



Photos © Bob Wilson

Thaidene Nënë

Proposed National Park Reserve

Landscape Values Summary

“Our Landscape Values Story: An Assessment of Landscape Values and Scenarios for the Proposed Thaidene Nënë National Park Reserve”

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Ecosystem services, also referred to as ecological goods and services, are the benefits that people and communities obtain, either directly or indirectly, from resources and processes that are provided by natural ecosystems. Ecosystem services sustain air and water quality, provide clean drinking water, produce food, decompose waste, and support and enhance the quality of human life.

Research in the area of ecological goods and services has looked at integrating Aboriginal traditional knowledge and geographic information systems, as well as incorporating ecological goods and services values into cost-benefit analyses to comprehensively assess land use options.

In 2009, Parks Canada commissioned the firm AMEC Environment and Infrastructure to determine whether an identification and assessment of ecological goods and services could be incorporated into a cost-benefit analysis to inform the process of establishing a national park reserve in the area known as Thaidene Nënë. AMEC also examined the broader question of whether measuring ecological goods and services can be an effective tool for determining landscape values, with Thaidene Nënë as a case study.



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

APPROACH

AMEC developed a cost-benefit approach to integrate ecological and cultural values, Aboriginal traditional knowledge, and renewable and non-renewable resource assessments and analyses. AMEC worked with the community of Łutsël K'e, the community most directly linked to Thaidene Nënë, to incorporate the current uses and values of the area for residents of Łutsël K'e. AMEC also detailed a range of ecological goods and services which the Thaidene Nënë study area currently and potentially will provide to residents of the Northwest Territories (NWT) and Canada.

A Mineral and Energy Resource Assessment (MERA) is required for all new national park proposals in northern Canada. The mineral potential of the Thaidene Nënë area was assessed by the Geological Survey

of Canada using available information, field work, and exploration models that incorporate geological, structural, geochemical, mineralogical and geophysical evidence.

Using the mineral and energy resource development potential for the Thaidene Nënë study area, AMEC then examined the total economic costs and benefits associated with three scenarios:

1. No national park reserve;
2. A national park reserve based on the current study area; and
3. A national park reserve based on the current study area less the areas of high mineral potential identified in both the 1987 and 2013 MERA results.

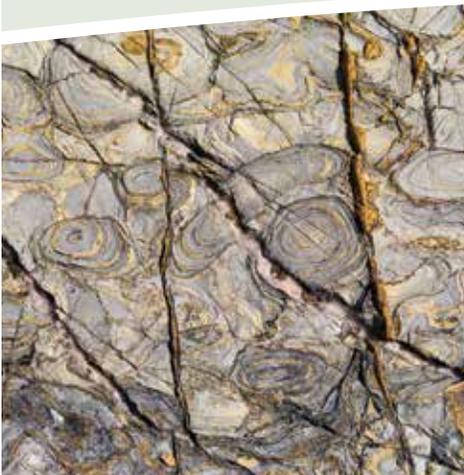
KEY FINDINGS

The current Thaidene Nënë Interim Land Withdrawal was identified as an area of importance to the traditional and cultural values of the Łutsël K'e Dene people. Based on available information, it is estimated that Thaidene Nënë currently provides a total of \$8.8 million per year in annual benefits for Łutsël K'e community members, residents of NWT and residents of Canada.

The results of the MERA suggest that 0.02% of the Thaidene Nënë Interim Land Withdrawal area (7 km²) has high mineral potential. The highest mineral potential is for diamonds in the north end of the study area and some of this may be developed as part of

the De Beers Canada Gahcho Kué Project. Another 1.7% (583 km²) of the study area is considered to have moderate to high potential.

Overall, the landscape values analysis suggests creation of a national park reserve in the Thaidene Nënë area, based on mineral potential, park development potential, and the range of ecological goods and services currently being produced, would see total benefits exceed total costs, would allow mineral development and park development to occur with potentially low impacts on the flow of ecological goods and services and would generate net benefits to Canadian society as a whole.



For more information:

Protected Areas Establishment Branch
P.O. Box 1166
Parks Canada Agency
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N8

Email: ThaideneNene.Info@pc.gc.ca
Phone: (867) 766-8460
Fax: (867) 766-8466
Office: #215, 5101 – 50th Avenue
(Greenstone Building)

Aussi disponible en français

