

Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Options and Recommendations

Draft - 2011/2012



Nunavut Planning
Commission

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Chapter 1

Introduction

Purpose

This document has been prepared to inform the draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (the Plan). It offers policy direction for land and resource use in the Nunavut Settlement Area (NSA) that;

- recognises competing land use interests and provides a balanced response that builds on strengths and opportunities in the Territory;
- promotes economic opportunities, environmental management, conservation initiatives, and community priorities;
- reflects direction provided by planning partners, existing planning policy and pertinent land use and development reports; and
- is flexible enough to respond to changing priorities and additional information.

This document is intended to evolve over time to include additional information as it becomes available.

Guiding Policies, Objectives and Goals

This document is guided by the five goals contained in the Commission's Broad Planning Policies, Objectives and Goals;

- Strengthening Partnership and Institutions;
- Protecting and Sustaining the Environment;
- Encouraging Conservation Planning;
- Building Healthy Communities, and
- Encouraging Sustainable Economic Development.

These Goals and the associated Policies and Objectives lay the foundation for the policy options and recommendations contained in this document.

Considered Information

Direction provided in the existing planning policy framework, pertinent land use and development reports, input from Planning Partners as well as existing land and resource use in the NSA direct the policy options, recommendations and decisions contained in this document.

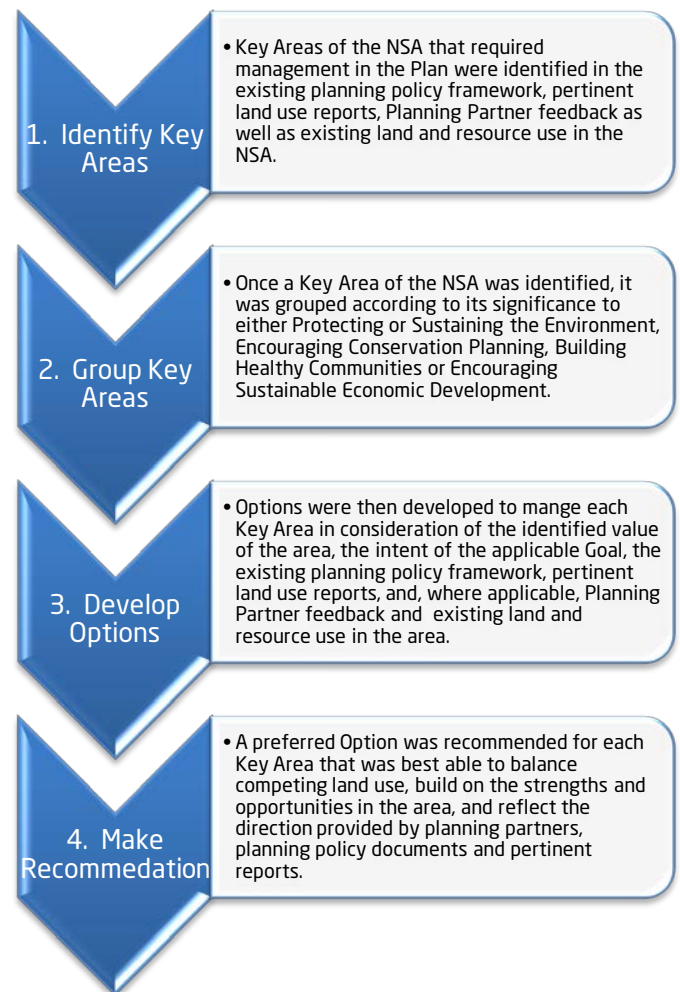
Accordingly, the options, recommendations and decisions in this document build upon the direction provided by;

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement;

- The Nunavut Planning Commission's Broad Planning Policies, Objectives and Goals;
- The North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan;
- The Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan;
- Terriplan's Socio Demographic and Economic Sector Analysis
- The Commissions Use and Occupancy Mapping data;
- Government, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Regional Inuit Association strategies, policies, management plans and reports;
- Municipal Land Use Plans for the Nunavut Settlement Area;
- Feedback received from Planning Partners;
- Existing land and resource use in the NSA;

Decision making framework

Policy options and recommendations contained in this report have been formulated based on best available information. Policy decisions were formulated using a four step decision making framework;



Chapter 2

Protecting and Sustaining the Environment

"The goal of protecting and conserving Nunavut's air, land and water, i.e. the environment, including wildlife and wildlife habitat, is of critical importance to the sustainability of Nunavut's communities, Inuit culture and the continuation of a viable long-term economy."

Introduction

Protecting and Sustaining the Environment is one of five planning Goals in the Nunavut Planning Commission's Broad Planning Policies, Objectives and Goals. It is the primary aim of this Chapter to provide a practical policy direction that is able to support this Goal.

Specifically, this Chapter;

- identifies key areas of Nunavut that are critical to the protection and conservation of the environment, including wildlife and wildlife habitat;
- provides options for managing these key areas;
- recommends a preferred option for the management of these areas that is best able to support the Goal of Protecting and Sustain the Environment and build on the direction provided by planning policy, pertinent reports and feedback from Planning Partners; and
- translates the preferred option into a language that a Land Use Plan can articulate and implement.

Key Areas and Issues

Areas and issues of the NSA identified by the Commission as important to promoting the protection and conservation of the environment are;

- Key bird habitat sites;
- Caribou habitat;
- Atlantic Cod lakes.
- Cumulative impacts;
- Transboundary considerations; and
- Climate change.

Options for managing Key Areas and Issues

Options for managing these areas have been prepared in consideration of the existing planning policy framework, pertinent land use reports, input from Planning Partners as well as existing land and resource use in the NSA.

A preferred Option has been recommended that balances competing land use and builds on the strengths and opportunities in the area. The preferred Option has been translated into a language that is easily transferable into a Land Use Plan, allowing a practical response to achieving the Goal of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment.

Key Bird Habitat Sites

(see Map 1 – Map 54)

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) has provided the Commission with the location of 54 key bird habitat sites in the NSA. These areas have been identified by CWS for their importance to sustaining and supporting terrestrial and marine bird populations in the NSA.

Some of the Key Bird Habitat sites are located in areas where there are competing land uses and/or areas where other Planning Partners have identified other types of land use activity.

The following information has been considered for all the key bird habitat sites:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account environmental considerations, including wildlife habitat.
- It is a policy of the Commission's Goal of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment to respect and consider sites of ecological significance that are not officially protected, such as: polynyas, key migratory bird sites, Ramsar sites, and critical habitat that has been identified but not yet declared.
- EC states that it will review project proposals in key bird habitat sites with an additional level of scrutiny, to ensure conformity with the *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and Regulations;
- CWS recognizes two categories of bird sites: Red Sites and Yellow Sites:
 - Red Sites:
 - support >10% of the national population of migratory bird species, the loss of which would jeopardize population viability according to current demographic information; and/or
 - host greater than 5% of a national population of a species exhibiting population declines as of 2005; and/or

- have been identified, or are anticipated to be identified, as critical habitat for a listed species at risk under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA);
- Yellow Sites:
 - support 5%- 10% of the national population of one or more migratory bird species that are NOT exhibiting population declines as of 2005; or
 - support 1- 5% of the national population of one or more migratory bird species that are exhibiting population declines as of 2005; and
- CWS recommends access restrictions for the Red Sites and other forms of management for the Yellow Sites

The following information is also relevant for some of the key bird habitat sites:

- Some sites contain IOL and it is NTI's direction that development activity should not be restricted on IOL; and
- Some of the sites are in an area identified by DFO as a marine area of High Biological Importance (HBI) and DFO's direction is that areas of HBI do not require management conditions implemented through land use plans, but regulators may review project proposals with an additional level of scrutiny in these areas.

Some sites are located within the boundaries of the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. . The NBRLUP places an emphasis on protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat and ensuring impacts on wildlife are minimized. The biological richness of the area is recognised as significant in supporting bird populations.

Some sites are located within the boundaries of the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan. The KRLUP identifies healthy wildlife populations as vital to Inuit. It places an emphasis on the protection and preservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat. The Keewatin Region is recognised for containing significant habitat for bird populations, which is nationally and internationally recognised.

Options for Managing Key Bird Habitat Sites

Four Options have been developed to manage land use activity in key bird habitat sites;

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts of projects on Key Bird Sites.

- Option 2: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research and prohibits all other uses.
- Option 3: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research.
- Option 4: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation, research, marine infrastructure, including marine communications and electrical cables.

Analysis and Recommendation for Key Bird Habitat Sites

In consideration of all available information;

- The Commission considers it appropriate to restrict development in Red Sites to tourism, recreation and research, which are activities the Commission, at this time, considers compatible with Red key bird habitat sites; and
- The Commission considers it appropriate, at this time, to allow all land use activity in Yellow Sites, with a recommendation to regulators and proponents consider the potential impacts on the key bird habitat site.

In instances where there is competing land interests with:

- Red Sites containing IOL, Option 3 will be applied. Option 3 restricts access to the site by only permitting tourism, recreation and research, which are activities the Commission considers, at this time, compatible with key bird habitat sites. Uses other than tourism, recreation and research will be considered for their compatibility with the key bird habitat site through the plan amendment process. The Commission considers it premature and inappropriate to consider all land use activities acceptable in Red Sites in the absence of more detailed project proposals.
- Red Sites where marine areas and IOL and/or areas of HBI occur, Option 4 will be applied. Option 4 restricts access to the site by only permitting tourism, recreation, research and marine activities, which are activities the Commission considers, at this time, compatible with key bird habitat sites. Uses other than tourism, recreation and research and marine activities will be considered for their compatibility with the key bird habitat site through the plan amendment process. The Commission considers it premature and inappropriate to consider all land use activities acceptable in Red Sites in the absence of more detailed project proposals.
- In instances where a site has been identified within or partially in a proposed National Park or existing Conservation Area, the proposed National Park or existing Conservation Area designation will prevail as it supports the direction of both CWS and Parks Canada Agency (PCA).

- Yellow Sites and previous land use decisions, the previous land use decision will be attributed weight. Previous decisions made through the regulatory system are considered a reflection of extensive consultation and review.
- Red Sites and potential mineral development, Option 3 will be applied. Option 3 restricts access to the site by only permitting tourism, recreation and research, which are activities the Commission considers, at this time, compatible with key bird habitat sites. Mining will be considered for its compatibility with the key bird habitat site through the plan amendment process. The Commission considers it premature and inappropriate to consider mining an appropriate use in the absence of a more detailed project proposal.
- Red Sites and IOL and potential mineral activity and/or char areas of abundance, Option 1 will be applied. The Commission considers Option 1 to best achieve a balance between all these competing interests. The Commission recognizes that Option 1 best reflects the multiple uses occurring in this area and considers, in these instances, a recommendation for the Red Site appropriate.

NOTE: The Commission acknowledges that in some areas of key bird habitat sites, land use designations have been applied to recognize other significant characteristics identified by Planning Partners.

The above rationale provides the justification for the recommendation for each of the key bird habitat sites identified below.

East Axel Heiberg Islands

(see Map 1)

Considered Information

- The existing planning policy framework;
- CWS categorizes the site as red;
- CWS mapping indicates the site has marine and terrestrial components;
- The site contains IOL;
- The site has the potential for coal related activities;
- The site is located within the boundaries of the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan;

Option 3 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Achieves the best balance between the direction provided by NTI and CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Fosheim Peninsula

(see Map 2)

Considered Information:

- The existing planning policy framework;
- CWS categorizes the site as yellow;
- CWS mapping indicates that the site has marine and terrestrial components;
- The site contains IOL;
- The site has potential for coal related activities;
- The site includes Canadian Forces Station (CFS) Eureka, which includes an aerodrome, and has been assigned a Building Healthy Communities designation below; and
- The Nunavut Impact Review Board (the NIRB) previously refused coal exploration in the area.

Option 3 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the previous land use decision made for this sites and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Inglefield Mountains

(see Map 3)

Considered Information:

- The existing planning policy framework;
- CWS categorizes the site as red and identifies the site as terrestrial;
- The site is comprised of different areas; and
- One of the areas contains IOL.

Option 3 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Achieves the best balance between the direction provided by NTI and CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Sabine Peninsula

(see Map 4)

Considered Information:

- The existing planning policy framework;

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow;
- CWS mapping shows the site is terrestrial; and
- The site has the potential for oil and gas related activities and other future economic development.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of supports the Goal of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Reflects the direction provided by CWS, recognises the economic potential in the area and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Seymour Island

(see Map 5)

Considered Information:

- The existing planning policy framework;
- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and identifies the site as marine;
- The site has the potential for oil and gas related activities; and
- The site provides a buffer for a Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS).

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Reflects the direction provided by CWS, supports the Migratory Bird Sanctuary and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Cheyne Islands

(see Map 6)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red;
- The existing planning policy framework;
- The site's three islands are part of the Bathurst Inlet proposed National Park, and are assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation below.

Option 2 is recommended for the site's marine areas as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Hell Gate and Cardigan Strait

(see Map 7)

Considered Information:

- The existing planning policy framework;
- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates that the site is marine and terrestrial; and
- The site has UOM activities
- and contains caribou habitat.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

North Water Polynya

(see Map 8)

Considered Information:

- The existing planning policy framework;
- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates that the site is marine;
- Within the NSA, the site is comprised of two areas and is considered biologically diverse;
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI; and
- The site has oil and gas production potential.

Option 4 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Reflects the direction provided by CWS, recognises the mineral potential for the site and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Nasuralaavik Island

(see Map 9)

Considered Information:

- The existing planning policy framework;
- CWS categorizes the site as red; and
- CWS mapping indicates the site has marine and terrestrial components.

Option 2 is recommended for the site's marine areas as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Queens Channel

(see Map 10)

Considered Information:

- The existing planning policy framework;
- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates that the site is marine and terrestrial;
- The site contains some IOL;
- The site has UOM activities; and
- The site has adjacent prospecting permits and mineral leases.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Eastern Jones Sound

(see Map 11)

Considered Information:

- The existing planning policy framework;
- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates that the site is marine;
- Portions of the site are in the proposed Lancaster Sound National Maine Conservation Area (NMCA) and are assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation below;
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI;
- Portions of the site are in the Nirjutiqavvik National Wildlife Area (NWA) and are assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation below;
- The site has adjacent prospecting permits;
- The site has UOM activities; and
- The site is used for shipping.

Option 4 is recommended in the area outside the proposed NMCA and the NWA as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS, reflects the site's marine component and builds on the existing policy framework and activity in the area.

Eastern Devon Island

(see Map 12)

Considered Information:

- The existing planning policy framework;
- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates that the site is terrestrial.

Option 2 is recommended for the site's marine areas as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Browne Island

(Map 13)

Considered Information:

- The existing planning policy framework;
- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates that the site is marine and terrestrial;
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI;
- The site contains some IOL;
- The site has UOM activity and possible sacred areas; and
- The site has exploratory wells;

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Cape Liddon

(Map 14)

Considered Information:

- The existing planning policy framework;
- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates that the site is marine and terrestrial;

- The site is partially in the proposed Lancaster Sound NMCA, which is assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation below;
- The area has UOM activity and a possible sacred site; and
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Prince Leopold Island

(Map 15)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates that the site is marine;
- The site is partially in the proposed Lancaster Sound NMCA, which is assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation below;
- The site encircles a MBS;
- The site has UOM activity; and
- The site is adjacent to IOL;

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Hobhouse Inlet

(Map 16)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates that the site is marine and terrestrial; and
- The area is in the proposed Lancaster Sound NMCA and its marine component is assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation below;

Option 2 is recommended for the site's terrestrial areas as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework, and supports the proposed Lancaster Sound NMCA.

Eastern Lancaster Sound

(Map 17)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates that the site is marine; and
- The area is mainly in the proposed Lancaster Sound NMCA, which is assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation below.

Option 4 is recommended for the portion of this site that is outside the proposed Lancaster Sound NMCA as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Cape Hay

(see Map 18)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates that the site is marine and terrestrial;
- The site's marine component is completely within the proposed Lancaster Sound NMCA; and
- The site's terrestrial component is completely within Sirmilik National Park.

NOTE: *The marine component of the site is considered below as part of the proposed Lancaster Sound NMCA. The Plan does not apply to the site's terrestrial component.*

Cape Graham Moore

(see Map 19)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates that the site is marine and terrestrial;
- The site's marine component is in the proposed Lancaster Sound NMCA and in a MBS, which are assigned Encouraging Conservation Planning designations below;
- The site contains IOL, which is on the MBS portion and considered below; and
- A small portion of the site is left when the proposed NMCA and MBS are removed. Remaining area is in Outer Land Fast Ice Zone.

Option 2 is recommended for the site's marine areas as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Reflects the direction provided by CWS, builds on the existing planning policy framework and supports the proposed Lancaster Sound NMCA.

Northwestern Brodeur Peninsula

(see Map 20)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates that the site is terrestrial;
- The site is comprised of three areas that are each approximately 1 km² in size; and
- The site has active mineral claims.

Option 3 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- achieves the best balance between the direction provided by CWS and the mineral potential for the area, and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Baillarge Bay

(see Map 21)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates that the site is marine and terrestrial;
- The site's terrestrial component is partially located in Sirmilik National Park and the site's marine component is partially within the proposed Lancaster Sound NMCA, which is assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation below;
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI;
- The site has UOM activity and shipping; and
- The site contains a small portion of IOL.

Option 4 is recommended for the portion of this site that is outside the proposed Lancaster Sound NMCA and the National Park as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS, recognizes the site's marine component, recognizes the IOL and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Batty Bay

(see Map 22)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates that the site is marine and terrestrial;
- The site has UOM activity and possible shipping.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Creswell Bay

(see Map 23)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates that the site is marine and terrestrial;
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI;
- The site is an Arctic char area of abundance;
- The site has UOM activity, burial sites and a possible sacred area; and
- The site's terrestrial component is IOL.

To manage land use activities in this site, Option 1 is recommended for the site's terrestrial component and Option 4 is recommended for the site's marine component.

Option 1 is recommended for the terrestrial component because this Option best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- achieves the best balance between the direction provided by NTI and CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Option 4 is recommended for the marine component because this Option best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Buchan Gulf

(see Map 24)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates that the site is marine and terrestrial;
- The site is a turbot area of abundance;

- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI;
- The site has UOM activity; and
- The site contains IOL.

Option 4 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS, recognizes the site's marine component, recognizes the site contains IOL, and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Scott Inlet

(see Map 25)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates that the site is marine and terrestrial;
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI;
- The site has UOM activity; and
- The site contains IOL.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Steensby Lakes

(see Map 26)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow;
- CWS mapping indicates the site has marine and terrestrial components;
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI;
- The site has UOM activity;
- The site has active mineral claims and prospecting permits and contains a portion of a proposed transportation route; and
- The site contains a limited portion of IOL.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Abbajalik and Ijutuk Islands

(see Map 27)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates that the site is terrestrial;
- CWS mapping indicated the site has a marine component;
- The site has UOM activity;
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI; and
- The site has a total area of approximately 17 km².

Option 2 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework

North Spicer Island

(see Map 28)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates that the site is terrestrial;
- CWS mapping indicates the site has a marine component.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework

Foxe Basin Islands

(see Map 29)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates that the site is terrestrial; and
- CWS mapping indicates the site has a marine component.

Option 2 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework

Great Plain of the Koukdjuak

(see Map 30)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates that the site is terrestrial;
- CWS mapping indicates the site has a marine component;
- The site has an Arctic char area of abundance;
- The site has UOM activity;
- The site is adjacent to a MBS on both sides; and
- The site has some IOL.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework

Cape Searle / Reid

(see Map 31)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates that the site is marine;
- CWS mapping indicates the site has a terrestrial component;
- The site has UOM activity;
- The site has a North Warning System site and a land remediation site, which are assigned Building Healthy Communities designations below;
- The site has two NWA's, which are assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation below;
- The site has adjacent prospecting permits; and
- The site's terrestrial component is all IOL.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework

Western Cumberland Sound Archipelago

(see Map 32)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates that the site is terrestrial;
- CWS mapping indicates the site has a marine component;
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI;
- The site contains IOL;
- The site has UOM activity, burial sites and possible sacred sites;
- The site has mineral claims and prospecting permits;
- The site includes Tariujarusiq cod lake, which was identified by DFO and is assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation below; and
- The site has both an Arctic char and shrimp area of abundance.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Achieves the best balance between the direction provided by CWS and NTI and builds on the existing planning policy framework; and
- Reflects the existing and potential land use in the area.

Markham Bay

(see Map 33)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates that the site is marine and terrestrial;
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI;
- The site has UOM activity, burial sites and a possible sacred site;
- The site contains some IOL.

To manage land use activities in this site, Option 3 is recommended for IOL and Option 4 is recommended for the site's Crown and marine components.

Option 3 is recommended for IOL because it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- achieves the best balance between the direction provided by CWS and NTI and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Option 4 is recommended for the other parts of the site because it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS, recognizes the site's marine components and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Frobisher Bay

(see Map 34)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates that the site is marine and terrestrial;
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI;
- The site has UOM activity and burial sites;
- The site has a North Warning System site, which is assigned a Building Healthy Communities designation below;
- The site contains some IOL; and
- There are prospecting permits on the adjacent shore.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework

Sleeper Islands

(see Map 35)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates that the site is marine and terrestrial;
- The site contains mostly IOL;
- The site has UOM activity; and
- The site is partly in an area of equal use and occupancy.

Option 4 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- achieves a balance between the direction provided by CWS and NTI, recognizes the site's marine component and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Belcher Island Polynyas

(see Map 36)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates that the site is marine and terrestrial;
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI;
- The site has UOM activity; and
- The site's terrestrial component is all IOL.

Option 4 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- achieves a balance between the direction provided by CWS and NTI and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Frozen Strait

(see Map 37)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red;
- CWS mapping indicates the site has marine and terrestrial components;
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI;
- The site has UOM activity; and
- The site contains limited IOL.

Option 4 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- achieves a balance between the direction provided by CWS and NTI and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Middle Back River

(see Map 38)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates that it is terrestrial;
- The site has UOM activity and possible caribou habitat with possible caribou crossings;

- The site contains some IOL;
- The site has mineral claims; and
- The site is adjacent to the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework

Thelon River

(see Map 39)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates that it is terrestrial;
- The site is adjacent to the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary;
- The site has UOM activity, burial sites and possible caribou habitat with possible caribou crossings;
- The site contains some IOL;
- The site is in a Canadian Heritage River; and
- The site is in the Baker Lake community water supply watershed.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework

Boas River

(see Map 40)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates that it is terrestrial;
- CWS mapping indicates that the site has a marine component;
- The site contains a portion of a MBS, which is assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation below;
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI;
- The site has UOM activity; and
- The site contains some IOL.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework

East Bay

(see Map 41)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates that it is terrestrial;
- CWS mapping indicates that the site has a marine component;
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI;
- The site has UOM activity, a possible sacred site, burial sites and possible caribou calving grounds;
- The site surrounds a MBS;
- The site has prospecting permits; and
- The site contains some IOL.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework

Cape Pembroke

(see Map 42)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates that it is marine and terrestrial;
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI;
- The site has UOM activity and possible caribou calving grounds; and
- The site contains some IOL.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework

Coats Island Lowlands

(see Map 43)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow;
- CWS mapping indicates that the site is terrestrial;
- The site has UOM activity and possible caribou calving grounds; and
- The site contains some IOL.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework

McConnell River

(see Map 44)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates it is terrestrial;
- CWS mapping indicates that the site also has a marine component;
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI;
- The site has UOM activity, a burial site, a possible caribou crossing and possible caribou calving grounds;
- The site surrounds a MBS;
- The site has an Arctic char area of abundance;
- The site is in a community water supply watershed;
- The site contains prospecting permits;
- The site is in a proposed transportation corridor; and
- The site contains some IOL.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework

Kagloryuak River

(see Map 45)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates it is terrestrial;
- The site has possible caribou calving grounds; and
- The site has mineral claims and mineral leases.

Option 3 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- achieves a balance between the direction provided by CWS and the mineral potential and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Lambert Channel

(see Map 46)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates it is marine;
- CWS mapping indicates that the site also has a terrestrial component;
- The site has UOM activity and is in an *anadromous coregonids* area of abundance;
- The site has North Warning System sites and land remediation areas, which are assigned Building Healthy Communities designations below; and
- The site contains some IOL.

Option 4 is recommended for non-IOL areas as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- achieves the best balance between the direction provided by CWS and NTI and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

South Eastern Victoria Island

(see Map 47)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow;
- CWS mapping indicates that the site is terrestrial;
- The site contains some IOL;
- The site is in an Arctic char area of abundance and has a commercial fishery;
- The site has North Warning System sites, land remediation areas and a community water supply watershed, which are assigned Building Healthy Communities designations below;

- The site has UOM activity and encompasses a community; and
- The site is adjacent to a possible caribou sea ice crossing.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS, recognises the existing uses and builds on the existing planning policy framework

Bathurst / Elu Inlet

(see Map 48)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red;
- CWS mapping indicates the site has marine and terrestrial components;
- The site contains IOL;
- The site is in an Arctic char area of abundance and has mineral leases; and
- The site has UOM activity and possible caribou sea ice crossings.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Achieves the best balance between the direction provided by CWS and NTI and builds on the existing planning policy framework; and
- Reflects the existing and potential land use in the area.

Melbourne Island

(see Map 49)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow;
- CWS mapping indicates the site is terrestrial;
- The site is all IOL; and
- The site has UOM activity and there is an adjacent possible caribou sea ice crossing.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Achieves the best balance between the direction provided by CWS and NTI and builds on the existing planning policy framework

Jenny Lind Island

(see Map 50)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates that it is terrestrial;
- The site has UOM activity; and
- The site has a North Warning System site and a land remediation site, which are assigned Building Healthy Communities designations below.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework

Queen Maud Gulf Islands

(see Map 51)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red;
- CWS mapping indicates the site has marine and terrestrial components;
- The site has UOM activity; and
- The site has a North Warning System site and land remediation site, which are assigned Building Healthy Communities designations below.

Option 2 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework

Adelaide Peninsula

(see Map 52)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow;
- CWS mapping indicates the site is terrestrial and marine or freshwater;
- The site contains some IOL;

- The site has UOM activity and possible caribou calving grounds; and
- The site is adjacent to Queen Maud Gulf Bird Sanctuary.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework

Queen Maud Gulf

(see Map 53)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as yellow and indicates the site is terrestrial;
- The site contains some IOL;
- The site has UOM activity and possible caribou calving grounds; and
- The site is adjacent to Queen Maud Gulf Bird Sanctuary.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the direction provided by CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework

Rasmussen Lowlands

(see Map 54)

Considered Information:

- CWS categorizes the site as red and indicates that the site is terrestrial;
- The site contains some IOL;
- The site has UOM activity and possible caribou calving grounds;
- The site has prospecting permits;
- The site has a North Warning System site and a land remediation site, which are assigned Building Healthy Communities designations below; and
- The site has a RAMSAR site, which is an international agreement on important wetland management.

Option 3 is recommended for the IOL in the RAMSAR site and the rest of the key bird habitat site outside the RAMSAR site as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- achieves a balance between the direction provided by NTI and CWS and builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Option 2 is recommended for the rest of the RAMSAR site as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- restricts access to the site by only permitting tourism, recreation and research, which are activities, at this time, considered compatible with key bird habitat sites and wetlands.

Caribou Habitat

(see Map 55 – Map 57)

Caribou are an essential part of northern ecosystems and Inuit cultural heritage. Most caribou rely on vast ranges at different times of the year.

Calving Areas

(see Map 55)

Calving areas are generally acknowledged as areas where caribou are particularly vulnerable to disturbance and the need for uninterrupted foraging is greatest.

Considered Information for managing calving grounds:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account environmental considerations, including wildlife habitat.
- It is an objective of the Commission's Goal of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment to manage land use in and around areas of biological importance.
- The Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan prohibits development activities on all public lands and waters in caribou calving areas during calving season. Development should be restricted to avoid disturbing caribou.
- The North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan prohibits development in calving areas during calving season. Identifies caribou calving areas as significant areas.
- There is some mineral activity in caribou calving grounds;
- The direction of the Athabasca Dene and the Beverly-Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board is that no development should be permitted in caribou habitat;
- The Commission recognizes the Caribou Protection Measures designed and implemented by Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC);

- The WWF provided the Commission with a map of historic caribou calving areas, which includes a portion of caribou post-calving areas;
- No expert advice or direction was received from the Government of Nunavut (GN).
- Some areas contain IOL; and
- Some areas have qualities that have been recognised as important to promoting other Goals.

NOTE:

- *The National Park awaiting full establishment in Wager Bay (Ukkusiksalik) contains caribou calving areas and is assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation below;*
- *The Proposed Bathurst Island National Park contains caribou calving areas and is assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation below;*
- *The Queen Maud Gulf MBS contains caribou calving areas and is assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation below;*
- *The Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary contains caribou calving areas and is assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation below;*
- *The area being considered for a national park in the Kitikmeot Region in the Bluenose Lake area contains caribou calving areas and is assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation below;*

Options for Caribou Calving Grounds

Four Options were developed to manage land use activity in the caribou calving grounds.

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts of projects on caribou calving, post calving areas and migration routes.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that restricts all development.
- Option 3: Assign a designation that allows some development and considers all other development through plan amendment.
- Option 4: Assign a designation that provides seasonal restrictions (Caribou Protection Measures).

Analysis and Recommendation for Caribou Calving Grounds

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the Goal of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the uncertainty of the information on caribou in the NSA;
- reflects the map provided to the Commission by WWF; and
- Builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Option 2 would be consistent with the views of the Athabasca Dene and the Beverly-Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board; however, restricting development is not recommended because no management direction has been provided by the Government of Canada (GoC), GN or Designated Inuit Organization (DIO). Option 3 is considered too restrictive. Option 4 is implemented by AANDC.

Sea Ice Crossings

(see Map 56-57)

Some caribou herds migrate across the frozen sea ice to reach their calving areas. These herds are vulnerable to changing sea ice conditions, and disturbance by ice breaking.

Considered Information for managing caribou sea ice crossings:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account environmental considerations, including wildlife habitat.
- For the crossing in the Coronation Gulf, there is concern about ice breaking. In the transcripts for the GN's consultation on its Draft Caribou Management Strategy, HTOs in Cambridge Bay are concerned about community resupply; however, community resupply is exempt by the NIRB;
- There is some UOM and mineral activity in caribou sea ice crossings;
- The Commission recognizes the Caribou Protection Measures designed and implemented by AANDC;
- The direction of the Athabasca Dene and the Beverly-Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board is that no development should be permitted in caribou habitat; and
- The Fall Caribou Crossing has been identified for its historic significance and is assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation below.
- Some areas contain IOL; and

- Some areas have qualities that have been recognised as important to promoting other Goals.

Options for Caribou Sea Ice Crossings

Four Options were developed to manage land use activity in the caribou sea ice crossings. These options have been developed to be easily transferable and meaningful in a land use plan context. Options have been developed to reflect the intent of the Goal of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment as well as to reflect the direction provided in the existing planning policy framework as well as feedback from planning partners and pertinent reports.

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts that may impede the ability of caribou to cross the ice.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that restricts all development.
- Option 3: Assign a designation that allows some development and considers all other development through plan amendment.
- Option 4: Assign a designation that provides seasonal restrictions (Caribou Protection Measures).

Analysis and Recommendation for Caribou Sea Ice Crossings

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the uncertainty of the information on caribou in the NSA.
- Builds on the existing planning policy framework;

Option 2 would be consistent with the views of the Athabasca Dene and the Beverly-Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board; however, restricting development is not recommended because no management direction has been provided by the GoC, GN or DIO. Option 3 is considered too restrictive. Option 4 is implemented by AANDC.

Water Crossings

Water crossings are important features of caribou migration routes that offer relative ease of crossing.

Considered Information for managing caribou water crossings:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account environmental considerations, including wildlife habitat.
- The North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan and Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan support the implementation of Caribou Protection measures

which seasonally restrict land use activities near “Designated Crossings.”

- There is some UOM and mineral activity in caribou water crossings;
- The Commission recognizes the Caribou Protection Measures designed and implemented by AANDC;
- The direction of the Athabasca Dene and the Beverly-Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board is that no development should be permitted in caribou habitat; and

NOTE:

- *The Fall Caribou Crossing has been identified for its historic significance and is assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation below.*

Options for Caribou Water Crossings

Four Options were developed to manage land use activity in the caribou water crossings.

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on caribou migration routes.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that restricts all development.
- Option 3: Assign a designation that allows some development and considers all other development through plan amendment.
- Option 4: Assign a designation that provides seasonal restrictions (Caribou Protection Measures).

Analysis and Recommendation for Caribou Water Crossings

The identification of important water crossings is incomplete for most herds in Nunavut. At this time, Option 1 is recommended to be applied to the historic extent of caribou calving areas, which will include many water crossings, as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the uncertainty of the information on caribou in the NSA.

Options 2, 3, and 4 would require additional information. Option 2 would be consistent with the views of the Athabasca Dene and the Beverly-Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board; however, restricting development is not recommended because no management direction has been provided by the GoC, GN or DIO. Option 3 is considered too restrictive. Option 4 is implemented by AANDC.

Atlantic Cod Lakes

(see Map 73 - Map 75)

Small landlocked populations of Atlantic Cod have been identified in three coastal saltwater lakes on south-eastern Baffin Island. These populations are significant because they are genetically distinct from marine populations and from each other.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account environmental considerations, including wildlife habitat.
- The GoC's direction that these cod are being considered for listing as a species of special concern under SARA.
- it is a policy of the Commission's Goal of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment to protect the integrity of ecosystems, flora and wildlife habitats, paying special attention to species at risk, and critical habitats;
- Two of the three lakes are on IOL and it is NTI's direction that development activity should not be restricted on IOL;
- DFO's direction that no restrictions are needed on these lakes;
- One of the sites is in and another is adjacent to the Western Cumberland Sound Archipelago key bird habitat site, which was assigned a designation that permits all uses above;
- As the combined surface area of the lakes is approximately 20 km², they comprise a small and unique habitat; and

Options for Managing Cod Lakes

Three Options have been developed to manage land use activity in the cod lakes.

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on Atlantic Cod.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research and prohibits all other uses.
- Option 3: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research.

Analysis and Recommendation for Cod Lakes

Option 3 is recommended because it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- balances the site's ecological importance with the direction provided by NTI;
- provides the flexibility for contemplating appropriate uses through plan amendment, and therefore, if NTI provides additional detail or in the event that there is a proposed project, the Commission can assess the compatibility of the proposal with the area;
- provides protection for the use of these areas through the application of the land use designation;
- provides clear direction and certainty to proponents and regulators of the land use activity in these areas; and
- builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Option 1 contemplates some uses that are considered incompatible with the use of this area. This could impede the operation and protection of the area, contrary to the Goal of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment. The Commission feels it is premature to contemplate additional uses in this area in the absence of a more detailed project proposal. The Commission believes it is inappropriate to recognize an area for a particular quality and then contemplate uses that may detract from this quality.

Option 2 does not contemplate additional uses. Recognizing that this area has IOL, and the direction from NTI, the Commission believes it would be too restrictive to prohibit all other development. It would be more appropriate to consider proposed development on its merit, in the public realm, with additional information on potential impacts, through a plan amendment. The Commission feels it is premature to contemplate additional uses without first assessing their impact on this area.

Cumulative Impacts

The consideration of the Cumulative Impacts of Project Proposals is an important component of managing land use in the NSA. Schedule 12-1 of the NLCA identifies activities that are exempt from screening for impacts by the NIRB. The Commission has the ability to refer these normally exempt Project Proposals to the NIRB for screening, in instances where the Commission has concerns with respect to the Cumulative Impacts of a Project Proposal in relation to other development activities.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement authorizes the Commission to refer normally exempt projects falling under Schedule 12-1 to NIRB for screening, where the Commission has concerns respecting the cumulative impact of the project proposal in relation to other development activities;

- it is a policy of the Commission's Goal of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment to consider implementing thresholds for cumulative impacts, or levels of acceptable change, of land use activities on the ecosystemic and socio-economic environment that are supported by Government, Inuit, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, the Nunavut Impact Review Board, and/or the Nunavut Water Board;
- There are no agreed upon thresholds for cumulative impacts.

Options for Managing Cumulative Impacts

Two Options have been developed to manage cumulative impacts:

- Option 1: Develop a directive in consultation with the NIRB with regard to referring project proposals with potential cumulative impacts for review.
- Option 2: Implement agreed upon thresholds for land use activities.

Analysis and Recommendation for the Cumulative Impacts

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Ensures that normally exempt projects are considered by NIRB when there are cumulative impacts concerns; and
- builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Options 2 is not a viable option at this time, as there are no agreed upon thresholds.

Transboundary Considerations

Impacts outside the NSA

(see Map 75A)

Activities occurring in the NSA may impact areas outside the NSA. The Great Bear Lake watershed has been identified as an important ecological and cultural area in the Sahtu region of the Northwest Territories, and a portion of the watershed is within the NSA.

Considered Information for the Great Bear Lake Watershed:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account environmental considerations, and cultural factors and priorities.
- It is an objective of the Commission's Goal of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment to

encourage the inter-jurisdictional management of land, air, and water resources;

- A portion of the Great Bear Lake watershed is within the NSA, and it has been identified as an important ecological and cultural area in the Northwest Territories. A management plan which has no legal force has been developed to manage the area;
- The current Draft Sahtu Land Use Plan includes provisions to manage the area;
- There are active mineral claims in the portion within the NSA; and
- There is UOM activity within the area.

Options for Managing the Great Bear Lake Watershed

Three Options have been developed to manage land use activity in the watershed. These Options have been developed in consideration of the Commission's Goal of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment. These Options are:

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts of projects on the watershed.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research and prohibits all other uses.
- Option 3: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research.

Analysis and Recommendation for the Great Bear Lake Watershed

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Identifies the importance of the area, and reflects the fact that management direction for the area in the Sahtu region has yet to be agreed upon; and
- builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Options 2 and 3 are considered overly restrictive given the uncertainty regarding management of the area outside of the NSA.

Land use outside the NSA

Activities occurring outside the NSA may impact areas inside the NSA. The Commission is concerned about the potential transboundary impacts on the NSA from oil and gas exploration and hydroelectric development in adjacent areas.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account environmental considerations, and cultural factors and priorities.
- It is an objective of the Commission's Goal of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment to encourage the inter-jurisdictional management of land, air, and water resources;
- The Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan requires that "The possible cumulative impacts of additional hydroelectric power development in Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec on the ecosystem of Hudson Bay, James Bay and Hudson Strait must be examined before more hydroelectric development proceeds."

Options for Managing Land Use Outside the NSA

One Option has been developed to manage hydro-electric development and oil and gas activities in areas adjacent to the NSA. This Option has been developed in consideration of the Commission's Goal of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment:

- Option 1: Encourage Government to request that the NIRB review these activities for ecosystemic or socio-economic effects on the NSA.

Analysis and Recommendation for Managing Land Use Outside the NSA

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- reflects the fact that the Commission does not have jurisdiction over these areas.

Climate Change

Climate change is an important consideration in the NSA. Changing ice conditions may have an impact on residents' use of the land, and many wildlife populations can be affected by changes to the unique habitat that they rely on. Transportation and infrastructure are also susceptible to impacts from changing ice and permafrost conditions.

Considered Information:

- it is a policy of the Commission's Goal of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment to, where appropriate, provide direction to the Nunavut Impact Review Board, government regulators, and Inuit land managers to manage climate change issues;
- The Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan states: "Concerns related to ... climate change are valid, but ... are beyond the scope of a regional land use plan."
- At this time there are no agreed upon terms that would be appropriate to implement through a land use plan.

Options for Managing Climate Change

Two Options have been developed to manage climate change. These Options have been developed in consideration of the Commission's Goal of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment. These Options are:

- Option 1: Develop terms to manage land use in consideration of climate change
- Option 2: Encourage the Minister to advise the NIRB of potential issues or concerns regarding climate change to be considered during the review of Project Proposals.

Analysis and Recommendation for Climate Change

Option 2 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment and:

- Supports the management of climate change issues for individual projects.

Options 1 is not a viable option at this time, as there are no agreed upon terms.

Chapter 3

Encouraging Conservation Planning

“The Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning is described as: forming an important part of the land and resource management regime in Nunavut. Conservation planning recognizes that Parks and Conservation Areas may be established through legislation. The protection of other Areas of Interest may also be achieved through the application of zoning in the land use plan. The purpose of conservation planning is to protect the natural environment, culturally significant areas and special places for the benefit of Nunavummiut and all Canadians. This will be achieved by recognizing the general desirability to establish Parks in the Nunavut Settlement Area, supporting Conservation Area initiatives of Government, and by protecting Areas of Interest under the authority of the land use plan.”

Introduction

Encouraging Conservation Planning is one of five planning Goals in the Nunavut Planning Commission’s Broad Planning Policies, Objectives and Goals. It is the primary aim of this Chapter to provide a practical policy direction that is able to support this Goal.

Specifically, this Chapter;

- identifies key areas of Nunavut that are critical to encouraging conservation planning;
- provides options for managing these key areas;
- recommends a preferred option for the management of these areas that is best able to support this Goal; and
- translates the preferred recommendation into a language that a Land Use Plan can articulate and implement.

Key Areas and Issues

Areas and issues of the NSA identified by the Commission as important to encouraging conservation planning are;

- National Parks Awaiting Full Establishment;
- Proposed National Parks;
- The proposed Lancaster Sound National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA);
- Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary;

- Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBSs);
- National Wildlife Areas (NWAs);
- Historic Sites; and
- Heritage Rivers.

Options for Managing Key Areas and Issues

Options for managing these areas have been prepared in consideration of the existing planning policy framework, pertinent land use reports, input from Planning Partners as well as existing land and resource use in the NSA.

A preferred Option has been recommended that balances competing land use and builds on the strengths and opportunities in the area. The preferred Option has been translated into a language that is easily transferable into a Land Use Plan, allowing a practical response to achieving the Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning.

National Parks Awaiting Full Establishment

(see Map 76, Map 78A)

PCA has identified and provided the Commission with areas awaiting full establishment as National Parks. These areas are the Ukkusiksalik National Park and Ward Hunt Island.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account environmental considerations, including Parks and Conservation Areas.
- It is an objective of the Commission’s Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning to provide for the establishment and continued protection of the ecological integrity of Parks and Conservation Areas;
- The Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan supports the creation of a national park in the Wager Bay area (Ukkusiksalik National Park)
- There are mineral claims and prospecting permits adjacent to Ukkusiksalik National Park;
- PCA has requested that these areas be protected from development that is incompatible with National Parks; and
- PCA has advised that these areas are under land withdrawals.

Options for Managing National Parks Awaiting Full Establishment

Three Options have been developed to manage land use activity in the areas awaiting full establishment as National Parks:

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research and prohibits all other uses.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on areas awaiting full establishment as a National Park.
- Option 3: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research.

Analysis and Recommendation for National Parks Awaiting Full Establishment

Option 1 is recommendation as it best reflects the intent of Encouraging Conservation Planning and:

- Builds on the existing planning policy framework;
- supports the direction provided by PCA;
- permits tourism, recreation and research, which, at this time, are the only activities the Commission considers compatible with a National Park;
- provides protection for these land uses through the application of the land use designation;
- provides clear direction and certainty to proponents and regulators of the type of uses that are anticipated in the area; and
- recognizes the advanced stage (land withdrawal) of these areas for becoming National Parks.

Option 2 and Option 3 contemplate all uses, some of which may be incompatible with the likely use of these areas. This could impede the creation, operation and protection of the National Parks, contrary to the Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning and the direction provided by PCA. The Commission has been provided with information regarding how these areas will likely be developed and it is therefore inappropriate, misleading and inaccurate to contemplate all uses anticipated by Option 2 and Option 3.

Proposed National Parks

(see Map 77, Map 78)

PCA has identified two proposed National Parks in the NSA. One is proposed in the Kitikmeot Region in the Bluenose Lake Area and is contiguous to the existing Tukut Nogait National Park. The other is proposed in the Qikiqtaaluk Region on northern Bathurst Island.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account environmental considerations, including Parks and Conservation Areas.
- It is an objective of the Commission's Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning to provide for the establishment and continued protection of the ecological integrity of Parks and Conservation Areas;
- The North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan supports the creation of a national park on Bathurst Island;
- The Bluenose Lake Area contains IOL;
- The Bathurst Island and Bluenose Lake areas include possible caribou calving areas;
- PCA has advised that the proposed park in the Bluenose Lake Area has no agreed upon boundary or land withdrawal;
- PCA has advised that there is no agreement with the community that the Blue Nose Lake area should be a National Park;
- PCA has advised that the proposed Bathurst Island National Park has a land withdrawal for the terrestrial portions of the national park study area;
- PCA has advised that the land withdrawal for the proposed Bathurst Island National Park cannot be extended to the adjacent marine areas, and additional management is required at this time;
- PCA has advised that PCA and the Qikiqtani Inuit Association (QIA) are currently in the process of negotiating an IIBA for a National Park on Bathurst Island; and
- PCA has advised that there is no agreed upon boundary for the Bathurst Island National Park.

Options for Managing Proposed National Parks

Three Options have been developed to manage land use activity in areas identified as proposed National Parks.

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research and prohibits all other uses.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on the proposed National Park.
- Option 3: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research.

Analysis and Recommendation for Proposed National Parks

Option 3 is recommended for the Blue Nose Lake Area proposed National Park as it best reflects the intent of Encouraging Conservation Planning and:

- supports the direction provided by PCA;
- supports a land use designation that permits tourism, recreation and research, which, at this time, are the only activities the Commission considers compatible with a National Park;
- provides protection for the likely use of this area through the application of the land use designation;
- provides clear direction and certainty to proponents and regulators about how this area is likely to develop;
- provides the flexibility of considering other uses through plan amendment. This reflects there being no agreed upon boundary or community support for this area as a National Park. The Commission believes it is premature to restrict all other uses in the absence of an agreed upon boundary or community support; and
- Builds on the existing planning policy framework;

Option 1 prohibits all activities beyond those activities that are considered compatible with National Parks. The Commission believes this is too restrictive. PCA has advised that there is no agreed upon boundary or community support, and therefore it is premature to restrict consideration of other potential land use at this time.

Option 2 contemplates all uses, some of which may be incompatible with the likely use of this area. This could impede the creation, operation and protection of the National Park, contrary to the Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning and the direction provided by PCA. The Commission will assess project proposals to amend the Plan on its merit, in the public realm and with due consideration to its potential impacts. The Commission feels it is contradictory and inappropriate to recognize an area for a particular quality and then contemplate potential uses that could have a negative impact on this quality.

Option 1 is recommended for the Bathurst Island Proposed National Park and adjacent marine areas, as it best supports the Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning and:

- reflects the direction provided by PCA for this area;
- supports a land use designation that permits tourism, recreation and research, which, at this time, are the only activities the Commission considers compatible with a National Park;

- provides protection for the likely use of these areas through the application of the land use designation;
- provides clear direction and certainty to proponents and regulators about possible land uses in this area;
- does not contemplate additional uses, recognizing that this area is at an advanced stage of becoming a National Park (land withdrawal); and
- Builds on the existing planning policy framework;

Option 3 provides the flexibility of contemplating other uses through plan amendment. The Commission feels that this proposed National Park is at an advanced stage of development (land withdrawal) and therefore it is misleading to proponents to contemplate additional uses that are not, at this time, considered compatible with a National Park. The Commission feels it is contradictory and inappropriate to recognize an area for particular quality and then contemplate potential uses that could have a negative impact on this quality.

Option 2 contemplates some uses that are considered incompatible with the likely use of the area. This could impede the creation, operation and protection of the National Park, contrary to the Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning and the direction provided by PCA. The Commission is confident that this Park is at an advanced stage of creation and therefore it is able to determine and support compatible land uses.

Proposed National Marine Conservation Areas

(see Map 79)

The Commission recognizes PCA's initiative to establish a National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA) in Lancaster Sound.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account environmental considerations, including Parks and Conservation Areas;
- It is an objective of the Commission's Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning to provide for the establishment and continued protection of the ecological integrity of Parks and Conservation Areas;
- The North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan identifies Lancaster Sound as "essential to the survival of several million seabirds, which occur in concentrations not found elsewhere in the Arctic. The biophysical richness of the central part of the region around Lancaster Sound makes it an ecosystem of international significance. The NBRLUP also identifies Lancaster Sound as having the highest known oil and

gas potential of the sedimentary basins of the Arctic islands;

- The area is adjacent to Similik National Park;
- The area contains extensive UOM activities;
- The area includes numerous key bird habitat areas;
- The area is identified by DFO as a marine area of HBI;
- PCA has advised that there is a boundary for the Proposed Lancaster Sound NMCA;
- PCA has advised that there is no consensus on how the area should be managed; and
- PCA has advised that there is no agreement with the community that the area should be a NMCA.

Options for Managing the Proposed Lancaster Sound NMCA

Three Options have been developed to manage land use activity in the proposed Lancaster Sound NMCA:

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research and prohibits all other uses.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on the proposed NMCA.
- Option 3: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research.

Analysis and Recommendation for the Proposed Lancaster Sound NMCA

Option 1 is recommended as it best supports the Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning and:

- Builds on the existing planning policy framework;
- reflects the direction provided by PCA;
- permits tourism, recreation and research, which are activities considered, at this time, to be compatible with an NMCA;
- provides protection for the likely use of these areas through the application of the land use designation;
- provides clear direction and certainty to proponents and regulators of the types of activities occurring in the area; and

- does not contemplate additional uses, recognizing that this area is at an advanced stage of becoming an NMCA (proposed boundary).

Option 3 provides the flexibility of contemplating other uses through plan amendment. The Commission feels that this proposed NMCA is at an advanced stage of development (proposed boundary) and therefore it is misleading to proponents to contemplate additional uses that are not, at this time, considered compatible with an NMCA. The Commission supports the work of the QIA and PCA to establish an NMCA and therefore is not willing to consider uses that are not, at this time, considered compatible with an NMCA.

Option 2 contemplates some uses that are considered incompatible with the likely use of this area. This could impede the creation, operation and protection of the area, contrary to the Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning and the direction provided by PCA. The Commission supports the work of the QIA and PCA to establish an NMCA and therefore is not willing to consider uses that are not, at this time, considered compatible with an NMCA.

Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary

(see Map 80)

The Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary was established in 1927 and supports a wide variety of wildlife.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account environmental considerations, including Parks and Conservation Areas;
- It is an objective of the Commission's Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning to provide for the establishment and continued protection of the ecological integrity of Parks and Conservation Areas;
- The Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan supports the restriction of development activities;
- GoC has advised that the Sanctuary is likely an important movement corridor for many species expanding their ranges northward;
- The lands are withdrawn;
- The Thelon River is a Canadian Heritage River;
- There is an adjacent key bird habitat site; and
- There are adjacent mineral claims;

Options for Managing the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary

Three Options have been developed to manage land use activity in the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary.

Option 1: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research and prohibits all other uses.

Option 2: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on the Wildlife Sanctuary.

Option 3: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research.

Analysis and Recommendation for the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary

Option 1 is recommended as it best supports the Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning and:

- Builds on the existing planning policy framework;
- reflects the direction provided by GoC;
- permits only tourism, recreation and research, which are activities the Commission considers, at this time, to be compatible with the current use of the area;
- provides protection for this area through the application of the land use designation;
- provides clear direction and certainty to proponents and regulators of the types of activities occurring in the area; and
- it does not contemplate additional uses, recognizing that there is an existing use in this area.

Option 3 provides the flexibility of contemplating other uses through plan amendment. The Commission feels that it is misleading to proponents to contemplate additional uses that are not, at this time, considered compatible with the current operations. The Commission believes it is inappropriate to recognize an area for a particular quality and then contemplate uses that may detract from this quality.

Option 2 contemplates some uses that are considered incompatible with the use of this area. This could impede the operation and protection of the area, contrary to the Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning and the direction provided by PCA. The Commission feels it is premature to contemplate additional uses in the absence of a more detailed project proposal. The Commission believes it is inappropriate to recognize an area for a particular quality and then contemplate uses that may detract from this quality.

Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

(See Map 81 – Map 88)

Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (MBSs) are important to supporting and protecting migratory birds in the NSA. EC identifies the following MBSs: Seymour Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Prince Leopold Island Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Bylot Island

Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Dewey Soper Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Queen Maud Gulf Migratory Bird Sanctuary, East Bay Migratory Bird Sanctuary, Harry Gibbons Migratory Bird Sanctuary, and McConnell River Migratory Bird Sanctuary.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account environmental considerations, including Parks and Conservation Areas.
- It is an objective of the Commission's Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning to provide for the establishment and continued protection of the ecological integrity of Parks and Conservation Areas;
- Some sites are located within the boundaries of the NBRLUP. The NBRLUP places an emphasis on protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat and ensuring impacts on wildlife are minimized;
- Some sites are located within the boundaries of the KRLUP. The Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan identifies healthy wildlife populations as vital to Inuit. It places an emphasis on the protection and preservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat for use by future generations.
- EC has advised the Commission that there should be limited access to MBSs;
- There is IOL in some of the MBSs; and
- NTI has advised the Commission that activity should not be restricted on IOL.

Options for Managing MBSs

Three Options have been developed to manage land use activity in MBSs.

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research and prohibits all other uses.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research.
- Option 3: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on the MBS.

Analysis and Recommendation for MBSs

Option 2 is recommended as it best supports the goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning and:

- achieves a balance between the direction provided by EC and NTI;
- permits recreation, tourism and research, which are activities the Commission considers, at this time, to be compatible with MBSs;
- builds on the existing planning policy framework;
- provides protection for the use of these areas through the application of the land use designation;
- provides clear direction and certainty to proponents and regulators of the land use activity in these areas; and
- provides the flexibility for contemplating appropriate uses through plan amendment, and therefore, if NTI provides additional detail or in the event that there is a proposed project, the Commission can assess the compatibility of the proposal with the area.

Option 1 does not contemplate additional uses. Recognizing that this area has IOL, and the direction from NTI, the Commission believes it would be too restrictive to prohibit all development. It would be more appropriate to consider proposed development on its merit, in the public realm, with additional information on potential impacts, through a plan amendment. The Commission feels it is premature to contemplate additional uses without first assessing their impact on this area.

Option 3 contemplates some uses that are considered incompatible with the use of this area. This could impede the operation and protection of the area, contrary to the Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning and the direction provided by EC. The Commission feels it is premature to contemplate additional uses in this area in the absence of a more detailed project proposal. The Commission believes it is inappropriate to recognize an area for a particular quality and then contemplate uses that may detract from this quality.

National Wildlife Areas

(see Map 89 – Map 93)

National Wildlife Areas (NWAs) have been identified and provided to the Commission by the GoC. These areas are: Polar Bear Pass National Wildlife Area, Nirjutiqavik National Wildlife Area, Niginganiq National Wildlife Area, Qaqulluit National Wildlife Area, and Akpait National Wildlife Area.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account environmental considerations, including Parks and Conservation Areas.
- It is an objective of the Commission's Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning to provide for the

establishment and continued protection of the ecological integrity of Parks and Conservation Areas;

- Some sites are located within the boundaries of the NBRLUP. The NBRLUP places an emphasis on protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat and ensuring impacts on wildlife are minimized; and
- GoC has advised the Commission that NWAs require special management and limited access.

Options for Managing NWAs

Three Options have been developed to manage land use activity in the NWAs.

Option 1: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research and prohibits all other uses.

Option 2: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research.

Option 3: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on the NWA.

Analysis and Recommendation for NWAs

Option 1 is recommended as it best supports the Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning and

- supports the direction provided by GoC;
- permits only tourism, recreation and research, which are activities the Commission considers, at this time, to be compatible with the current use of the area;
- builds on the existing planning policy framework;
- provides protection for this area through the application of the land use designation;
- provides clear direction and certainty to proponents and regulators regarding land use activity in this area; and
- does not contemplate additional uses, recognizing that there is an existing use in this area. It is inaccurate and misleading to contemplate additional uses in an area with an established and recognized use. The Commission believes it is inappropriate to recognize an area for a particular quality and then contemplate uses that may detract from this quality.

Option 2 provides the flexibility of contemplating other uses through plan amendment. The Commission feels that it is misleading to proponents to contemplate additional uses that are not, at this time, considered compatible with an NWA. The Commission cannot justify additional and all activities in the

absence of more detailed project proposals and information on the operations.

Option 3 contemplates some uses that are considered incompatible with the use of this area. This could impede the operation and protection of the area, contrary to the Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning and the direction provided by the GoC. The Commission feels it is premature to contemplate additional uses in the absence of a more detailed project proposal. It is inappropriate for the Commission to recognize the significance of this area and then contemplate uses that may negatively impact its operation.

Historic Sites

(see Map 94 Map - 109)

The National Historic Sites have been identified and provided to the Commission by the GoC. These sites are: Kodlunarn Island, Inuksuk, Bloody Falls, Igloodik Island Archaeological Sites, Port Refuge, Blacklead Island Whaling Station, Kekerten Island Whaling Station, Wreck of the HMS Breadalbane, Beechey Island Sites, Erebus and Terror, Fall Caribou Crossing, and Arvia'juaq and Qikiqtaarjuk.

The Territorial Historic Sites have been identified by the Commission from the Historical Resources Act. These sites are: Dealy Island, Beechey Island, Fort Conger, and Marble Island. Options were not considered for Fort Conger as it is in Quttinirpaaq National Park.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account cultural factors and priorities.
- It is an objective of the Commission's Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning to provide for the establishment and continued protection of the ecological integrity of Parks and Conservation Areas;
- The North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan identifies historic sites having significant cultural value;
- The Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan recognises the importance of protecting historic sites;
- Some of the sites occur on IOL;
- The GoC has advised the Commission that they would like all activities in the NSA to take into consideration impacts to commemorative integrity and cultural resources of National Historic Sites; and
- The GN has advised the Commission that they place importance on the protection of areas of historic and cultural value.

Options for Managing the Historic Sites

Three Options have been developed to manage land use activity in Historic Sites.

Option 1: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research and prohibits all other uses.

Option 2: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research.

Option 3: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on the Historic Site.

Analysis and Recommendation for the Historic Sites

Option 2 is recommended as it best supports the Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning and:

- Supports the direction provided by the GoC and GN;
- permits tourism, recreation and research, which are activities the Commission considers, at this time, to be compatible with the current use of the area;
- builds on the existing planning policy framework;
- provides clear direction and certainty to proponents and regulators about the land use activities in this area; and
- provides the flexibility of contemplating other appropriate uses through plan amendment. The Commission believes it is appropriate to consider additional uses once more information and details are known about the desired development. The Commission believes it is premature to consider all uses acceptable in the absence of project proposal details.

Option 1 does not contemplate additional uses. The Commission believes it is too restrictive to prohibit all development. It would be more appropriate to consider proposed development on its merit, in the public realm, with additional information on potential impacts, through a plan amendment. The Commission feels it is premature to contemplate additional uses without first assessing their impact on this area.

Option 3 contemplates some uses that are considered incompatible with the use of this area. This could impede the operation and protection of the area, contrary to the Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning and the direction provided by the GoC and GN. The Commission feels it is premature to contemplate additional uses in the absence of a more detailed project proposal. The Commission believes it is inappropriate to recognize an area for a particular quality and then contemplate uses that may detract from this quality.

Heritage Rivers

(See Map 110 – Map 112)

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is Canada's national river conservation program. It promotes, protects and enhances Canada's river heritage, and ensures that Canada's leading rivers are managed in a sustainable manner. There are currently three designated Canadian Heritage Rivers within the NSA: the Thelon, Kazan, and Soper. Management plans are in place to manage the unique heritage values of the three designated Canadian Heritage Rivers.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account cultural factors and priorities
- It is an objective of the Commission's Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning to provide for the establishment and continued protection of the ecological integrity of Parks and Conservation Areas;
- The Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan recognises the importance of the heritage resources;
- Management plans have been developed by the GoC and the GN in consultation with communities;
- The GoC's comments that the management plans contain policies and practices that ensure that the rivers' development, management and use are consistent with CHRS objectives and guidelines; and
- The management plans for the Thelon and Kazan heritage rivers identify a 1km buffer along the river;
- The management plan for the Soper River applies to the watershed of the river;
- The GN Parks and Special Places manages the CHRS system in Nunavut.

NOTE:

- *A significant portion of the Soper River is within Katannilik Territorial Park, where the Plan does not apply;*
- *A portion of the Thelon River is within the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary, which is assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation above;*
- *A portion of the Kazan River is within the Fall Caribou Crossing National Historic Site, which is assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation above;*

Options for Managing the Heritage Rivers

Three Options have been developed to manage land use activity along the Thelon, Kazan and Soper Heritage Rivers.

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research and prohibits all other uses.

- Option 2: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research.
- Option 3: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider the guidelines and criteria contained in the Heritage River's management plan.

Analysis and Recommendation for the Heritage Rivers

The Commission believes that the direction provided in the management plan for the particular river should be the guiding principle when recommending an Option for management. The management plans are the result of extensive consultation.

Option 1 is recommended for the portions of the Soper River watershed outside of Katannilik Territorial Park as it best supports the Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning and:

- supports the management of Katannilik Territorial Park;
- reflects the uses anticipated and direction provided in the Soper River management plan;
- builds on the existing planning policy framework.

Option 3 is recommended for the Kazan and Thelon Rivers because it best supports the Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning and:

- reflects the uses anticipated and direction provided in the Kazan and Thelon River management plans.

Chapter 4

Building Healthier Communities

“The promotion and strengthening of Inuit culture and heritage is integral to the goal of building healthy communities in Nunavut. It is also one of the fundamental objectives of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA). Protection and promotion of the well-being of Nunavut’s residents and communities is the primary purpose of land use planning under Article 11 of the NLCA, is implicit in other NLCA provisions, and is an inherent goal in land use related territorial and federal statutes and policies.”

Introduction

Building Healthy Communities is one of five planning Goals in the Nunavut Planning Commission’s Broad Planning Policies, Objectives and Goals. It is the primary aim of this Chapter to provide a practical policy direction that is able to support this Goal.

Specifically, this Chapter;

- identifies key areas of Nunavut that are critical to building healthier communities;
- provides options for managing these key areas;
- recommends a preferred option for the management of these areas that is best able to support this Goal; and
- translates the preferred recommendation into a language that a Land Use Plan can articulate and implement.

Key Areas and Issues

The following areas and issues have been identified for their significance to building healthy communities and the well being of Nunavut’s residents:

- Areas of Community Interest;
- Community Land Use;
- Transportation infrastructure;
- Unincorporated communities;
- Alternative energy sources;
- Community drinking water supplies;
- Land remediation;

- Northern Contaminated Sites Program;
- Aerodromes;
- Canadian Forces Stations; and
- North Warning System sites.

Options for Managing Key Areas and Issues

Options for managing these areas have been prepared in consideration of the existing planning policy framework, pertinent land use reports, input from Planning Partners as well as existing land and resource use in the NSA.

A preferred Option has been recommended that balances competing land use and builds on the strengths and opportunities in the area. The preferred Option has been translated into a language that is easily transferable into a Land Use Plan, allowing a practical response to achieving the Goal of Building Health Communities.

Areas of Community Interest

(see Map 113)

The Kitikmeot Inuit Association (KIA) has identified the Hiukitak River as a special area of interest to the people of Bathurst Inlet and Umingmaktok. In 2006, in recognition of its significance, the KIA passed a Board Directive to close IOL parcels in the area to mineral exploration.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account cultural factors and priorities.
- It is a policy of the Commission’s Goal of Building Healthy Communities to support Inuit social and cultural needs and aspirations by providing special management to areas of cultural importance.
- The KIA’s efforts to protect the area from mining activity to preserve the cultural significance of the area;
- The GoC’s comments that the Hiukitak River belongs under the heading Area of Community Interest in the Plan;
- The site contains IOL, and NTI have directed the Commission to that development activity should not be restricted on IOL;
- The area contain historic caribou calving grounds; and
- A portion of the area is contained within the Queen Maud Bird Sanctuary.

Options for Managing the Hiukitak River

Four Options have been developed to manage land use activity in and along the Hiukitak River.

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts of projects on the cultural value of the area.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research and prohibits all other uses.
- Option 3: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research.
- Option 4: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation, research, marine infrastructure, and communications and electrical cables.

Analysis and Recommendation for the Hiukitak River

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- Builds on the existing planning policy framework;
- achieves a balance between the comments received from the GoC, KIA and NTI;
- does not prohibit development activity, consistent with the direction provided by NTI;
- recognizes the efforts of KIA to protect this area from mining activity by making regulators aware that projects are occurring in an area of special interest and should be designed accordingly; and
- recognizes the GoC's comments that the area should be recognized for its interest to the community through the application of a recommendation.

Options 2, 3 and 4 restrict development in this area, which is considered contradictory to the direction provided by NTI. Restricting development in this area when there is no agreed upon direction is considered, at this time, inappropriate.

Community Land Use Areas

(see map 249)

Nunavummiut rely on migrating species for subsistence, and as a result, have a long established history of land use across much of the NSA. The Commission has been working to map this history by hosting Use and Occupancy Mapping interviews with hunters and trappers throughout the territory.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account cultural factors and priorities.
- It is an objective of the Commission's Goal of Building Healthy Communities to ensure the social, cultural, economic, and environmental endeavours of the human community are central to land use planning and implementation;
- Some of the areas are within the boundaries of the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan, which recognizes the important link between people of the region and the land;
- Some of the areas are within the boundaries of the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan, which recognizes the important of community use areas;
- Many of the areas include IOL;
- At this time, the Use and Occupancy Mapping information identifies areas that are used by community members, but does not include the communities' views on the relative importance of the areas and management direction that may be appropriate.

Options for Managing Community Land Use Areas

Two Options have been developed to manage community land use areas:

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on the cultural value of the area.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that does not permit inappropriate uses.

Analysis and Recommendation for Community Land Use Areas

Option 1 is recommended for community land use areas, as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- Builds on the existing planning policy framework;
- Reflects the uncertainty and lack of agreement regarding the management of the areas.

Option 2 would require additional input from communities.

Transportation Infrastructure

(see Map 114- Map 116)

Transportation is a key element in building and sustaining healthy communities.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account transportation corridors;
- It is an objective of the Commission's Goal of Building Healthy Communities to take into account the development and maintenance of territorial and community infrastructure outside municipal boundaries, including transportation infrastructure.
- The Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan recognizes the importance of the development of transportation infrastructure for the Region;
- The GN's comments that transportation is a core component of the Plan; and
- Information on existing known transportation routes.

Options for Managing Transportation Infrastructure

Six Options have been developed to manage transportation infrastructure.

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts of projects existing or proposed transportation infrastructure.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that permits roads, railways, utilities and other specified uses (e.g., industrial).
- Option 3: Assign a designation that permits roads, railways and utilities.
- Option 4: Assign a designation that permits roads, railways and utilities and establishes a setback requirement.
- Option 5: Assign a designation that permits public roads and railways and prohibits all other uses.
- Option 6: Assign a designation that permits public roads, railways and utilities.

Analysis and Recommendation for Transportation Infrastructure

Option 3 is recommended for proposed transportation infrastructure, as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- reflects the direction provided by the GN;
- Builds on the existing planning policy framework;
- permits roads, railways and utilities which, at this time, are the only activities the Commission considers compatible with a proposed road;

- provides protection for the likely use of the area through the application of the land use designation;
- provides clear direction and certainty to proponents and regulators about how the area is likely to develop and provides for potential linkages;
- provides the flexibility of considering other uses through plan amendment; and
- reflects there being no agreed upon corridor.

Option 4 is recommended for existing transportation infrastructure, as best reflects the intent the Goal of Building Healthy Communities and:

reflects the direction provided by the GN;

- Builds on the existing planning policy framework;
- permits roads, railways and utilities which, at this time, are the only activities the Commission considers compatible with the existing road;
- recognizes that there is existing infrastructure and establishes a suitable setback for uses occurring around it to ensure compatibility;
- reflects the existing use of the land; and
- provides clear direction to proponents and regulators of the land use activity in this area and the opportunity for potential linkages.

Option 1 does not recognize existing and proposed transportation infrastructure and is therefore considered misleading and inaccurate and provides little strategic direction to proponents and regulators.

Option 2 contemplates uses in, along and on transportation corridors, which may impede the development and use of transportation corridors. This is considered contrary to the Goal of Building Healthy Communities and the role of land use planning.

Options 5 and 6 identify public roads only. By ignoring private roads, valuable links between economic activities and communities will not be reflected. As a result, opportunities to create a network of linkages that identify opportunities for potential overlap may be missed. Identifying all roads, both public and private, provide strategic direction and valuable information to potential proponents and future land users in the NSA.

Considering the majority of roads in the NSA are privately constructed and maintained, ignoring their location and role would ensure that the opportunity they present would become obsolete once a project is complete.

Unincorporated Communities

(see Map 117 – Map 118)

Bathurst Inlet and Umingmaktok are unique unincorporated communities that are not recognized by the Government as municipalities. They are considered to contain significant historical and cultural value.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account cultural factors and priorities, including the protection and preservation of outpost camps;
- The Commission's Goal of Building Healthy Communities requires land use planning policies take into account current and future community infrastructural requirements including land areas for outpost camps; and
- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement identifies a 2 km radius as a general boundary for outpost camps. However, these areas are not considered to be outpost camps.

Options for Managing Unincorporated Communities

Three Options have been developed to manage the unincorporated communities of Bathurst Inlet and Umingmaktok.

- Option 1: Within 2 km of the unincorporated community, assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on the unincorporated community.
- Option 2: Within 2 km of the unincorporated community, assign a designation that only permits municipal uses.
- Option 3: Within 2 km of the unincorporated community, assign a designation that prohibits mineral exploration.

Analysis and Recommendation for Unincorporated Communities

Option 3 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- Builds on the existing planning policy framework;
- prohibits uses which, at this time, are considered incompatible with the continued operation and cultural and historic significance of these communities;
- recognizes that there are no competing land uses.

Option 1 is considered to be overly permissive and unable to provide sufficient management of land use for these important cultural areas. Option 2 is considered to be overly restrictive as it prevents desirable and compatible development.

Alternative Energy Sources

(see Map 119 – Map 121)

Nunavut has potential for alternative energy sources. The Qulliq Energy Corporation (QEC) has completed a study ("Identification and Evaluation of Hydro-electric Generation Opportunities" (2008)) for the Kivalliq Region which identifies three sites where high potential for hydro-electrical generation exists; these are located along the Thelon, Kazan, and Quoich Rivers. QEC also completed a study of "Iqaluit Hydro-electric Generation Sites: Identification and Ranking" (2006) which identified Jaynes Inlet (Qikiqjivik) as having high potential for hydro-electrical generation.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account energy requirements, sources and availability;
- it is a policy of the Commission's Goal of Building Healthy Communities to take into account the need and potential for development of alternative energy sources;
- The importance placed on promoting alternative energy sources by the GN and GoC; and
- The direction provided in QEC reports.

Options for Managing Alternative Energy Sources

Three Options were developed to manage land use activity in the alternative energy sites.

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on the potential for hydro-electric generation.
- Option 2: To the proposed reservoir and infrastructure, assign a designation that permits hydro-electric generation and related infrastructure, and establish a 100 m setback on each side of the proposed infrastructure.
- Option 3: Establish a 100 m setback on each side of the alternative energy site and to the proposed diversion, infrastructure and setback assign a designation that permits hydro-electric generation and related infrastructure.

Analysis and Recommendation for Alternative Energy Sources

It is recommended that Option 2 be applied to the Jaynes Inlet (Qikiqjivik) Site and the Quoich River as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- Builds on the existing planning policy framework;
- reflects the direction provided to the Commission from the GN and GoC;
- reflects the direction provided in the QEC reports in the absence of competing land uses;
- supports a land use designation that reflects the direction and information provided to the Commission; and
- contemplates additional uses through plan amendment. This provides flexibility in the event that the site is not developed for a hydro site and recognizes its early stage of development.

Option 3 is recommended for the Thelon River site as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- reflects the direction provided to the Commission from the GN and GoC;
- reflects the direction provided in the QEC reports in the absence of competing land uses;
- supports a land use designation that reflects the direction and information provided to the Commission; and
- contemplates additional uses through plan amendment. This provides flexibility in the event that the site is not developed for a hydro site and recognizes its early stage of development.

Option 1 contemplates all uses, which with the information available to the Commission about how this area is likely to develop, is misleading and inaccurate. The Commission considers a more appropriate way to consider other forms of land use in this area is to assess their compatibility with the likely hydro development through the plan amendment process.

The Kazan River site is within the Fall Caribou Crossing National Historic Site; it was recommended earlier in this document that this site be assigned an Encouraging Conservation Planning designation. In the Commission's view the location of the hydro infrastructure appears to be located within the boundaries of the National Historic Site. With this in mind the previous designation should prevail.

Community Drinking Water Supplies

(see Map 121 – Map 145)

Maintaining the quality of community drinking water supplies is essential to the overall well being of NSA communities, and a key component to building healthy communities. NSA Community Plans provide direction for the management of land use activities in and around community drinking water supplies inside municipal boundaries.

Community Plans vary throughout the NSA. Notwithstanding this, all Community Plans recognize the importance of prohibiting activities that can potentially harm the quality of the community's drinking water.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account community infrastructural requirements including health;
- A policy of the Commission's Goal of Building Healthy Communities is to take into account current and projected municipal infrastructure needs for resources such as clean water;
- Some sites are located in the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. The NBRLUP requires water quality be preserved, and no substances that will impair water quality;
- Some sites are located in the boundaries of the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan. The KRLUP identifies water quality as a concern of residents;
- Community water supply watersheds vary in size and basically there are three general distinct sizes of watershed: small (less than 20 km in length), medium (over 20 km and under 100 km in length) and large (over 100 km in length);
- Some community water supply watersheds are contained solely within the municipal boundary while others are contained partially inside the municipal boundary;
- Comments received from the GN state that "the NLUP must promote human and environmental health, paying particular attention to protecting community water sources";
- Comments received from the GoC state that "Certain kinds of exploration can be done with minimal effect (on community watersheds) and prohibiting such activity may not be justifiable";
- NTI does not want development activity restricted on IOL; and
- Community Plans for each municipality provide direction for managing community watersheds.

Options for Managing Community Drinking Water Supplies

Eight Options have been developed to manage land use activity in community water supply watersheds:

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on the community water supply watershed.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research and prohibits all other uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on the community water supply watershed.
- Option 3: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation and research. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on community water supply watershed.
- Option 4: Assign a designation that permits tourism, recreation, research and municipal services. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on the community water supply watershed.
- Option 5: Assign a designation that permits municipal services and prohibits all other uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on the community water supply watershed.
- Option 6: Assign a designation that permits municipal services. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on the community water supply watershed.
- Option 7: Assign a designation that reflects all the uses allowed in the watershed in the Community Plan. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on the community water supply watershed.
- Option 8: Extend the municipal zones abutting the municipal boundary into the entire community water supply watershed. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on the community water supply watershed.

Analysis and Recommendation for Community Drinking Water Supplies

It is recommended, that to the full extent possible, the direction provided in the Community Plan be reflected in the

Plan. The Community Plan is the result of extensive community consultation and thorough review and its significance to the community and the direction it provides with regards to acceptable land use should be afforded considerable weight.

In instances where there is a conflict between the direction provided in the Community Plan and:

- Comments provided by NTI, Option 1 will be applied to the IOL portion. This is consistent with the direction provided by NTI. The Community Plan's jurisdiction lies within the municipal boundary. In instances where IOL occurs outside this boundary, the Commission will support NTI's request where appropriate.
- Where there is a conflict between the GoC comments and the direction in the Community Plan, the direction in the Community Plan shall prevail. The GoC comments do not provide specific direction.

The above rationale provides the justification for the Option chosen for each of the community water supply watersheds identified below.

Pangnirtung

(see Map 121)

Pangnirtung has a small community water supply watershed, which is located partially inside the municipal boundary. There is an existing prospecting permit inside the watershed. There is no IOL. The Pangnirtung Community Plan considers all forms of development acceptable inside the watershed, provided it does not negatively impact the community water supply (Pangnirtung Community Plan and Zoning By-law (March 2007)).

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Grise Fiord

(see Map 122)

Grise Fiord's community water supply watershed is small and located partially inside the municipal boundary. The Grise Fiord Community Plan considers all forms of development acceptable inside the watershed, provided it does not impact the community water supply (Grise Fiord Community Plan – 2008-2028 (February 2009)). There is no IOL.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Rankin Inlet

(see Map 123)

Rankin Inlet's community water supply watershed is small and located completely inside the municipal boundary. The Rankin Inlet Community Plan considers some forms of development acceptable inside the watershed, provided it does not impact the community water supply (Rankin Inlet Community Plan (2007)). There is no IOL.

Option 4 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Taloyoak

(see Map 124)

Taloyoak's community water supply watershed is small and located completely in the municipal boundary. The Taloyoak Community Plan considers all forms of development inside the watershed acceptable, provided they do not impact community water supply (Taloyoak Community Plan & Zoning By-law 2010-2030 (Draft 2009)). There is no IOL.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Cambridge Bay

(see Map 125)

Cambridge Bay's community water supply watershed is small and located completely in the municipal boundary. The direction from the Cambridge Bay Zoning By-law indicates that no development shall take place within 500 m of the watershed (Hamlet of Cambridge Bay By-laws, No. 222 (approved June 22, 2009)). The Zoning By-law does not map the watershed. Recreation activities are anticipated in the setback and a future recreation centre and future Arctic College campus are also shown within the setback. (Ikaluktutiak – Cambridge Bay Community Plan 2007-2027 & Zoning By-law (2008 approved)) There is no IOL.

Option 5 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Coral Harbour

(see Map 126)

Coral Harbour's community water supply watershed is medium in size and a portion is located in the municipal boundary. The Coral Harbour Community Plan considers only uses accessory

to the supply of water and quarries / gravel pits acceptable in the watershed (Coral Harbour Community Plan & Zoning By-law (2006 draft)). Within the Coral Harbour community water supply watershed, there is also a possible caribou calving area as well as active prospecting permits. There is no IOL.

Option 6 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Iqaluit

(see Map 127)

Iqaluit's existing and proposed community water supply watersheds are small and located completely in the municipal boundary. The Iqaluit General Plan By-law allows no development in the proposed and existing city water supply (Iqaluit General Plan By-law (June 2010 draft)). There is an active mineral claim in the proposed water supply (anniversary date of claim is 2010). There is no IOL.

Option 6 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Sanikiluaq

(see Map 128)

The Sanikiluaq community water supply watershed is small and located completely in the municipal boundary. The Sanikiluaq Community Plan does not preclude development in the watershed (1998 approved).

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Arviat

(see Map 129)

Arviat's community water supply watershed is medium in size and a small portion is located in the municipal boundary. The Arviat Community Plan does not preclude development in the watershed (Hamlet of Arviat Community Plan and Zoning By-law (August 2010)). Within the Arviat community water supply watershed there are IOL, possible caribou calving grounds, active mineral claims, a key bird habitat site and proposed transportation and utility corridor. Arviat is actively seeking a new community water supply.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- reflects the protection provided in the Community Plan;
- reflects the IOL in the area;
- reflects the potential road corridor; and
- reflects the active mineral claims in the area.

Whale Cove

(see Map 130)

Whale Cove's community water supply watershed is small and located completely in the municipal boundary. The Whale Cove Community Plan has no direction for watershed management; however it does provide for management of Fish Lake, which is located in the watershed (Tikirarjuaq Whale Cove Land Use Plan (August 2002 approved)).

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Repulse Bay

(see Map 131)

Repulse Bay's community water supply watershed is small and almost completely in the municipal boundary. The Repulse Bay Community Plan does not preclude development in the watershed. There are active mineral claims inside the Repulse Bay watershed.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Chesterfield Inlet

(see Map 132)

Chesterfield Inlet's community water supply watershed is small and almost completely inside the municipal boundary. The Chesterfield Inlet Community Plan does not preclude development in the watershed. There is no IOL. There is an active mineral claim inside the watershed (anniversary date is March 12, 2011).

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Gjoa Haven

(see Map 133)

The Gjoa Haven community water supply watershed is small and located in the municipal boundary. The Gjoa Haven Community Plan does not preclude development in the watershed. There is no IOL.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Kugaaruk

(see Map 134)

The Kugaaruk community water supply watershed is medium and mostly located outside the municipal boundary. The Kugaaruk Community Plan does not preclude development in the watershed (approved April 2008). There is no IOL. There are some existing mineral claims inside the watershed.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Resolute

(see Map 135)

The Resolute community water supply watershed is small and completely in the municipal boundary. The Resolute Community Plan does not preclude development in the watershed (draft June 2005).

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Arctic Bay

(see Map 136)

The Arctic Bay community water supply watershed is small and almost completely outside municipal boundary. The Arctic Bay Community Plan does not preclude development in the watershed. There is an air strip and some IOL within the watershed.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan; and
- recognizes the IOL in the area.

Pond Inlet

(see Map 137)

The Pond Inlet community water supply watershed is small and partially outside the municipal boundary. The Pond Inlet Community Plan contains a general policy that under no condition shall an activity which can potentially pollute the community's water source be allowed. The watershed is located in an area of the municipality presumed to be designated Hinterland in the Community Plan.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Clyde River

(see Map 138)

Clyde River's community water supply watershed is small and located completely inside municipal boundary. It is policy of the Clyde River Community Plan that under no condition shall an activity which can potentially pollute the community's water source be allowed (Clyde River Community Plan & Zoning Bylaw (approved January 2007)). The watershed is presumed to be designated Hinterland. There is no IOL.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Kimmirut

(see Map 139)

The Kimmirut community water supply watershed is small and completely inside the municipal boundary. The Kimmirut Community Plan does not contemplate uses beyond those identified in Option 4 and does not permit development which can potentially pollute the community's water source (Hamlet of Kimmirut, By-Law No. 92-2006 (June 2007 approved)). There is no IOL.

Option 4 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Qikiqtarjuaq

(see Map 140)

The Qikiqtarjuaq community water supply watershed is small and completely inside the municipal boundary. The Qikiqtarjuaq Community Plan considers all uses inside the watershed provided it does not pollute the community's water source (Qikiqtarjuaq Community Plan & Zoning By-Law (2005 draft)). There is no IOL.

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Igloolik

(see Map 141)

The Igloolik community water supply watershed is small and completely inside the municipal boundary. The Igloolik Community Plan designates the watershed Hinterland, which promotes local economic development (Igloolik Community Plan & Zoning By-Law (2010 draft)).

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and is:

- considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Hall Beach

(see Map 142)

The Hall Beach community water supply watershed is small and completely inside the municipal boundary. The Hall Beach Community Plan designates the watershed Hinterland, which promotes local economic development (Hall Beach Community Plan & Zoning By-Law (2010 draft)).

Option 1 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Cape Dorset

(see Map 143)

The Cape Dorset community water supply watershed is small and completely inside the municipal boundary. The watershed area is Hinterland, which in the Community Plan does not contemplate uses beyond those identified in Option 4 (Cape Dorset Community Plan & Zoning By-Law (1996 approved)). There is no IOL.

Option 4 is recommended as it best reflects the intent of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered most supportive of the direction in the Community Plan.

Kugluktuk

(see Map 144)

The Kugluktuk community water supply watershed is large and mostly outside the municipal boundary. The watershed extends into the Northwest Territories. The Kugluktuk Community Plan and Zoning By-law contains policy that there is to be no development within the watershed of the water

source (Kugluktuk Community Plan By-law No. 205-2007 (2007 approved); Kugluktuk Zoning By-law No. 206-2007 (2007 approved)).

The Coppermine draft heritage river management plan suggests the need for balance between protection and economic development. The Kugluktuk community watershed contains some IOL. There is no mineral activity within the municipal boundary; however, there are active mineral interests in watershed.

With the above in mind, the following approach is considered most reflective of the rationale used by the Commission in managing land use in community water supply watersheds:

- Option 4 is recommended for the watershed area within the municipal boundary, and extending outside the municipal boundary up to the first parcel of IOL; and
- Option 1 is recommended for the remaining area.

Baker Lake

(see Map 145)

The Baker Lake community water supply watershed is large and is mostly outside the municipal boundary. The watershed extends into the Northwest Territories. The Baker Lake Community Plan and Zoning By-law offer no direction for watershed management (Baker Lake Community Plan and Zoning By-law (2007 draft)). Water intake is in the Baker Lake. There is some IOL. There are also active mineral interests in the watershed, but no mineral activity in the municipal boundary.

Option 1 is recommended for areas in the watershed that have not already been designated elsewhere in this document.

Land Remediation

(see Map 146 – Map 176)

Land Remediation considers Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line sites administered by the Department of National Defence (DND) and AANDC. These sites are at different stages of remediation.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to identify and prioritize the requirement to clean up waste sites;
- A policy of the Commission's Goal of Building Healthy Communities is to identify contaminated sites that should be avoided by residents;
- The GoC has provided the Commission with direction that DEW Line sites administered by AANDC should not be restricted from development;

- AANDC provided the Commission with a list of sites that have been remediated and those that have not been remediated;
- DND recognizes that development in DEW Line sites that have not been remediated should be restricted; and
- Previous land use.

Options for Managing Land Remediation

Three Options have been developed to manage land use activity in and around DEW Line sites.

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts on health and safety.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that permits remediation, reclamation and related research and monitoring and prohibits all other uses.
- Option 3: Assign a designation that permits remediation, reclamation and related research and monitoring and DND operations and prohibits all other uses.

Analysis and Recommendation for Land Remediation

Options 3 is recommended for DND controlled DEW Line sites as it best supports the Goal of Building Healthy Communities and:

- reflects the direction provided by DND;
- in the absence of information regarding which sites have been remediated and to what standard, it is considered in the public interest to consider all sites incompatible for some land uses until advised otherwise; and
- supports a land use designation which reflects the information provided to the Commission, providing certainty to regulators and proponents of the types of activities anticipated in this area.

Option 1 is recommended for sites that AANDC identified as having been remediated as it best supports the Goal of Building Healthy Communities and:

- reflects the direction provided by AANDC not to restrict development opportunities in these areas; and
- supports a land use designation which reflects the information provided to the Commission, providing certainty to regulators and proponents of the types of activities anticipated in this area.

Option 3 is recommended for sites that AANDC identified as “not remediated” as it best supports the Goal of Building Healthy Communities and:

- is considered in the interests of public health and safety to prohibit activities in areas the Commission has been told are “not remediated.” It is considered inappropriate to contemplate uses in areas considered still potentially unsafe and does not support the underlying aims of building a healthy community;
- supports a land use designation which reflects what the Commission considers supports the public health and safety of residents and land users, providing certainty to regulators and proponents of the types of activities anticipated in this area.

Northern Contaminated Sites Program

(see Map 239)

AANDC is the custodian of most federal lands in the North and is committed to managing a number of contaminated sites. It is responsible for properties identified through its Northern Contaminated Sites Program (NCSP). These sites are located on reserve lands, on federal lands north of the 60th parallel and on any other lands under AANDC’s custodial responsibility. In 2002, INAC developed a *Contaminated Sites Management Plan*.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to identify and prioritise the requirement to clean up waste sites;
- A policy of the Commission’s Goal of Building Healthy Communities is to identify contaminated sites that should be avoided by residents;
- The Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan recognizes the importance of managing waste sites;
- The North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan recognizes the importance of managing waste sites;
- The Commission’s Goal of Building Healthy Communities; and
- The NCSP and that the GoC is responsible for the properties identified through the NCSP.

Options for Managing Sites Identified in the NCSP

Two Options have been developed to manage land use in and around sites identified in the NCSP.

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts of projects on health and safety.

- Option 2: Within 300 m of the sites, assign a designation that permits remediation, reclamation and related research and monitoring and prohibits all other uses.

Analysis and Recommendation for Sites Identified in the NCSP

Option 2 is recommended as it best supports the Goal of Building Healthy Communities and it:

- permits remediation, reclamation and related research and monitoring and DND operations and prohibits all other uses. The Commission believes that these uses, at this time, are the only uses compatible with contaminated sites. A land use designation will be applied to protect the area for these uses only and prevent any other use from being exposed to these potentially dangerous sites. This is considered in the interests of public health and safety.

Option 1 contemplates all uses, some of which may be sensitive and incompatible with these areas. This could create a public safety issue, contrary to the Goal of Building Healthy Communities. The Commission feels it is contradictory and inappropriate to recognize an area for a particular hazard and then contemplate potential uses that could be impacted by it.

Aerodromes

(see Map 177- Map 201)

Each municipality in Nunavut maintains an aerodrome.

Considered Information:

- The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement requires a land use plan to take into account community infrastructural requirements including health;
- An objective of the Commission’s Goal of Building Healthy Communities is to ensure that land use activities are not detrimental to the health, well being and safety of Nunavut residents.
- The *Airport Zoning Regulations* created under the *Aeronautics Act*, which states Land use activities within the municipal aerodromes (4 km radius measured from the midpoint of the runway) are required to comply with existing *Airport Zoning Regulations* created under the *Aeronautics Act*; under these regulations, building heights are restricted and additional hazardous uses are often identified, including bird attractants, which can pose a significant threat to aircraft operations.

Options for Managing Aerodromes

Two Options have been developed to manage land use in aerodromes.

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts of projects on aerodrome safety.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that prohibits all uses within an aerodrome.

Analysis and Recommendation for Aerodromes

Option 1 is recommended as it best supports the Commission's Goal of Building Healthy Communities and:

- reflects the direction from the Airport Zoning Regulations; and
- supports a land use designation that contemplates all uses with a recommendation to regulators, which is considered consistent with the information provided to the Commission.

Option 2 is not considered consistent with the direction provided to the Commission.

Canadian Forces Stations

(see Map 202 – Map 204)

The Canadian Forces exercise control over and defend Canada's sovereignty in the Arctic. The DND sites of Alert, Eureka and Nanisivik have been established to promote a military presence in the NSA and are used to control and defend Canada's sovereignty.

Considered Information:

- The Commission's Goal of Building Healthy Communities
- The GoC's request that project proposals within 300 m of these sites be referred for comment to the DND and that they be consulted on all projects occurring within the aerodromes.

Options for Managing Canadian Forces Stations

Two Options have been developed to manage land use activity in and around Canadian Forces Stations (CFS):

- Option 1: Assign a designation that prohibits all uses aside from DND operations, remediation, and reclamation.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts of projects on CFS.

Analysis and Recommendation for Canadian Forces Stations

Option 1 is recommended as it best supports the Goal of Building Healthy Communities and:

- reflects the direction provided by DND; and
- supports a land use designation and recommendation that identify the type of land use activity occurring in the area, providing certainty to proponents and regulators about how these sites will be used.

Option 2 is considered overly permissive, as it contemplates uses that may not be compatible with existing land use activity in this area. The Commission has been provided with information regarding how these sites are used, and therefore it is considered misleading and inappropriate to contemplate any additional uses, be it through the land use designation or a plan amendment.

North Warning System Sites

(see Map 206 – Map 238)

North Warning System (NWS) sites provide surveillance of North America airspace. In Nunavut, there are 6 Long Range Radar Sites (LRRS) and 28 Short Range Radar Sites (SRRS). These sites are vulnerable to activities that generate electromagnetic interference (EMI).

Considered Information:

- The Commission's Goal of Building Healthy Communities; and
- The comments received from DND, with regards to the management of NWS sites. The DND have provided a range of setbacks that should be provided in the Plan.

Options for Managing NWS Sites

Two Options have been developed to manage land use in and around NWS sites:

- Option 1: Assign a land use designation that permits DND operations and prohibits all other uses.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts of projects on the operation of the NWS site.

Analysis and Recommendation for NWS Sites

Option 1 is recommended as it best supports the Commission's Goal of Building Healthy Communities and:

- reflects the direction provided by DND; and
- supports a land use designation that recognizes the existing operations in the area and assigns a land use designation that protects it from competing land uses; and
- provides certainty to regulators and proponents about the type of land use activity anticipated in the area.

Option 2 contemplates all uses, some of which may be incompatible with NWS sites. This is not considered consistent with the direction provided to the Commission

Chapter 5

Encouraging Sustainable Economic Development

"The Goal of achieving the economic well-being of communities underlies many of the articles and provisions of the Nunavut Land Claims (NLCA). It is inherent in the NLCA's objective of encouraging self-reliance and diverse economic opportunities for Nunavummiut and all Canadians which will arise from a long-term, healthy, sustainable renewable and non-renewable resource economy."

Introduction

Encouraging Sustainable Economic Development is one of five planning Goals in the Nunavut Planning Commission's Broad Planning Policies, Objectives and Goals. It is the primary aim of this Chapter to provide a practical policy direction that is able to support this Goal.

Specifically, this Chapter;

- identifies key areas of Nunavut that are critical to the encouraging sustainable economic development;
- provides options for managing these key areas;
- recommends a preferred option for the management of these areas that is best able to support this Goal; and
- translates the preferred recommendation into a language that a Land Use Plan can articulate and implement.

Key Areas

Areas of the NSA identified by the Commission as important to encouraging sustainable economic development are;

- Mineral Exploration and Production;
- Oil and Gas exploration and production; and
- Commercial Fisheries

Options for Managing Key Areas

Options for managing these areas have been prepared in consideration of the existing planning policy framework, pertinent land use reports, input from Planning Partners as well as existing land and resource use in the NSA.

A preferred Option has been recommended that balances competing land use and builds on the strengths and opportunities in the area. The preferred Option has been

translated into a language that is easily transferable into a Land Use Plan, allowing a practical response to achieving the Goal of Encouraging Conservation Planning.

Mineral Exploration and Production

(see Map 240 – Map 247)

Mineral exploration and production is one of the most attractive and viable economic activities in the NSA. The Commission recognises the importance of this industry to Nunavut's economy.

Considered Information:

- Article 11 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) requires a land use plan to take into account economic opportunities and needs;
- An objective of the Commission's Goal of Encouraging Sustainable Economic Development is to *encourage diversified economic development that increases employment, business opportunities, training and other benefits*
- Terriplan's Socio-Demographic and Economic Sector Analysis identifies mining as *"one of the most lucrative industries in Nunavut"*

The 2010 Nunavut Economic Outlook identifies mining as *still being strong* despite the world recession, Mining presents its self as one of the most attractive and viable economic activities in the NSA. It identifies 8 mines with a high potential to develop in the next several years. These mines are Meadowbank Gold Mine, which is now in production, Hope Bay Gold Mine, Meliadine Gold Mine, Kiggavik Uranium Mine, Izok Lake, High Lake, Hackett River and Mary River.

- NTI has advised that mineral exploration should not be restricted on IOL;
- Some sites are located in the Boundaries of the North Baffin Planning Region. The NBRLUP identifies mining as influencing the regional mixed economy;
- Some sites are located in the boundaries of the Keewatin Regional Land Use Planning Region. The KRLUP identifies mining as important to the economic well being of the region

Options for Managing Mineral Exploration and Production

Three Options have been developed to manage land use activity in areas of Mineral Exploration and Production.

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts of projects

on the existing mineral exploration and production activities

- Option 2: Assign a designation that permits mining and mining related activity and remediation and prohibits other types of uses.
- Option 3: Assign a designation that permits mining, remediation and reclamation, roads, railways, utilities, and corridors. All other uses would be considered through plan amendment.

Analysis and Recommendation for Mineral Exploration and Production

Option 3 is recommended for the 8 sites identified in the 2010 Nunavut Economic Outlook as it best reflects the intent of Encouraging Economic Sustainable Development and;

- Builds on the existing planning policy framework; and
- Builds on the direction provided in key economic reports

Option 1 contemplates uses that may be incompatible with the anticipated use of these areas. This may impede the operation and protection of this area for economic activity. Option 2 is considered overly restrictive in light of the fact that some of these mines may not proceed.

Oil and Gas Exploration

(see Map 248)

Nunavut has proven oil and gas potential, notably in the Sverdrup basin, where there are several existing Significant Discovery Licenses. Baffin Bay also has excellent potential, but the area remains relatively unexplored. The oil and gas sector has the potential to be one of the most lucrative economic activities in Nunavut.

Considered Information:

- Article 11 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) requires a land use plan to take into account economic opportunities and needs;
- An objective of the Commission's Goal of Encouraging Sustainable Economic Development is to *encourage diversified economic development that increases employment, business opportunities, training and other benefits*
- Terriplan's Socio-Demographic and Economic Sector Analysis identifies oil and gas with the potential to be a main economic activity in the NSA.
- Nunavut's Economic Outlook identifies oil and gas as key industry important to sustaining Nunavut's economy;

- Some sites are located in the Boundaries of the North Baffin Planning Region. The NBRLUP identifies oil and gas as influencing the regional mixed economy;

Options for Managing Oil and Gas Exploration and Production

Three Options have been developed to manage land use activity in areas of oil and gas Significant Discovery Licenses. These options have been developed to be easily transferable and meaningful in a land use plan context. Options have been developed to reflect the intent of Encouraging Sustainable Economic Development as well as to reflect the direction provided in the existing planning policy framework and feedback from planning partners and pertinent reports

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts of projects on existing oil and gas interests.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that permits oil and gas activities and prohibits all other uses.
- Option 3: Assign a designation that permits oil and gas activities, remediation and reclamation.

Analysis and Recommendation for Oil and Gas Exploration and Production

Option 3 is recommended for Significant Discovery Licenses as it best reflects the Goal of Encouraging Sustainable Economic Development and;

- Builds on the existing planning policy framework;
- Builds on the direction provided in key economic reports.

Option 1 contemplates uses that may be incompatible with the anticipated use of these areas. This may impeded the operation and protection of this area for economic activity.

Option 2 is considered overly restrictive at this time.

Commercial Fisheries

(see Map 249A – Map 250)

The commission recognizes the commercial fishing industry as important to a diversified and sustainable economy. Commercial fisheries are an emerging sector in Nunavut's economy, with turbot and char currently being harvested. Activity in Nunavut's commercial fishing industry is predicted to grow.

Considered Information:

- Article 11 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA) requires a land use plan to take into account economic opportunities and needs;

- An objective of the Commission's Goal of Encouraging Sustainable Economic Development is to *encourage diversified economic development that increases employment, business opportunities, training and other benefits*

Some sites are located in the Boundaries of the North Baffin Planning Region. The NBRLUP identifies fisheries as influencing the regional mixed economy;

- Some sites are located in the boundaries of the Keewatin Regional Land Use Planning Region. The KRLUP identifies fisheries as important to the economic well being of the region
- DFO has provided data on fish areas of abundance.

Options for Managing Areas with the Potential for Commercial Fisheries

Three Options have been developed to manage land use activity in areas that have potential for commercial fisheries:

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits all uses. For conforming and approved project proposals, provide a recommendation to regulators and proponents to consider potential impacts of projects on for commercial fishery potential.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that permits commercial fishing and related activities and prohibits all other uses.
- Option 3; Assign a designation that permits commercial fishing and related activities.

Analysis and Recommendation for Areas with the Potential for Commercial Fisheries

Option 1 is recommended for the turbot and Arctic char areas of abundance as it best reflects the intent of Encouraging Sustainable Economic Development and:

- Builds on the existing planning policy framework
- provides a proactive approach to recognizing areas with the potential for commercial fisheries in the Plan; and
- informs regulators that there is a possibility that commercial fisheries may develop in the area and may serve to avoid incompatible land uses.

Option 2 and 3 are considered too restrictive. Given that there is no specific information regarding where commercial fisheries will occur, the Commission feels it is premature to prohibit additional uses in these areas.

Chapter 6

Areas of Opportunity

Areas of Opportunity have been identified for their potential to support a wide variety of land use activity and development. They may contain a range of qualities, or in some instances, opportunity to explore the potential.

Introduction

The Commission recognises that the NSA contains areas that are able to support all land uses. Some of these areas contain qualities that contribute to the Goals of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment, Encouraging Conservation Planning, Building Healthier Communities or Encouraging Sustainable Economic Development; however, at this time, there is not enough information to lead the Commission to restrict any land use in these areas. These areas have been discussed in previous chapters, and where applicable, an option to provide a recommendation recognizing the particular quality has been applied.

Some areas able to support all land uses have not been identified as containing any particular quality that contributes to a specific goal.

It is the primary aim of this Chapter to provide a practical policy direction that is able to support these areas.

Specifically, this chapter;

- identifies key areas of Nunavut that are able to support all land use;
- provides options for managing these key areas;
- recommends a preferred option for the management of these areas
- translates the preferred option into a language that a Land Use Plan can articulate and implement.

Areas of Opportunity

(see Map 251 – Map 252)

Areas of Opportunity have been identified for their potential to support a wide variety of land use activity and development.

Considered Information:

- The NLCA identifies social, cultural, economic endeavours of the human community to be central to land use planning;

- Some areas contain values that contribute to the Goals of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment, Encouraging Conservation Planning, Building Healthier Communities or Encouraging Sustainable Economic Development.
- Some areas are located in the boundaries of the North Baffin Regional Land Use Plan. Some areas are located in the boundaries of the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan. Both plans generally encourage a wide variety of land uses.
- Some areas contain IOL, and the direction provided by NTI is not to restrict Development on IOL.

Options for Managing Areas of Opportunity

Three Options have been developed to manage areas of opportunity:

- Option 1: Assign a designation that permits all uses. In areas where there is a land use quality that contributes to one of the four goals identified above, assign a recommendation recognizing the quality.
- Option 2: Assign a designation that prohibits all land uses.
- Option 3: Assign a designation that provides for land use activity through plan amendment.

Analysis and Recommendation for Areas of Opportunity

Option 1 is recommended for areas able to support all land uses as it;

- Reflects the ability of some areas of the NSA to support a variety of uses;
- Recognizes that some areas have qualities that contribute to the Goals of Protecting and Sustaining the Environment, Encouraging Conservation Planning, Building Healthier Communities or Encouraging Sustainable Economic Development, however not enough is known to restrict development;
- provides for a variety of land uses, which creates a positive environment for potential growth and the exploration of opportunities; and
- builds on the existing planning policy framework

Options 2 and 3 are considered overly restrictive and may impede growth in the NSA in these areas. These options may deter proponents from exploring opportunities in these areas of the NSA which may significantly affect economic, conservation and social initiatives in Nunavut.