

Draft Dehlá Got'jne ʔəde Plan – December 2, 2021

draft for Déljne 2021 Public Listening Session

The Dehlá Got'jne Approach to other wildlife that interact with ʔəde, such as, wolves and bears, especially grizzly bears, moose and muskox (“Predators and Competitors”, as referred to by the SRRB), is to recommend the following goals for addition to the Dehlá Got'jne ʔəde Plan:

1. describe an advocacy strategy for SRRB & ENR to study the impact of mining and industry on the ʔəde herd in the Dehlá Got'jne traditional territory and implement measures to:
 - a. protect ʔəde habitat and range from mining and industry; and
 - b. eliminate mining and industry related disturbance on the ʔəde habitat and range.
2. describe an ethical and non-invasive predator and competitor monitoring and data collection method based on Dehlá Got'jne traditional knowledge.

The purpose of the Dehlá Got'jne approach is to recommend advocacy into the impact of mining and industry on ʔəde as the foundation for the support of ʔəde protection efforts in Dehlá Got'jne traditional territory and as the backdrop for the studying the interaction of ʔəde and their predators and competitors.

Specific objectives of the Dehlá Got'jne approach are to:

1. encourage the collection of and sharing of data regarding the correlation of the ʔəde population on Dehlá Got'jne traditional territory with the activity of mining and industry;
2. density of wolves and bears, especially grizzly bears, moose and muskox on Dehlá Got'jne traditional territory;
 - a. describe ethical requirements for data and monitoring of wolves and bears, moose and muskox based on Dehlá Got'jne traditional knowledge;
 - b. outline possible ethical techniques based on Dehlá Got'jne traditional knowledge to manage wolves and bears, moose and muskox; and,
 - c. determine whether it is necessary to reduce predation and competition pressure in areas where predators and competitor may be impacting ʔəde or whether the most useful strategy is to protect ʔəde range from mining and industry.

Goal 1: protect ʔəde habitat and range from mining and industry; & eliminate mining and industry related disturbance on ʔəde habitat and range.

The Dehlá Got'ıne approach going forward is to press the government and wildlife co-management boards such as the SRRB to research the impact of the mining and industry on ʔəde in the Dehlá Got'ıne traditional territory.

“Industrial development is considered to be one of the most significant factors affecting barren-ground caribou. It can disturb ʔəde and affect their behaviour, Status of Porcupine ʔəde and Barren-ground ʔəde in the NWT Page vii the quality of habitat and forage, and ultimately, the survivability of the species. It can also facilitate access for both humans and predators.” NWT Species at Risk, April 2017.

“Industrial development is considered to be an important factor affecting barren-ground caribou; however, a clear link to its effects on barren-ground caribou, including factors such as population, trends, movements, and behaviour, has not been established. Activities and infrastructure associated with exploration and development may disturb ʔəde and affect their behaviour (e.g. migration patterns, gregarious calving behaviour), reduce the quantity, quality, and availability of habitat and forage, and facilitate access to ʔəde for hunters and predators. This can contribute to reduced ʔəde reproduction and survival rates and population declines. Further, many community members talk about disturbance as being disrespectful and harmful to overall ʔəde well-being. Additional information is needed.” Recovery Strategy for Barren-Ground ʔəde in the Northwest Territories, NWT Species at Risk, 2020.

The Government of the NWT continues to allow staking and mineral exploration in areas of sensitive ʔəde habitat. The degree to which mineral exploration is affecting caribou, ʔəde habitat and ʔəde range is not known and needs to be closely examined, especially with respect to sensitive calving grounds. A significant portion of the calving grounds fall outside of the protected Tuktut Nogiat National Park, including areas around Paulatuk.

Exploration on the Calving Grounds

From 2004 until the present, Talmora Diamond Inc., a junior exploration company has been holding three prospecting permits covering 86,042.28 hectares. It has 81 mineral claims over 16,360.62 hectares in the Horton River area located south of the Hamlet of Paulatuk in the Northwest Territories of Canada.

Talmora’s “Horton Project” area is located within the “Lena West” diamond region (see Figure 1). Between 2004 and 2017 the company identified over 40 high resolution airborne magnetic anomalies with characteristics of kimberlite pipes that are associated with kimberlite indicator mineral (KIM) anomalies.

According to information made available by the company, the project potential significantly changed during the fall of 2017. Talmora states that the Horton Project has over 40 targets ready for drilling. Talmora Diamond Inc. entered into an option agreement on July 6th 2018 with Olivut Resources Ltd. to carry out a drill testing program of key targets.

Figure 1. Talmora Diamonds Exploration Activities

Till and stream sampling across the Lena West.

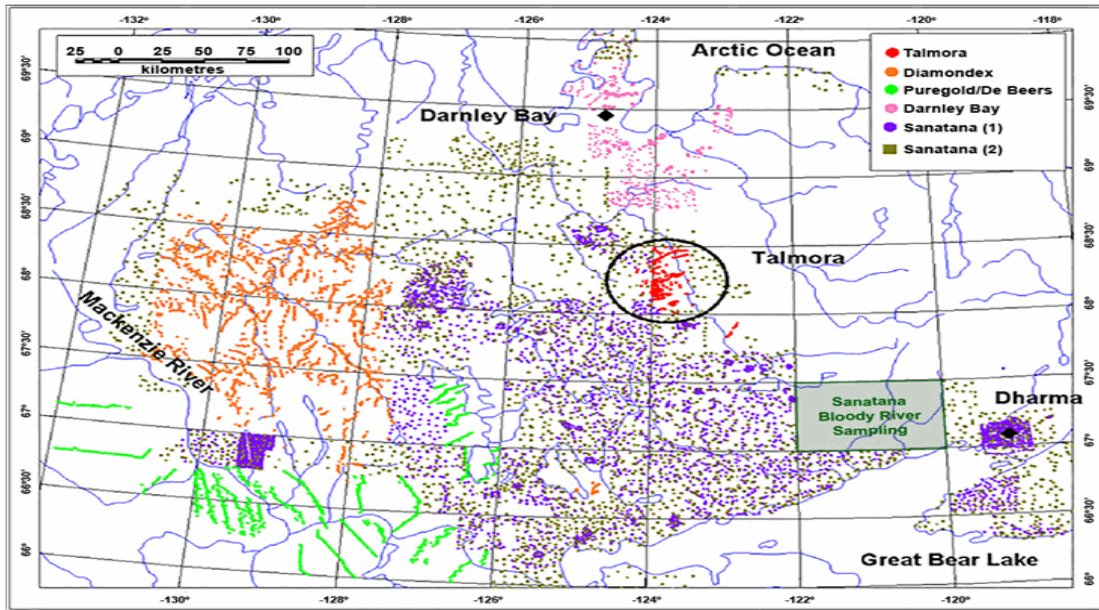
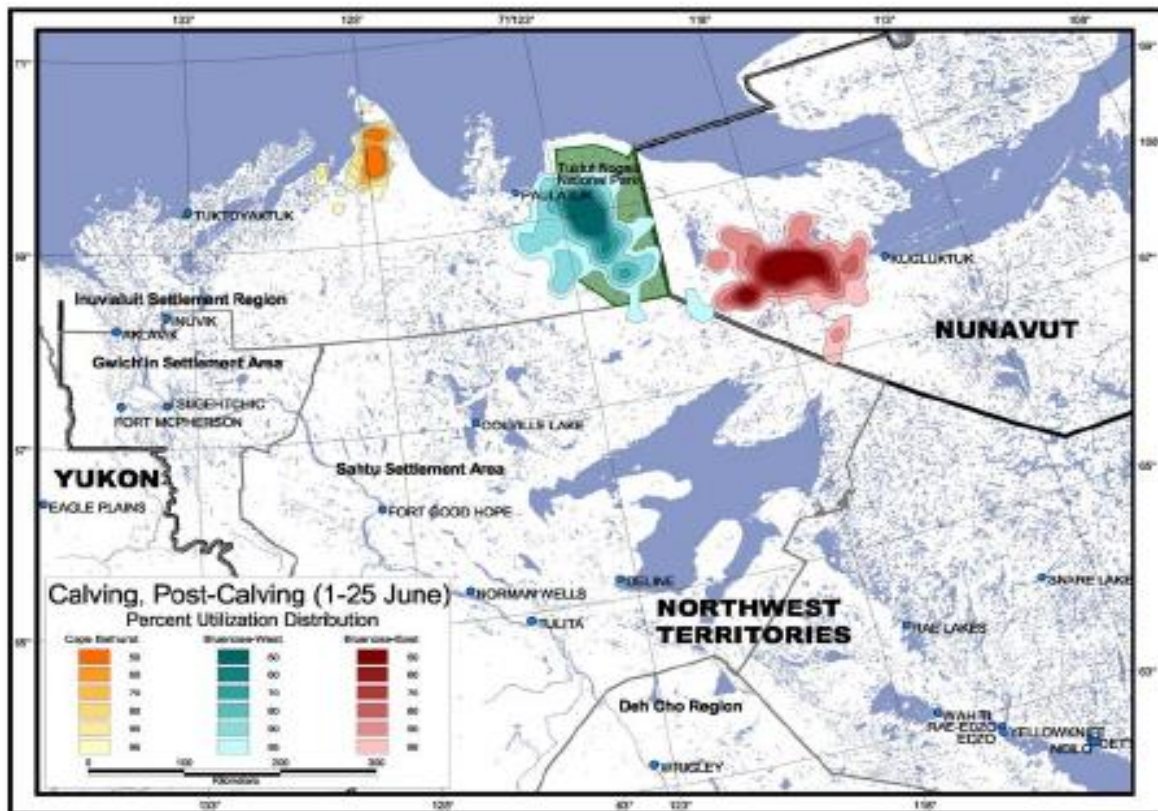


Figure 2. Calving/post calving ranges of Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East barren-ground caribou.



Summary of Approach

The Dehlá Got'ıne Approach for "Predators and Competitors" is to continue to:

1. increase advocacy efforts to protect ʔəde habitat from loss and fragmentation by industry and mining;
2. encourage ethical monitoring and data collection based on Dehlá Got'ıne traditional knowledge; and
3. support Indigenous harvesting for sustenance, and hunting and trapping of wolves for the fur industry.