

**Appendix 1-D
Traditional Environmental
Knowledge:**

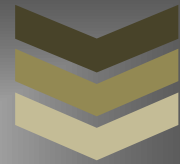
Norman Wells Renewable Council

Tulita, NWT



Traditional & Environmental Land Use Knowledge Study
Norman Wells Renewable Resources Council

CMV2011-08
CONOCOPHILLIPS



Traditional & Environmental Land Use Knowledge Study



Traditional & Environmental Land Use Knowledge Study

The Sahtu Dene within the Tulita District has maintained a harmonious relationship with the land for eons, making a living by using the resources that the land has provided. These were not available everywhere or at all times of the year; to survive, the families moved to the different places where the resources could be gathered. Fish was used throughout the year. Berries were gathered in latter July to mid-September. During the fall and winter, many families used to rely solely on moose and caribou meat for their source of food. The families survived by fishing, hunting, snaring rabbits or trapping beavers, and they had to move to the areas where the resources could be harvested. Trails link the many places where the families harvested the resources on which depended their survival. Trails not only tell a story of families and their travels, they are also remembered through the names given to a great number of places on the land.

The name given to a place or site on the land often describes what is special or important bout that place. Often a story is told to explain the places special qualities in greater detail. Some stories describe geographical features; others refer to the resources available at the site. But place names and stories do not only provide information about geographical features and resources. In one on one interview, many place names have been collected. The names and the stories often describe events from our Sahtu Dene history. Some of these stories reach back to the earliest days of the land. Others

describe historical events that occurred during a time that was closer to the present. Yet another group of stories describes events from a person's life history. Through their stories, the Sahtu Dene has written an account of their travels, their history, their culture and values into the very geography of the land. Names and stories, places and trails, history and culture are therefore closely connected. Understanding the meaning of place names is an important step towards understanding the traditional way of life. Traditionally, we learned about the names of places while travelling on the land; we also learned about the names meanings through the stories our grandmother told us. Two types of traditional knowledge is traditional land use information, which focuses on human activities and associated sites or areas of cultural within a landscape (i.e.) habitation areas, gathering sites/locales, travel routes, spiritual areas and sacred landscapes. This information is vital, so that project design minimizes effects on traditional land use. Traditional environmental knowledge is a body of accumulated knowledge over countless generations. It reflects the wisdom and understanding of the natural environment and is used to enhance the assessment of environmental effects and improve project planning as well as recommend ways to lessen environmental effects.



The area that is involved in this study is CMV2011-08, CONOCOPHILLIPS.



The McDonalds and Blondin families have traditionally used this area in question for a long, long time, and continue to do so to this day. It is said, that Alexander Mackenzie first made contact with the Aboriginal people below Sucker Creek, on his trip down the Mackenzie River to the Arctic Ocean. My ancestors gave him assistance on that stop over. Both families have cabins which is located 6 miles southeast of Norman Wells on the banks of the Mackenzie River, known as Sucker Creek or Dehdelejo. There are no traditional boundaries as such, but there is respect for each other's traditional land use area and this was a given. The area that is being used presently includes Three Day Lake (Sucker Lake or Dehdelejo Tue), the Sucker Creek campsite down on the banks of the Mackenzie River, Fish Lakes (Chiw'ene~mii), old Indian trail between Dehdelejo Tue and Dehdelejo. Our families hunted moose, beaver, migratory birds, trapped mink, marten wolverine, lynx and wolf; fished and harvested berries, plant medicines from this whole entire area.

Permafrost/earthquakes/landslides:

There is permafrost and evidence of frost heave, land fissures and landslides due to higher temperatures (global warming) in this entire area.

There have been reported earthquakes in the Mackenzie Mountains and subsequently there are huge landslides and land fissures @ the Sucker Creek area; landslides into the creeks and waterways; land fissures along the banks of the lakes and along the banks of the Mackenzie River @ the main campsite of Sucker Creek; landslides all along the Mackenzie River shoreline.

Vegetation (Food plants, medicine plants)

There are plenty of berries within this area. Cranberries, blueberries, black berries, cloud berries, juniper berries, rose hips, goose berries, high bush cranberries (moose berries). Medicinal plants harvested in this area are wild carrots, known as bear root (Kwaa), Labrador tea (Ledi'maghi), spruce gum, tamarack, common yarrow, root plants from the lakes known as dai, dai'beta, dai'hela; medicines from all the different kinds of trees that are indigenous to this area (i.e. Birch, poplar, tamarack, spruce, pine, red willow, tree fungus), moss, fireweed (wild tobacco), alder).



Wildlife/wildlife Habitat

This is a very wildlife rich area. There are moose, woodland caribou, rabbits, spruce hens, lynx, marten, mink, weasel, wolverine, wolfs, grizzly and black bears, mice, moles, squirrels, muskrats, beaver. There are all types of migratory birds within this area, as this is a well-known migratory bird route where the wild fowl travel either north or south. We have plenty of insects in the area, (i.e. Blow flies, butterflies, mosquitoes, bees, wasps, caterpillars, moths, beetles, horse flies, hornets). The waterways in this area are also rich in fish species, (i.e. grayling, inconnu, pickerel, pikes, whitefish, red suckers, loche or burbot).



Fishing Lakes/Rivers

There is a chain of fish lakes where family harvested grayling (Taa), inconnu (Siho), whitefish (Klu deka). This chain of fish lakes begins 13 kms above Dehdelejo Tue, running into Dehdelejo Tue into Sucker Creek and on into the Mackenzie River @ our year round campsite of Dehdelejo. During the annual fish runs, gill nets were used to harvest the fish. The fish were smoke dried in a tepee and then the fish were rolled into bales of 100 fish per bale and kept in a cool dried area. Fish spawn different times of the year depending on the species. During the fall time, in October, burbot/loche is plentiful. We usually set individual hooks using whitefish tails, whitefish intestines as bait and set the hooks down by the Mackenzie River shoreline. During mid-June is when we used to have a long grayling run @ Dehdelejo. Besides grayling we would catch a rash of inconnu, whitefish, suckers, pike and pickerel. Twenty-five Mile Lake is also a fish lake within the area, frequented by Norm Hodgson. Mirror Lake is also another fish lake frequented by non-aboriginal people from Norman Wells as a getaway on holidays or long weekends. All the creeks connecting the chain of fish lakes above Dehdelejo Tue and on into Three Day lake down Sucker Creek, and on into the Mackenzie River was navigable by rat canoe or homemade birch bark canoe back in the day. Today, a lot of these waterways are cordoned off by deadfall, built up silt, non-use. Sucker Creek @ our main campsite on the Mackenzie River is non-useable because of debris build-up over the years. We use the big river boats to travel on the Mackenzie River as we did back in the day.

Freeze-up

Today, freeze-up and snowfall appears to be taking place later each year. The ice when it freezes

today also seems to be thinner than and not as thick as in

the days past. Today, it is mid-October and there is snowfall

but it melts as soon as it hits the ground; the Mackenzie River is wide open and flowing yet. So, freeze up happens whenever it chooses to get cold, whether it is November or December.



Mineral Springs

There is no noted or known mineral hot springs in the area. My family or I have never heard talk of this possibility by our parents or grandparents.

Traditional Trails/Access Routes

There is an old Indian trail beginning on the opposite bank from Sucker Creek campsite, 7 miles up to Sucker Lake (Dehdelejo Tue). As children we used to assist our father in hauling moose meat from Dehdelejo Tue back down to Dehdelejo. We also walked this trail to move up to the lake for the spring hunt. This trail has been used for a long, long time. The elders also used to walk up an old Indian trail to get sheep @ Sheep Mountain (Doi Toi). There is also another old Indian behind our campsite @ Dehdelejo and that trail we walked to gather berries and medicinal plants with our parents and grandparents.

Land Uses

In the day, we used the land for hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering year round. We also harvested wood from the land for heat and for building. Today, we still use a big area of this land for hunting, fishing and gathering but only @ specific times of the year, every year.



Historical/burial sites

Our maternal great-great-great grandfather Tliya beta (Father of the dogs) is buried on the left-side of Sucker Creek, right @ the junction where the lake waters run into the creek. Many people are not aware that Sucker Creek campsite is where Alexander Mackenzie made a stop on his way to the Arctic Ocean and requested assistance from those residing @ the camp. It was said that the aboriginal people @ the camp ran off into the bush as this was the first time they had ever seen and had contact with a non-aboriginal person. It supposedly frightened them.

Traditional/ Spiritual/ceremonial sites

This whole area is a cultural, spiritual territory for the McDonald /Blondin family. We put a higher value on this land than we would, activity that will generate monetary value. It has fed us and been our home. It is a treasure trove for our future generations. We consider the whole area as sacred, spiritually imbued and all sites were given to offerings of gratitude for plenty. It was not so much the sites that were important as the practice of these rituals. Our parents and grandparents taught us to make offerings for safe travel, feed the fire for a successful hunt, offerings @ the sight of a kill to profess our gratitude, pay the land-thankfulness for providing plenty, make offerings before taking plants from the land, again gratitude and to let the plant know why you are taking the plant.



Traditional names

The names refer to events that describe what is there; it signifies the land use and the use of resources and traditional activities.

English Name	Traditional Name
Sucker Creek campsite	Dehdelejo
Sucker Creek	Dehdelejo Niline
Sucker Lake	Dehdelejo Tue
North end of Sucker Lake (Migratory Bird route feeding bed); grassy point	Tl'ooehda
South end of Sucker Lake (Small River/creek from the Fish Lakes draining into Sucker Lake)	Takwiili De
Old spring/fall traditional campsite	Ohkee
Fish Lakes	Chiw'ene'mii
Moose– this is where moose snares were set for moose.	LakesEnste'hoi Tue

Other sources of information

- **Geological Survey of Canada**
- **Archaeological studies by Professor Hanks in the Mackenzie Mountains**
- **Sahtu Land Use Planning**
- **Picture Credits© – Lisa McDonald**

Traditional Environmental Knowledge Study Tulita, NWT

April/May 2012



Photo: Sunset over the Ice Road at Tulita – by Nancy Norn-Lennie

**Submitted by Tulita Renewable Resources Council
in Cooperation with Bluestone Consulting**

to

ConocoPhillips-Canada

JUNE 2012

Background and Project Description

ConocoPhillips (CP) is a multinational corporation with operations all over the world. ConocoPhillips-Canada is the third largest natural gas producer in Canada, with 2050 employees and headquarters in Calgary. Their priorities are safety, the environment and building local relationships.

ConocoPhillips-Canada plans to do exploratory work on the west side of the Mackenzie River across from Norman Wells and Tulita beginning in the summer of 2012 (Project EL470 – see Map next page). Initial work will include identifying sites for access, camps, barge landings, equipment storage and well construction. Flights will be made over the area about 1 kilometer above the ground. CP will undertake an environmental field study in June and July, geology field programs in August, barge and stage their equipment in September for the Q1 2013 drill season, and do winter road and lease construction in December 2012 and January 2013. Ice roads, including one across the Mackenzie River, will be constructed, as well as ice pads for the wells. An airstrip will be built on a suitable lake in the winter.

In 2013, ConocoPhillips plans to drill 2-3 vertical wells in January, February and March, do injection fall-off tests in February and March and a baseline groundwater study in February, and move out and stack their equipment in April. They will also barge and stage equipment for the Q1 2014 initiatives. They plan on using existing access as much as possible to reduce the surface footprint.

The environmental fieldwork will:

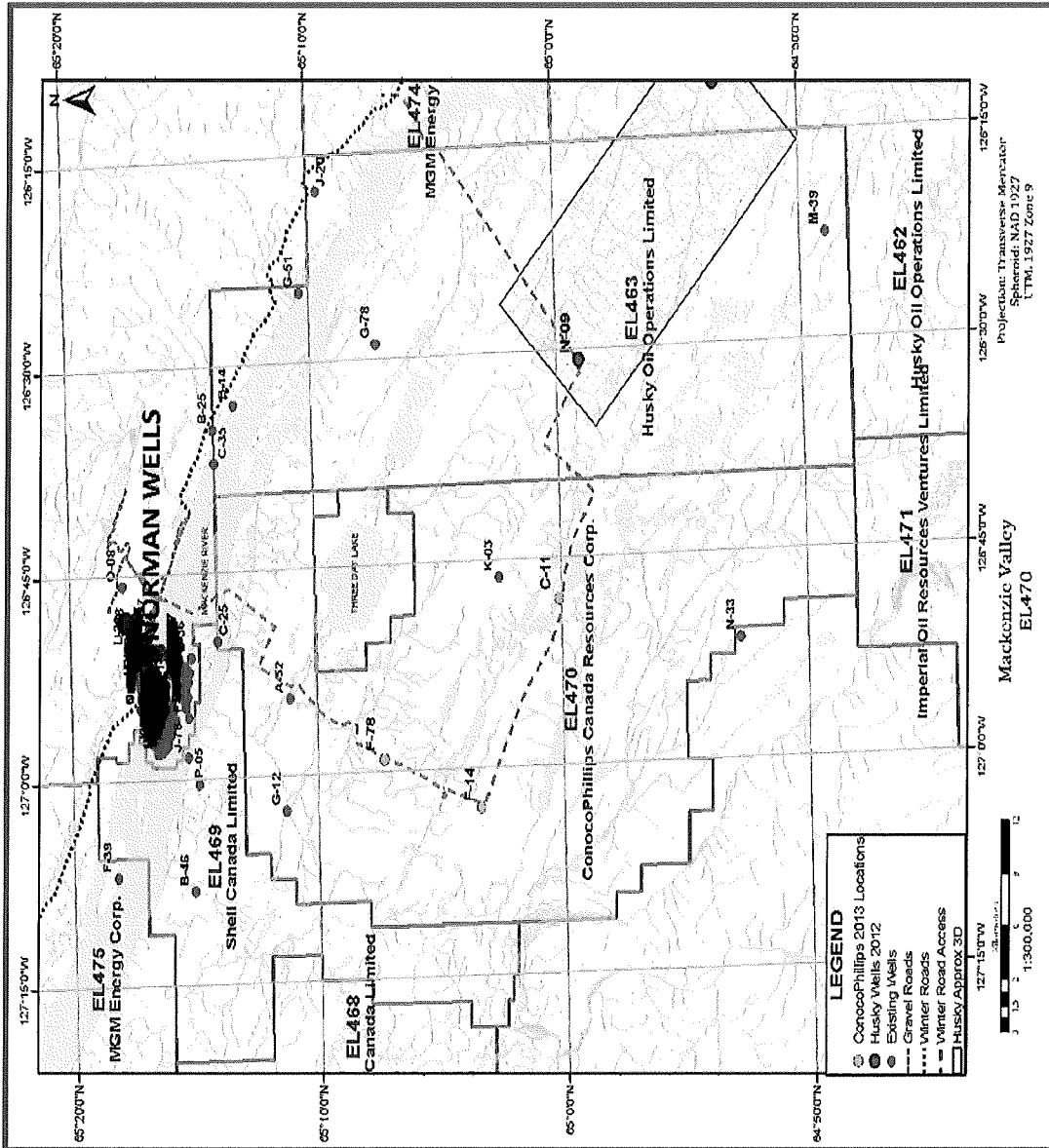
- establish baseline conditions
- provide information for construction and drilling programs
- identify potential water sources
- contribute to understanding potential cumulative effects
- incorporate traditional land use information, and
- contribute to developing environmental protection and monitoring plans.

During this stage, the partners will map vegetation and wildlife habitat, survey wildlife including species at risk, learn about traditional land use including plants and animals, identify sensitive and significant areas, study lakes to identify water sources, study soil and permafrost, and assess historical resources.

The water use and management study will:

- assess surface and groundwater baseline conditions
- assess water use options for drilling, construction and camp
- provide this knowledge for future research, project planning and implementation
- develop a water use and management program, and
- support a regional water management approach.

Map of ConocoPhillips Proposed EL470 Project – Beginning Summer 2012



To consider cumulative effects through a regional perspective, CP aims to:

- understand and manage potential short and longer term cumulative effects
- work closely with regulators, communities and other operators
- share access, infrastructure and appropriate information
- support a regional approach to land and water planning and management, and
- support regional environmental monitoring.

CP will be using freshwater-based mud on the surface section and mineral-oil based mud in the main hole. Waste management activities include the following:

- drilling waste will be stored in tanks (no sumps planned)
- waste (rock cuttings, drilling fluids, cement returns) will be transported to an approved facility in northern Alberta or British Columbia
- garbage will be sorted, burned where possible, or transported to an outside facility
- recyclables will be returned
- sewage and grey water will be separated, and cleaned fluids may be returned to the land, and
- sludge and solid wastes will be hauled to a sewage facility (to be identified).

The project is planned to achieve ZERO SPILLS. This will be achieved by:

- implementing appropriate containment and procedures based on site, operation and substance-specific information
- installing alarms in tanks with automatic shut-down
- conducting regular inspections of equipment and operations, and
- monitoring and inspection programs.

If a spill occurs, the company's priorities are to:

- ensure the safety of all personnel, the public and infrastructure
- minimize the impact to the environment
- ensure clean-up efforts are prompt and thorough, and
- meet all regulatory requirements for reporting and clean-up.



Photo: Sunset in Tulita – Nancy Norn-Lennie

Consultations and Traditional Environmental Knowledge Study - Tulita

In preparation for this work, ConocoPhillips conducted introductory meetings in Tulita May 22-25, 2012 to introduce the project team, and to discuss upcoming activities, logistics, a benefits agreement and any community concerns and interests. They also requested that a traditional environmental knowledge study be done in Tulita. This report summarizes the results of 40 interviews conducted in Tulita in April and May 2012.

Partners

- Tulita Renewable Resources Council, Tulita NWT
- Fort Norman Métis Land Corporation
- Tulita Land Corporation
- Tulita District Land Corporation
- ConocoPhillips-Canada

The purpose of the TK research project is:

- To conduct a survey of Dene and Métis elders and other community members in the Sahtu Settlement Area to document traditional and current camps, cabins and travel routes within the Tulita District.
- To complete the TEK study on behalf of TRRC for ConocoPhillips-Canada
- To produce a database that documents oral/written history associated with land use for the Tulita District community of Tulita.
- To document the TEK so it is available for future generations; and
- To establish a central repository in Tulita at the TRRC office in Tulita for the benefit of its Claimant members within the Tulita District.

Objectives

- To identify sites of cultural significance and record written/oral histories.
- To document cultural and heritage resources within the study area through interviews, mapping, photos and the use of other media.
- To centralize archival and published materials for the education of present and future generations at the TRRC office in Tulita.
- To participate in community consultations throughout the TEK project.

The Traditional Knowledge Coordinator for this TEK Project is Mr. Angus Lennie, Bluestone Consulting, Tulita, the additional Interviewer/Interpreter is Leon Andrew, the TRRC resource person is Mr. David Menacho, and the Writer is Betty Harnum.

Community Research Approach

This is a participatory traditional knowledge project that respects Dene/Métis traditional knowledge processes, incorporates capacity-building objectives, and aims for a quality product that can be used in management planning for the TRRC. There are several components to the first three project phases that will achieve these purposes, in addition to the final archival research, synthesis and reporting phases to TRRC as the Project progresses.

Results of the TEK Interviews:

People Interviewed for the TEK Study in Tulita:

The following 40 people were interviewed:

Celine MacCauley
Joseph Bernarde
Charlotte Menacho
Roderick Yallee
Caroline Widow
Peter Horassi
Jonas MacCauley
Paul MacCauley
Corrine Andrew
John Hotti
Michael Etchinelle
James Etchinelle
Ricky Andrew
Robert Horassi
Gabe Horassi
David Etchinelle Sr.
David Yallee Sr.
Frank Andrew
Joe Horassi
Norman Andrew
James Bavard
Dwayne Bavard
Mary Rose Masuzumi
Eddy McPherson Jr.
Benny Doctor
Julie Lennie
Charlie Menacho
Maurice Lennie
Ernestine Lennie
Rocky Norwegian Sr.
Blue Clement
Frank Yallee
George Campbell
Morris Mendo
Jim Wrigley
Wilfred Lennie
Frederick Andrew Jr.
Vivian Pellissey
Walter Granath
Norman Yakeleya



Vivian Pellissey, Tulita



Joe Horassi and
TEK Coordinator, Angus Lennie

Traditional Land Use in the Proposed Area of Study:

Everyone interviewed stated that they or their families have used, and many continue to use, the area in the proposed study parcel. Some family members who now live in Norman Wells have also used these areas in the past and still use this land. Although the use of this land has decreased in recent years, all those interviewed agreed that the land must be protected for future generations, for whatever purposes they may choose – camping, hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering berries and medicine plants, boating, skidooing, tourism and so on. Because of language loss over the past few generations, most traditional names for the lakes, streams, creeks and other places have been forgotten, but most of them had Dene names at one time. The areas frequented the most are:

Sucker Lake (3 Day Lake) traditionally known as Deldeli Tué

Sucker Creek

chain of fish lakes (running from Sucker Lake)

3 Prong Fish Lake traditionally known as ǂat'ah or ǂitah

Mirror Lake

Loon Lake

Loon Creek

10 Mile Island

20 Mile Island

20 Mile Island Lake

Oscar Island

Bluefish Creek

Black Horizon Hill

Dodo Canyon

Canol Lake

Canol Trail/Road

Stewart Creek

Carcajou River

Sahta Lake

Major Creek

Mackenzie River

Mackenzie River Island

Slater River

Richardson Mountains



Photo: Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

Other lakes mentioned were “Cliff Lake or Fish Trap Lake”, “Dry Willow River” and “Hart Lake”. The Keele River, Little Bear River and Bear River were also cited as being used a lot but they are not within the study area.

Frederick Andrew Jr: “In the past my family used the area; they trapped using dogteams. They used to visit Joe Blondin who lived across at Sucker Creek. Our people used to visit the families in the area in the spring for beaver and muskrat hunting. My family does not use the area anymore but some of our people still trap there in winter.”

Dwayne Bavard: “Not me, but my relatives use the area across from Norman Wells around 3 Day Lake. My grandmother, Harriet Gladue, used to set nets in Stewart Creek for fish. Albert Wright, then chief, used that area too.”

Corrine Andrew: “My father has hunted and trapped near Mirror Lake in the past. I worked on the Canol cleanup in 2008. My daughter has hunted on the Canol Road into the mountains.”

Eddy McPherson Jr: “Yes I did use the area around 3 Day Lake with Wilfred MacDonald. I don’t use this area today but my children can use it in the future.”

Charlie Menacho: “In the 1970’s is the last time I went on the land. The cost of living on the land is expensive; it’s hard. In the past, my father worked across around the Canol Road. At that time, they lived off anything. My father stayed across from the Wells on the shore in tents. He used that area.”

David Etchinelle Sr.: “In the past, my Uncle Gabe Etchinelle, my father, used that area along with Zaul Blondin hunting beaver during the 1970’s. We used dog teams on an old traditional road to the fish lake. Today I do not spend too much time in that area.”



Dog Team - Photo by RWED, GNWT

Charlotte Menacho: “My mother was raised at Sucker Lake area and hunted and trapped in the area. My cousins in Norman Wells – MacDonald’s and Blondin’s – still use the area.”

Gabe Horassi: “My grandfather had a camp at Mirror Lake fishing trout. He also hunted in the Black Horizon Hill area.”

Jim Wrigley: “Yes our people used the area in the past for hunting and trapping. My wife’s family, the Doctor family, used the area on the north side of the lease close to 3 Day Lake.”

Jonas MacCauley: “My father, Paul MacCauley, says he used the area around Sucker Lake. He talked about the traditional trail to Sucker Creek. My family still hunts and traps in that area, especially through the chain of fish lakes and Mirror Lake.”

Norman Yakeleya: "My grandfather, Chief Albert Wright, and the Blondin and Andrew families all used the area. They came from the mountains along the Carcajou River close to the ConocoPhillips land parcel. The Etchinelle and Pellissey families used this area too, for trapping and hunting."



Photo: Norman Andrew, Tulita
by Nancy Norn-Lennie

Robert Horassi: "My grandfather Horassi hunted sheep, caribou and moose at Dodo Mountain. About 4 years ago, I trapped in that area on the cutlines."

Ernestine Lennie & Maurice Lennie: "Joe Lennie and Rosie (Lennie) Norwegian lived across from Norman Wells. They hunted, fished and trapped the area, which is good for animals for food. It's a good land. Uncle Joe Lennie, when he was living, used the area around 3 Day Lake and into the mountains for trapping furs."

Vivian Pellissey: "In the past, my family used the whole area from 20 Mile Island campsite all the way to Black Horizon Hills and Mirror Lake."

Joe Horassi: "My brother-in-law George Doctor used to trap from Norman Wells up the Canol Road on the cutlines to 3 Day Lake. He passed away."

John Hotti: "In the past, my grandfather and uncle have hunted near 3 Prong Fish Lake, along Black Horizon, Mirror Lake. Today I don't go out there."

Jonas MacCauley: "My family still hunts in 20 Mile Island and toward Black Horizon Hill and other areas depending on the season."

Rocky Norwegian Sr: "Around the Canol Trail and Canol Lake is used for hunting all kinds of animals for food."

Julie Lennie: "My family went all over. At that time, there was just canned meat at the store. This is why the Dene and Metis had to go hunting. Ducks too. People still use the area around 3 Day Lake for harvesting."

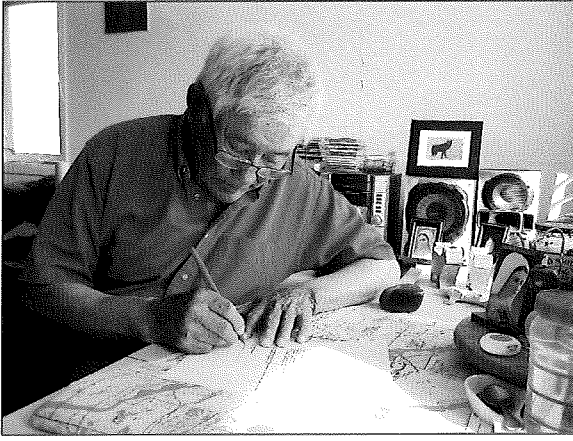


Photo: Morris Mendo, Tulita
by Angus Lennie

Morris Mendo: “Yes, my family, Zaul Mendo, my Dad, and my grandpa, George Etchinelle, Joe Blondin who was living then, Francis Tatti and Joe Bayha all used the area in the lease parcel. They used the south end of the lease close to the mountains. People from Tulita still harvest in the area.”

Paul MacCauley: “In the past my family hunted and trapped in the area and today I still hunt along the Canol Road into the mountains.”

THE CANOL TRAIL

The Canol Trail is made up of that part of the Canol Road which lies within the NWT. This part of the road is not maintained by the territorial government. The road was constructed during the Second World War by the United States Army Corps of Engineers to build and service a pipeline bringing oil from Norman Wells to a refinery in Whitehorse, Yukon. Though built at huge expense, the pipeline suffered from shoddy workmanship and technical difficulties. It was abandoned after only thirteen months of operation. The steel pipe was salvaged, but abandoned trucks, pump stations and buildings remain along the trail.

Source: Wikipedia

Photo: enotes.com



Fishing in The Area of Proposed Study

Most of the people interviewed are very familiar with what fish are found where, even though they sometimes don't know the name of the lake, stream or creek. There is a "chain of fish lakes" that comes out of Sucker Lake that was and still is used frequently. In Sucker Lake and Sucker Creek, there are jackfish, suckers, loche, grayling and little whitefish. The grayling run for spawning in June and July. Loon Lake has whitefish and jackfish. The Carcajou River has trout, grayling and whitefish. There is trout in Mirror Lake. 3 Prong Lake has whitefish, suckers, loche and jackfish

Celine MacCauley: "3 Prong Lake has fish – whitefish. Grayling run in June at Major Creek and enter the Mackenzie River to spawn."

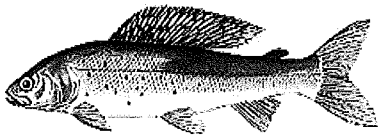
Dwayne Bavard: "My granny used to catch whitefish, grayling and coney (inconnu) towards the Mackenzie River."

Julie Lennie: "Mostly whitefish, trout, grayling - all kinds of fish. A long time ago, Mountain Dene liked jackfish."



whitefish

Ricky Andrew: "Sucker Lake, Sucker Creek and Slater River have a grayling run in June/July. 3 Prong Lake has whitefish, jackfish, and loche. The central part of the parcel has the chain of fish lakes. It's connected to Sucker Lake and fish use it to migrate. Waterfowl use it to nest."



grayling (bluefish)

Walter Granath: "I fished at the fish lakes with Pat Tourangeau. There is a lot of whitefish. In late May and June, there is a lot of grayling at Sucker Creek, spawning. That's why there are a lot of mink and otters in the area."

Frank Yallee: "In the lakes in that area there are whitefish, and bluefish (grayling) in the spring. You put a net in and it's just full. There is a creek that goes from 3 Day Lake to the Mackenzie River."

David Etchinelle Sr: "Sucker Lake has grayling and sucker fish. At Sucker Creek, the grayling run in June/July to spawn along the creek bed and shallow lake area."

John Hotti: "3 Prong Fish Lake has whitefish and jackfish. Each spring, whitefish come out from other lakes and run between the two lakes in May. It must run to spawn."



jackfish (Northern pike)

Joseph Bernarde: "Sucker Lake is known for its grayling run, suckers and moose. Each year, there are grayling in Sucker Creek. Grayling must run to spawn."

Mary Rose Masuzumi: “Whitefish and grayling are fished in small and large lakes. Our people used to fish in Loon Creek, close to Dodo Canyon.”

Morris Mendo: “There are whitefish and jackfish. In the two big lakes, there are lots of whitefish. We used to set nets – good fishing!”

Norman Yakeleya: “Gabe Etchinelle used to tell me a lot of stories about setting nets for whitefish when he went trapping. He didn’t tell me which lakes.”



Fish is still a main part of the diet
of Dene and Metis people.

Photo: Betty Harnum

Wilfred Lennie Sr: “There’s a small river called Bluefish Creek that starts from 3 Day Lake down to the Mackenzie. Bluefish and suckers spawn using this river system. We used to put nets at the mouth to catch fish for dogs with the MacDonald’s, Blondin’s and Hudson’s.”

Morris Mendo: “There are no main rivers in the lease area. There is a river called “Dry Willow River” that people used a lot in the past. This river flows into the lease. It’s not a long river but it’s good to paddle down.”

Hunting, Trapping and Game in the Area of Proposed Study

The area of proposed study and exploration has been used for generations by families in Tulita and Norman Wells. Most of these families lived on the land until about the 1960's or 1970's when they were forced to move into communities for their children to attend school. Hunting and trapping have been carried out extensively in the proposed area of exploration as a means of providing food, clothing, shelter, and transportation (eg. mooseskin boats, snowshoes). These activities also supported strong cultural traditions like drumming and sharing food. People today still rely on hunting and some on trapping to supplement income and diet, as food is very expensive in local stores. Hunting also provides a healthy diet and lifestyle. Crafts made from hides, furs and other animal products also provide additional income in these areas where jobs are not always readily available.

Animals found in the area include:

- moose
- Woodland caribou
- Dall sheep
- mountain goats
- grizzly bears
- black bears
- brown bears
- wolverine
- wolves
- lynx
- foxes
- rabbits
- beaver
- marten
- weasels
- mink
- otters
- muskrats
- squirrels
- porcupine
- ducks
- geese

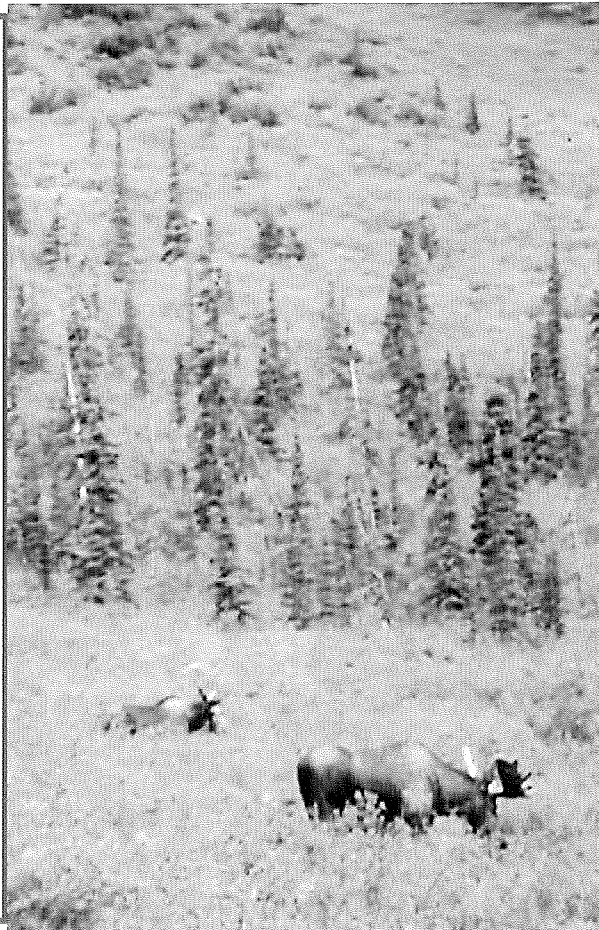


Photo: Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT

Moose

Moose are unpredictable in their behaviour. They have excellent senses of hearing and smell, but poor vision. When a moose perceives a threat, it often withdraws silently into the trees and stands quietly until the danger has passed. A startled or frightened moose will crash noisily headlong through the bush. Its antlers do not become entangled in dense thickets when it runs because it holds its head back so the antlers lie along the shoulders and the branches are pushed aside.

Although ungulates are generally gregarious, moose are solitary animals and do not form permanent groups. The only social bond formed is between mother and calf. Moose may "yard" together in winter, but this is more of a temporary survival mechanism than a social one. When snow is very deep, it tends to restrict their movements to small areas which become well-packed and laced with trails. In the Northwest Territories where snowfall is generally light, yarding is probably not as important as elsewhere, but small groups are still often seen together.

Source: Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT

Benny Doctor: "We use 3 Day Lake down the river to Oscar Island. The highest land usage is at the north end of the lease around 3 Day Lake."

Blue Clement: "Lots of moose, caribou, sheep and grizzly bears from the lowlands and mountains. They migrate back and forth. They go where the food is."

Charlie Menacho: "My father was good friends with old man MacDonald and Joe Blondin. They took him hunting and travelled on the land then. They used to go to Sucker Creek, a good fishing area. Any place they mate, the moose have to have solid ground when they fight. If they mate on muskeg, they can break their legs. The bull protects its family. I'm pretty sure they mate close to the mountains across from the Wells."

Charlotte Menacho: "Moose are located around Sucker Lake, Sucker Creek and island. My mother says they made dryfish and drymeat there. Also my cousins still go hunting in that area around Sucker Lake and Creek."

Corrine Andrew: "My daughter and Tyler still use the Canol Road to hunt."

David Etchinelle Sr: "There are moose in the whole area near Sucker Lake and Black Horizon Hill. Sheep are on south side of Mirror Lake. Caribou wander on the south side of the parcel. The odd caribou go to the Mackenzie River."

Woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) are divided into two distinct populations in the NWT: Boreal and Northern Mountain. Northern Mountain caribou gather in groups numbering in the thousands during late summer to late spring. These herds have distinct seasonal migrations and live in the Mackenzie Mountains. Boreal caribou live in the forests east of the Mackenzie Mountains and tend to live in small groups. They prefer to stay within the forest for most of the year and do not migrate.

Source: Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT

Dwayne Bavard: “Around 3 Day Lake there is a lot of moose, geese, ducks, beaver, muskrats and other furbearing animals. Some of my relatives still harvest in the area around 3 Day Lake. At 20 Mile Lake there is lots of moose, caribou and sheep west of 20 Mile Island Lake.”

David Yallee Sr: “Only when I was a youth I was around Sucker Lake and Creek area.”

Frank Andrew: “In the past, my grandfather, Yats’ule, hunted in Dodo Canyon for sheep, caribou, moose. Today Ricky Andrew, William Andrew and Leon Andrew still hunt for caribou along the Canol Trail in April.”

WOODLAND CARIBOU

Woodland caribou in the NWT are at the northern extent of their range. Wildlife species expanding their range northwards could bring unknown diseases or parasites to woodland caribou; however, effect of diseases, parasites, and insect harassment is currently unknown for woodland caribou. Over the past 10 years, heavy truck traffic has increased on NWT highways, including winter roads that might increase the number of deaths and injuries to caribou by collisions with vehicles.

We can also look at what has happened and is happening to woodland caribou in other parts of Canada to give us some idea of the current and potential threats to these caribou populations in the NWT. In Alberta, agriculture, timber harvesting and especially oil and gas development have resulted in vast habitat changes and loss of the northern boreal forest. These activities require trees to be removed, new roads built, and seismic lines and pipeline right-of-ways to be cleared. Also woodland caribou, particularly the Boreal population, using areas near roads and seismic lines are more vulnerable to harvest and predation. All of these types of activities are expected to increase in the NWT. Woodland caribou have always co-existed with predators. But cleared areas, especially long clearings like roads and seismic lines, make it easier for wolves and bears to travel through the forest and locate prey. Food attractants like commercial waste fish piles and remote garbage dumps may increase the number of predators in some areas and increase the risk of predators finding caribou.

Source: Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT [NWT Species at Risk.ca](http://NWT.Species.at.Risk.ca)

Frederick Andrew Jr: “You find moose where there are lots of willows and creeks in the lowlands.”

George Campbell: “Yes, some moose and there is always caribou in the area of study. The Elders say it’s a good hunting area. The people use the area in fall and spring to harvest lots of ducks and geese. Way in the mountains there are lots of sheep and bears and all that.”

James Etchinelle: “There is moose and caribou habitat in all the study area, especially moose in the Sucker area and Black Horizon Hill. Caribou move back and forth mostly in the south part of the parcel.”

Jim Wrigley: “Our family uses the area north of the lease. They used to hunt in that area; it’s a good hunting area. There’s good fur and lots of food. You just have to watch out for grizzly bears.”

Jonas MacCauley: “Lots of moose are found in the parcel Abel. Caribou are in the southern part of the parcel. Sheep are at the base of the mountains. Yes from our camp we go hunting toward Black Horizon Hill and other areas.”

Joseph Bernarde: “People used to go hunting moose and caribou in the past to 3 Prong Lake and into Mirror Lake. I know Johnny MacDonald goes out to Sucker Lake to harvest moose today. There’s a small lake that dried up that’s moose habitat. There is also bird and waterfowl habitat. Moose like areas with willows and small birch.”

Morris Mendo: “There are lots of moose all over the area. Some places you find a few woodland caribou; now no one hunts there so there must be lots. All kinds of birds are found in the area – ducks and geese. There are sheep in the Dodo Canyon and mountains that straddle the northeast. Last year people went there to hunt caribou.”

Norman Yakeleya: “There are sheep on the west side of the Carcajou and moose and caribou within the boundaries of the CP lease, on the west side.”

Paul MacCauley: “Yes there is caribou and moose in the lowlands and Dall sheep on the south side of Mirror Lake. People still harvest the animals there today.”

Peter Horassi: “There are lots of moose at 3 Day Lake and along Mackenzie River Island and shoreline. Woodland caribou are found in the central area of the parcel along the chain of fish lakes. Today we do not go out that way, only along the Canol Road to get caribou.”



Black Bear - Photo by Betty Harnum

Ricky Andrew: “People still go hunting in the mountains especially in winter. My grandfather, Yats’ule Mackenzie Andrew, and John Etchinelle Sr. and others have hunted there for generations – moose, caribou, Dall sheep. My family still hunts for caribou in the mountains in April. The south side of the parcel has sheep by Mirror Lake. Caribou and moose wander in the whole area. Big games moves depending on the snow and weather and bugs in summer. We see lots of moose along the Mackenzie River bank and island.”

Robert Horassi: “In the past my grandfather hunted for moose, caribou, sheep around Mirror Lake. 1 year ago I trapped in that area. Lots of moose, caribou, sheep.”

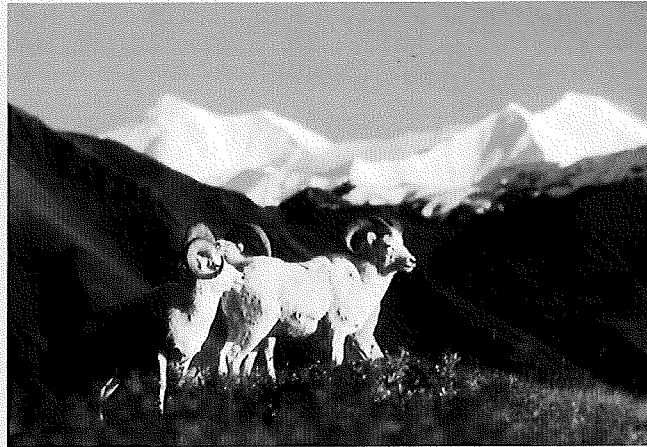
Rocky Norwegian Sr: “We continue to harvest moose and caribou year round.”

Vivian Pellissey: “Lots of moose and caribou along Mirror Lake and Black Horizon Hill. Sucker Creek area has lots of moose.”

Walter Granath: “In winter, the moose move to the rivers because of deep snow. That’s why there are lots of moose at 10 Mile Island. In the fall, moose gather at Sucker Lake where there are also lots of rats and ducks.”

Wilfred Lennie Sr: “There are sheep along the mountains. I used to guide in that area. There is Woodland caribou in the lowlands. There is mountain moose; they are a lot better than in the valley. These animals are all over the place. The animal numbers are going up; no one is trapping.”

Norman Andrew: “Along Carcajou River it’s natural for sheep, caribou that even our ancestors used. Today our people have not used the Salt Lick as much.”



Mountain sheep in North America are classified as either bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) which occur mainly in the Rocky Mountains or thinhorn sheep (*Ovis dalli*) which occur farther north. Among thinhorn sheep there are two subspecies - Dall's sheep (*Ovis dalli dalli*) and Stone's sheep (*Ovis dalli stonei*). Dall's sheep are found in Alaska, the Yukon, the western NWT and extreme north-western British Columbia. They are pure white with amber-coloured horns. Stone's sheep are found in the southern Yukon and northern British Columbia. They are silver grey to black with white patches on the rump, forehead, muzzle, and hind legs. Grey sheep have been seen occasionally in the NWT near the Yukon border and these may be intergrades between Dall's sheep and Stone's sheep.

Individual Dall's sheep confine almost all their movements to a particular mountain block, or range, that contains both the winter and summer range. For example, in the Mackenzie Mountains, 100 to 200 sheep may be found on a particular mountain block and they use the same winter and summer ranges each year and from generation to generation. This loyalty to seasonal ranges and one mountain block means that Dall's sheep are very slow to re-colonize an area if the population is severely reduced for some reason. It also means that the sheep are very sensitive to intense human activity on their ranges. They are reluctant to move from their terrain when roads, mines, and camps appear suddenly on the scene.

Source: Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT

Trapping in this area has provided families with a good livelihood for many generations, but few people maintain traplines now as they did in the past. The area is rich in fur-bearing animals and some Elders feel that these populations must be increasing because few people are trapping these days.

Blue Clement: “My grandparents Frank Yallee, John Hotti and Rosie (Lennie) Norwegian used to trap in the Loon Lake area and wherever they travelled. Around Loon Lake within the parcel, there is Loon Creek that is used for beaver and muskrats.”

Celine MacCauley: “My husband used to trap in most of the area. From our cabin at 20 Mile Island, my husband used to go into the mountains, trapping marten, mink, lynx.”



Charlie Menacho: “My father, Jeremie Menacho trapped beaver and muskrats, fox, marten, mink, weasels, and squirrels. We don’t do that today. We don’t use this area across from the Wells like my Dad did.”

Corrine Andrew: “My Dad used to trap around Mirror Lake but not now. They trapped marten, mink, lynx, squirrel, weasels, and wolf.”

David Etchinelle Sr: “My father, uncle, and grandfather have trapped in and around the whole area. My Elders would say the land is so big for us to cover hunting, trapping and fishing. They trapped marten, mink, lynx, weasels, fox, squirrels.”

David Yallee Sr: “In the past, I have spring hunted for beaver but never trapped in that area. Carcajou River, I used it for beaver hunting in the past. Lots of beaver. The river is a little rough but from the junction at Dodo Canyon it’s good to the Mackenzie River.”

Dwayne Bavard: “Between 3 Day Lake and 20 Mile Lake, people used the area for hunting and trapping. They trapped lynx, marten, wolverine, rats (muskrats), beaver for food and furs. They don’t use the area anymore.”

Frank Yallee Elder: “There is a cabin at Bluefish Creek, an old cabin. John Menacho’s family used this area in the past.”

Gabe Horassi: “My grandfather and others have trapped all around Mirror Lake area, all along the old traditional trails and all along the chain of fish lakes. They trapped marten, mink, squirrel, weasel, fox, and lynx. We do not trap in that area today.”

Frederick Andrew Jr. "People used to use the land across from Norman Wells before 1921. Fort Norman people used this area across from the Wells before oil was discovered. People trapped everywhere. Today our people don't use the area."

George Campbell: "In the past they used the area for harvesting. They trapped beaver, marten and muskrat. Walter Granath used to go hunting with Ernie MacDonald for muskrats and beaver in the early days in the 3 Day Lake area and around the buffer zone."



Photo: Wolverine by Rob Gau

Joe Horassi; "My great-great grandparents used to travel from Tulita. They used to go to 3 Day Lake for fishing. People then used to stop at various places on the land and hunt, fish and trap in all seasons."

John Hotti: "In the past, my family trapped in that area. A lot of people have worked, hunted, fished, trapped in the whole area. Marten, mink, weasel, squirrel, fox, lynx, and wolf."

Jonas MacCauley: "Yes I have trapped from 20 Mile Island camp into that area on many cutlines (see map #7C), also along the chain of fish lakes. We trap marten, mink, weasel, lynx, and squirrel. My family still goes out hunting and trapping."

Joseph Bernarde: "In the past my father trapped marten, mink, fox in the area. We had a trapline but it's not like that anymore. People with cabins have priority over an area when they trap. People share the trapping area."

Julie Lennie: "People didn't stay in town. People travelled in the bush and gathered in town at Christmas. When they were done, they'd go back to the land, trapping. The Dene and Metis were always trapping."

Mary Rose Masuzumi: "Uncle Joe Lennie and his brother, John Lennie Sr. used to trap around the Loon Creek area. They trapped marten, lynx, wolverine and other fur-bearing species for a living when they were alive. Our family still harvests in the area around Loon Creek."

Ernestine Lennie & Son Maurice: "Aunt Rosie and Joe Lennie used the area. Johnny Lennie Sr. used to trap in the area but didn't talk about it. All the Lennie's used to be in and use that area when they found oil there."

Morris Mendo: "My family used all the area in the lease. They trapped marten, lynx, fox, wolverine, weasel, squirrel, and otter that are in the area because there are fish lakes. There are beaver and muskrat too. Some people still trap in the area today but not as much. There were traplines in the areas that were good for trapping."

Paul MacCauley: “About 3 years ago I trapped with Robert Horassi, and my brother Clayton MacCauley (see map #7A). We caught marten, wolverine, lynx, fox, wolf, and mink. In the past, my grandfather trapped all along 3 Prong Fish Lake but people don’t have traplines now.”

Peter Horassi: “My father trapped, hunted and fished toward Black Horizon Hill and Mirror Lake from Tulita in the past. They got marten, lynx, and fox. I trapped off and on depending on the season. I don’t have a trapline. People don’t have traplines now, especially Tulita people. People used to trap where they wanted.”

Ricky Andrew: “My grandfather and others have used the fish lakes to fish, hunt, trap. I have gone hunting there and still trap (see map #7B).”

Vivian Pellissey: “My family trapped marten and mink in the whole area.”

Walter Granath: “In the past, we trapped. There are lots of beaver, otter, and mink. Today I don’t go there.”



Photo: Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

David Etchinelle Sr: “In the past, on the lower level of the Carcajou River, my Elders hunted beaver. Today I don’t think many people use it.”

Jonas MacCauley: “On the Carcajou River in the lower land we used to travel and hunt beaver in the past. Today I think people still use it for boating.”

Burial Sites in the Area of Proposed Exploration

Very few people interviewed know of any burial sites in the area of proposed exploration. All agree, however, that in the past, many people were buried all over, since their families have occupied the land for many generations. People who died were buried on the land wherever the family was at the time. During the big flu epidemic in the 1920's, many people died and it was not possible to transport their bodies to another place for burial.

Gabe Horassi: "I think old Zaul Blondin's father might be buried at Sucker Lake, at the mouth by the old campsite."

George Campbell: "You never know. People lived out around the fish lakes, especially 3 Day Lake."

Jim Wrigley: "Lots of Mountain Dene before our time are most likely buried in the area."

Joe Horassi: "None of my family members is buried in the area."

John Hotti: "The only burial site I know of is at 3 Prong Fish Lake on the southwest side of the campsite between the two lakes on the esker."

Julie Lennie: "Yes they are buried across from Norman Wells. People died and were buried all over, most likely around 3 Day Lake."



Ernestine Lennie & Son Maurice: "I guess so. Lots of them in the area died at the time of the "big flu". People are buried everywhere on the land. I heard about the story when I was a young girl."

Morris Mendo: "Yes around 3 Day Lake, people are buried. There are stories about it."

Paul MacCauley: "Only one, by 3 Prong Fish Lake (see map)."

Ricky Andrew: "Elder Gabe Etchinelle says there are lots of burial sites near 3 Prong Lake. People got sick any place, any time and passed on while they moved from one fish lake to the next."

Vivian Pellissey: "At 3 Prong Lake – see the map."

Plants and Berries in the Area of Proposed Exploration



Photo: Labrador Tea

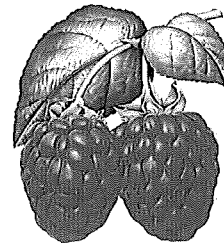
Many types of berries have been a good, healthy food source for generations in this area. People do still harvest them. Berry-picking is often a favourite summer and fall family outing. Some people know of good berry-picking areas that they frequent every year.

Aside from berries, Dene and Metis in this area have harvested many plants and roots, often for medicinal purposes. Although the use of these traditional medicines declined for some time, they are becoming more popular as people become more aware of the long-term effects of using over-the-counter and prescription drugs.

Several types of trees also provide a source of medicine. Spruce gum is also used as glue.

Benny Doctor: “They had their own medicine on the land – roots, spruce gum and willows – everything. In those days they had big gardens at Pat’s Point so people grew vegetables.”

Blue Clement: “Around the Loon Lake area, closer to the river, there are lots of berries – raspberries, cloudberries, blueberries, cranberries, gooseberries. They used traditional tea (Labrador tea) as medicine. They used plants and roots before doctors came, to treat their own illnesses.”



Celine MacCauley: “All berries are like medicine. Cranberries are the strongest. Other berries similar to cranberries are known to keep one from getting too hungry.”

Charlie Menacho: “They always talked about Labrador tea at that time. They use the inside bark of trees and willows for colds and so on. The natural medicines from the land are better for me.”

Corrine Andrew: “Berries are healthy food. Some roots are edible. Plants and poplar tree buds are good for colds.”

David Yallee Sr: “Our people eat a lot of blueberries, cranberries. Berries are plentiful in all areas, but today forest fires destroy some vegetation.”

Dwayne Bavard: “They used bark from the willows and pine trees. They used to pick berries like cloudberrries, rosehips, blueberries, and cranberries of various types. They got their medicines from the land.”

Frederick Andrew Jr: “Medicine plants are everywhere there. Labrador tea is a medicine too. Willows are there too in the lowland area for heart condition and tapeworms. Medicine plants are hard to find but I know where they grow.”

George Campbell: “It’s probably good land for all kinds of berries. The oldtimers used spruce gum for healing and made their own medicine from the land. Plants, roots and willows are made into medicine.”



Jim Wrigley: “Lots of berries, blueberries, cranberries, rosehips, strawberries and raspberries in certain areas. They used plants and roots for medicine.”

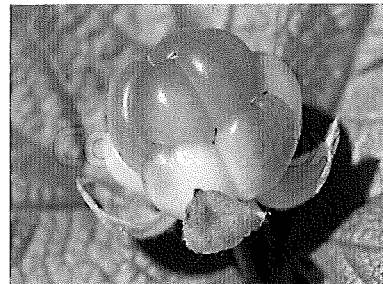
Joseph Bernarde: “In the past, people added berries with fish eggs for food. Plants like willow were used for medicine. It was boiled and you drank the juice. The inner bark of spruce is chewed like gum; it’s a healthy medicine. The inner bark of birch was also boiled for medicine.”

Ernestine Lennie & Son Maurice: “Spruce gum for cuts, spruce tea for sore throats.”

Morris Mendo: “Cranberries, blueberries, knuckleberries – a lot of berries in this area. There are lots of medicine roots and plants. There are wild onions around the lakes and wild carrots for food.”

Ricky Andrew: “Berries and roots were part of a healthy diet. Poplar tree buds are commonly used for colds. The inner bark of white spruce is also good for colds. Lilypads are also good for aches and pains.”

Robert Horassi: “My father collected berries for food – blueberries, cranberries, knuckleberries. Cranberries are stored for winter. Roots are located on the riverbed and bank. They’re used for food.”



Rocky Norwegian Sr: “Cranberries, blueberries, and knuckleberries were used for food. Spruce gum was used for medicine as was rat root.”

Walter Granath: “Every spring my father used the inner bark of the spruce tree for medicine; it’s a healthy drink. Spruce sap is really good for cuts.”

Rivers, Creeks, Lakes and Water Quality in the Area of Proposed Exploration

Water quality is of the utmost importance to the Dene and Metis. They have heard about the destruction of rivers and lakes in other places and do not want this to happen in their land. They rely on the water for drinking, and the fish and animals that they eat must have clean water in order to stay healthy. Small creeks and streams feed into the larger rivers and lakes. This means that monitoring water quality in even the smallest of streams is essential to preserving the integrity of the water quality over the entire area.

Everyone agreed that the water all over the area of proposed exploration is still good, clean water that can be used for drinking. It is sustaining a healthy fish and wildlife population. Waterfowl are plentiful and appear healthy so the water must be good.

There are no major rivers in this area, except for some larger ones along the mountains. The area is full of smaller streams and creeks and a myriad of lakes with an abundance of fish, birds, wildlife and flourishing plant life.



Benny Doctor: “No main rivers are found in the study area. Sucker Creek is a small winding creek with fish.”

Blue Clement: “There is Loon Creek and Stewart; they used to go hunting around there. There are big creeks in the area people used for harvesting and travel.”

Photo: Bear Rock, Tulita NWT by Angus Lennie

Caroline Widow: “The Keele, Mackenzie, and Bear Rivers. Everyone uses these.”

Charlie Menacho: “I just know Sucker Creek and that area. Most people travel down the Carcajou River. It’s rough. Our people still use this river today as they have outboard motors for hunting and harvesting.”

Corrine Andrew: “The Mackenzie River is used for a source of water and transportation. People still use the river system for fishing and hunting. Carcajou River is used for fishing. It is still used for hunting by boat.”

Jim Wrigley: “There are just creeks in this area; the largest is Sucker Creek. It flows from 3 Day Lake to the Mackenzie River.”

Robert Horassi: “The Carcajou River has waterfalls in the high mountains so it can’t be used for boating or canoeing. In the lower land, the river is used by jet boats and other boats.”

Ricky Andrew: “The Mackenzie River is still used today for transportation and drinking water in summer and winter. Carcajou River has always been used and is still used for hunting. Little Bear River is good for travel by boat in high water for hunting moose and beaver. There’s lots of game on that river.”

Julie Lennie: “In the area they want to drill in, there are main rivers on the north side close to the mountains that flow to the Mackenzie.”

Joe Horassi: “There are no big rivers in the area, just creeks. The main rivers are alongside the Richardson Mountains.”

Dwayne Bavard: “No main rivers in that area, just creeks and lakes that flow into the Mackenzie. People in the past depended on the creeks and lakes for food.”

Charlie Menacho: “I’m pretty sure the water is still good as there is little development in that area. The lakes and creeks are clean of any contaminants at this time.”

Corrine Andrew: “Yes it is still good for drinking but sometimes we have to boil water from the Mackenzie. Wildlife is still healthy.”



Photo: Breakup on the Mackenzie River at Tulita
by Nancy Norn-Lennie

Frederick Andrew Jr: “100% clean water. No mud except in a few muskeg areas where there is stale water. Lots of life in the marsh areas.”

George Campbell: “Yes the water should be good because there is no exploration on this parcel of land now. Yes the animals and fish are still healthy, free of contaminants.”

Jim Wrigley: “100% good drinking water in all the lakes. We used to make fire and make tea. Mountain water is nice and soft. Fish and animals are healthy today. I’ve never heard otherwise.”

Joseph Bernarde: “People who hunt and camp at lakes, they drink the water. I have not heard yet that the water is bad. All waterfowl need water to nest and bring their young ones up. Also the fish need water. All animals like beaver and muskrats, they live here year round and need clean water. Yes the wildlife and fish are still healthy.”

Ernestine Lennie & Son Maurice: “Most of the lakes you can drink from unless they are swamps.”

Morris Mendo: “Should be good water in the creeks and lakes. A long time ago, we used any lake or creek to cook and wash. Sometimes the water is muddy because of minerals in the water.”

Norman Andrew: “Yes the water is good, but we have to be cautious about drinking Mackenzie River water.”



Photo: Old Mooseskin Boat, Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

Recommendations

Benny Doctor:

Protect 3 Day Lake and the creeks that flow from there to the Mackenzie.

We want more work and contracts for our small businesses.

Do more community consultations – 2-3 a year.

Blue Clement:

Be careful not to have spills of any kind such as fuel (gas).

Keep the work area clean. In the future, my children may want to use the area for harvesting.

Take care of the water, lakes, and fish. Clean up soiled snow.

Keep the land clean the way it was first seen.

We want to see more Elders' visits in the camps.

We want more community consultations by the company.

Charlotte Menacho:

The company must have environmental monitoring with the working crew.

The water provides for wildlife and fish and must be protected.

Work together with our people.

Charlie Menacho:

Keep the land clean. No pollution.

When you leave, leave the land as it was, not leaving roads and lines all over the place.

Compensate the harvesters who use the land the company is operating on.

Caroline Widow:

Keep the land and water clean.

Corrine Andrew:

The company must look after oil spills. It's not good for the animals. Plants don't grow again. Keep the land clean.

David Yallee Sr:

Oil companies working on our land, are they going to look after it? It seems small game numbers are getting less and less.

Dwayne Bavard:

Our environment, including the animals, is important to us and future generations. Respect the area you are working in – animals, water, land.

Eddy McPherson Jr:

Look after the land.

Frank Andrew:

Under the land claim agreement, a clause talks about harvester compensation and impact. Companies should look at this clause, look at some compensation for harvesters.

Frederick Andrew Jr:

There are too many cutlines. The moose areas will be impacted by noise.

I am concerned about wildlife habitats and beaver lakes.

The company that works there needs to keep within the boundaries.

My real concern- Do the best to minimize environmental impacts. Make sure the land is clean; it's fresh, not touched. Keep it this way and respect our land.

Gabe Horassi:

Oil companies working on our land, they give us nothing. They should compensate us.

George Campbell:

Keep the land clean of contaminants in all seasons.

Have more community visits to let the people know what you are doing and planning each season.

James Bavard:

I'd like to see the water and land looked after; it is habitat for fish, moose and other big game.

James Etchinelle:

The company is working on our traditional land as long as they work with our people to make sure the land and water are protected.

Jim Wrigley:

Respect the land. Leave the land the same way it was before it was used.

Respect the animals, all types, as the land is their home.

Help train our people to become qualified monitors so they can keep the land clean.

Burn the garbage.

Joe Horassi:

Look after the land, animals, water in the lakes.

Everything today costs a lot; we as Dene and Metis still depend on the land for our food.

Visit the people; tell us what's happening on our lands.

When our people work for the company, treat them with respect.

Learn about our culture, our way of life in small communities, about our history and who we are.

John Hotti:

I visited a camp last winter, the 3D program. There was lots of activity. I know the wildlife would move away from that area; they are smart.

Jonas MacCauley:

In our consultation with Husky, they only talked about drilling. Nothing was said regarding their 3D program. The company must be open to the public.

Regarding the program, the presentation must be clear about each program intended. In the 3D Program, there have been many cutlines and the heavy activity would cause wildlife to move.

Joseph Bernarde:

I don't worry too much about the oil companies working. Companies create jobs for our young people. Maybe I am not the only one who thinks like this.

There are a lot of grade 12 grads walking the streets. The company should give them jobs. Maybe one young person will get lucky and get a permanent job with the company.

Julie Lennie:

The Elders want to fly over the area before the company does any work on the land.

Where we have animals, fish lakes and streams, exploration may be too close to the animal habitat. In spring the snow melts and flows into the creeks and lakes. If the company works in the area close to the animals, they have to keep it clean.

The company has to respect and take care of our land when they work on it.

Mary Rose Masuzumi:

The company needs to clean up the area of contaminants before they leave.

We don't want our lakes to be dumping grounds, like for garbage.

When they slash out an area, they only cut down trees in a small area they are going to use for some activity.

Respect the land, water, animals and trees within the area of exploration.

Respect our way of life on the land; consult us on activities the company is doing on our land.

Ernestine Lennie & Son Maurice:

The companies can't destroy things. There are a lot of rabbits. People need to live and use the land where CP wants to drill.

Clean up and watch any spills and clean up garbage when you are done.

Check in the springtime to clean up any garbage left in the winter.

Michael Etchinelle:

Respect the land and water – keep it clean.

Harvesters are directly impacted by the company and should be compensated.

Morris Mendo:

Really take care of the land. We don't want to see chemicals and garbage on the land.

You and us - we all need to know where the animals are, where they mate in the spring. Respect these mating areas.

Take care of the creeks – they can carry a lot of things like waste and pollution.

Norman Andrew:

The first concern I have is about all the cutting of vegetation. Companies have said it will grow back to a normal state but I don't think so. Once Mother Nature is tampered with, it will never be the same.

Ricky Andrew:

Take all the wastewater out of the area. Leave no footprints behind. Hunters and trappers still need to harvest game in that area.

Don't harass wildlife.

Wildlife harvesters who are directly affected by the company should be compensated.

The company doing the 3D Program used a mulcher for clearing bush. I don't agree with using a mulcher.

Helicopters should stay away from wildlife especially sheep near Mirror Lake.

May and June are calving season and bird nesting season. Avoid working during this time.

Paul MacCauley:

Make an effort to keep the land and water the way it is today. Monitor the water; test water yearly to assure water quality.

Peter Horassi:

Look after the environment in the area of operations.

Robert Horassi:

Too many cutlines are created in these areas. Most wildlife would move to other new territories. Too many vehicles also cause wildlife to move. The exhaust and gas are not good for wildlife. Even skidoo exhaust has caused furbearing animals to leave traplines.

Rocky Norwegian Sr:

Always work through the Tulita and Norman Wells Renewable Resource Councils if you are not sure how an area should be accessed.

Always respect the land, water and animals.

Always respect the harvesters' hunting seasons within the area. Let the Dene and Metis people know when activities are happening so hunters will be aware.

Roderick Yallee:

Watch the fish lakes and water. It must not be contaminated.

Walter Granath:

Don't bury stuff to hide it. I have seen this before. Buried stuff leaks chemicals into the water. I know they are careful nowadays, but when the boss is not around, they like to cover things up.

Wilfred Lennie Sr:

Keep track of the animals crossing the roads.

Submit a report at the end of the project to the Land Corporation.

Make sure that water is respected and kept as clean as possible.

Do more community consultations. Keep the community updated on project advancement.

We don't want to see our people use the access road for hunting. It could be dangerous. They can use it after the project.

Norman Yakeleya:

Some of the bigger lakes especially need to be protected.

Dodo Canyon is known for its "sheep's nest". Sheep all have their young here. There should be a "no fly" policy when they are having their young.

This goes for the caribou calving areas too.

