part of a broader family of protected areas, which include national marine conservation areas, national historic sites, heritage rivers, territorial and provincial parks, special management areas, ecological reserves, and lands under private stewardship. Parks Canada's goal is to establish at least one national park in each of Canada's 39 natural regions. There are currently more than 40 national parks representing 27 of these natural regions. Three of these

Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada Management Plan

national parks are found in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, each one representing at least one natural region in the park system.

Tuktut Nogait helps to represent the Tundra Hills Natural Region, as identified in Parks Canada's National Parks System Plan (Parks Canada, 1997). The Park also comprises a significant portion of the core calving and post-calving grounds for the Bluenose-West caribou herd, and supports a wide variety of other species such as grizzly bears, muskoxen, wolves, foxes, char and raptors. The Bluenose-West caribou herd, in particular, is vital to the subsistence harvesters of the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Sahtu land claim areas.

People have been living in what is now Tuktut Nogait for at least 1000 years. So far, 360 archaeological sites have been recorded in the Park. The variety of sites indicates an intriguing diversity of human uses of the land. The Park's cultural history is only partially understood and more work remains to be done to enrich our understanding of how people used this area. Tuktut Nogait's importance extends beyond its physical and cultural attributes. The Park offers a variety of recreational visitor activities, such as paddling, hiking and wildlife viewing, and an invaluable educational resource for all Canadians who want to learn about an Arctic ecosystem.



The Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board and Field Unit Superintendent

Planning Context



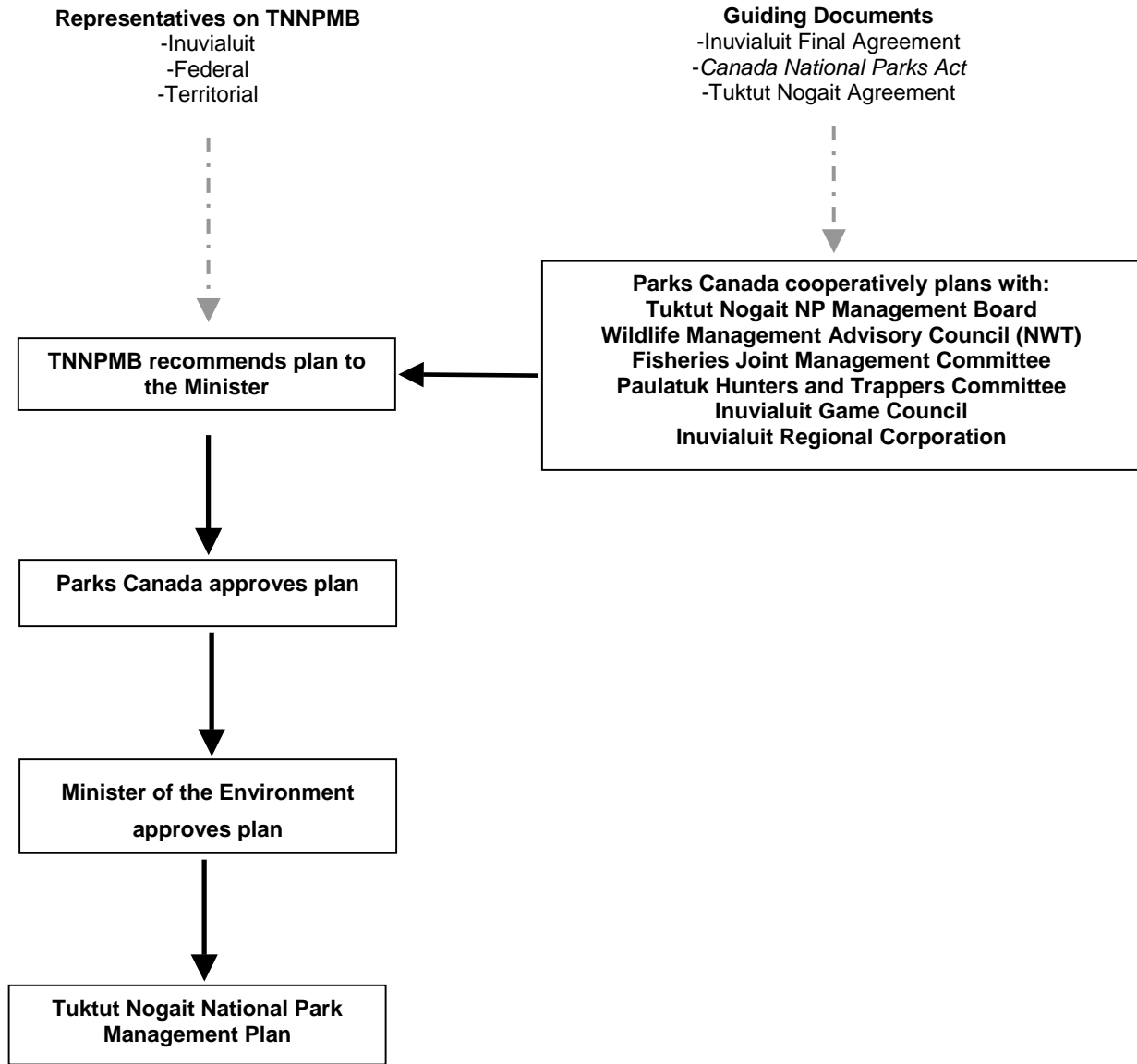
The community of Paulatuk

2.0 PLANNING CONTEXT

Prior to developing this management plan, the Board and Parks Canada prepared interim management guidelines for Tuktut Nogait. These interim management guidelines, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the *Canada National Parks Act*, the Tuktut Nogait Agreement, and the park purposes as set out in that agreement, guided discussion and decision-making during the management planning process.

The Western Arctic Field Unit's Sustainable Business Plan includes an implementation strategy for the management plan on five year planning cycles. This business plan also allocates resources according to management plan priorities. Annual reports, the State of Protected Heritage Areas Report and the State of the Parks Report are also key documents to assess progress on implementation.

Figure 1. Legislative Planning Context

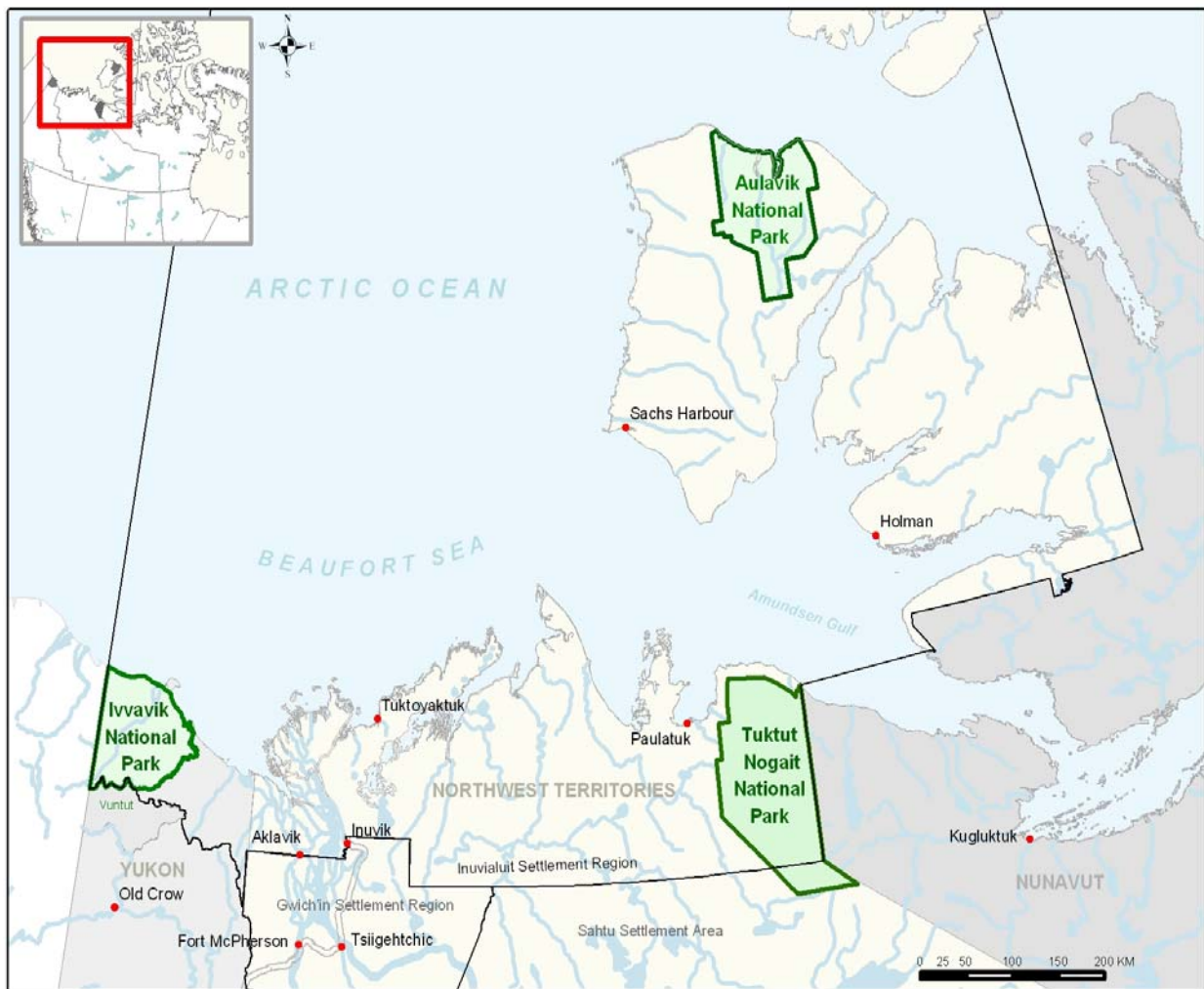


Section 3.(3) of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement provides for the paramountcy of that Agreement in the event of any inconsistency or conflict with legislation:

3.(3) The Settlement Legislation approving, giving effect to and declaring valid this Agreement shall provide that, where there is inconsistency or conflict between either the Settlement Legislation or this Agreement and the provisions of any other federal, territorial, provincial or municipal law, or any by-law or regulation, the Settlement Legislation or this Agreement shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.

2.1 Regional Setting

Tuktut Nogait, is 18,181km², of which 16,340 km² lie within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and 1,841 km² lie within the Sahtu Settlement Area. The Park is located in the northeast corner of the Northwest Territories (see Map 1). The closest community is the Hamlet of Paulatuk (population 300), located 40 km west of the Park boundary on the shores of the Arctic Ocean. Tuktut Nogait is bounded by the Northwest Territories / Nunavut border to the east, by Crown land to the south, by Crown land and Inuvialuit privately owned lands in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region to the west, and by a narrow band of Inuvialuit privately owned lands to the north. The Tuktut Nogait Agreement contains provisions for enlarging the Park to encompass territory within the Nunavut Settlement Area. Inuvik, the regional centre for the Western Arctic, is located 430 km west of Paulatuk. The Park is very remote, with the closest highway located in Inuvik. Access to the Park is by chartered aircraft from the towns of Inuvik or Norman Wells, or by boat or foot from Paulatuk.



Map 1. Western Arctic Region

2.2 Inuvialuit Harvesting Rights

Ensuring ecological integrity requires recognition of the human component of ecosystems. For centuries, subsistence usage has been an integral part of the functioning ecosystem throughout the Paulatuk area. Traditional ties to the land are also closely linked to the traditional ecological knowledge that has been passed down by Inuvialuit through generations. The cultural identity of the Inuvialuit is thus largely defined by their relationship to the land and its resources.

In 1984, the Inuvialuit, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories signed the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. In the same year, Parliament approved and gave effect to that agreement in the *Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Claims Settlement Act* (1984). The Inuvialuit Final Agreement is an historic agreement. It helps create a new relationship between the Inuvialuit and other Canadians. It establishes a new land and resource management regime in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, and Inuvialuit rights set out in it are recognized and affirmed in Section 35 of the *Constitution Act* (1982). These rights are thus part of the very fabric of Canada.

Among other things, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement recognizes extensive Inuvialuit harvesting rights. Most of these rights run throughout the Western Arctic Region. They are thus in effect in Tuktut Nogait. The exercise of Inuvialuit harvesting rights is subject to the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and Section 11 of the Tuktut Nogait Agreement. In Section 11 of the Tuktut Nogait Agreement, the Inuvialuit have agreed not to exercise their right to sport hunt in Tuktut Nogait (see text box on next page).

This management plan affirms the right of Inuvialuit to exercise all other harvesting rights in Tuktut Nogait.¹ Subject to laws of general application respecting public safety and conservation, Inuvialuit shall have continued access to Tuktut Nogait to exercise these harvesting rights. The rights of Inuvialuit to harvest game include the right to use traditional and present methods of harvesting, to possess and use all equipment reasonably necessary to the exercise of that right, and the right to travel and establish camps as necessary to exercise that right in Tuktut Nogait.² In particular, the Inuvialuit may establish camps necessary to exercise their harvesting rights in Tuktut Nogait. The Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee will regulate the exercise of this right among its members.

In the event that quotas or closures on Inuvialuit harvesting are necessary in Tuktut Nogait, they will be determined and recommended to the appropriate Minister(s) by the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.

¹ Throughout this management plan, the term “visitor” and the rules regarding visitor use in Tuktut Nogait, do not pertain to Inuvialuit exercising harvesting rights in the Park.

² Sections 12(35), 12(36) and 14(23) of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.

Section 11 of the Tuktut Nogait Agreement reads:

“11.1. Notwithstanding Sub-Section 1.9, and in consideration of the rights and benefits contained in this Agreement for establishing the Park, the Inuvialuit agree to exercise their harvesting rights, responsibilities and obligations in the following manner:

(A) where the Inuvialuit have the right to allocate any of the harvest to non-Inuvialuit, the Inuvialuit agree not to do so for game inside the Park except to other native people as part of any bilateral agreement pursuant to terms of the IFA or other comprehensive land claims;

(B) where Inuvialuit have the right to sell edible parts from game, the Inuvialuit agree not to do so for game harvested inside the Park except for purposes of trade among Inuvialuit and other native people as provided in the IFA or other comprehensive land claims; and

(C) when, pursuant to the due process contained in the IFA, a quota is required for management purposes, the IGC and the PHTC agree to implement it effectively.

11.2. Parks Canada shall be able to rely upon a certified extract of duly executed by-laws of the PHTC, pursuant to its authority under paragraph 14(76)(f) of the IFA and the PHTC articles of incorporation under the Societies Act of the Northwest Territories, as evidence of compliance.

11.3 Canada may pass legislation consistent with these undertakings and shall do so where necessary for the purposes of implementation and enforcement.”

IFA - Inuvialuit Final Agreement

IGC - Inuvialuit Game Council

PHTC - Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee

2.3 Management Context

The community of Paulatuk first proposed a national park to protect the calving grounds of the Bluenose caribou herd in 1988. In so doing, its first objective was to ensure the protection of the calving grounds east of the community. Its further objectives were to enhance Inuvialuit involvement in the management of the area, keep the community's lifestyle options open, and enhance the local and regional economies.

Tuktut Nogait National Park was established following six years of negotiations (1991-1996). In 1996, the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Paulatuk Community Corporation, and the Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee signed the Tuktut Nogait Agreement. In 1997, they created the Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board. In December 1998, Parliament established Tuktut Nogait in legislation.

The Tuktut Nogait Agreement is a comprehensive agreement that sets the direction for park management, along with the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the *Canada National Parks Act* and

Regulations, national park policy, and other applicable legislation and regulations. The Agreement defines the purposes of Tuktut Nogait and the mandate of the Board. The Agreement also touches on training and community development planning, harvesting rights within the Park, contracting priorities for Inuvialuit, Inuvialuit priorities for park business licenses and access, and the use of firearms.

The Board is the primary instrument through which the parties to the Tuktut Nogait Agreement collaborate in the management of the Park. The Board advises the Minister of the Environment and other ministers as appropriate on all aspects of park planning, operation and management, and on the means of accomplishing the Park's defined purposes.

Under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) and the Fisheries Joint Management Committee are responsible for advising the appropriate ministers on wildlife and fisheries management matters throughout the Western Arctic and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (including Tuktut Nogait). The Board and Parks Canada thus work closely with these bodies to ensure that they are fully involved in decisions affecting Tuktut Nogait.

When Tuktut Nogait was established in 1998, it included only part of the area proposed by Parks Canada to represent the Tundra Hills Natural Region. An impact and benefit plan was signed in August, 2005 that provided for the expansion of the Park into the the Sahtu Settlement Area. Discussions on integrating the management of this additional area with that in the rest of the Park are underway. Any agreement or initiatives that result will be reflected in the next management plan.

Parks Canada continues to work towards enlarging the Park to include areas in Nunavut so as to achieve the original goal of a park that is fully representative of the Tundra Hills Natural Region (*see Map 2*).

2.4 Paulatuk Community Development Plan

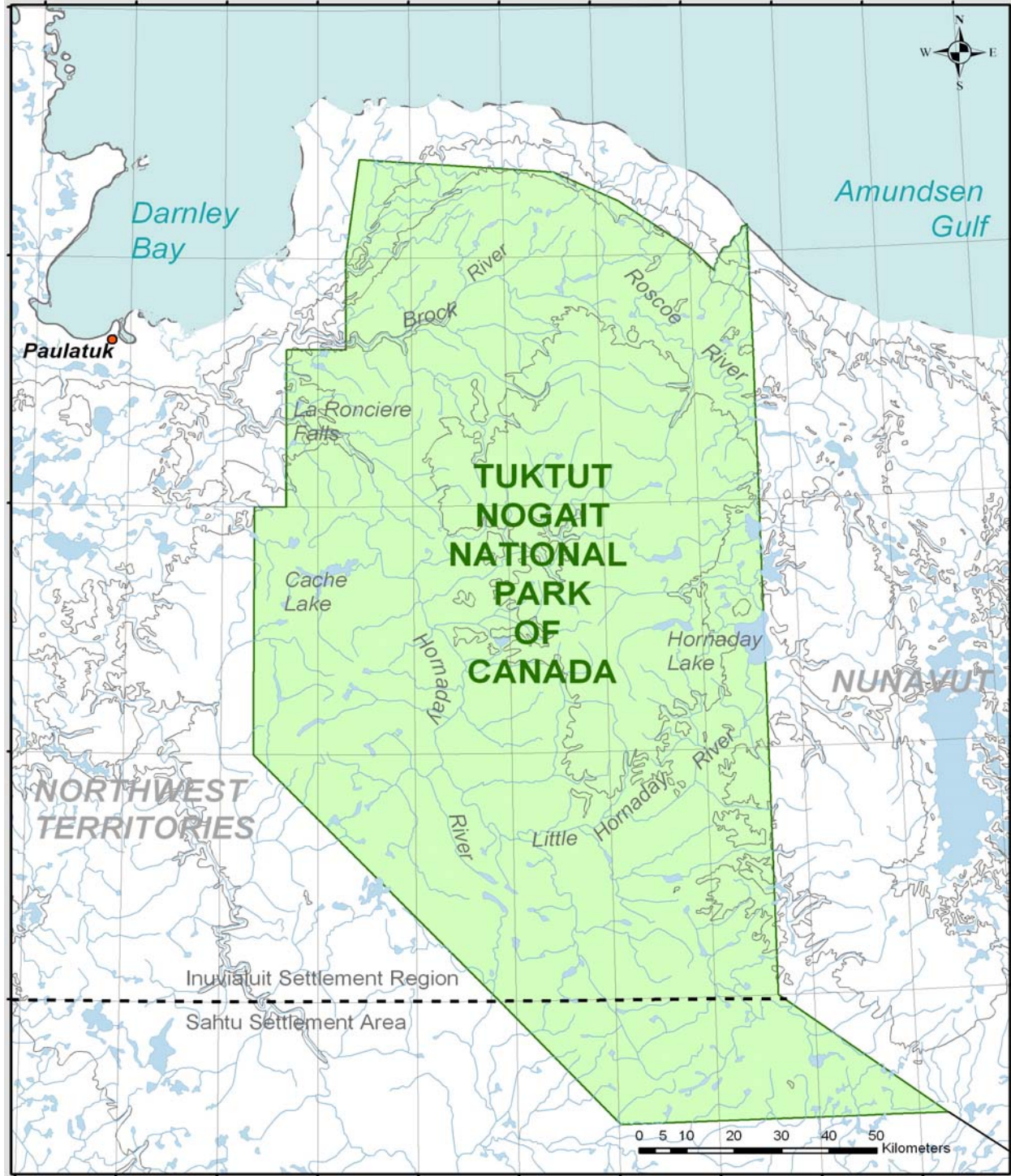
The Paulatuk Community Development Plan (Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, 2001) is an ongoing community planning initiative that springs from the Tuktut Nogait Agreement. Its purpose is to help the community of Paulatuk better plan for and capture the economic benefits associated with the establishment of Tuktut Nogait. It is complementary to the management plan. The Community Development Plan (rather than the management plan) addresses community development issues.

Working closely with community organizations and residents, the Board, the Government of the Northwest Territories, Parks Canada and consultants working for the Territorial Government prepared the Paulatuk Community Development Plan. The Board recommended the Plan to the Northwest Territories Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and to the Federal Minister of Canadian Heritage. Both Ministers approved the Plan in 2001.

The Community Development Plan is a working document that includes:

- an overarching Development Plan, that identifies the roles of different organizations in Plan implementation, community goals, the information upon which the Plan is based, partners and resources;
- a “Tool Kit,” intended to give community residents a sense of what community development opportunities currently exist, what is required to pursue them, what benefits and challenges can be expected along the way, and who can help; and
- a Four Year Action Plan, identifying possible community actions, “stakeholders” with an interest in these actions, time frames and the current status of each action item.

The Community Development Plan integrates the community development work of several agencies, including the Paulatuk Community Corporation, the Paulatuk Development Corporation, the Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee, the Hamlet of Paulatuk, Government of the Northwest Territories, Parks Canada and the Board. Working with all of these organizations, the Board facilitates a yearly meeting of stakeholders to establish annual commitments towards the implementation of selected priority action items. The Board also reports annually on the implementation of the plan, oversees a four-year review of the plan, updates the plan, and forwards recommendations on the plan and its implementation to the two Ministers.



Map 2. Tuktut Nogait National Park of Canada

Park Vision



Canoeing on the Hornaday River

“Conservation is ensuring that if we take caribou, there will be caribou the next year and the year after that. The same for anything else. This applies to all uses of the land: if it is used and enjoyed now, it must be left and preserved so that it will be there for the next year and for future years”.

Peter Green, Paulatuk Resident

3.0 PARK VISION

Parks Canada and the Board have derived the vision statement from the negotiated purposes of the Tuktut Nogait Agreement, their work since the Park was created in 1996, and the many recommendations generously made during the management plan’s consultation process.

A VISION FOR TUKTUT NOGAIT NATIONAL PARK OF CANADA

In fifteen to twenty years, Tuktut Nogait will be a park:

- that maintains the ecological integrity of a diverse landscape of Arctic tundra, broadly rolling uplands and lowlands, deep and narrow canyons, powerful waterfalls, and clear rivers;
- that protects critical wildlife habitat, including a large portion of Bluenose-West caribou herd's calving and post-calving grounds;
- that helps to maintain viable wildlife populations and that allows natural processes to persist unhindered;
- that maintains the exceptional water quality of its rivers and lakes;
- that respects Inuvialuit subsistence harvesting rights within it, and in which these rights continue to be exercised and passed down from generation to generation;
- in which cultural sites and landscapes are treated with respect, and in which these sites foster cultural pride and expose visitors to the vibrant cultural history of the region;
- that is a place of cooperation and openness in management, where Parks Canada, the Board and the cooperative management bodies established under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement collaborate in managing this timeless place and in preserving it for future generations;
- that contributes to the realization of economic benefits and employment in the community of Paulatuk and the Western Arctic Region as a whole;
- where ecotourism takes place in an environmentally sustainable manner and at a pace consistent with the wishes of local residents;
- where visitors may experience first-hand an Arctic landscape that looks and functions much as it did a thousand years ago;
- which assures others, who are unable to visit it in person, that this part of our natural heritage is being protected and managed cooperatively;
- that is a showcase that the Inuvialuit people can offer to Canadians and the world: a living example of excellence in environmental stewardship, research, monitoring, and cooperative management;
- that offers an Arctic experience for all recreational visitors, whether it be day use or multi-day use activities; and
- that is an educational tool to encourage the passing down of knowledge and culture from the elders to Inuvialuit youth, and is an educational resource for all Canadians.

Managing for Ecological Integrity



Siberian phlox

4.0 MANAGING FOR ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY

“The maintenance or restoration of ecological integrity, through the protection of natural resources and the natural processes, shall be the first priority of the Minister when considering all aspects of the management of Parks.”

Canada National Parks Act

4.1 Tuktut Nogait National Park

Along with Ivvavik and Aulavik national parks, Tuktut Nogait is one of three national parks of the Western Arctic Region (*see Map 1*). As an ecosystem, Tuktut Nogait has had minimal impact from human activity. It remains in its natural state (*see Figure 2*). Its landscape consists largely of vast expanses of tundra, broadly rolling uplands and lowlands, with deep and narrow canyons, scenic waterfalls and crystal clear rivers. Elevation ranges from 30 metres above sea level (ASL) in the northeast of the Park to 700 metres ASL in the south and central area. The highest point in Tuktut Nogait (876 metres ASL) is located in the Melville Hills.

The Park has a low Arctic eco-climate. This climate is characterized by long, cold winters and short, cool summers, with little overall precipitation. The mean annual temperature is approximately -11°C, with a summer mean of 5°C and a winter mean of -26°C. The mean annual precipitation ranges from 200-300 mm. The climate in the north of the Park is strongly affected by the Amundsen Gulf, which exerts a maritime influence on the region. Most precipitation and fog occur during the summer, and large continental Arctic air masses are predominant in the winter. When maritime air masses occasionally break through, they bring warmer temperatures and precipitation. Each winter, the northern-most portions of the Park experience two months when the sun never rises above the horizon. The southern half of the Park experiences more continental conditions with less fog and precipitation, and larger fluctuations in temperature. The dominant climatic feature of the Park is the almost constant wind.

The Brock Inlier is the main geological feature of the Park. It consists of uplifted Proterozoic sedimentary rocks intruded by Late Proterozoic diabase dykes and sills. It is framed on the west, south and east, by onlapped Paleozoic strata, and to the northwest and northeast, by a discontinuous veneer of Cretaceous strata. Estimates for the age of the inlier range between 1200 and 900 million years.

The Park lies in the continuous permafrost zone and all soils belong to the Cryosolic Order, as permafrost occurs within one metre of the surface everywhere. Most belong to the Turbic Cryosol Great Group, reflecting the intense frost churning prevalent at this latitude.

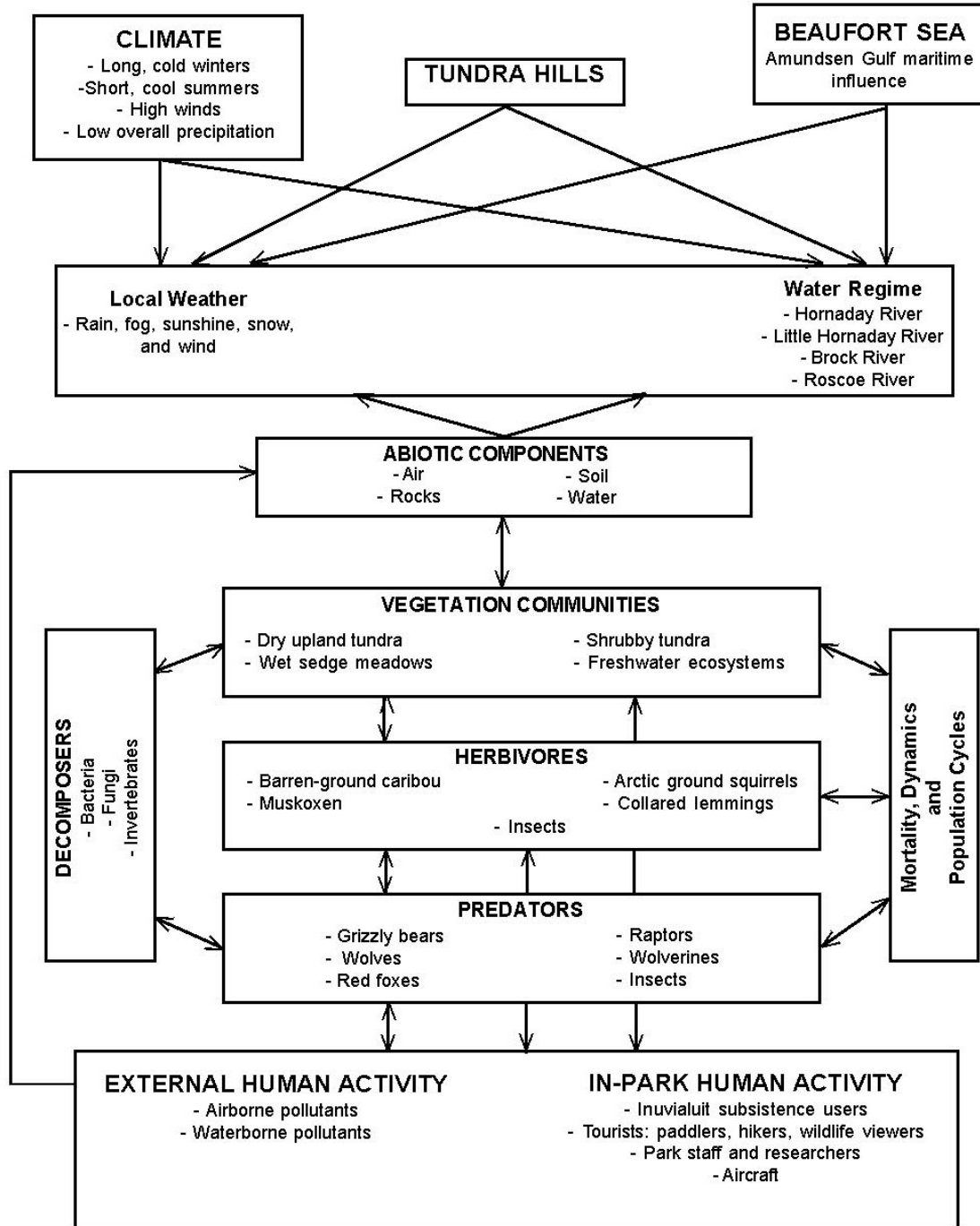
Tuktut Nogait is drained by three main rivers: the Hornaday, the Brock and the Roscoe. All three rivers generally follow the northwest slope of the land, flowing from interior areas to the Amundsen Gulf. All three rivers have carved deep and precipitous canyons where they leave the uplands. The largest river is the Hornaday, which is approximately 360 km in length, with a drainage basin of 14,900 km². Peak flow is usually during the first week of June, when water levels rise dramatically. A few large lakes are found along the eastern Park boundary, with smaller lakes found in the valleys of the main rivers and the northern part of the Park. Few lakes are present in the central Melville Hills.

As part of a land cover classification project, Parks Canada has described and classified the vegetation of Tuktut Nogait. Eleven land cover classes were identified for Tuktut Nogait and the adjacent area, including wet sedge meadow, tussock tundra, mesic tundra, shrub tundra, dry tundra, sparsely vegetated ground, rocky barrens, taiga, water, sand/gravel, and snow/ice. The classification data covered Tuktut Nogait National Park and an area extending six to twenty kilometres beyond the Park border.

Taiga (stands of open spruce forest) is not found within the Park boundary, nor are any individual spruce trees. Two classes, dry tundra and sparsely vegetated ground, together cover three quarters of the Park area. Sand/gravel and shrub tundra each comprise less than one percent of the Park, while water, snow/ice, wet sedge meadow, mesic tundra, tussock tundra and rocky barrens each cover less than ten percent of the Park.

A wide variety of mammals inhabit Tuktut Nogait. The Park includes the calving ground and main summer range of the Bluenose-West caribou herd. Other mammals include muskox, grizzly bear, wolf, red fox, wolverine, Arctic ground squirrel, collared lemming and the occasional polar bear. The Park is also a major breeding and nesting ground for a variety of migratory birds, and healthy populations of raptors such as peregrine falcon and gyrfalcon make their home on the walls of the river canyons. Many anadromous and freshwater fish species are found in the Park, and the Hornaday River supports an important subsistence fishery of Arctic char for the people of Paulatuk.

Figure 2: Terrestrial Food Web and Influences



4.2 Environmental Stressors

Tuktut Nogait enjoys an extraordinarily high level of ecological integrity. While impacts have occurred, they are rare. Nonetheless, stressors exist that have the potential to impair the park environment.

Parks Canada produces its State of Protected Heritage Areas Report to report on the general health of Canada’s National Parks. Identifying and ranking the five major stressors affecting Tuktut Nogait is one way of assessing the Park’s health. Activities or conditions are considered as stressors if they are known or suspected to be affecting the park environment. The five main stressors for Tuktut Nogait, identified in the State of Protected Heritage Areas 1999 Report, are listed in *Table 1*.

Action Item ▪ acting on the advice of the Board, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) and the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, Parks Canada will update the table of top five stressors for Tuktut Nogait as part of the State of the Park Report.

Table 1. Top 5 Stressors for Tuktut Nogait National Park with Actions Taken to Reduce or Monitor the Impact of Those Stressors (State of Protected Heritage Areas 1999 Report)

Rank	Stressor	Status	Activity Level 1999	Activity Level Update ⁽¹⁾
1	Climate Change	Increasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the literature, temperatures in this region appear to be increasing. • One automated weather station in place for monitoring air and ground temperature; second weather station being installed in 1999. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two automated weather stations in place (Qavvik Lake and Melville Hills) and gathering weather data. • A permafrost probe has been installed in Paulatuk and is being monitored. • Satellite monitoring (NDVI) measures vegetation greening. • Climate change issues are incorporated into Parks Canada’s educational and outreach programs. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>continued</i></p>

Rank	Stressor	Status	Activity Level 1999	Activity Level Update ⁽¹⁾
2	Long Range Transport of Pesticides	Stable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-range transport of heavy metals & pesticides to Arctic is documented elsewhere. • Water quality monitoring in progress. • Survey of contaminants in sediments planned for 1999. • Preliminary results indicate no hits above Canadian water quality guidelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality samples are collected at the Hornaday River and at Park lakes. • Pesticide issues are incorporated into Parks Canada's educational and outreach programs.
3	Solid Waste	Decreasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location of old fuel caches and drums are being documented and will be cleaned up opportunistically. • Strict controls now in place for fuel caching. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A site assessment has been carried out for all known potential contaminated sites. • All old fuel caches were cleaned up in 2003-04.
4	Mining	Increasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining activity is building west of the Park boundary. • If this activity results in the construction of a mine, there may be impacts on the park and greater park ecosystem through increased visitation, human disturbance, sport hunting, and contaminants inputs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mineral exploration was conducted adjacent to the western boundary of the Park and the region as a whole from 1998 to 2000, and again, sporadically since 2004. • Parks Canada and the Board will continue to communicate with developers in the area, and participate in environmental assessments of project proposals.
5	Park Management Practices	Stable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, staff operations are confined to a small portion of the year, and all impacts are localized and minimal. • All projects undergo environmental screening. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff field operations continue to focus on minimizing impacts. • Visitor numbers, including staff and researchers are recorded. • All projects undergo environmental screening. • The Environmental Management System is being implemented.

⁽¹⁾ The four left-hand columns reflect the 1999 report, while the right-hand column is a current update of activity levels.

4.3 Ecological Integrity Goals and Objectives

The maintenance of ecological integrity is the first principle of Canada’s national parks. But this principle cannot exist in isolation. It is part of a larger family of principles that must work together, as an integrated system. These principles include, among others, public awareness, understanding and enjoyment; the recognition and affirmation of aboriginal rights; the integration of the best available scientific and traditional knowledge; cooperation in management; and the contribution of Canada’s national parks to the health of local communities.

The *Canada National Parks Act* states that “the national parks of Canada are hereby dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education and enjoyment, subject to this Act and the regulations, and the parks shall be maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” (Sub-Section 4(1)). The *Act* further states: “maintenance or restoration of ecological integrity, through the protection of natural resources and natural processes, shall be the first priority of the Minister when considering all aspects of the management of parks.” (Sub-Section 8(2)).

The management of Tuktut Nogait will be ecosystem-based and will be guided by the following broad goal and objectives.

STRATEGIC GOAL

► *Cooperate with other agencies and cooperative management bodies to maintain ecological integrity in Tuktut Nogait within the context of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the Tuktut Nogait Agreement, and the Canada National Parks Act.*

4.3.1 Cooperative Management Plans

Within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region there are several cooperative management plans that guide ecosystem management in the region. In managing Tuktut Nogait, Parks Canada works with the following organizations, government departments and co-operative management bodies:

- Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board
- Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
- Fisheries Joint Management Committee
- Environmental Impact Screening Committee
- Environmental Impact Review Board
- Environment Canada
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Canadian Wildlife Service
- Inuvialuit Game Council
- Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee
- Government of the Northwest Territories

Objective

- *Use the management plans developed by cooperative management and Inuvialuit organizations to guide the ecosystem-based management of Tuktut Nogait.*

Parks Canada and the Board will use the following plans, in addition to the Tuktut Nogait Management Plan, for guidance in managing the Park. The management plan for Tuktut Nogait is compatible with, and complementary to, these other plans.

Paulatuk Community Conservation Plan

The Paulatuk Community Conservation Plan (Community of Paulatuk, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) and the Joint Secretariat, 2000) is a community-based planning document that was originally prepared in 1990 by the community of Paulatuk and the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT). The plan was updated by these organizations as well as by several government agencies and other cooperative management bodies. The plan is intended to guide all those with an interest in the Paulatuk planning area, which includes Tuktut Nogait. The plan contains a brief description of the current conservation and resource management system in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. It also describes a strategy to address five broad goals:

- identify and manage wildlife habitat, seasonal harvesting areas and cultural sites;
- promote a community-based process for making land use decisions and managing cumulative impacts;
- provide education initiatives which promote conservation, understanding and appreciation of the natural environment;
- support a general system of wildlife management; and
- enhance the local economy.

Action Item ▪ acting on the advice of the Board, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), and the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, and guided by the Paulatuk Community Conservation Plan, Parks Canada will continue to develop the research and monitoring program for Tuktut Nogait. These research and monitoring results will also guide management actions for the Park.

4.3.2 Species-Specific Plans

Along with the Paulatuk Community Conservation Plan, there are several species-specific plans which have a bearing on Tuktut Nogait. These cooperative management plans guide Parks Canada, the Board, and various other management organizations in the management and protection of various species.

Grizzly Bears

Tuktut Nogait and the surrounding region support populations of grizzly bears. Although grizzly bears in the Northwest Territories are considered healthy, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC; COSEWIC, 2000) has listed them as “a species of special concern” (see Section 4.3.6 *Species at Risk for definitions*). People in Paulatuk, the Northwest Territories, Canada and the world have an interest in grizzly bears. Many are concerned about the potential impacts of harvesting and habitat loss on this important species.

Parks Canada and the Board have outlined their commitment to the cooperative management of grizzly bears in the Co-management Plan for Grizzly Bears in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories (WMAC(NS), WMAC(NWT), 1998). Grizzly bears are harvested under a quota system for subsistence and sport hunting purposes in the Paulatuk region. Within Tuktut Nogait, subsistence hunting is permitted and Inuvialuit have agreed not to exercise their right to carry out sport hunts (see Section 2.2 *regarding Tuktut Nogait Agreement*). The total allowable harvest is established through recommendations from the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) to the NWT Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. In 2003, the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development began a grizzly bear population study for the Paulatuk and Tuktut Nogait regions. Together with traditional knowledge, the study results will be the basis for a reassessment of harvesting quotas.

Objectives

- *Endeavour to maintain the current population level of grizzly bears in Tuktut Nogait by ensuring that grizzly bear habitat is maintained and that the total number of bears removed from the population is sustainable.*
- *Allow opportunities for subsistence harvesting.*

Acting on the advice of the Board and the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- participate with the Government of the Northwest Territories and other agencies in cooperative research and monitoring projects regarding grizzly bears in Tuktut Nogait and the surrounding region;
 - assist the Government of the Northwest Territories in updating the regional grizzly bear population information database and the regional grizzly bear radio location database;
 - complete action items as outlined in the Co-management Plan for Grizzly Bears in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories;
 - monitor the harvest of grizzly bears in cooperation with the Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee and the Government of the Northwest Territories;

- reduce the potential for conflicts between humans and grizzly bears by promoting safe conduct in bear country;
- record grizzly bear observations using the Parks Canada wildlife cards, and analyse and present the results annually; and
- work together with other enforcement agencies to prevent the illegal harvest of grizzly bears.

Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East Caribou Herds

One of the primary reasons for establishing Tuktut Nogait was to protect the calving and post-calving habitat of the Bluenose caribou herd. In 1990, the community of Paulatuk and the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) identified the long-term protection of this herd and its calving and post-calving habitat as the first priority of the Paulatuk Community Conservation Plan.

More recent genetic research by the Government of the Northwest Territories has now established that the “Bluenose caribou herd” in fact comprises three distinct barren ground caribou herds: the Cape Bathurst, the Bluenose-West and the Bluenose-East herds. Tuktut Nogait is primarily important for its protection of the calving and post-calving habitat of the Bluenose-West herd: using several years of radio-tracking data, the Government of the Northwest Territories has confirmed the Bluenose-West herd’s recurring use of Tuktut Nogait for calving and post calving. Further, should Tuktut Nogait be expanded eastward, as originally proposed, into Nunavut, it would also protect a significant portion of the calving and post-calving habitat of the Bluenose-East herd.

In 2000, the Government of the Northwest Territories estimated the Bluenose-West herd to number approximately 74,300 (\pm 10,600) animals and the Bluenose-East herd to number approximately 123,100 (\pm 13,800) animals. A comprehensive research and monitoring program into both herds is ongoing. This research will gather additional information on the seasonal distribution and movements of both herds; estimate population sizes, productivity, and the recruitment of calves; estimate mortality rates; document the presence and abundance of parasites; and assess caribou body condition. This research is led by the Government of the Northwest Territories, but it also involves Parks Canada and several regional co-management boards and local committees in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, the Sahtu Settlement Area and the Nunavut Settlement Area.

The Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East herds are very important to the culture and economy of all three settlement regions or areas. Inuvialuit, Gwich’in, Inuit, Sahtu Dene and Metis from several communities hunt these herds for subsistence. Some non-native residents, non-residents and non-resident aliens also hunt these herds (outside of Tuktut Nogait). Harvest data collected in the communities within the ranges of these caribou herds confirms their very high importance to the subsistence economies of the Inuvialuit, Inuit, Gwich’in, Sahtu Dene and Metis. Together with the census data noted above, the harvest data also demonstrates that the current harvest is sustainable.

The Bluenose-West caribou herd is co-managed under the direction of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories) and the Tuktut Nogait National Park Management Board.

Objectives

- *Protect and maintain the Bluenose-West caribou herd and its calving and post-calving habitat in Tuktut Nogait.*
- *Continue to work cooperatively with Inuvialuit and the Government of the Northwest Territories in managing the herd.*
- *Maintain opportunities for subsistence harvesting.*

Acting on the advice of the Board and the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- monitor the Bluenose-West caribou herd under the Government of the Northwest Territories monitoring program;
 - monitor the Bluenose-East herd under the Government of Nunavut monitoring program, should future research indicate that herd's presence within Tuktut Nogait or any extension of the Park into Nunavut; and
 - support cooperative management boards and their harvest monitoring initiatives in the greater park ecosystem.

Arctic Char

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has worked closely with the Fisheries Joint Management Committee and the Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee since 1986, primarily on research and monitoring projects related to Arctic char in the Hornaday River system. This work has taken place both within Tuktut Nogait and on Inuvialuit lands west of the Park within the Hornaday River basin. The work has involved physical sampling of the community's catch (1990 to present), Floy tagging (1986, 1997, 1999) and radio tagging (1995, 1999) to determine char movements and distribution, biochemical analyses to determine stock origins (1997, 1998, 1999), distribution and life history of the char, and one enumeration (1986) to determine stock size. Use of the deep pockets in the estuary by over-wintering char was confirmed, and Hornaday River char were found in spawning condition within the Park at La Roncière Falls.

The contribution of Seven Islands Lake char to the sea-run stock is unknown but probable. The origin of char in the Park at other locations such as the headwater lakes of the Brock River, and their relationship to Hornaday River char, remain unanswered. There appears to be some mixing between Brock River and Hornaday River char, but the extent of this mixing is not known. There was a commercial fishery on the Hornaday River between 1968 and 1986, but declines in the catch led to its closure in 1987.

Char in the Paulatuk area are cooperatively managed under the Paulatuk Char Management Plan, 1998-2002 (Paulatuk Char Working Group, 1998). An updated version of the Char Management Plan was ratified in spring 2003 by the Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee. Under the Paulatuk Char Management Plan (2003-2005), subsistence harvesting is limited to 2,000 char per year.

Objective

- *Understand and maintain a healthy Arctic char population in Tuktut Nogait.*
- *Maintain opportunities for subsistence harvesting.*

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- in cooperation with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, manage char in Tuktut Nogait National Park in accordance with the Paulatuk Char Management Plan;
 - in cooperation with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Fisheries Joint Management Committee, work cooperatively to identify and study other Arctic char stocks; and
 - be an active member of the Paulatuk Char Working Group.

4.3.3 Other Wildlife

A number of other species are not identified in current cooperative management plans but play an integral part in Tuktut Nogait's ecosystems. Research and management of these species will be addressed through the Board and the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), and will consider the conclusions of the Tuktut Nogait National Park Research Needs Report (Parks Canada, 2002) and the Paulatuk Community Conservation Plan.

Objective

- *Understand and maintain wildlife communities representative of the ecosystems of Tuktut Nogait.*

Acting on the advice of the Board and the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- encourage Park visitors and members of the local community to complete wildlife cards documenting wildlife observations;
 - increase our knowledge of wildlife by maintaining a database of documented wildlife observations by visitors, staff and members of the community;
 - encourage Park visitors and members of the local community to complete the Northwest Territories bird checklist;

- conduct research, monitoring, and inventories for other wildlife species as priorities are identified; and
- summarize the state of the knowledge of the natural resources in the Park.

Muskoxen

Although muskoxen are present in Tuktut Nogait, their numbers are small. In 2002, the regional muskox population was estimated to be 1,215 non-calf animals. In Tuktut Nogait, small groups of muskoxen, totalling approximately 40 animals, reside in the lower Brock River valley during the summer and fall. In winter, they scatter further north to the coast and east towards the Roscoe River. Some isolated animals have also been observed at the south end of the Park in the summer. These animals are probably moving into the Park from the Sahtu area.

The population of muskoxen in the area between the Nunavut border to the east, the Anderson River to the west, the Arctic coast to the north and the 68th parallel of latitude to the south appears to be stable. However, population surveys in 1997 and 2002 have shown fewer animals above the treeline in the vicinity of the Brock and Hornaday Rivers than on previous surveys. The causes for this shift in distribution are presently unknown.

Objectives

- *Maintain a healthy muskox population in Tuktut Nogait and the surrounding region.*
- *Maintain opportunities for muskox subsistence harvesting.*

Acting on the advice of the Board and the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- conduct population surveys of muskoxen in the Park every 5 years (last survey completed in March 2002);
 - participate with the Government of the Northwest Territories and other agencies in cooperative research and monitoring projects regarding muskoxen in Tuktut Nogait and the surrounding region;
 - participate with the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Inuvialuit Game Council, the Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee and the Government of the Northwest Territories in determining any harvest quotas in the Park; and
 - cooperate with the Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee and the Government of the Northwest Territories to ensure that muskox harvest data is collected and distributed to cooperative management partners.

4.3.4 Aquatic Ecosystems

Tuktut Nogait is characterized by three major river systems: the Hornaday, the Roscoe and the Brock. The Park also contains numerous wetlands, ponds, and lakes.

The main threats to the integrity of Tuktut Nogait's rivers, lakes and ponds originate from outside the Park: climate change, potential mineral exploration and development, and the long-range transport of pesticides. These forces can have a range of effects on the environment, including impacts on the flow of water and the quality of aquatic ecosystems, the introduction of pollutants, and the uptake and accumulation of contaminants by aquatic organisms.

Research and monitoring of aquatic ecosystems are ongoing in Tuktut Nogait. Between 1998 and 2001, Environment Canada and Parks Canada conducted water quality and limnology studies in the Hornaday and Brock river watersheds at eight stream sites, five lake sites and one pond site. The baseline study indicated that stream and lake sediment quality is generally excellent in Tuktut Nogait, with only trace amounts of naturally occurring contaminants detected. Water quality monitoring at four of these sites on the Hornaday River continues. Water discharge has been monitored on the Hornaday River since 1998, and is also continuing. Additional research is required to adequately document species richness and the distribution of aquatic invertebrates and fish in the Park.

Objective

- *Maintain a healthy aquatic ecosystem in Tuktut Nogait.*

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- working cooperatively with other organizations, continue to monitor the water quality and discharge of the Hornaday River annually until 2008, at which time the monitoring program will be reviewed;
 - work cooperatively with community and regional organizations to develop a range of initiatives to protect and manage fish stocks in the area, including research, monitoring and inventories;
 - discuss and seek consensus with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Fisheries Joint Management Committee, the Paulatuk Char Working Group, the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the Inuvialuit Development Corporation, the Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee and the Paulatuk Community Corporation, to ensure that conservation and tourism interests are both met with respect to sport fishing; and
 - support the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' and the Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee's investigation and assessment of alternate subsistence fishing sites within the Park.

4.3.5 Vegetation

Parks Canada described and mapped vegetation communities in Tuktut Nogait and in surrounding areas from 1998 to 2000, using Landsat satellite imagery. Seven vegetation types were described with dry tundra being the most widespread in terms of area. The vegetation map is a useful tool for managing human use and understanding wildlife distribution. Currently, vegetation greening and biomass production is monitored at a regional level using a Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI). Parks Canada sponsored research in the summer of 2000 to improve the accuracy of this method. Based on the vegetation mapping and monitoring projects, Parks Canada has developed a preliminary list of plant species found in the Park. The need for additional research and monitoring on vegetation in Tuktut Nogait will be determined together with the Board and will consider the conclusions of the Tuktut Nogait National Park Research Needs Report and the Paulatuk Community Conservation Plan.

Objective

- *Inventory and protect representative vegetation communities and plant species in Tuktut Nogait.*

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- with the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), determine the need to conduct additional research, monitoring, and inventories for vegetation in Tuktut Nogait;
 - develop a database of resident plant species, including rare and exotic plant species; and
 - measure plant productivity using remote sensing (NDVI).

4.3.6 Species at Risk

The term “species at risk” refers to species identified by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). “Species at risk” is defined in the federal *Species At Risk Act* (2002) to mean an extirpated, endangered or threatened species or a species of special concern. Each of these terms is defined in the *Act* (as shown in the text box below). Within this classification system, three species that inhabit Tuktut Nogait – grizzly bear, wolverine and the tundra sub-species of peregrine falcon – are listed as “species of special concern.” Polar bear and short-eared owl, which may occasionally be found in the Park, are also listed as a “species of special concern” by COSEWIC. The historical breeding range of the Eskimo curlew, which is listed as an endangered species by COSEWIC, is thought to include Tuktut Nogait. It is not known, however, if the Eskimo curlew was ever found in the Park.

The following definitions represent the classifications utilized by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, as reflected in the *Species At Risk Act*:

“species at risk”: an extirpated, endangered or threatened species or a species of special concern.

“extirpated species”: a wildlife species that no longer exists in the wild in Canada, but exists elsewhere in the wild.

“endangered species”: a wildlife species that is facing imminent extirpation or extinction.

“threatened species”: a wildlife species that is likely to become an endangered species if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction.

“species of special concern”: a wildlife species that may become a threatened or an endangered species because of a combination of biological characteristics and identified threats.

Objective

- *Protect and monitor the populations of species at risk in Tuktut Nogait.*

Acting on the advice of the Board and the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- take measures to protect species at risk as the law requires;
 - complete a raptor survey every five years, to monitor the health of peregrine falcon and other raptor species, for submission to the Canadian Wildlife Service’s national survey of peregrine falcons;
 - record observations of grizzly bears and wolverine using wildlife cards;
 - incorporate traditional ecological knowledge in information gathering, monitoring and status reports related to Species At Risk;
 - assist the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Canadian Wildlife Service in the implementation of a polar bear monitoring program for bear populations in the Paulatuk region; and
 - use the current bird monitoring program to monitor the status of short-eared owls in the Park.

4.3.7 Climate Change

Parks Canada and the Board recognize climate change as one of the top stressors potentially affecting Tuktut Nogait. Monitoring the effects of climate change on the ecosystem of the Park is part of a regional, national and international effort to document and address climate change.

Parks Canada and the Board also recognize that climatological monitoring is an essential part of any ecological monitoring program, and that changes in ecological parameters cannot be interpreted without adequate climatological baseline data. In 1998 and 1999, Parks Canada installed two Meteorological Service of Canada cooperative climatological auto-stations within the Park. Data from these weather stations will be used to help interpret changes in the Park's indicators of ecological integrity (e.g. change in species distribution of breeding birds, change in plant biodiversity and vegetation productivity, change in permafrost distribution and depth, change in river discharge).

Objectives

- *Establish baseline measurements of weather processes and soil temperatures within the Park, to allow for intersite comparisons.*
- *Document long-term changes in the physical environment.*
- *Develop the capability to correlate variations in ecological processes and changes in the Park's indicators of ecological integrity with the climatological variations at the sites.*

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- ensure that the Park's climatological monitoring program dovetails with those of other monitoring networks and initiatives;
 - in partnership with the Meteorological Service of Canada, continue to operate and maintain the two in-park automated weather stations;
 - in partnership with the Meteorological Service of Canada, continue to collect and archive climatological data at the two in-park automated weather stations;
 - in 2009, following ten years of data collection, have a climatologist analyze the climatological data collected at both in-park sites; and
 - in partnership with other cooperative management partners, develop strategies to address climate change and its impact on the ecological integrity of Park resources.

4.3.8 Solid Waste

Parks Canada had identified solid waste as one of the top five stressors for Tuktut Nogait. Recent clean-up initiatives of old fuel caches have improved this situation, but small amounts of solid waste (including garbage from old camps) remain in the Park.

Objective

- *Inventory, monitor and remove solid waste from Tuktut Nogait.*

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- record locations of solid waste (e.g. waste from old camps, fuel drums) in Tuktut Nogait on an opportunistic basis; immediately assess the historic value of these sites and the need for clean up; and
 - undertake clean up activities whenever feasible.

4.4 Monitoring Ecological Integrity

Indicators are used to measure components of the ecosystem that either reflect overall ecosystem health or are sensitive to change. Progress made towards achieving ecological integrity can be assessed by comparing the status of an indicator to a target or desired level. Indicators can also be used to measure the effectiveness of actions outlined in this plan.

The State of Protected Heritage Areas 1999 Report identified three areas for assessing ecological integrity: biodiversity, ecosystem function, and stressors. Indicators for Tuktut Nogait are classified based on these areas.

Most of Parks Canada's monitoring actions in Tuktut Nogait are conducted with cooperative management partners and other government agencies. Time lines for these actions are often part of other management processes that are currently underway.

An ecological monitoring program is an important part of establishing and tracking indicators. Many of the indicators for Tuktut Nogait are related to the ecological monitoring that is being conducted in the Park.

Objective

- *Continue to develop and maintain an effective long-term ecological monitoring program.*

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- maintain an ecological monitoring program for Tuktut Nogait. The program will include collecting, analysing and reporting monitoring information (*monitoring activities to be conducted on a long-term basis are listed in Table 2*);
 - develop protocols that clearly outline methods for collecting, analysing and storing information collected through ecological monitoring activities. The effectiveness of monitoring activities will be reviewed annually;
 - report annually, where possible, on information collected through the monitoring program. Monitoring information will be shared with cooperative management agencies, communities and the scientific community (e.g. the Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network-North);
 - expand or adapt the ecological monitoring program when required to meet the objectives of ecosystem management for Tuktut Nogait;
 - develop targets, where needed, to assist in the monitoring of ecological integrity in the Park; and
 - use the results of the monitoring program – and other sources of research – to prepare the State of the Park Report in anticipation of the first park management plan review in five years.

Table 2. Indicators of Ecological Integrity

Population sizes of large mammals		
Indicator	Targets	Monitoring, Research and Park Management Initiatives*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of grizzly bears and muskoxen in the Park and surrounding areas. 	<p>Grizzly Bears</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine current population size. • Grizzly bear population within known historical levels (yet to be determined). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grizzly bear research initiated in the Park and surrounding areas in 2003. • Continue to participate in the cooperative management of grizzly bears, through the Co-management Plan for Grizzly Bears in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories. • Sustainable grizzly bear harvest limits are established by the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) once population estimates are determined.
	<p>Muskoxen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the regional muskox population. • Muskoxen numbers within known historical levels (yet to be determined) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survey of muskoxen was conducted in 2002. • Survey results are presented in a muskox survey report.

continued

Indicator	Targets	Monitoring, Research and Park Management Initiatives*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number, productivity and recruitment of caribou in the Bluenose-West caribou herd in the Park and surrounding areas. 	<p>Caribou</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribou numbers, productivity and recruitment within known historical levels (yet to be determined). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys of the Bluenose-West caribou herd have been conducted from 2000 to 2003. • Survey results are presented in a caribou survey report. • Continue to participate in the cooperative management of the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East caribou herds.
Population size of Arctic char in the Hornaday River		
Indicator	Targets	Monitoring, Research and Park Management Initiatives*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of char in the Hornaday River. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine the current Arctic char population in the Hornaday River. • Populations remain within natural variation (yet to be determined). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The best estimate of the size of the Hornaday River Arctic char stock is 16,000, based on a survey that was conducted in 1986. • Continue to participate in the cooperative management of Arctic char through the Paulatuk Char Working Group, and the Paulatuk Char Management Plan. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>continued</i></p>

Diversity and productivity of native breeding birds		
Indicator	Targets	Monitoring, Research and Park Management Initiatives*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The type and diversity of bird species breeding in the Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Composition of native species of birds breeding in the Park does not change. Viable populations of each bird species that breeds in the Park are maintained. Current number of native species of raptors breeding in the Park does not decline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species richness and composition, and abundance of birds in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut has been monitored through the Northwest Territories/Nunavut Bird Checklist Survey since 1995. Parks Canada began participating in this monitoring program when Tuktut Nogait National Park was created.
	<p>Peregrine Falcon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of peregrine falcon territories along the Hornaday River does not decline. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species composition of raptors, number of active peregrine falcon territories and productivity of peregrine falcons are monitored by Parks Canada through a raptor survey.
Productivity of plant communities		
Indicator	Targets	Monitoring, Research and Park Management Initiatives*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plant productivity, assessed using the Normalized Differential Vegetation Index (NDVI). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NDVI remain within natural variation (yet to be determined). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Satellite monitoring of plant productivity has been conducted since 1997.
		<i>continued</i>

Amount of solid waste		
Indicator	Targets	Monitoring, Research and Park Management Initiatives*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of fuel drums in the Park, and kilograms of solid waste. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No fuel drums in the Park. No solid waste in the Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solid waste sites have been identified and assessed, and most sites have been cleaned up.
Level of traditional harvesting of wildlife populations		
Indicator	Targets	Monitoring, Research and Park Management Initiatives*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number and location of subsistence harvests for species under quota (grizzly bear, polar bear, muskoxen). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viable populations of wildlife are maintained in the Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information about the subsistence harvest of grizzly bear, polar bear and muskoxen are collected by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

* Ecological monitoring and research activities are described by Parks Canada, Western Arctic Field Unit, in the Annual Research and Monitoring Report (produced every year since 2000) and the State of the Park Report (produced every five years).

4.5 Environmental Assessment

Parks Canada will follow the screening and review procedures of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (1992), and the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (1998) for any policies, projects or activities that may affect Tuktut Nogait, or that occur within Park boundaries. Duplication of procedures will be avoided whenever possible. The environmental impact screening and review process under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement is a two-stage process. Developments subject to environmental screening are screened by the Environmental Impact Screening Committee. If the Screening Committee determines that a development could have a significant negative environmental impact, it advises the governmental authority that the development is subject to assessment and review. Any public review is carried out by the Environmental Impact Review Board or another competent review body.

The Environmental Impact Screening Committee screens the management activities of Parks Canada and other government departments, certain activities requiring business licences, and government-funded research conducted on Crown Lands within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, including Tuktut Nogait. Projects that are vetted through the cooperative management bodies are not subject to the screening process. The primary responsibility of the Screening Committee is to determine if proposed projects could have a significant negative impact on the

environment or on present or future wildlife harvesting in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (including national parks within it). Parks Canada is also responsible for providing comments to the Environmental Impact Screening Committee on development activities that may have impacts in the Park and surrounding ecosystem.

4.6 Law Enforcement

Parks Canada and the Board are committed to the protection of Park resources through the delivery of an effective law enforcement program. Tuktut Nogait experiences a short visitor season (July and August) and limited visitation. A basic level of law enforcement will be provided in Tuktut Nogait. Prevention and education will form the cornerstones of the Park's law enforcement strategy.

As stated in Parks Canada Management Bulletin 2.1.9 (2003) on law enforcement:

"Parks Canada's law enforcement program is one of many tools used to protect natural and cultural resources and to ensure a safe and enjoyable park experience. It will treat the public fairly and with respect and it will use a community-based approach. There will be a strong, multi-disciplinary emphasis on attaining compliance through prevention, education, and awareness."

In 1987, Parks Canada and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on their respective roles in law enforcement in national parks. Pursuant to this MOU, the RCMP is the body primarily responsible for maintaining the public peace in Tuktut Nogait, although compliance related to public peace is the joint responsibility of Parks Canada and the RCMP. Law enforcement related to resource protection and public safety will be the primary responsibility of park wardens. The *Canada National Parks Act* and its associated regulations are the primary legal authorities through which activities in Tuktut Nogait are controlled and ecological integrity, and cultural resource protection are maintained by Parks Canada. Parks Canada will enforce this and other resource and public safety-related federal and territorial legislation in Tuktut Nogait.

In 2005, Parks Canada approved a Law Enforcement Plan for Tuktut Nogait. The plan which is up-dated annually, identifies and analyses the Park's law enforcement issues and concerns in a multi-disciplinary and multi-agency fashion, establishes operational strategies to address these issues and concerns, describes a law enforcement program delivery/implementation strategy, and determines a level of service compatible with the issues identified.

Objective

- *Protect the natural and cultural resources, ensure public safety and maintain public peace within Tuktut Nogait through the delivery of a professional law enforcement program.*

Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- deliver fair, impartial, consistent and professional enforcement of the *Canada National Parks Act*, regulations made under the *Canada National Parks Act* and other federal and territorial acts and regulations;
 - involve the Board, cooperative management partners, stakeholders, and members of the community of Paulatuk in law enforcement planning and program design;
 - continue liaison, cooperation and information sharing with the RCMP;
 - deliver a proactive prevention program based on visitor education, visitor contacts and/or cooperation with interest groups to increase public awareness and voluntary compliance with park regulations;
 - use effective media to communicate law enforcement messages to visitors and Inuvialuit;
 - if harvesting regulations are required, work with the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Paulatuk Hunters and Trappers Committee, the Board and cooperative management partners to develop Inuvialuit harvesting regulations consistent with the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and the Tuktut Nogait Agreement;
 - ensure its law enforcement program is guided by the principles outlined in Parks Canada Management Bulletin 2.1.9; and
 - ensure that staff safety guidelines and risk mitigations are adhered to in all law enforcement activities.

Managing Cultural Resources



Park visitor at a subterranean food cache

5.0 Managing Cultural Resources

5.1 Overview

By linking the past and present, our cultural resources help us to appreciate the human experience and understand who we are as Canadians. Tuktut Nogait's rich and distinctive cultural heritage includes hundreds of known archaeological and historic sites and objects, as well as cultural landscapes. Tuktut Nogait's cultural resources are part of an irreplaceable heritage. They are important in themselves and for their contribution to the significance of a site and a sense of place.

The objective of Parks Canada's Cultural Resource Management Policy (Parks Canada, 1994) is to manage cultural resources in accordance with the principles of value, public benefit, understanding, respect and integrity. Parks Canada is mandated under the *Canada National Parks Act* and the Cultural Resource Management Policy, and guided by the Tuktut Nogait Agreement, and Inuvialuit Final Agreement, to protect and present the cultural resources of Tuktut Nogait.

Tuktut Nogait presents an excellent opportunity to protect and interpret the cultural heritage of Canada's Western Arctic. In 1998, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Parks Canada in regard to artifact custody (Parks Canada, 1998a). This agreement allows Parks Canada to hold Inuvialuit and pre-Inuvialuit archaeological specimens found in Tuktut Nogait in trust for the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and to transfer custody of such specimens to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement.

STRATEGIC GOAL

- *Maintain the cultural resources and values of Tuktut Nogait.*

5.2 Human History, Culture and Involvement

In 1999, Parks Canada initiated a three-year cultural resource survey of Tuktut Nogait. The purpose of the survey was to identify and record visible cultural resources, assess their condition, and gather information to draft a cultural history of the Park. The survey sought to cover those parts of Tuktut Nogait that are most likely to attract visitors, including the drainages of the Hornaday and Brock rivers.

The survey recorded a total of 360 archaeological sites. Many of the sites are temporary camp sites but some large occupation sites were also found. Features within the sites include tent rings, caches, rock alignments, meat drying areas, kayak rests and parts, and hunting blinds. Very few artifacts were found on the surface, as most of the sites are well buried and protected by natural processes of sedimentation. The inventory exercise did not include the collection of any artifacts.

Based on the information collected, humans have occupied Tuktut Nogait since at least 1000 AD. The older sites are most likely Thule or Copper Inuit occupations, while the more recent sites are Inuvialuit and possibly early trappers/traders. More research is required to fully understand the cultural history of the Park.

Much of the evidence of past human use of the areas surrounding Tuktut Nogait has been gathered along the coast, north of the Park. Most of the sites surveyed along the coast were of Thule and Copper Inuit origin. They reveal several centuries of occupation of this area (AD 1200 to 1500). Researchers believe these peoples occupied coastal sites in winter, moving to inland fishing sites and hunting grounds in the fall until after the lakes and rivers froze.

Thule culture has several distinctive characteristics, including the specialized development of whaling technology and the use of dogs for transportation. Copper Inuit appear to have descended from the earlier Thule peoples, but the use of copper and a change to land-based hunting and fishing have given rise to the Copper Inuit's distinctive name. Today descendants of the Copper Inuit call themselves Inuinait.

The three-year survey of the Park has greatly increased our understanding of Tuktut Nogait. Until recently, archaeologists believed that the interior of the Park had not been significantly used by ancient peoples, but the number and the size of some of the sites has proven this to be mistaken. A preliminary assessment of these sites indicates that the Park may have been occupied periodically from Thule times and perhaps earlier.

Until more research is done, it will remain unclear why these sites and others were abandoned, and what became of these two cultures that left their mark on the land. The final abandonment of the southern shore of the Amundsen Gulf occurred in the 19th century, and is attributed to European contact.

In more recent times, Inuvialuit have used parts of the area for hunting, trapping and fishing, mainly along the coast and rivers. The Inuvialuit are descendants of two cultures. The Mackenzie Delta Inuit are Thule in origin and occupied a region from the Yukon to as far east as the Amundsen Gulf. Many Inuvialuit also trace their ancestry to the Inupiat cultures of Alaska, whose ancestors immigrated to the region in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Beginning in the mid 18th century, the Coppermine and Mackenzie Rivers channeled early travelers around the inland areas presently within Tuktut Nogait. It was thus not until the mid 19th century that the Park area was finally reached by outsiders. Father Emile Petitot was the first European to reach the area in 1867-68. From approximately 1890 to 1910, a large number of whalers operated in the Western Arctic. However they rarely ventured inland for exploration purposes. Between 1898 and 1912, two more explorers penetrated the area. In 1898, A. J. Stone traveled the area east of Cape Lyon in search of muskox, and between 1908 and 1912 the Canadian explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson traveled along the Amundsen Gulf coast during his exploration of the area between the Mackenzie Delta and Coronation Gulf. White fox trappers followed in the wake of explorers and whalers, but the extent of their activities, if any, in the Park is not well known. Nevertheless, the arrival of the early trappers in the region resulted in more permanent interactions between the European and Inuvialuit cultures.

In 1930, the Hudson's Bay Company established an outpost at Letty Harbour, attracting the Inuvialuit population of the area to the post to trade. The post was closed in 1937 due to insufficient trade. In 1935, a Roman Catholic Mission was located at Paulatuk, in part because of the nearby source of coal along the Hornaday River, access to healthy populations of fish and caribou, and the proximity of a good harbour. From 1936 to 1954, the Mission operated a small trading post and thus served as a religious, social and economic centre. The Inuit who came to Paulatuk and the Darnley Bay area were primarily Mackenzie and Alaskan Inuit from the west. In 1955, most people abandoned the Paulatuk mission and moved to Cape Parry where a Distant Early Warning (DEW) line site was being built. The construction of the DEW line site created permanent wage labour positions as well as seasonal construction work. Following the closing of the trading post in Paulatuk, and following a request by the Federal Government, the

small trading post at Letty Harbour was re-opened to attend to the trading needs of the Paulatuk Inuit.

The modern period in what is now known as the Inuvialuit Settlement Region is characterized by the settlement of people in the six communities of the Region, and by a shift from the subsistence economy to an economy based both on wages and on traditional activities. This continues to this day. In the mid 1960's, people in the Darnley Bay area moved back to Paulatuk. It is also in this period that the Government began to build houses in Paulatuk, and later a school, health facilities and other modern conveniences. Today, there are 3,500 Inuvialuit living in the six communities of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

While relying on the wage economy, many people in Paulatuk still derive much of their living from the land. Most of the active hunters do not, however, currently make extensive use of the Park. Those who currently hunt, fish, and trap, do so primarily northwest of the community, towards the Parry Peninsula, and south/southwest, in the direction of Tsoko Lake and the Horton River. Commercial sport hunts also take place in these areas and north of the community, on the sea ice. The only current subsistence activities taking place in the Park - in the north-western part of Tuktut Nogait - are fishing (primarily for Arctic char), hunting (for caribou), and some trapping. Subsistence activities in the Park may, however, increase in the future if sustainable char populations in addition to those on the Hornaday River can be confirmed.

Objectives

- *Facilitate cultural research in the Park.*
- *Promote and communicate the cultural heritage of Tuktut Nogait.*
- *Make appropriate recognition of Inuvialuit and pre-Inuvialuit heritage and presence in the Park and surrounding area.*

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- undertake cultural heritage research and monitoring in accordance with the recommendations made in the Tuktut Nogait National Park Research Needs Report;
 - collect, document and present traditional Inuvialuit knowledge of the physical, biological and cultural resources associated with the Park;
 - facilitate cultural resource research, protect cultural resources and use cultural resource information in park management and interpretation in partnership with the Inuvialuit Social Development Program and the Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre;
 - develop educational material on the cultural resources in Tuktut Nogait for schools in the western Arctic in partnership with the Inuvialuit Social Development Program and the Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre;

- gain a more in-depth understanding of the cultural heritage of the Park by excavating one to three key archaeological sites (artifact custody to be handled according to the 1998 Memorandum of Agreement, signed between the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Parks Canada). Prior to any excavation, due process will be followed;
- work with tourism operators to ensure the optimum visitor experience and the protection of cultural resources, and encourage operators to develop a cultural component to the interpretive part of their tourism packages;
- gather, analyse and incorporate the oral history of Tuktut Nogait into the interpretive program and the management of the Park. This data will remain the property of the Inuvialuit; and
- in cooperation with Inuvialuit organizations, manage sacred and culturally sensitive sites in the Park under appropriate Parks Canada directives.

5.3 Cultural Resource Monitoring Program

Together with Tuktut Nogait's ecological monitoring program, its cultural resource monitoring program plays an important part in protecting the cultural resources of the Park.

Objectives

- *Implement and maintain a long-term program to monitor the cultural resources of Tuktut Nogait.*
- *Protect cultural resources from disturbance, destruction or degradation by natural or human-induced causes.*

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- maintain a cultural resource monitoring program for Tuktut Nogait. The program will include collecting, analysing and reporting monitoring information;
 - develop monitoring and access protocols to protect sensitive sites from human disturbance, with special emphasis on sites associated with visitor traffic;
 - develop protocols that clearly outline methods for collecting, analysing and storing information collected through cultural resource monitoring activities; the effectiveness of monitoring activities will be reviewed annually;
 - develop and implement a cultural resource protection program for archaeological sites along the Hornaday River, which will include monitoring for natural erosion. Emphasis will be placed on education and protection; and
 - use public education and awareness to encourage park visitors not to disturb sites.

Heritage Presentation



Hiker overlooking the Hornaday River Canyon

6.0 Heritage Presentation

6.1 Overview

Canada's national parks are learning places. They have stories to tell, and it is important that the heritage associated with our national parks be communicated. Parks Canada and the Board are concerned that the ecological and cultural heritage of Tuktut Nogait be communicated to as many people as possible. To accomplish this they will use a variety of means, including park interpretation; community outreach programs; youth learning opportunities; initiatives with the education system; virtual and published materials; exhibits and displays. Through these means, Parks Canada and the Board hope that we can all come to better understand ourselves and our heritage.

The low number of visitors to Tuktut Nogait means that most heritage presentation activities will take place outside the Park itself, whether with visitors prior to their visit, with students and residents of the region, or with the many people across Canada and around the world who are interested in Canada's north and in the unique stories of Tuktut Nogait. Heritage presentation activities for Tuktut Nogait currently occur in Inuvik, at the Parks Canada office there, and at the Western Arctic Visitor Centre operated by the territorial government. School programs on national park themes take place annually in all Western Arctic communities.

Parks Canada, the Board and community residents have developed exhibits for the Visitor Reception Centre in the community of Paulatuk. The vision for the Visitor Reception Centre is not only to welcome visitors going to and from the Park, but also to serve as a place for the community of Paulatuk's continuing development of its Inuvialuit culture. Themes interpreted in the Centre will include the history of Paulatuk and the natural and cultural history of the region. Arts and crafts produced by Paulatuk artists and artisans are on display.

Tuktut Nogait's heritage presentation program will be guided by Parks Canada's national external communications strategy, titled "Engaging Canadians" to bring the Park's stories to all Canadians. A variety of tools will be used to inform the public: media relations, public relations, outreach and interpretation, tourism and marketing, and visitor and public information.

Park interpretation and outreach programs will incorporate the purposes of the Tuktut Nogait Agreement and the principles inherent in Tuktut Nogait's vision statement. Included among messages of significance are first, themes which are common to more than one national park in the system, and secondly, interpretive messages which are the stories that are specific to Tuktut Nogait National Park and its ecological and cultural context.

Parks Canada is also committed to assisting local residents to seek out and develop opportunities for interpretation and heritage presentation that provide economic benefits to communities and individuals.

STRATEGIC GOALS

- ▶ Provide opportunities for people to learn about, understand and appreciate the natural, cultural and economic value of Tuktut Nogait.
- ▶ Encourage individuals to participate in the protection and presentation of our heritage.

6.2 Audiences

The following audiences have been identified for Tuktut Nogait's heritage presentation program:

- Inuvialuit;
- Sahtu Dene;
- Inuit of Western Nunavut;
- multi-day visitors;
- day use visitors;
- web surfers and armchair travellers from around the world who enjoy learning about the Arctic through a variety of media (books, magazines, websites, local presentations, videos and documentaries)
- local and regional community members;
- Northwest Territories residents;
- schools in the Western Arctic Region;
- the education system nationally through the Parks Canada in Schools initiative;
- tourism companies and trip outfitters;
- air charter companies;
- print and broadcast media;
- researchers; and
- the Canadian and international public.

6.3 Heritage Presentation Themes and Stories

6.3.1 Themes

All Tuktut Nogait heritage presentation programs will address the following broad themes.

Ecological Integrity: Tuktut Nogait is a protected area within a larger regional and circumpolar ecosystem. Ecological integrity can only be achieved through cooperation and shared stewardship among Parks Canada, the Board, other government departments, Inuvialuit organizations, visitors, communities, cooperative management partners, tourism companies, and the wider public.

Aboriginal Culture - Past and Present: The Inuvialuit and their ancestors have used Tuktut Nogait for traditional activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and travelling for a long time. They continue to use the Park today. Tuktut Nogait presents the living culture of the Inuvialuit and their connection to the land. Although traditional practices still thrive, aboriginal people have also learned to adapt to changing technologies and changing economies, and are able to maintain traditions while also adapting to the world around them.

Cooperative Management: Tuktut Nogait is the product of an agreement between Canada, the Inuvialuit and the Government of the Northwest Territories. Tuktut Nogait is managed cooperatively through the Board, and within the context of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and the cooperative management structures created pursuant to the Agreement. The unique relationship between aboriginal organizations and the federal and territorial governments is an important story for northern national parks.

A system of protected areas: Tuktut Nogait is a national park in a Canada-wide family of national parks and national historic sites administered by Parks Canada. It is one of a series of protected areas in the Northwest Territories, Yukon and Nunavut. Each park in the system helps Canadians and people of other nationalities better appreciate the richness of Canada's geography and cultures.

A sense of place: Tuktut Nogait National Park represents many of the values of the Tundra Hills Natural Region. Interpretive programs will highlight the special character and unique features of the region; the processes that created and continue to shape the landscape; its climatic influence on flora and fauna; and its human history and present-day role in the fabric of Canada. This Arctic environment and its wilderness characteristics strengthen our identity as Canadians and citizens of a northern land.

6.3.2 Interpretive Stories

Tuktut Nogait heritage presentation programs will tell the following interpretive stories:

- tundra ecosystems and the Tundra Hills natural region;
- geology, climate and geomorphology, including the spectacular canyons of the Brock, Roscoe and Hornaday Rivers;
- the Bluenose-West caribou herd, its ecological and cultural significance; and the fact that the Park was established primarily to protect the calving grounds of this herd;
- the flora and fauna that make their home in the Park, including species at risk;
- Western Arctic cultures through the millennia and into the present day, including the Inuvialuit, Inuit and Dene history;
- Human activity in the modern era, including recreational opportunities such as hiking, wildlife viewing, and canoeing;
- Tuktut Nogait as a product of an Agreement between the governments of Canada and the Northwest Territories, and the Inuvialuit;
- cooperative management as an opportunity for people of different agencies and organizations to work together and learn from each other.

6.4 Heritage Presentation Objectives and Actions

Objective

- *Reach broader audiences with key ecological and cultural heritage messages, and work with other regional organizations in this regard.*

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- identify target audiences' needs and expectations for interpretation and outreach;
 - use Tuktut Nogait's themes to communicate cultural, economic and environmental messages to the Western Arctic Region and to all Canadians;

- communicate information about ecosystem management and cultural heritage to cooperative management partners and the public through publications, educational material, school visits, the internet, field trips, interpretive displays, posters, brochures and community presentations;
- work with other organizations in the Western Arctic Region to develop and deliver educational and communication initiatives;
- target audiences that have a multiplier effect (travel media, documentary producers, education system, tourism associations, trip outfitters);
- maintain and update Tuktut Nogait's website and explore new and innovative ways of attracting virtual visitors and achieving the site's fullest potential as an outreach tool;
- collaborate with other northern field units of Parks Canada to reach out to the southern Canadian public with northern messages and themes that fit into school curricula; and
- complete oral history projects and prepare, using various visual media, materials accessible and available to Inuvialuit, local residents and Canadians.

Objective

- *Generate local youth interest in Tuktut Nogait.*

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- assign staff to coordinate frequent school visits, increase awareness and promote the mandate of Parks Canada and the significance of Tuktut Nogait;
 - assist educators with the development of teaching material about environmental stewardship, based on the Northwest Territories curriculum; and
 - develop opportunities for youth to work and travel in the Park through youth camps, mentoring programs and youth hiring.

Objective

- *Engage visitors in the understanding, appreciation and protection of Tuktut Nogait National Park and in planning for their own safety while in the Park, and support and involve park-related businesses.*

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- continue to provide pre-trip information, mandatory registration services and personalized trip planning to prospective park visitors; and
 - make interpretive information and training available to park-related businesses (e.g., air service companies, guides and outfitters).

Objective

- *Facilitate the participation of Inuvialuit in heritage presentation and ecotourism.*

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- investigate with Inuvialuit tourism interests, the Paulatuk Community Corporation, and the Government of the Northwest Territories, the development of a community interpreter training program;
 - work with Inuvialuit organizations and the tourism industry in the development of trip planning, educational and promotional material for tourism activities in the Park;
 - work with tourism operators to identify opportunities and barriers to tourism in the region;
 - in partnership with the community of Paulatuk, develop the Visitor Reception Centre into a place where community residents and others can become aware of the local heritage, and in which community residents feel comfortable in developing new (and old) forms of cultural expression;
 - provide opportunities for people from Paulatuk and other local communities to be in the Park as volunteers, employees, contractors or to participate in camps and special events; and
 - continue to provide training to build outdoor and communications skills that relate to tourism opportunities, but that are also transferable to other careers and lead to lifestyle enrichment.

Park Access and Visitor Services



Paulatuk children getting ready to go into the Park

7.0 PARK ACCESS AND VISITOR SERVICES

People willing to make the trip into Tuktut Nogait are rewarded with the ultimate wilderness experience. Route selection for hiking in the Park is limitless, as are good camping sites beside countless rivers, lakes and streams. Opportunities abound for viewing wildlife that have had little or no human contact; caribou graze near camps or approach with curiosity. Visitors³ are in complete control of their own adventure, in a setting devoid of buildings or structures of any kind. Yet the land is not unmarked by humans: the Park's many archaeological sites bear silent witness to other people who, long ago, also travelled and camped in what is now Tuktut Nogait.

³ Please note, that throughout this management plan, "visitor" and rules regarding visitor use of Tuktut Nogait National Park do not include Inuvialuit exercising harvesting rights in the Park. *See Section 2.2.*

However, Tuktut Nogait is a remote national park and costly to access. Few have visited the Park in recent history. The challenge to park planners is to balance goals of increasing visitation to Tuktut Nogait, developing ecotourism and maintaining the Park’s ecological integrity. Parks Canada and the Board are confident that these goals can indeed all be met. Parks Canada and the Board are committed to facilitating opportunities for community and economic benefit that may arise out of park visitation and tourism.

STRATEGIC GOAL

► *Provide opportunities for visitors to Tuktut Nogait to enjoy high quality wilderness experiences that foster understanding and appreciation of the park’s natural and cultural resources, and their long-term protection.*

Objectives

- *Promote increased visitation to the Park.*
- *Promote sustainable tourism practices.*
- *Promote rich visitor experiences and public safety through the provision of information to visitors and tour operators.*
- *Provide and promote opportunities for appropriate and safe visitor activities which do not impair the ecological and cultural integrity of the Park, or the exercising of Inuvialuit harvesting rights in the Park.*
- *Encourage visitor activities that foster public education, appreciation and enjoyment in the Park.*
- *Work with others, and particularly Inuvialuit organizations, to provide high quality, appropriate services for the visiting public.*
- *Provide services and emergency facilities, where appropriate, for park visitors, so as to enrich their experience without impairing the natural and cultural resources Tuktut Nogait was created to protect.*

Parks Canada and the Board consider the following activities appropriate for visitor day and multi-day use in Tuktut Nogait:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • backpacking | • nature study, birding, photography |
| • camping | • picnicking |
| • canoeing | • rafting |
| • dog mushing | • sightseeing |
| • hiking | • ski touring |
| • interpretive programs | • snowshoeing |
| • kayaking | • sport fishing |

In accordance with the *Canada National Parks Act* regulations, other activities that are consistent with the maintenance of the ecological integrity of Tuktut Nogait will be considered and may be authorized by Parks Canada and the Board on a case-by-case basis. Day use activities present unique challenges for park management, with the potential transportation of relatively large numbers of people to favoured park locations.

In managing visitor use, Parks Canada and the Board are directed by several pieces of legislation and policy, as well as by the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and the Tuktut Nogait Agreement. More specific day and multi-day use guidelines and regulations may, however, prove necessary during the life of this management plan. If so, Parks Canada and the Board will develop these guidelines and regulations on the basis of the purposes negotiated in the Tuktut Nogait Agreement, supplemented by other considerations as necessary.

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

With regard to visitor use:

- Action Items**
- assess the environmental suitability of potential areas for day use activities. This assessment will include heritage presentation of key park values, resource protection, public safety, and potential enforcement issues;
 - as needed during the term of this management plan, develop appropriate day and multi-day use guidelines and regulations for Tuktut Nogait;
 - in the interim, consider proposals for day and multi-day use activities on a case-by-case basis;
 - as part of the Paulatuk Community Development Plan, investigate the development of tourism and marketing strategies in cooperation with community and Inuvialuit organizations, and the Government of the Northwest Territories;
 - work collaboratively with tourism operators, and particularly Inuvialuit operators, to develop or facilitate and promote sustainable eco-tourism ventures in the Park while minimizing interference with Inuvialuit exercising harvesting rights; and
 - continue to monitor park visitor use, type of activities and visitor satisfaction (*see Table 3*).

With regard to infrastructure:

- Action Items**
- monitor activity and use in the Park and assess the need for roofed shelters and emergency facilities;
 - consider non-emergency visitor facilities (commercial or Parks Canada) on a case-by-case basis if the Board and Parks Canada consider them necessary or desirable to achieve the purposes of the Tuktut Nogait Agreement and the goals of the Parks Canada Agency; and
 - assess options for providing naturalist, guide and other interpretive and educational services and facilities prior to or during the next plan review.

Table 3. Visitor Use Indicators

OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	TARGET	STATUS/ACTIONS
<p>To provide opportunities for quality visitor experiences that support ecological and commemorative integrity objectives.</p>	<p>Levels and pattern of use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of visitors • Number of user nights • Number of user days • Visitor origin • Activities • Temporal and spatial use patterns <p>Appropriateness of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on appropriate use criteria <p>Level of satisfaction with recreation experience.</p> <p>Level of satisfaction with quality of services and facilities.</p> <p>Level of satisfaction with onsite and outreach programming.</p> <p>Level of understanding of key messages.</p>	<p>To be developed.</p> <p>100% of activities support the Park visitor experience objectives and conform to the appropriate activities identified in the management plan.</p> <p>85% of visitors are “satisfied”, including 50% “very satisfied” with their recreational experience.</p> <p>85% of visitors are “satisfied”, including 50% “very satisfied” with their recreational experience.</p> <p>85% of visitors are “satisfied”, including 50% “very satisfied” with their recreational experience.</p> <p>75% of visitors are aware of key messages.</p>	<p>Registration system is in place.</p> <p>Ongoing monitoring by park staff.</p> <p>Annual visitor survey program is in place. Survey methodology was fine tuned in 2004 to maximize the response rate. Questions were evaluated to ensure client satisfaction measures and others are comparable with national human use measures.</p>

7.1 Aircraft Access

Due to the isolation of the Park and the lack of road access, the most popular and easiest way for visitors to access Tuktut Nogait is by air. Aircraft access to designated landing sites within Tuktut Nogait will therefore be permitted. Parks Canada and the Board will select landing sites in consultation with the regional tourism industry, air charter companies, the appropriate Inuvialuit organizations and the general public. Public safety will be the paramount criterion when selecting a site. In addition, the sites will be selected to minimize potential impacts on natural and cultural resources, other Park users, and Inuvialuit exercising harvesting rights, while allowing air access to areas of the Park that will optimize the visitor experience for day users as well as multi-day backcountry users.

Parks Canada and the Board are committed to minimizing the disturbance of wildlife by aircraft, while still providing access and a rich wilderness experience for visitors. Aircraft access and flight elevation requirements will be based on the Environmental Impact Screening Committee flight elevation guidelines (Environmental Impact Screening Committee, 2004). Education and awareness efforts directed at visitors and airline charter companies are expected to be the primary tool for addressing this issue.

Objective

- *Identify in-park landing sites to allow appropriate safe visitor access while minimizing impacts.*

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- investigate a number of in-park sites for potential designation under the *National Park Aircraft Access Regulation*, and consult the regional tourism industry, air charter companies, the appropriate Inuvialuit organizations and the public on landing options;
 - communicate to air charter companies and visitors the importance of following established guidelines when flying over the Park in order to minimize disturbance to wildlife and people; and
 - minimize the impacts of air access required for park operations, approved research, and visitor access.

7.2 Visitor Risk Management

Visitors to Tuktut Nogait must be fully aware of the remoteness of Tuktut Nogait, and of the Park's limited search and rescue capabilities. Several hazards exist, including weather extremes, challenging terrain, a lack of shelters and firewood, the risk of hypothermia, and human-wildlife conflicts. Good pre-trip planning is essential for a safe and enjoyable visitor experience. Parks Canada places priority for service delivery on prevention, education, and information programs in partnership with tourism marketers, operators and outfitters.

Objectives

- *Continue to provide appropriate safety messages and a response capability in keeping with the Park's geography and remoteness.*
- *Continue to implement and annually review the public safety plan for the Park.*

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- ensure that public safety is an integral component of the planning and delivery of all of its programs;
 - promote, maintain and monitor the registration system for the Park;
 - ensure visitors are aware of the hazards and risks inherent in visiting Tuktut Nogait, of their responsibility for their personal safety, and of the planning skills and physical fitness required for a safe visit to the Park;
 - update the Visitor Information Package annually;
 - prepare and periodically update a series of hiking route descriptions and river guides to aid in visitor safety, enjoyment and understanding of the Park;
 - continue to provide search and rescue services and maintain search and rescue capability consistent with the type of activities encouraged in the Park;
 - work with regional and national organizations involved in emergency response to ensure that the park public safety program is integrated into the region's network; and
 - annually review the public safety plan for Tuktut Nogait and revise the operational guidelines.

Data and Information Management



Hornaday River Canyon in winter

8.0 DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Information on the natural and cultural resources of Tuktut Nogait is available from a number of sources. These include specific studies conducted by Parks Canada and various agencies and groups, monitoring information, local and traditional knowledge, and historical information. To be used effectively and to minimize the duplication of efforts, this information must be organized and made readily accessible to resource planners and managers. Considerable information is still required to supplement existing data so that decisions can be made on the basis of sound information. Effective information management is a prerequisite for ongoing monitoring and reporting to Parks Canada stakeholders and the public.

Objective

- *Develop and maintain a comprehensive natural, cultural and social science data and information base for Tuktut Nogait.*

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- develop information and data collection and storage protocols for information and resources collected through research, monitoring and heritage initiatives;
 - where possible, consider following or adapting collection and storage protocols from standardized formats developed by recognized national and international bodies;
 - where possible, coordinate the collection and sharing of information with initiatives operated by cooperative management bodies, academic researchers, and other governmental organizations, to ensure that:
 1. duplication of collection efforts and/or data is minimized;
 2. gaps in the current knowledge-base are filled; and
 3. cost-sharing benefits of coordinated activities are encouraged;
 - develop a set of databases and GIS capabilities for Tuktut Nogait. This geo-referenced data, once integrated and analysed, will be used to provide direction in the protection, maintenance, and presentation of natural and cultural resources in the Park;
 - maintain an up-to-date 'metadata' of collected information to:
 1. ensure information is internally 'tracked' and catalogued within Parks Canada in a reliable and efficient manner, in accordance with recognized standards;
 2. promote ease of internal and external search and access to active and archived information ('external' referring to all bodies external to Parks Canada); and
 - develop a social science database that tracks patterns of visitor use in the Park.

Park Facilities



Camping on the bank of the Hornaday River

9.0 PARK FACILITIES

9.1 Facilities Management

Parks Canada's facilities in Paulatuk include an administrative office and Visitor Reception Centre, a workshop/garage, a staff residence, and a transient unit for park staff. There are no facilities or permanent structures in Tuktut Nogait. There are currently no plans for their construction during the life of this management plan; however these plans may be considered on a case-by-case basis if the Board and Parks Canada consider them necessary or desirable to achieve the purposes of the Tuktut Nogait Agreement and the goals of the Parks Canada Agency. Emergency shelters are dealt with in Section 7 Park Access and Visitor Services.

9.2 Environmental Management System

The Government of Canada is committed to the concept of environmental stewardship. This ensures that every government department or agency meets or exceeds environmental laws and regulations, follows the best environmental practices available, and develops and implements a sound environmental management system. An environmental management system (EMS) helps Parks Canada apply environmental stewardship considerations to every agency decision.

STRATEGIC GOALS

- ▶ *Parks Canada demonstrates sound environmental practices in all its activities, services and products.*
- ▶ *Visitors contribute to the principles of environmental stewardship and sustainability.*

Objectives

- *Enhance Parks Canada's environmental performance by developing and implementing an environmental management system.*
- *Demonstrate environmental leadership by communicating the Parks environmental performance to stakeholders and the people of Canada.*
- *Work with local residents and park visitors to encourage high environmental standards in their operations.*

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- implement the Western Arctic Field Unit Environmental Management System plan in every area applicable to the management of Tuktut Nogait;
 - incorporate environmental stewardship themes in presentations and school programs; and
 - ensure that all visitors to the Park receive trip planning information, both well in advance of their visit and again at the Parks Canada office immediately prior to heading out into the Park; the information will describe and promote leave-no-trace techniques for Arctic travel.

Partnerships and Public Involvement



10.0 PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Parks Canada and the Board are committed to ongoing public involvement in the management of Tuktut Nogait. Cooperation with a variety of Inuvialuit organizations, cooperative management agencies and the public is the cornerstone of effective national park management. During the life of this management plan, various groups and individuals will be asked for their input concerning the implementation of the plan's recommendations.

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

- Action Items**
- on a regular basis, participate in the meetings of cooperative management and community-based organizations to provide regular updates on Park initiatives;
 - produce a five-year State of the Park Report for Tuktut Nogait; and
 - produce an annual research & monitoring report for internal use and cooperative management partners.

Park Zoning



Hiker enjoying the Hornaday River slot canyon

11.0 PARK ZONING

11.1 Zoning in National Parks

The national parks zoning system is an integrated approach to classifying land and water areas according to:

- ecosystem and cultural resource protection requirements; and
- their capability and suitability to provide appropriate opportunities for visitor experiences.

The zoning system provides a framework for the area-specific application of policies and programs, such as resource management, appropriate visitor activities, managing human use, and research.

Some areas may require special recognition or management not provided by the zoning designation. Park management plans may designate specific sites in any zone as environmentally or culturally sensitive areas and set out guidelines for their protection and use.

11.2 Zoning in Tuktut Nogait National Park

Management plan provisions for zoning are both a requirement of the *Canada National Parks Act* and a means for achieving park purposes. Zoning does not, however, preclude aboriginal harvesting, visitation, or appropriate commercial ecotourism ventures. As discussed in Section 2.2, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement assures the rights of Inuvialuit to subsistence harvest in Tuktut Nogait. Zoning is in place for the length of the plan and can be re-visited during the plan review process that occurs every five years. Any change to a park's zoning during the life of the plan constitutes a major amendment to the park management plan and may only be made following an environmental assessment, public notice and public participation in the decision.

Tuktut Nogait is one of Canada's newest national parks. It was created on the recommendation of the Inuvialuit and the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT), and in a spirit of cooperation between the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Inuvialuit. The Inuvialuit and the Government of the Northwest Territories wish to develop an ecotourism industry based, at least in part, on the three national parks (Aulavik, Ivvavik and Tuktut Nogait) in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Ecotourism in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region is currently, however, in the initial stages of its development, and Inuvialuit authorities have requested that Tuktut Nogait not be zoned until park visitor use patterns and the interests of the ecotourism industry are better understood.

Parks Canada and the Board accept this point of view. They see the careful development of ecotourism as consistent with, and indeed complementary to, the maintenance of the ecological integrity of Tuktut Nogait. They will study visitor use, defer formal zoning and consult on zoning during the next plan review.

As park visitation increases, and the interests of the ecotourism industry are better understood, more information will be gathered. Through ongoing research, monitoring and analysis, a better understanding will be acquired of visitor use patterns (including preferred activities and routes), visitor expectations, visitor demographics and the potential impacts of visitation on ecological integrity. In the meantime, this management plan identifies appropriate visitor activities as they are currently understood. It makes a commitment to natural and cultural resource research and monitoring, and to social science research regarding visitor use. Parks Canada and the Board are confident that through these measures, supplemented as needed by regulatory action, the ecological integrity of Tuktut Nogait is assured.

Parks Canada commits to working closely with the Board in a comprehensive review of Tuktut Nogait zoning during the next plan review. This review will involve consultations with partners on zoning options, and zoning will be incorporated into the first revision of the management plan.

Acting on the advice of the Board, Parks Canada will:

- Action Item** ▪ review zoning options in consultation with cooperative management bodies, Inuvialuit organizations and the general public, prior to the first revision of the management plan, and incorporate zoning into the next management plan.

Summary of the Environmental Assessment



Hornaday River slot canyon

12.0 SUMMARY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

This management plan was subjected to an environmental assessment according to "The 1999 Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals". The environmental screening was conducted on a draft of the management plan, to ensure that the environmental effects of the initiatives contained in the plan were fully considered before any irrevocable decisions had been taken.

The environmental assessment focused on the cumulative effects of management actions on eight valued components as identified by the management plan: wildlife, vegetation, soils, aquatic ecosystems, climate, visitors, traditional use and cultural resources. Potential cumulative effects were identified which need to be addressed prior to implementation. For example, project level environmental assessments of day use areas should address the impacts of increased aircraft access on wildlife and visitors' wilderness experience. Day use areas and aircraft landing sites will also receive greater use on the ground, increasing impacts to vegetation and soil. The potential impacts should be addressed in environmental assessments prior to opening up these sites. Since little is known about the visitor patterns of use and ecosystem responses to use, monitoring will be important to provide information for future management decisions. Positive cumulative effects include greater knowledge of the ecosystems through research and monitoring and improved visitor experiences. Monitoring protocols, a geographic information system, databases and publication of results, are further ways the management plan protects ecological integrity. The information collected through research and monitoring will then be useful for future generations protecting the Park.

Some of these initiatives are conceptual in nature and will require further assessment under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and/or the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* when specific proposals have been developed. The required mitigation, surveillance and follow-up will be developed when the proposals progress from the conceptual phase to the design and implementation phase.

The environmental screening has determined that the potentially adverse environmental effects from the proposals in this management plan can be mitigated and will be insignificant.

Glossary of Terms



Paulatuk youth drum dancing on the tundra

13.0 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Conservation: the management of wildlife populations and habitat to ensure the maintenance of the quality, including the long term optimum productivity, of these resources and to ensure the efficient utilization of the available harvest (IFA definition).

Ecological Integrity: a condition that is determined to be characteristic of its natural region and likely to persist, including abiotic components and the composition and abundance of native species and biological communities, rates of change and supporting processes. (*Canada National Parks Act*).

Ecosystem: a group of organisms and its accompanying cycles, processes, structures and energy flows. Ecosystems are systems of interacting organisms and species, including humans and their non-biological environments. For example, a tundra ecosystem is made up of muskoxen, wolves, lemmings, people, lichens, mosses, shrubs, grasses, cold dark winters, rivers, rain and snow and wind, soil and permafrost. It also includes the relationships, such as muskoxen eating

lichen, wolves eating caribou, people hunting wolves and muskoxen, lemmings digging in the ground, and wind-blown snow blasting the shrubs.

Inuvialuit Final Agreement: the agreement which settled the Western Arctic Inuvialuit Land Claim of the Inuvialuit. Also referred to as the IFA.

Inuvialuit Settlement Region: that portion of the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and the adjacent offshore areas that is described in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.

Monitoring: is an effort that:

- a) provides repeatable ecological measurements that influence natural resource management decisions, or
- b) monitors either long-term changes in regional ecosystems or specific threats to those ecosystems.

Subsistence usage: as defined in the IFA,

- a) with respect to wildlife other than migratory game birds, migratory non-game birds and migratory insectivorous birds, subject to international conventions, the taking of wildlife by Inuvialuit for their personal use for food and clothing and includes the taking of wildlife for the purpose of trade, barter and, subject to Section 12, sale among Inuvialuit and trade, barter and sale to any person of the non-edible by-products of wildlife that are incidental to the taking of wildlife by Inuvialuit for their personal use; and
- b) with respect to migratory game birds, migratory non-game birds and migratory insectivorous birds, subject to the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, the taking of such birds by Inuvialuit for their personal use for food and clothing, and includes the taking of such birds for the purpose of trade and barter among the Inuvialuit and trade, barter and sale to any person of the non-edible parts of such birds to the extent permitted under regulations made pursuant to the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*.

Traditional knowledge: knowledge that comes from, or is rooted in the traditional way of life of people. Traditional knowledge is the accumulated knowledge and understanding of the human place in relation to the universe. This encompasses spiritual relationships with the natural environment and the use of natural resources, relationships between people, and is reflected in language, social organization, values, institutions, and laws.

Western Arctic Region: is defined in section 2 of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement as “that portion of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region other than the Yukon Territory”.

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Paulatuk youth playing in the Park

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