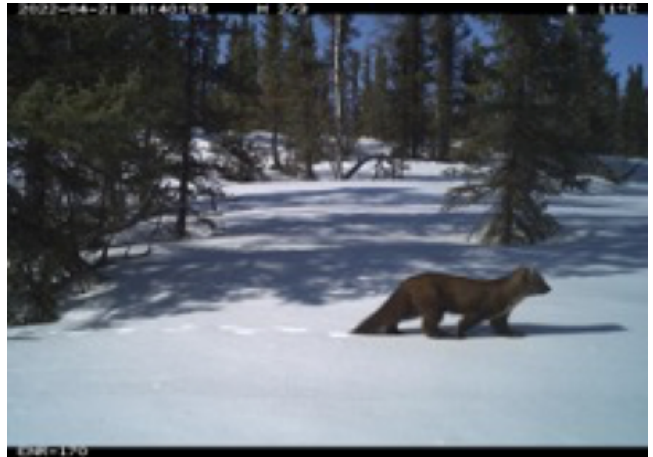
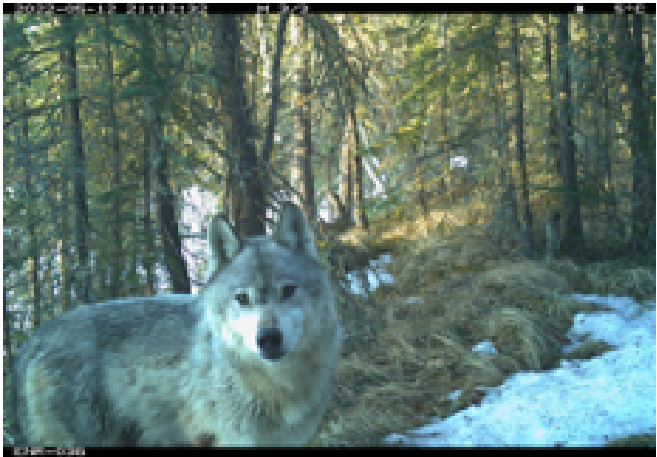


MAY 2023

THAIDENE NĚNÉ NEWSLETTER



HIGHLIGHTS

- Research and Monitoring
- Zoning Workshop
- Employment/Contract/Committee Opportunities
- Thaidene Nënë Xá Dá Yáłtı
- Frontier Lodge

**THAIDENE
NENE**
Land of the Ancestors

This week, some of our partners in the biodiversity monitoring project were in Łutsël K'é to share initial findings from an analysis of almost 1.8 million images taken by cameras that were deployed around Thaidene Nënë between the summer of 2021 and summer 2022. The photographs from these cameras (including the two above) capture animals as they travel, hunt, and raise their young. They also routinely document their remarkable curiosity. Learn more about this project and others that have been keeping the Thaidene Nënë Department staff busy over the last six months in this newsletter.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Lake Ice Monitoring

The Thaidene Nënë Department is collaborating with Laurier University's Remote Sensing of Environmental Change (ReSEC) research group and SmartICE on a three-year program to monitor lake ice on Tu Nedhé. In January, Ni Hat'ni Dene guardians, SmartICE staff, and Laurier researchers installed sensors at Etthēn Nué (Etthen Island) and Fort Reliance. They retrieved them in April.



The sensors collect ice thickness data every 15 minutes. They also collect information about snow depth and air and water temperatures. This information is important for documenting changes in ice conditions over time. It will also help our community make decisions about travelling on the ice.

Biodiversity Monitoring Program Update

Members of Laurier University's WILD Lab (WILD stands for Wildlife Integration for Land Use Decisions) visited Łutsël K'é in mid-May to provide an update on the Biodiversity Monitoring Program. In August and September 2021, Ni Hat'ni Dene guardians and project partners set up more than 300 remote cameras and audio recorders around Thaidene Nënë. Last summer, our staff and partners retrieved these devices.

The cameras capture animals, including caribou, wolves, hares, geese, songbirds, and bears, as they go about their daily lives, as well as information about environmental conditions. Our research partners have been busy since last fall processing the almost 1.8 million photos taken by the cameras. In addition to sharing some initial findings, the workshop was an opportunity for community members to provide feedback about future locations for cameras and also what species of wildlife and plants we should be monitoring.



ZONING WORKSHOP

The Thaidene Nënë Department and Parks Canada hosted a zoning workshop in the Aurora College building on April 18 and 19. The participants included Elders, hunters, youth, LKDFN staff, and members of Thaidene Nënë Xá Dá Yáłtı, the management board for Thaidene Nënë. Over the two days, the participants discussed different places in the protected area, sharing stories and knowledge. In particular, they talked about places that should be closed to visitors and other places where visitors can go as long as they follow certain rules. These discussions will help the parties communicate with visitors to Thaidene Nënë. They will also be an important part of the management plan for the protected area.



PARKS CANADA OPERATIONS TRAINEES



Theron Abel-Desjarlais



Tyson Marlowe



Dacho Poole

We're excited to announce that three Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation members were hired in April by Parks Canada as parks operations trainees. Congratulations, Theron Abel-Desjarlais, Tyson Marlowe, and Dacho Poole!

Over six months, the trainees will learn about and gain experience in different aspects of parks operations, including fire management, search and rescue, trail building and maintenance, visitor engagement, and environmental monitoring.

OPPORTUNITIES

Thaidene Nënë Project Coordinator

The Thaidene Nënë Department is growing! We are looking to fill a newly created position. The Thaidene Nënë Project Coordinator is responsible for supporting the management of the Thaidene Nënë Department and the Ni Hat'ni Dene program, and leading certain projects and initiatives of the Thaidene Nënë Department. **Deadline to apply: May 30, 2023.**

Thaidene Nënë Economic Development Coordinator

The Economic Development Coordinator is responsible for leading the development of tourism programs and services and other related economic development initiatives for the Thaidene Nënë Indigenous Protected Area (inclusive of the national park reserve, territorial protected area, and wildlife conservation area) for LKDFN. **Deadline to apply: May 30, 2023.**

Thaidene Nënë Department Summer Students

The Thaidene Nënë Department is hiring six (6) summer students this year. Based out of Łutsël K'é, the summer students will work alongside the Ni Hat'ni Dene guardians, monitoring water quality, fish, and other wildlife; acting as ambassadors for Thaidene Nënë; providing information about the natural and cultural history of Łutsël K'é Dene lands; and supporting community activities, including the spiritual gathering. **Deadline to apply: May 30, 2023.**

Contract: Carpenters and Labourers

This summer, the Thaidene Nënë Department is building safety cabins for harvesters travelling on the land. We are looking for one lead carpenter and three assistant carpenters to work on the cabins from mid-August to September. **Deadline to apply: June 30, 2023.**

Thaidene Nënë Fund Trustee

LKDFN is seeking applications from members or other qualified persons to serve as a trustee for the Thaidene Nënë Fund. The Fund ensures the community is able to carry out its responsibilities within the protected area. It also supports other opportunities for Łutsël K'é Dene related to way of life, education/training, and tourism. **Deadline to apply: May 30, 2023.**

Thaidene Nënë Committee Members

LKDFN is seeking members to sit on the newly created Thaidene Nënë Committee. The committee will review non-political issues and matters concerning the Thaidene Nënë Indigenous Protected Area, and communicate with membership on Thaidene Nënë matters and initiatives. **Deadline to apply: May 30, 2023.**

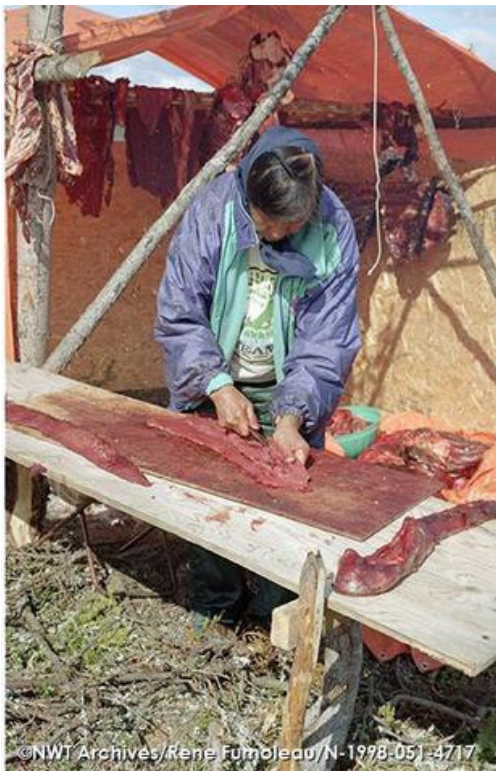
For more information about all of these opportunities, contact Iris at 867-785-0800 or manager@thaidenenene.ca, or come to the Thaidene Nënë/WLED office.

A NEW SERIES ON LANDOFTHEANCESTORS.CA

Over the last two years, we have been sharing profiles of the staff, leaders, and community members who are hard at work implementing our First Nation's vision for the Thaidene Nënë Indigenous Protected Area on our website and social media. This month, we started a new series of profiles about special places in Thaidene Nënë. Each post will have photographs, stories, and other information about a place that is particularly significant for Łutsël K'é Dene.

The first post is about ʔedacho Tué (Artillery Lake).

In future posts, we will visit other locations around Thaidene Nënë, including Kaché and Keldelé (Talthelei Narrows). If you have a place you would like us to profile or stories that you would like us to share, reach out!



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THAIDENE NĒNÉ XÁ DÁ YÁŁTI UPDATE



Thaidene Nënë Xá Dá Yáłti, the operational management board for Thaidene Nënë, has been meeting regularly, using the time to: make decisions regarding permits, clean-up, research, and monitoring, and move the management planning process along.

Board chair Addie Jonasson and member Emelie Saunders attended the COP15 conference on biodiversity in Montreal in December (just as we were putting out the last newsletter). They were part of a panel discussion about Indigenous protected areas in the NWT along with representatives from Ts'udé Niljné Tuyeta in Fort Good Hope.



In January, Thaidene Nënë Xá Dá Yáłti hosted a workshop in Dettah with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation. The objective of the workshop was to share information about TDNXY and the work done to date on the management plan.

The board has also been making progress on multi-party communications. Stay tuned for the launch of the new logo!



FRONTIER LODGE

After an incredible "return to normal" season in 2022, Frontier Lodge is set for another year to remember in 2023!

The fishing season is once again filled with clients from all over the world, including the United States, Italy, France, and Japan, to name a few.

We're also looking forward to welcoming more northern visitors and groups this season, including FOXY/SMASH, a non-profit offering workshops and peer-leader retreats about mental health, healthy relationships, and sexual health to youth in communities across the Canadian North.



Photo: Corey Myers

After a successful first event, we're excited to host our second annual Women's Wellness Retreat this fall (September 2-5). Retreat participants will have the opportunity to explore Thaidene Nënë, immerse themselves in cultural activities led by Łutsël K'é Dene elders and knowledge keepers, and participate in daily yoga sessions led by Kate Covello of Land and Heart Yoga. And all during a time of the year when the aurora borealis are lighting up the northern sky. There are still a few spots available for anyone that may be interested.

All in all, 2023 is shaping up to be another memorable year on the East Arm. Frontier Lodge can't wait to welcome new and returning guests and make new memories this season.



Photo: Corey Myers