# 4.6 Lands in Gwich'in Special Management Zones

Approximately 42% of the settlement area is allocated to Gwich'in Special Management Zones. These are areas where most land uses are possible as long as:

- the Regional conditions are met,
- conditions outlined for each zone are met, and
- approvals through the regulatory system are obtained.

The additional Special Management Zone conditions are designed to protect valued resources identified by communities or other stakeholders during the planning process. The conditions are tailored to address local concerns and the local environment. These zones, as with any other zoning in the Plan, place no restrictions on traditional uses protected by the Gwich'in Land Claim.

Regulatory agencies may not issue a licence, permit, or authorization in Gwich'in Special Management Zones unless the proposed use is in conformity with the Gwich'in Land Use Plan. Some of the conditions are process oriented, making sure that the right groups are consulted on each development project. Other conditions are more prescriptive and designed for being included directly into the authorization issued by the regulatory agency.

The Gwich'in Special Management Zones were identified primarily in three ways:

- 1) Areas that the communities or scientific groups proposed as candidates for seasonal protection;
- 2) Areas that communities or scientific groups proposed as candidates for special management to protect a specific resource; and
- 3) Areas where multiple land uses did not allow for year-round protection and special management areas did allow for adequate protection of resources.

The following table is a list of Gwich'in Special Management Zones and the conditions applied to each:

#### FIGURE 21: GWICH'IN SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ZONES AND CONDITIONS TABLE

		Barren-ground Caribou	Heritage	Fish Habitat	Traditional Harvest	Waterfowl	Raptors	Dall's Sheep	Tourism	Regional Conditions*
1	Transportation:									
	- Yukon/NWT Border to Peel River	X			X	V			X	X
	<ul> <li>Peel River to Mackenzie River</li> <li>Mackenzie River to Inuvik</li> </ul>				X X	Χ	Х		X X	X
2	Richardson Mountains and Foothills	x	X	X	X		~		~	X
3	Teetł'it gwinjik Peel River & Channel		X	Χ	X					X
4	<b>Nataiinlaii</b> 8 miles		Χ	Χ	X				Х	X
5	<b>Neeghaii zhòo njik, Neeghaii zhòo vàn</b> Frog Creek / Frog Lake		X	Х	x	X				x
6	Gwi'eekajilchit tshik Campbell Creek		X	Х	Х					X
7	Campbell Hills		X	Χ	Х	Χ	X		Х	Х
8	<b>Ehdiitat</b> Mackenzie Delta		X	Χ	X	Χ				X
9	<b>Khąiįląiį</b> Rengleng River		X	Χ	X					X
10	Tsiigehtshik Mouth of the Arctic Red River		X	X	Х		X		X	X
11	Cardinal Lake		X		X	Χ				X
12	Van kat khaii luk gwindyee Lakes around Travaillant Lake		Χ	X	X	Χ				X
13	Nagwichoonjik Mackenzie River		X	Χ	X	Χ	X			X
14	Dachan choo gehnjik Tree River		X	Χ	X					X
15	<b>Tsiigehnjik</b> Arctic Red River		X	X	Х					X
16	Daazrąjį van k'adh, Daazrąjį van k'adh tshik Swan Lake / Swan Creek		X	X	x	X				x
17	Tsiigehnjik gwitł'it Headwaters of the Arctic Red River		X		X			X		X

\* The regional conditions (see section 4.4) identify policy for Water Quality and Quantity, Pit Management Plans, Using Native Species of Plants for Reclamation, Woodland Caribou, Species at Risk, Uranium, Coal Bed Methane/Shale Gas, and Sumps

Special Management Zone conditions are detailed in the descriptions that follow.

# 4.6.1 Transportation Special Management Zone

### Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of this Transportation Special Management Zone is to allow for activities within a two kilometre wide buffer along the Dempster Highway (1,000 metres on either side of the Highway), while protecting the resource values of the area. Most activities within this buffer will be related to transportation. The Dempster Highway is the most northern highway in North America and provides the Gwich'in Settlement Area with year round access to the south (except for small periods of time during river freeze up and break up). Maintaining the highway is a high priority for the residents and communities in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

The resources of concern along the Dempster Highway vary depending on location. One common resource along the highway is tourism. Many visitors to the Gwich'in Settlement Area travel on the Dempster Highway and enjoy activities along its length. Other resources found along the Dempster Highway are Porcupine caribou, waterfowl, fish, and raptors.

The highway also runs through Deepwater Lake watershed.<sup>7</sup> This lake is the water source for the community of Fort McPherson so protection of water quality and quantity is of utmost importance in this zone.

The Dempster Highway is divided into three distinct sections to address specific issues along each one. The following conditions apply within the specified sections of the Transportation Special Management Zone:

Dempster Highway: Yukon/NWT Border to Peel River (Barren-ground caribou, traditional harvesting, tourism)

#### Conditions regarding Barren-ground Caribou:

- 1. Activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization will not block or cause substantial diversion to migrating barren-ground caribou.<sup>8</sup> Activities that may interfere with migration will cease until the migration has passed. The Planning Board recommends that monitors be used to assess the presence of migrating caribou within proposed activity sites.
- 2. Activities at any time of the year will not alter the caribou migration habitat in a way that will prevent caribou from using the migration corridor in the future.

#### **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.

2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

## Conditions regarding Tourism Value:

- 1. Any new activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations, not related to maintenance, construction and operations on the existing right-of-way, shall not be visible from the highway.
- 2. Department of Transportation activities related to maintenance, construction and operations on the existing right-of-way should be conducted such that the scenic value along the highway is preserved.

# Dempster Highway: Peel River to Mackenzie River

#### (traditional harvesting, waterfowl, tourism)

Where the Deepwater Lake watershed overlaps this zone, special attention should be paid to implementing the regional condition for water quality and quantity.

### **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

- 1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.
- 2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

### **Conditions regarding Waterfowl:**

- 1. Proponents requiring a permit, licence or authorization will demonstrate that proposed activities at any time of year will not have adverse effects on waterfowl nesting and staging sites.
- 2. Waterfowl nesting and staging sites near proposed activities should be identified in advance through the use of scientific and traditional knowledge and be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres at any time of year.<sup>9</sup>
- 3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 metres when flying over this Special Management Zone in June, July and August.<sup>10</sup> Additionally, concentrations of waterfowl should be avoided by 1500 metres, or more.<sup>11</sup> Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

#### **Conditions regarding Tourism Value:**

- 1. Any new activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations, not related to maintenance, construction and operations on the existing right-of-way, shall not be visible from the highway.
- 2. Department of Transportation activities related to maintenance, construction and operations on the existing right-of-way should be conducted such that the scenic value along the highway is preserved.

#### Dempster Highway: Mackenzie River to Inuvik (traditional harvesting, peregrine falcons and other raptors, tourism)

# **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

- 1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.
- 2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

### **Conditions regarding Peregrine Falcons and other Raptors:**

- 1. Proponents requiring a permit, licence or authorization will demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on nesting raptors from the beginning of March to the end of August.
- 2. Raptor nesting sites should be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres.<sup>12</sup>
- 3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 meters when flying over areas likely to have nesting raptors.<sup>13</sup> Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

### **Conditions regarding Tourism Value:**

- 1. Any new activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations, not related to maintenance, construction and operations on the existing right-of-way, shall not be visible from the highway.
- 2. Department of Transportation activities related to maintenance, construction and operations on the existing right-of-way should be conducted such that the scenic value along the highway is preserved.

# MAP 1: TRANSPORTATION SMZ



# 4.6.2 Richardson Mountains and Foothills Special Management Zone

### Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goals of the Richardson Mountains and Foothills Special Management Zone are to protect the Porcupine caribou, fish habitat, water, and heritage resources of the area. Activities will be allowed in this Special Management Zone with conditions for protection of these specific resources.

Porcupine caribou migrate in the spring from their wintering grounds in the Yukon to their calving grounds by the Beaufort Sea and they return to their wintering grounds in the fall. The Gwich'in rely on the caribou migration for food. The caribou are not only an important source of food, but are also linked closely to Gwich'in traditional life, culture and values.

There is growing concern about the status of the migration corridor and wintering grounds of the Porcupine caribou. The Planning Board has protected some of the migration corridor from development through the Rat, Husky and Black Mountain Conservation Zone and the James Creek/Vittrekwa River Conservation Zone. This special management zone is meant to manage development in the rest of the migration corridor. The boundary is based on maps from the Porcupine Caribou Management Board<sup>14</sup> and the results of the Gwich'in Harvest Study.

Another species of concern is the Dolly Varden Char that migrate through the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The habitat of the char that spawn in the Rat River was protected through a conservation zone that encompasses the river's watershed. Recent studies have focused on a population of char that spawn in the Vittrekwa River.<sup>15</sup> While the conditions to protect fish are of special importance to help stop the decline of the char, they are also meant to ensure the health of all species.

Water is a resource of great value to the Gwich'in. In particular, they would like to see the high water quality of Stoney Creek maintained because it is still used by community members that travel along traditional trails in the area.

This area is full of heritage and cultural value. There is a traditional trail along Stoney Creek that is of heritage value<sup>16</sup> requiring special management. The Stoney Creek traditional trail is still used today as a route through the Richardson Mountains to Old Crow, Yukon. The GSCI have also recently identified an Ehdiitat cultural landscape for recognition under the Territorial Historic Sites program. It encompasses Black Mountain (Mount Goodenough), Red Mountain (Mount Gifford), Rat River, and Husky Channel and overlaps portions of both the Rat River Conservation Zone and this special management zone.

The Planning Board asks that developers and regulators give consideration to maintaining the tourism value of the zone although no special conditions for this will be prescribed by the Plan at this time.

The following conditions apply within the Richardson Mountains and Foothills Special Management Zone:

#### Conditions regarding Barren-ground Caribou:

- 1. Activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization will not block or cause substantial diversion to migrating barren-ground caribou.<sup>17</sup> Activities that may interfere with migration will cease until the migration has passed. The Planning Board recommends that monitors be used to assess the presence of migrating caribou within proposed activity sites.
- 2. Activities at any time of the year will not alter the caribou migration habitat in a way that will prevent caribou from using the migration corridor in the future.

### **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

- 1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.
- 2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

#### **Conditions regarding Heritage Resources:**

- 1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.
- 2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s) and (local) Gwich'in Council(s).

### **Condition regarding Fish:**

1. During peak migration times in the spring and fall, new activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization will not be allowed unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat or impediments to the movement of fish will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s).

# MAP 2: RICHARDSON MOUNTAINS AND FOOTHILLS SMZ



# 4.6.3 Teeti'it gwinjik - Peel River / Peel Channel Special Management Zone

#### Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The entire Peel River Watershed, including the area in the Yukon, is very important to the Gwich'in. Concerns about transboundary areas are addressed in Section 6, Land Use Plan for the Future: A Regional Plan of Action.

The goal of the Peel River and Channel Special Management Zone is to protect:

- water quality and quantity,
- traditional harvesting,
- fish, and
- heritage and cultural resources.

Changes in the water quality and quantity of the Peel River and Channel will be felt by both Fort McPherson and Aklavik. Significant changes will affect its safety as a water source, its ability to support the quality and number of fish harvested, and its suitability for boat traffic to camps and harvesting sites. This one issue is intricately tied to the other three goals for the zone.

The Gwich'in harvest many fish from the Peel River and Channel in the spring, summer and fall. The main species harvested are lake whitefish, broad whitefish, inconnu, jackfish, burbot, and arctic cisco.<sup>18</sup> Other fish species in the Peel River system include arctic grayling, chum salmon, dolly varden char, flathead chub, lake chub, least cisco, longnose sucker, ninespine stickleback, pond smelt, slimy and spoonhead sculpins, trout, perch and walleye.<sup>19</sup>

Along the Peel River and Channel there are numerous archaeological sites, camps and cabins. It is an area of high value for Gwich'in traditional activities and heritage. Beyond fishing, much hunting and trapping takes place along and next to the Peel River and Channel.

The following conditions apply within the Peel River and Channel Special Management Zone:

#### **Conditions regarding Heritage Resources:**

- 1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.
- 2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s) and (local) Gwich'in Council(s).

#### Condition regarding Fish:

1. During peak migration times in the spring and fall, new activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization will not be allowed unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat or impediments to the movement of fish will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s).

#### **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

- 1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.
- 2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

# MAP 3: PEEL RIVER / PEEL CHANNEL SMZ



# 4.6.4 Nataiinlaii - 8 Miles Special Management Zone

### Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of this special management zone is to recognise the past and present importance of this landscape to the culture of the Teetl'it Gwich'in. Today, the village is "home" to many Teetl'it Gwich'in elders who have established cabins and fish houses there and continue to live their traditional lifestyle. There are items such as archaeological sites, an outline of a ninkahn (sod house), and a log warehouse from 1945 that represent the past use of the area.<sup>20</sup> Activities will be allowed in this zone with conditions to protect cultural values.

The other land uses occurring in this zone are related to the Dempster highway and the ferry / ice road crossing on the Peel River.

This special management zone surrounds heritage conservation zoning with the same name and matches the boundaries defined in the NWT historic site nomination by the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute.

The following conditions apply within the Nataiinlaii Special Management Zone:

#### **Conditions regarding Heritage Resources:**

- 1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.
- 2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s) and (local) Gwich'in Council(s).

#### **Condition regarding Fish:**

1. During peak migration times in the spring and fall, new activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization will not be allowed unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat or impediments to the movement of fish will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s).

#### **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

- 1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.
- 2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

### **Conditions regarding Tourism Value:**

- 1. Any new activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations, not related to maintenance, construction and operations on the existing right-of-way, shall not be visible from the highway.
- 2. Department of Transportation activities related to maintenance, construction and operations on the existing right-of-way should be conducted such that the scenic value along the highway is preserved.

# MAP 4: EIGHT MILES SMZ



# 4.6.5 Neeghaii Zhòo Tshik / Neeghaii Zhòo Van - Frog Creek / Frog Lake Special Management Zone

#### Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of this special management area is to protect waterfowl, fish and heritage resources through applying conditions to activities. The Frog Creek and Lake Area, found between Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic on either side of the Dempster Highway, is important habitat for waterfowl and fish. This zone contains most of the Deepwater Lake watershed. This lake is the water source for the community of Fort McPherson so management of water quality and quantity is also addressed in this zone.

There are significant concentrations of waterfowl in the Frog Creek and Lakes area in June through August.<sup>21</sup> The main waterfowl species found in this area are scaups and scoters.

Some of the fish species listed for Frog Creek include arctic and least cisco, broad whitefish, burbot, inconnu, lake chub, lake trout, sucker, and jackfish.<sup>22</sup> Frog Creek below Neyando Lake is a nursery area for arctic cisco, broad whitefish, longnose sucker, and inconnu.<sup>23</sup> In the spring, there is a spawning run of jackfish into the upper reaches of the creek from Neyando Lake.

The Teetl'it Gwich'in of Fort McPherson harvest fish in the summer and fall at the mouth of Frog Creek and in the lakes in the summer and winter.

The Frog Creek and Lake Area is divided by the Dempster Highway. A Transportation Special Management Zone has been created along the Dempster Highway that is 2 km wide (1 km on either side of the highway) to accommodate activities like sand, gravel and rock extraction. In the Transportation Special Management Zone, for the Dempster Highway between the Peel and Mackenzie River, development activities will be allowed with conditions for tourism, waterfowl and fish. Where the Deepwater Lake watershed overlaps this zone, special attention should be paid to implementing the regional condition for water quality and quantity.

The following conditions apply within the Frog Creek and Lake Special Management Zone:

#### **Conditions regarding Heritage Resources:**

1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.

2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s) and (local) Gwich'in Council(s).

# **Condition regarding Fish:**

1. During peak migration times in the spring and fall, new activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization will not be allowed unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat or impediments to the movement of fish will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s).

# **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

- 1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.
- 2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

# Conditions regarding Waterfowl:

- 1. Proponents requiring a permit, licence or authorization will demonstrate that proposed activities at any time of year will not have adverse effects on waterfowl nesting and staging sites.
- 2. Waterfowl nesting and staging sites near proposed activities should be identified in advance through the use of scientific and traditional knowledge and be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres at any time of year.<sup>24</sup>
- 3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 metres when flying over this Special Management Zone in June, July and August. Additionally, concentrations of waterfowl should be avoided by 1500 metres, or more. Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

# MAP 5: FROG CREEK / FROG LAKE SMZ



# 4.6.6 Gwi'eekajilchit tshik - Campbell Creek Special Management Zone

## Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of the Campbell Creek Special Management Zone is to protect fish and heritage resources by applying conditions to activities. Campbell Creek is significant habitat for many fish species including broad and lake whitefish, inconnu, jackfish, arctic grayling, burbot, and lake trout.<sup>25</sup> Fish rearing and feeding occurs in the small lakes around Campbell Creek. Campbell Creek is used for both sport fishing and traditional fish harvesting. Heritage resources in the area include a traditional trail between Campbell Lake and Sitidgi Lake along Campbell Creek.<sup>26</sup>

The following conditions apply within the Campbell Creek Special Management Zone:

### **Conditions regarding Heritage Resources:**

- 1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.
- 2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s) and (local) Gwich'in Council(s).

### Condition regarding Fish:

1. During peak migration times in the spring and fall, new activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization will not be allowed unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat or impediments to the movement of fish will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s).

### **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

- 1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.
- 2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

# MAP 6: CAMPBELL CREEK SMZ



# 4.6.7 Campbell Hills Special Management Zone

# Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of the Campbell Hills Special Management Zone is to manage the many resources and land uses of the area. Protection is needed for peregrine falcons and other raptors, waterfowl, fish, heritage resources, and tourism values. Conditions for this zone are intended to provide a balance between this protection and land uses such as granular resource extraction or potential pipeline infrastructure.

The Campbell Hills is a sensitive area for nesting peregrine falcons as well as other raptors.<sup>27</sup> The southwest portion of Campbell Lake is a waterfowl staging area in the spring and fall. Fish species in Campbell Lake include broad whitefish, inconnu, lake whitefish and jackfish.<sup>28</sup>

There are a number of heritage sites within the Campbell Lake area.<sup>29</sup>

The northern margin of the zone encompasses Dolomite Lake (locally known as Airport Lake) up to the municipal border of Inuvik. The lake has significant recreational and cultural value to the residents of Inuvik as shown by the number of cabins on its shores.

The dolomite uplift that forms the Campbell Hills is geologically unique for the region. It has been reported that this geology in combination with natural history for the area has resulted in some plant communities that are rare for the region.<sup>30</sup>

The south and east sides of the zone are adjacent to the Gwich'in Territorial Park and includes Campbell Lake. This proximity to the park and the scenic view it provides to traffic on the Dempster Highway gives it significant tourism value.

The following conditions apply within the Campbell Hills Special Management Zone:

### **Conditions regarding Heritage Resources:**

- 1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.
- 2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s) and (local) Gwich'in Council(s).

### **Condition regarding Fish:**

1. During peak migration times in the spring and fall, new activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization will not be allowed unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat or impediments to the movement of fish will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s).

# **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

- 1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.
- 2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

# **Conditions regarding Waterfowl:**

- 1. Proponents requiring a permit, licence or authorization will demonstrate that proposed activities at any time of year will not have adverse effects on waterfowl nesting and staging sites.
- 2. Waterfowl nesting and staging sites near proposed activities should be identified in advance through the use of scientific and traditional knowledge and be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres at any time of year.<sup>31</sup>
- 3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 metres when flying over this Special Management Zone in June, July and August.<sup>32</sup> Additionally, concentrations of waterfowl should be avoided by 1500 metres, or more.<sup>33</sup> Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

### **Conditions regarding Peregrine Falcons and other Raptors:**

- 1. Proponents requiring a permit, licence or authorization will demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on nesting raptors from the beginning of March to the end of August.
- 2. Raptor nesting sites should be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres.<sup>34</sup>
- 3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 meters when flying over areas likely to have nesting raptors.<sup>35</sup> Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

#### **Conditions regarding Tourism Value:**

- 1. Any new activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations, not related to maintenance, construction and operations on the existing right-of-way, shall not be visible from the highway.
- 2. Department of Transportation activities related to maintenance, construction and operations on the existing right-of-way should be conducted such that the scenic value along the highway is preserved.

# MAP 7: CAMPBELL HILLS SMZ



# 4.6.8 Ehdiitat - Mackenzie Delta Special Management Zone

### Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The specific goals of the Mackenzie Delta Special Management Zone are to support waterfowl populations by restricting activities on a seasonal basis, fish populations by managing habitat, protecting traditional fish harvesting, and manage concern over water quality and quantity. Generally, the zone is intended to ensure the ecological integrity of the Delta is conserved and that traditional use is respected.

The Mackenzie Delta Special Management Zone is based on the ecoregion boundary. The area contains a wide range of habitats that support a diversity of species not usually found so far north.<sup>36</sup> The area is a rich feeding ground for waterfowl and is an important staging and breeding area for waterfowl in the spring, summer and fall.<sup>37</sup> The area is also recognised for significant habitat for moose and furbearers such as muskrat and beaver.<sup>38</sup>

Numerous areas within the Mackenzie Delta (*Ehdyee tat* in Gwichya Gwich'in) are used by the Gwich'in in the spring, summer and fall for fishing and for hunting moose and waterfowl. It is important that Gwich'in Renewable Resource Councils are consulted on all proposed activities so that conflicts with traditional activities can be avoided or minimized.

The following conditions apply within the Mackenzie Delta Special Management Zone:

#### **Conditions regarding Heritage Resources:**

- 1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.
- 2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s) and (local) Gwich'in Council(s).

#### Condition regarding Fish:

1. During peak migration times in the spring and fall, new activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization will not be allowed unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat or impediments to the movement of fish will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s).

#### **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

- 1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.
- 2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

#### **Conditions regarding Waterfowl:**

- 1. Proponents requiring a permit, licence or authorization will demonstrate that proposed activities at any time of year will not have adverse effects on waterfowl nesting and staging sites.
- 2. Waterfowl nesting and staging sites near proposed activities should be identified in advance through the use of scientific and traditional knowledge and be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres at any time of year.<sup>39</sup>
- 3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 metres when flying over this Special Management Zone in June, July and August.<sup>40</sup> Additionally, concentrations of waterfowl should be avoided by 1500 metres, or more.<sup>41</sup> Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

# MAP 8: MACKENZIE DELTA SMZ



# 4.6.9 Khajjlajj - Rengleng River Special Management Zone

# Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of the Rengleng River Special Management Zone is to protect fish and heritage resources by applying conditions to activities. The Rengleng River Special Management Zone begins in the Cardinal Lakes Area and flows into the East Channel of the Mackenzie River.

South of Inuvik, the Dempster Highway crosses the Rengleng River. Inuvik area residents and tourists fish for jackfish and arctic grayling at the highway crossing from late June through early July. Gwich'in harvesting of fish takes place at the mouth of the river for whitefish and inconnu.

Arctic grayling and jackfish spawn in the river and use it as a nursery area and migration route between headwater lakes and the Mackenzie River.<sup>42</sup> Longnose sucker also spawn in the system. Inconnu and broad whitefish use the lower Rengleng River as a migratory route and the system also provides nursery habitat for burbot, cisco and inconnu, longnose sucker, walleye and whitefish.

There are a number of heritage resources related to the Rengleng River. An older Gwich'in name for the Rengleng River refers to a fish trap used on the river - K'adh Gwitshik.<sup>43</sup>

The following conditions apply within the Rengleng River Special Management Zone:

### **Conditions regarding Heritage Resources:**

- 1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.
- 2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s) and (local) Gwich'in Council(s).

### Condition regarding Fish:

1. During peak migration times in the spring and fall, new activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization will not be allowed unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat or impediments to the movement of fish will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s).

#### **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

- 1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.
- 2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

# MAP 9: RENGLENG RIVER SMZ



# 4.6.10 Tsiigehtshik - Mouth of the Arctic Red River Special Management Zone

#### Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of this Special Management Zone is to protect the resources of the area and prevent land use conflicts by applying conditions to activities. Water quality and quantity, Fish, heritage and raptors have been identified as important for this area. Tourism values and opportunities along the Dempster should also be maintained. The Mouth of the Arctic Red River zoning extends from the northwest edge of Tsiigehtchic municipal boundary, along the Mackenzie River up to Point Separation (where the Mackenzie River separates into the three main channels of the Delta).

Several fish species overwinter at the Mouth of the Arctic Red River area. It is also a major migration corridor. Species that migrate up the Arctic Red River include arctic grayling, sucker, arctic cisco, inconnu, broad and lake whitefish, and burbot.<sup>44</sup> The river banks at the mouth of the Arctic Red River are nesting habitat for birds of prey.

The Gwichya Gwich'in of Tsiigehtchic have used this area for centuries for seasonal fish camps and gathering locations. The area is used today for fishing and berry picking. There are numerous heritage sites in the area.<sup>45</sup> Descriptions of sites with heritage designations in the area can be found in section 2.6 of the Plan.

The following conditions apply within the Mouth of the Arctic Red River Special Management Zone:

#### **Conditions regarding Heritage Resources:**

- 1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.
- 2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s) and (local) Gwich'in Council(s).

#### **Condition regarding Fish:**

1. During peak migration times in the spring and fall, new activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization will not be allowed unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat or impediments to the movement of fish will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s).

#### **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

- 1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.
- 2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

#### **Conditions regarding Peregrine Falcons and other Raptors:**

- 1. Proponents requiring a permit, licence or authorization will demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on nesting raptors from the beginning of March to the end of August.
- 2. Raptor nesting sites should be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres.<sup>46</sup>
- 3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 meters when flying over areas likely to have nesting raptors.<sup>47</sup> Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

### **Conditions regarding Tourism Value:**

- 1. Any new activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations, not related to maintenance, construction and operations on the existing right-of-way, shall not be visible from the highway.
- 2. Department of Transportation activities related to maintenance, construction and operations on the existing right-of-way should be conducted such that the scenic value along the highway is preserved.

# MAP 10: MOUTH OF THE ARCTIC RED RIVER SMZ



# 4.6.11 Cardinal Lake Special Management Zone

## Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of the Cardinal Lake Special Management Zone is to protect waterfowl, fish and heritage resources by applying conditions to activities. The Cardinal Lake Special Management Zone is a block of land just east of the Mackenzie River and the community of Tsiigehtchic.

The Gwich'in fish in many of the lakes in the Cardinal Lake Area. There are many cultural and historical sites in the area (old cabins, burial grounds, etc.).<sup>48</sup>

The area contains many lakes such as Cardinal Lake, Nap Lake, Fishing Bear Lake, Tundra Lake, Big Woman Lake (Tr'iinjoo choo k'adh van), and Whirl Lake. These lakes are important waterfowl habitat in June, July and August.<sup>49</sup> The main waterfowl species are scaup and scoters.

There has been a drastic decline in the populations of these two waterfowl species. A Board commissioned phase I ecological assessment recommended options for greater protection of this zone including reclassification to conservation zone.<sup>50</sup> At this time, the Board feels the existing policy for this zone is sufficient if conformance with the condition for waterfowl is met and developers and regulators make the utmost effort to protect them from the impacts of development.

The range of barren-ground and boreal woodland caribou extends across this special management zone.<sup>51</sup> There are concerns for the long term numbers of both types of caribou. Wildlife management groups such as the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources, etc., are working on management plans for these species. While these plans are being produced, the Planning Board asks that regulators and developers give full consideration to maintaining habitat and limiting disturbance of caribou in this zone even though no conditions for this will be prescribed by the Plan at this time.

The following conditions apply within the Cardinal Lake Special Management Zone:

#### **Conditions regarding Heritage Resources:**

- 1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.
- 2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s) and (local) Gwich'in Council(s).

### **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

- 1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.
- 2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

### **Conditions regarding Waterfowl:**

- 1. Proponents requiring a permit, licence or authorization will demonstrate that proposed activities at any time of year will not have adverse effects on waterfowl nesting and staging sites.
- 2. Waterfowl nesting and staging sites near proposed activities should be identified in advance through the use of scientific and traditional knowledge and be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres at any time of year.<sup>52</sup>
- 3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 metres when flying over this Special Management Zone in June, July and August.<sup>53</sup> Additionally, concentrations of waterfowl should be avoided by 1500 metres, or more.<sup>54</sup> Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

# MAP 11: CARDINAL LAKE SMZ



# 4.6.12 Van Kat Khaii Luk Gwindyee - Lakes Around Travaillant Lake Special Management Zone

### Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of this Special Management Zone is to protect the fishing and heritage resources around Travaillant Lake. This area is found north of the Mackenzie River and east of the Dempster Highway. The many lakes in this area are used for fishing by the Gwich'in and are considered of high value due to the fish resources including trout, broad and lake whitefish, jackfish, inconnu, burbot, and arctic grayling.<sup>55</sup> These many lakes are also important waterfowl staging and breeding areas.<sup>56</sup>

As well there are many cultural and archaeological sites in this general area. Archaeological evidence of Gwichya Gwich'in occupation of the area dates back thousands of years.<sup>57</sup> Many cultural sites such as burial grounds, trails, meeting places, old camps and cabins and sacred places can be found in this Special Management Zone.<sup>58</sup>

The range of barren-ground and boreal woodland caribou extends across this special management zone.<sup>59</sup> There are concerns for the long term numbers of both types of caribou. Wildlife management groups such as the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources, etc., are working on management plans for these species. While these plans are being produced, the Planning Board asks that regulators and developers give full consideration to maintaining habitat and limiting disturbance of caribou in this zone even though no conditions for this will be prescribed by the Plan at this time.

The following conditions apply within the Lakes Around Travaillant Lake Special Management Zone:

### **Conditions regarding Heritage Resources:**

- 1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.
- 2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s) and (local) Gwich'in Council(s).
#### Condition regarding Fish:

1. During peak migration times in the spring and fall, new activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization will not be allowed unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat or impediments to the movement of fish will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s).

#### **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

- 1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.
- 2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

#### **Conditions regarding Waterfowl:**

- 1. Proponents requiring a permit, licence or authorization will demonstrate that proposed activities at any time of year will not have adverse effects on waterfowl nesting and staging sites.
- 2. Waterfowl nesting and staging sites near proposed activities should be identified in advance through the use of scientific and traditional knowledge and be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres at any time of year.<sup>60</sup>
- 3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 metres when flying over this Special Management Zone in June, July and August.<sup>61</sup> Additionally, concentrations of waterfowl should be avoided by 1500 metres, or more.<sup>62</sup> Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

# MAP 12: LAKES AROUND TRAVAILLANT LAKE SMZ



# 4.6.13 Nagwichoonjik - Mackenzie River Special Management Zone

## Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of this Special Management Zone is to protect the resources of the Mackenzie River by applying conditions to activities. The resources identified as needing protection include water, fish, waterfowl, raptors and heritage. This Special Management Zone is a 500 metre buffer on either side of the Mackenzie River between Tsiigehtchic and the Gwich'in/Sahtu border. The Travaillant Lake Conservation Zone interrupts it between Tree River and Travaillant River.

Many species of fish migrate on the Mackenzie River and spawn in the smaller rivers and streams along the Mackenzie River. Some of these species include whitefish, jackfish, burbot, trout, perch, walleye, arctic grayling, cisco, salmon, chub, sucker, sculpin, and arctic lamprey.<sup>63</sup> The Mackenzie River is used for fishing all year round.

The banks of the Mackenzie River near Tsiigehtchic are habitat for raptors. The islands along the Mackenzie River are unique habitat of mature spruce, poplar and willow and support migrating swans and geese in the spring.<sup>64</sup> Waterfowl arrive in early or mid-May and congregate on river islands where open water is available. The open water and exposed shoreline provide the only habitat for feeding, resting and mating during migration. These islands are also used in the fall by waterfowl forced down by bad weather.

There are many archaeological and cultural sites along the entire Mackenzie River. The section of the Mackenzie River between Thunder River and Point Separation at the start of the Mackenzie Delta was designated as the Nagwichoonjik National Historic Site in 1998. The Mackenzie River is of great importance culturally to the Gwichya Gwich'in of Tsiigehtchic. "As far back as the Gwichya Gwich'in can remember, their traditional lifestyle has been shaped by their close connection to the land and the river".<sup>65</sup>

The need to carefully consider the impacts development might have on water quality and quantity is supported by the close physical connection between the Mackenzie River and the communities of Tsiigehtchic, Inuvik, and Aklavik, and its use by residents of all four GSA communities.

The following conditions apply within the Mackenzie River Special Management Zone:

### **Conditions regarding Heritage Resources:**

1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.

2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s) and (local) Gwich'in Council(s).

### **Condition regarding Fish:**

1. During peak migration times in the spring and fall, new activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization will not be allowed unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat or impediments to the movement of fish will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s).

#### **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

- 1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.
- 2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

### **Conditions regarding Waterfowl:**

- 1. Proponents requiring a permit, licence or authorization will demonstrate that proposed activities at any time of year will not have adverse effects on waterfowl nesting and staging sites.
- 2. Waterfowl nesting and staging sites near proposed activities should be identified in advance through the use of scientific and traditional knowledge and be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres at any time of year.<sup>66</sup>
- 3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 metres when flying over this Special Management Zone in June, July and August.<sup>67</sup> Additionally, concentrations of waterfowl should be avoided by 1500 metres, or more.<sup>68</sup> Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

#### **Conditions regarding Peregrine Falcons and other Raptors:**

- 1. Proponents requiring a permit, licence or authorization will demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on nesting raptors from the beginning of March to the end of August.
- 2. Raptor nesting sites should be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres.<sup>69</sup>
- 3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 meters when flying over areas likely to have nesting raptors.<sup>70</sup> Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

# MAP 13: MACKENZIE RIVER SMZ



# 4.6.14 Dachan choo gehnjik - Tree River Special Management Zone

### Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of the Tree River Special Management Zone is to extend management of Tree River beyond the portion that is protected by the Travaillant Lake, Mackenzie River, Tree River Conservation Zone. The Special Management Zone extends 500 metres on each side of the river.

The area along the greater part of the river has been used historically by the Gwichya Gwich'in as recorded in some of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institutes publications.<sup>71</sup> Today, there are a couple of families from Tsiigehtchic that have cabins at the mouth of the river. Oil and gas exploration has occurred in the Tree River area in the past, but currently has no activity.

The following conditions apply within the Tree River Special Management Zone:

### **Conditions regarding Heritage Resources:**

- 1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.
- 2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s) and (local) Gwich'in Council(s).

### Condition regarding Fish:

1. During peak migration times in the spring and fall, new activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization will not be allowed unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat or impediments to the movement of fish will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s).

### **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

- 1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.
- 2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

# MAP 14: TREE RIVER SMZ



# 4.6.15 Tsiigehnjik - Arctic Red River Special Management Zone

### Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of the Arctic Red River Special Management Zone is to protect water quality and quantity, fish and heritage resources by applying conditions to activities. The Special Management Zone is a one kilometre buffer around the Arctic Red River.

Fish species found on the Arctic Red River include burbot, arctic lamprey, broad and lake whitefish, dace, stickleback, jackfish, arctic grayling, chub, sucker, cisco and walleye.<sup>72</sup> The headwaters of the Arctic Red River provide nursery habitat for arctic grayling, chub, sucker and cisco. Its upstream area is a known spawning area for inconnu and suspected to be for arctic cisco. The Gwichya Gwich'in of Tsiigehtchic harvest fish in the Arctic Red River from May through December.

There are many archaeological and heritage sites along the entire Arctic Red River that the Gwich'in would like to see protected. These archaeological and heritage sites are documented in various reports.<sup>73, 74, 75</sup> Some have been given protection from development activities by being designated Gwich'in Heritage Conservation Zones under this land use plan.

Both the health of the fish and the ability of the Gwichya Gwich'in to use the river are dependent on the quality and quantity of water.

The natural and cultural importance of the Arctic Red River is recognized nationally through its designation as a Canadian Heritage River.

The following conditions apply within the Arctic Red River Special Management Zone:

### **Conditions regarding Heritage Resources:**

- 1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.
- 2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s) and (local) Gwich'in Council(s).

### **Condition regarding Fish:**

1. During peak migration times in the spring and fall, new activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization will not be allowed unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat or impediments to the movement of fish will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s).

## **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

- 1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.
- 2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

# MAP 15: ARCTIC RED RIVER SMZ



# 4.6.16 Daazrąjį van k'adh / Daazrąjį van k'adh tshik - Swan Lake / Swan Creek Special Management Zone

#### Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of this Special Management Zone is to protect the fish, heritage and waterfowl resources of the area. The Swan Lake and Creek Area is south of the Dempster Highway and west of the Arctic Red River. The area has many important fishing lakes for the Gwich'in. Swan Creek provides spawning habitat for arctic grayling, sucker and jackfish.<sup>76</sup> The lakes are fished from November to June by the Gwichya Gwich'in. The Swan Lake and Creek Area is also significant for waterfowl in the spring and summer. Ducks, geese and swans nest in the area in the spring.<sup>77</sup>

As the Gwichya Gwich'in have used this area extensively there are many heritage sites associated with the area.<sup>78</sup>

The following conditions apply within the Swan Lake and Creek Special Management Zone:

#### **Conditions regarding Heritage Resources:**

- 1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.
- 2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s) and (local) Gwich'in Council(s).

#### **Condition regarding Fish:**

1. During peak migration times in the spring and fall, new activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization will not be allowed unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat or impediments to the movement of fish will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s).

#### **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

- 1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.
- 2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

#### **Conditions regarding Waterfowl:**

- 1. Proponents requiring a permit, licence or authorization will demonstrate that proposed activities at any time of year will not have adverse effects on waterfowl nesting and staging sites.
- 2. Waterfowl nesting and staging sites near proposed activities should be identified in advance through the use of scientific and traditional knowledge and be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres at any time of year.<sup>79</sup>
- 3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 metres when flying over this Special Management Zone in June, July and August.<sup>80</sup> Additionally, concentrations of waterfowl should be avoided by 1500 metres, or more.<sup>81</sup> Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

# MAP 16: SWAN LAKE / SWAN CREEK SMZ



# 4.6.17 Tsiigehtshik Gwitł'it - Headwaters of the Arctic Red River Special Management Zone

## Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The Gwichya Gwich'in wish to maintain the high water quality of the Arctic Red River. One of the goals of this Special Management Zone is for the non-degradation or maintenance of the high water quality of the Arctic Red River.<sup>82</sup> Dall's sheep are also important to the Gwich'in and commercial outfitters. The second goal of this zone is to support a healthy sheep population and to allow outfitters the opportunity to comment on development activities or to plan around them so they can provide clients with a successful wilderness hunt.

The Headwaters of the Arctic Red River is a large area in the southern part of the Gwich'in Settlement Area, in the Mackenzie Mountains. This area is rugged, with imposing peaks and many non-vegetated slopes. Small glaciers flow from the highest peaks in the southernmost part of this zone (up to 2500 m above sea level). Open, stunted spruce-shrub-lichen communities can be found in valley bottoms below 1200 m ASL.<sup>83</sup> The northern boundary of this zone follows where the higher plateaus or foothills of the Mackenzie Mountains transition to a lower plateau.

As this a headwaters area, it plays an important role in maintaining the quality of water in the Arctic Red River. The Arctic Red River and the many fish, forest, wildlife and heritage resources associated with it are of great importance to the Gwichya Gwich'in of Tsiigehtchic.

Generally, there is a serious lack of detailed information available for this remote area.<sup>84, 85</sup> The Board requests that regulatory authorities use a precautionary approach when determining terms and conditions for permits, licences, and other authorizations.

The following conditions apply within the Arctic Red River Headwaters Special Management Zone:

### **Conditions regarding Heritage Resources:**

- 1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.
- 2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s) and (local) Gwich'in Council(s).

#### **Conditions regarding Traditional Harvesting:**

- 1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional harvesting.
- 2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the (local) Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council(s), (local) Gwich'in Council(s), Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted.

## Conditions regarding Dall's Sheep:

- 1. Proponents requiring a permit, licence or authorization shall demonstrate that the proposed activities will not disturb the sheep during lambing season or have adverse effects on important habitat. Proponents should consult with the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board and the GNWT department of Environment and Natural Resources when preparing regulatory applications to ensure they have identified and addressed potential impacts on Dall's sheep.
- 2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations in licenced outfitter areas will refer applications to the affected outfitters to inform them of development activities.

# MAP 17: HEADWATERS OF THE ARCTIC RED RIVER SMZ

