

MEMORANDUM TO NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

SIRMILIK NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

(For approval)

TIMELINE

Your decision is requested by December 1th 2014, during the next regular NWMB meeting in Rankin Inlet.

PURPOSE:

To seek your approval on the Sirmilik National Park Management Plan.

SUMMARY

- Parks Canada conducted Consultation meetings on the draft Sirmilik National Park Management Plan in April and May 2014.
- The final draft Park Management Plan will be approved by the park's Park Planning Team (PPT) and Joint Park Management Committee (JPMC) before the end of November 2014.
- Comments received from the PPT, JPMC, partners, and stakeholders have been addressed in the final draft Park Management Plan.
- The Park Management Plan must be presented to the NWMB for its approval or comment.

CONTEXT AND CURRENT STATUS

Sirmilik National Park was established under the *Canada National Parks Act* in 2001, following negotiations that led to the signature of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement (NLCA)* and the *Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement for Auyuittuq, Quttinirpaaq and Sirmilik National Parks (IIBA)*.

The adjacent communities to the park are Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay. They are identified in the IIBA as communities that have a particular interest in the park.

Sirmilik National Park is cooperatively managed by the Government of Canada and Inuit.

This is the first management plan and zoning plan for Sirmilik National Park.

Discussions on a management plan for Sirmilik National Park began on the Vision for the park with Inuit Knowledge Working Groups, Park Planning Team and the JPMC began in 2007/08. In 2012 State of the Park Report was completed.

An Inuit-Government Park Planning Team (PPT) was appointed as required by the IIBA and has been cooperatively developing the draft Park Management Plan (PMP) with Parks Canada staff, along with a draft zoning plan for consultation purposes. The Joint Park Management Committee (JPMC) reviewed and approved the draft in January 2014. The PPT and JPMC will review the final draft PMP prior to its presentation to the NWMB.

The IIBA requires that the NWMB approve any part of the final draft PMP that concerns the management and protection of particular wildlife or wildlife habitats (Article 5.3.35).

The JPMC will forward the final draft PMP to the NWMB. The NWMB may, in its discretion, approve any part of the final draft PMP that concerns the management and protection of particular wildlife or wildlife habitats.

CONSIDERATIONS

The Qikiqtani Inuit Association and the Canadian Wildlife Service expressed their support for the final draft PMP.

The CNPA, NLCA, and IIBA require that a management plan be completed for Sirmilik National Park within 5 years of the park's establishment. The development of this management plan is several years behind schedule.

Parks Canada and the PPT developed a draft Zoning Plan for the park between April 2012 and October 2013. Input, guidance, and information were received from consultations with the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Qikiqtani Inuit Association, as well as from Hunters and Trappers Organizations, outfitters, Parks Canada's Inuit Knowledge Working Groups, and Community Lands and Resources Committees from both Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay.

Public and stakeholder consultations were held in April and May 2014 as part of the management planning process. The requirement for consultations and direction or guidance on consultation methods for this management planning process are identified in the NLCA (Article 8), IIBA (Article 5), CNPA (Section 12), Government of Canada policy, and court decisions on consultations with Aboriginal peoples.

The PPT, JPMC, and the adjacent park communities are eager to finalize the PMP.

The development of this PMP has followed the cooperative management processes established under the NLCA and IIBA. The Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Inuit Heritage Trust and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated will review the proposed plan and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will review the wildlife and wildlife habitat components of the plan.

Three key strategies were developed for this PMP:

- 1) Celebrating the special connection between Sirmilik National Park and the Inuit of Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay
- 2) Developing Sirmilik National Park's visitor experience program
- 3) Increasing knowledge of and awareness about Sirmilik National Park

NEXT STEPS

Parks Canada and the JPMC will present the final PMP to Parks Canada's CEO and the federal Minister of the Environment and responsible for Parks Canada for approval and tabling in the Parliament of Canada.

RECOMMENDATION

I request to attend to the next NWMB meeting on December 1st, 2104 to present the final draft Sirmilik National Park Management Plan to the NWMB for its approval.

Prepared by: Denis Dufour, 418 649-8204

Reviewed by: Lucas Habib, 867 899-8092

Approved by: Nancy Anilniliak, 867 975-4683

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