

Zoning for Visitor Activities

Zoning is an important tool for encouraging good relationships with the land, ensuring visitors are directed to appropriate areas and sensitive ecological or cultural areas are protected. Zoning does not impact Aboriginal or treaty rights.

Cultural continuity and Indigenous ways of life are foundational to Thaidene Nënë agreements, and the Government of Northwest Territories' Protected Areas Act; as such, they are incorporated into the zoning descriptions.

Additional zoning maps for Thaidene Nënë can be found in Appendix A.

Zone I	<p>Areas within Thaidene Nënë that contain unique, threatened, or endangered natural or cultural features. Preservation is the key consideration. Visitor access is not permitted in some Zone Is, while in others, visitor access is permitted with restrictions.</p> <p>Motorized access is not permitted.</p>
Zone II	<p>Extensive areas within Thaidene Nënë where ecosystem processes and Indigenous ways of life continue. Visitors have opportunities to experience the living landscape in remote areas with few to no services or facilities.</p> <p>Motorized access is not permitted with two exceptions:¹</p> <p>Visitors may access Zone II via air charter or private aircraft landing on waterbodies;² and,</p> <p>Visitors may access Zone II by over snow vehicle (e.g., snowmobile).</p>
Zone III	<p>Areas within Thaidene Nënë that support cultural continuity and are managed as natural environments. Visitors have opportunities to experience nature and culture through outdoor recreation activities requiring minimal services or facilities of a rustic nature. There may be commercial leases in this zone.</p> <p>Motorized access is allowed.³ Visitors may access any Zone II shoreline adjacent to Zone III waters by motorized boat.</p>

1 Limited opportunity business licences may be available in Zone II in the National Park Reserve for Indigenous guide/outfitter businesses from Signatory Indigenous governments. These licensed businesses may use motorized boats for tours on: ?edacho Tué (Artillery Lake), Tesuchai Tu / Kesuchai Kuwe (Siltaza Lake), and Łúh Chogh Tué (Whitefish Lake).

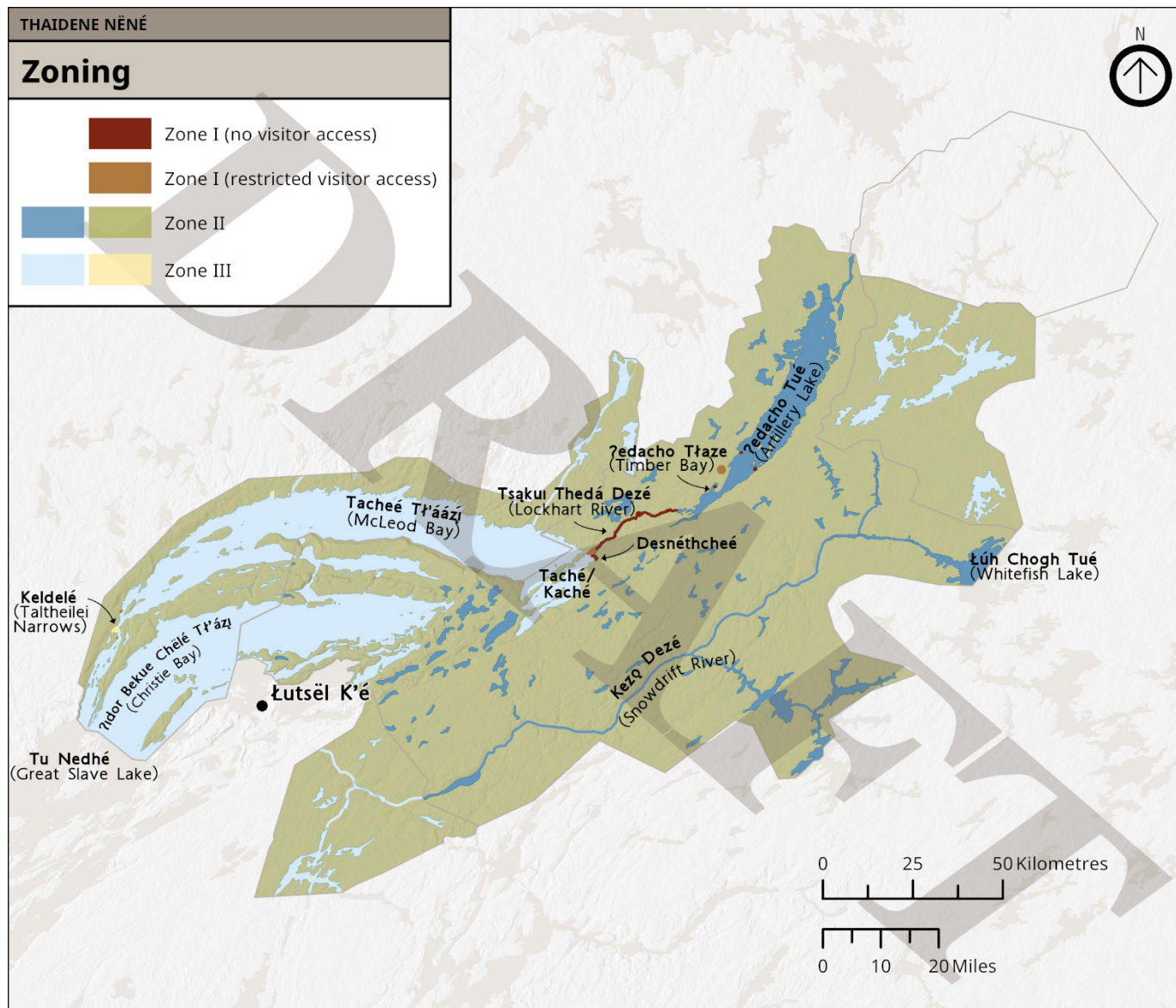
2 All aircraft take-offs and landings require an aircraft access permit in the National Park Reserve.

3 In the National Park Reserve, motorized access means aircraft with an aircraft access permit, motorized boats and over-snow vehicles.



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 Thaidene Nënë Relationship Plan,
 the management plan for Thaidene Nënë

Map 1 – Overview of Thaidene Nënë Zoning



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Temporal Closures

Temporal closures are tools to restrict visitor access to certain areas or activities for a specific period. These closures relate to various management needs, such as public safety, environmental protection, wildlife conservation, and/or to help facilitate harvesting activities for Indigenous peoples of the area. As there are different legislative regimes for the National Park Reserve and the Territorial Protected Area, the mechanism to apply temporal closures differs.

Zoning for Thaidene Nënë

Zone I locations

Zone I - No Visitor Access

Desnéthcheé (Spiritual Gathering Site)

The community of Łutsël K'é spends time at Desnéthcheé for a spiritual gathering every summer. There is personal and community infrastructure at the site, including a church and arbour. The gathering site of Desnéthcheé is a culturally important area closed to visitors. Invited guests of the Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation are allowed.

Dzén Kín (Rat Lodge) and Tsá Kín (Beaver Lodge)

Dzén Kín and Tsá Kín are sacred places on ʔedacho Tué (Artillery Lake) that are closed to visitor access. Interpretation about their importance will be provided.

Island in ʔedacho Tł'ázi (Timber Bay)

Gahdële, a powerful medicine man, is buried on this island in ʔedacho Tł'ázi on ʔedacho Tué. Visitor access is not allowed.

Zone I - Restricted Visitor Access – Guided/Accompanied Only

Taché/Kaché Village Site

Taché/Kaché is located at the mouth of Tsąkuł Thedá Dezé (Lockhart River). Visitors must be accompanied by Ni Hat'ni Dene, Parks Canada staff, or a licensed guide from a signatory Indigenous government.

ʔedacho Tł'ázi (Timber Bay) Village Site

This former village is very close to ʔedacho Tué (Artillery Lake). The site is also near to a Ni Hat'ni Dene operational cabin that is located at ʔedacho Tł'ázi. Visitors must be accompanied by Ni Hat'ni Dene, Parks Canada staff, or a licensed guide from a signatory Indigenous government.

Tsąkuł Thedá Dezé (Lockhart River)

Tsąkuł Thedá Dezé is sacred and includes Tsąkuł Thedá (Parry Falls). The Zone I area extends from the south end of ʔedacho Tué (Artillery Lake) to the mouth of the river, including the islands located there.



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Sacred sites must be respected. They are not to be played with, or they lose their power. Unless otherwise noted, when visiting Tsąkui Thedá Dezé Zone I, visitors must be accompanied by Thaidene Néné, Ni Hat'ni Dene, Parks Canada staff, or a licensed guide from a signatory Indigenous government. Licensed guides from a signatory Indigenous government may use motorized boats for tours at the mouth of Tsąkui Thedá Dezé (Lockhart River).

Tsąkui Thedá Dezé Zone I includes areas where visitor access is further restricted:

- Tsąkui Thedá Dezé access prohibited in the river corridor
- Tsąkui Thedá (Parry Falls) permission required from Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation

Zone II locations

Zone II - Land-based

Zone II -Water-based

All areas of Thaidene Néné not otherwise identified as a Zone I or Zone III are Zone II. This is the majority of the National Park Reserve and the Territorial Protected Area. Designation of wilderness in the National Park Reserve through the National Parks of Canada Wilderness Area Declaration Regulations will not be pursued at this time.

Zone III locations

Zone III - Land-based

Zone III -Water-based

Tu Nedhé (Great Slave Lake)

The waters of Tu Nedhé serve as the front country of Thaidene Néné, with motorized boating a key form of access and recreation.

Tthe Káljka Tué (Stark Lake)

Tthe Káljka Tué waters in the National Park Reserve are Zone III to allow for the continuation of motorized boating.

Waterbodies in the Territorial Protected Area

All waterbodies in the Territorial Protected Area are Zone III.

Reliance Fuel Cache and Commercial Lease

Reliance has significant infrastructure, more than other areas of the National Park Reserve, with several modern buildings and a fuel cache. The lands where this infrastructure is located are Zone III; this includes the Reliance fuel cache and the Trophy Lodge lease.

Keldelé (Taltheilei Narrows) Commercial Lease

The lease area for Great Slave Lake Lodge including the airstrip in the Territorial Protected Area is Zone III.

Tł'ąkěle (Thompson Landing) Commercial Lease

The lease area for Indian Mountain Lodge in the Territorial Protected Area is Zone III.

?ena Tué (Gagnon Lake) Leases

The commercial leases on Gagnon Lake in the Territorial Protected Area are Zone III.



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Other Important Sites

In addition to zoning, two other designations are used to identify sites: culturally/ecologically sensitive areas in the National Park Reserve; and sites of cultural importance within Thaidene Nënë.

Culturally and Environmentally Sensitive Areas

This designation within Thaidene Nënë applies only in the National Park Reserve. It is for smaller areas that contain significant and sensitive resources that require special protection or management. Culturally and ecologically sensitive areas can be applied within any of the zone types. Currently, no ecologically sensitive areas are identified.

Visitor use and/or resource management strategies will be defined by specific guidelines. Because of the sensitivity of these sites, they may not be shown on maps. As new information is obtained, it may be necessary to refine the boundaries of sensitive areas or to identify new ones. If necessary, this designation may be removed from some sites. Boundary changes will not require a revision to Thaidene Nënë badı xá.

Taché/Kaché Region

The Taché/Kaché region is of significant cultural importance to the Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation. Within this region is the village site of the same name, gravesites and other sacred sites, the mouth of Tsaku Thedá and Desnéthcheé (the spiritual gathering site). Visitor guidelines for the Kaché Region will be developed as part of a site-specific plan. A rough outline of the Taché/Kaché region is shown in Appendix A; the map will be refined during development of the site-specific plan.

Nit'ér Nué Naá Tí'áázı (Wildbread Bay)

Nit'ér Nué Naá Tí'áázı is a culturally important area to the Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation. It is used annually in the late summer through to early fall for harvesting. Visitor access will be restricted during times of harvest. The closure will be time limited and seasonal.

Łúh Chogh Tué (Whitefish Lake) Village Site

This village site is an important birthplace and home for several families from Łutsël K'é. Work is ongoing to understand this site more fully. Visitors must be accompanied by Thaidene Nënë, Ni Hat'ni Dene, Parks Canada staff, or a licensed guide from a signatory Indigenous government.



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Sites of Cultural Importance

This designation within Thaidene Nënë applies to areas that are culturally important but may not have Thaidene Nënë specific visitor restrictions. Archaeological sites are located throughout Thaidene Nënë. Visitors are prohibited from disturbing archaeological sites under legislation. If a visitor comes across an archaeological site, they must not handle, move, or otherwise disturb archaeological artifacts.

Sites of Cultural Importance may be managed through other legislation and/or regulations to ensure a respectful relationship with these areas. Specific guidelines or protocols for each sensitive area may also exist or be developed to help inform visitor use, such as paying the land.⁴ Because of the sensitivity of these sites, they may not be shown on maps; however, rules, guidelines and/or protocols will be communicated with visitors.

Hachoghe's Shovel

Hachoghe's Shovel is at the south end of ʔedacho Tué (Artillery Lake). ʔedacho Tué used to be called Tsátué (Beaver Lake) because there was a giant beaver living there. Hachoghe was a powerful person – known to other Dene as Yamq̄ria and Yamq̄zha. He protected the people from the giant animals, including the giant beavers. Hachoghe used a shovel to dig into the beaver's lodge, only to have the beaver escape. Hachoghe put his shovel down to stop the beaver from getting away. But the beaver was so strong he broke it. The handle of the shovel is still visible. This site is accessible for visitors, but there are protocols for travellers to pay the land at this site when coming to ʔedacho Tué.

Bet'síghí (Utsingi Point)

Water is alive here. The site is accessible to visitors but there are traditional protocols encouraging all travellers to pay the land and be quiet and respectful when passing by Bet'síghí.

Village Sites

There are many other villages sites within Thaidene Nënë. More will be done to better understand the sites and determine the best management approach, some may not be appropriate to identify.

Arctic Star Lodge

This lodge on the north shore of Kaché Kuwé (McLeod Bay) is an important area to Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation. Many members worked there for long periods of time that took them away from their families.

All Burial Sites

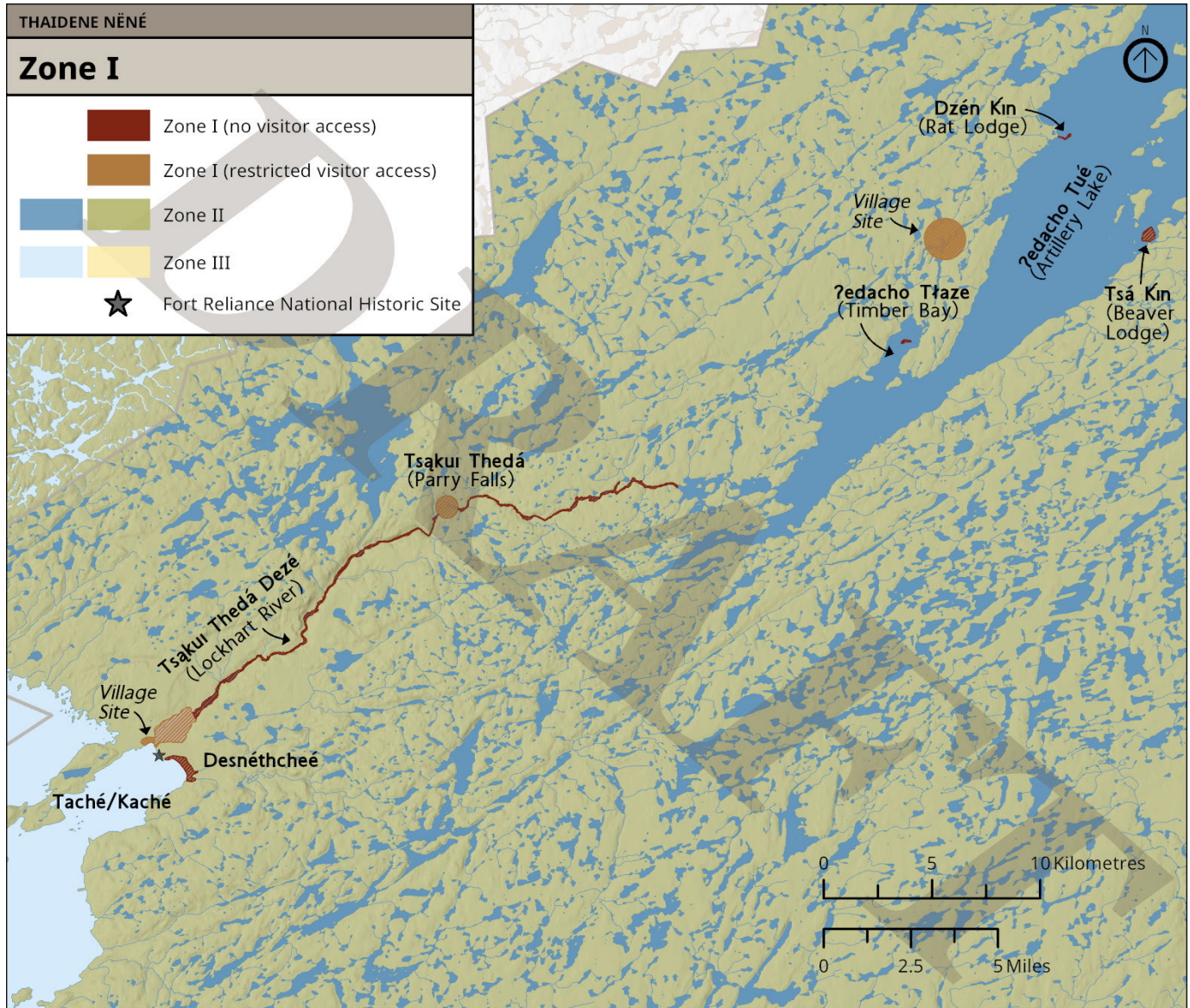
Burial sites are located throughout Thaidene Nënë, and burials continue there to this day. Visitor access to known and/or marked burial sites is prohibited within 10 metres. If a visitor comes across a burial site they should leave the immediate area.

⁴ Paying the land is a protocol where people pay the land and water with something valuable like tobacco, spruce boughs, tea, or sugar as a sign of respect.



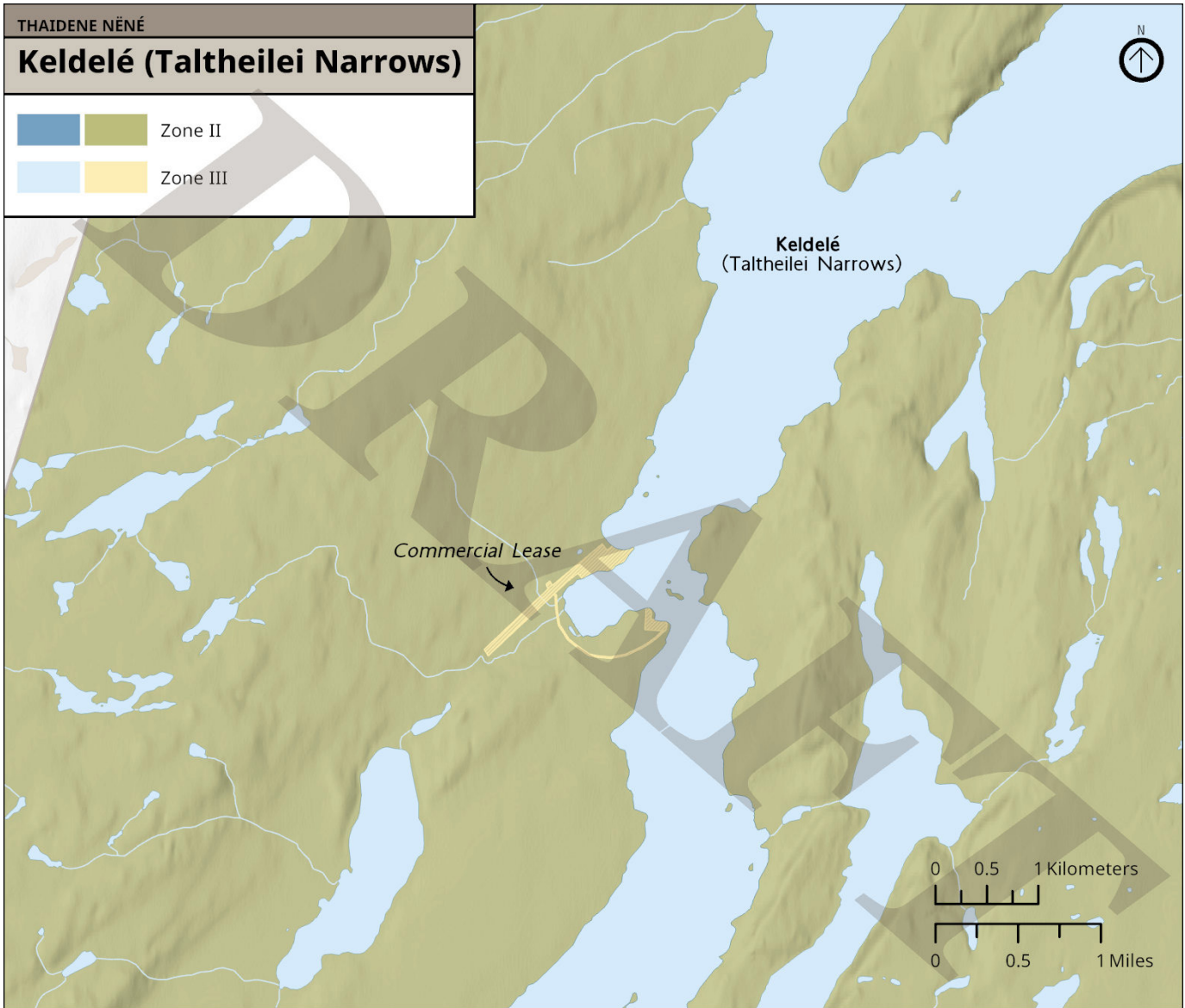
Appendix A – Zoning Maps

Map 2: Zone I Desnéthcheé, Dzen Kin, Tsá Kin, Island in ʔedacho Tł'ázi, Taché /Kaché Village Site, ʔedacho Tł'ázi Village Site, and Tsákuí Thedá Dezé



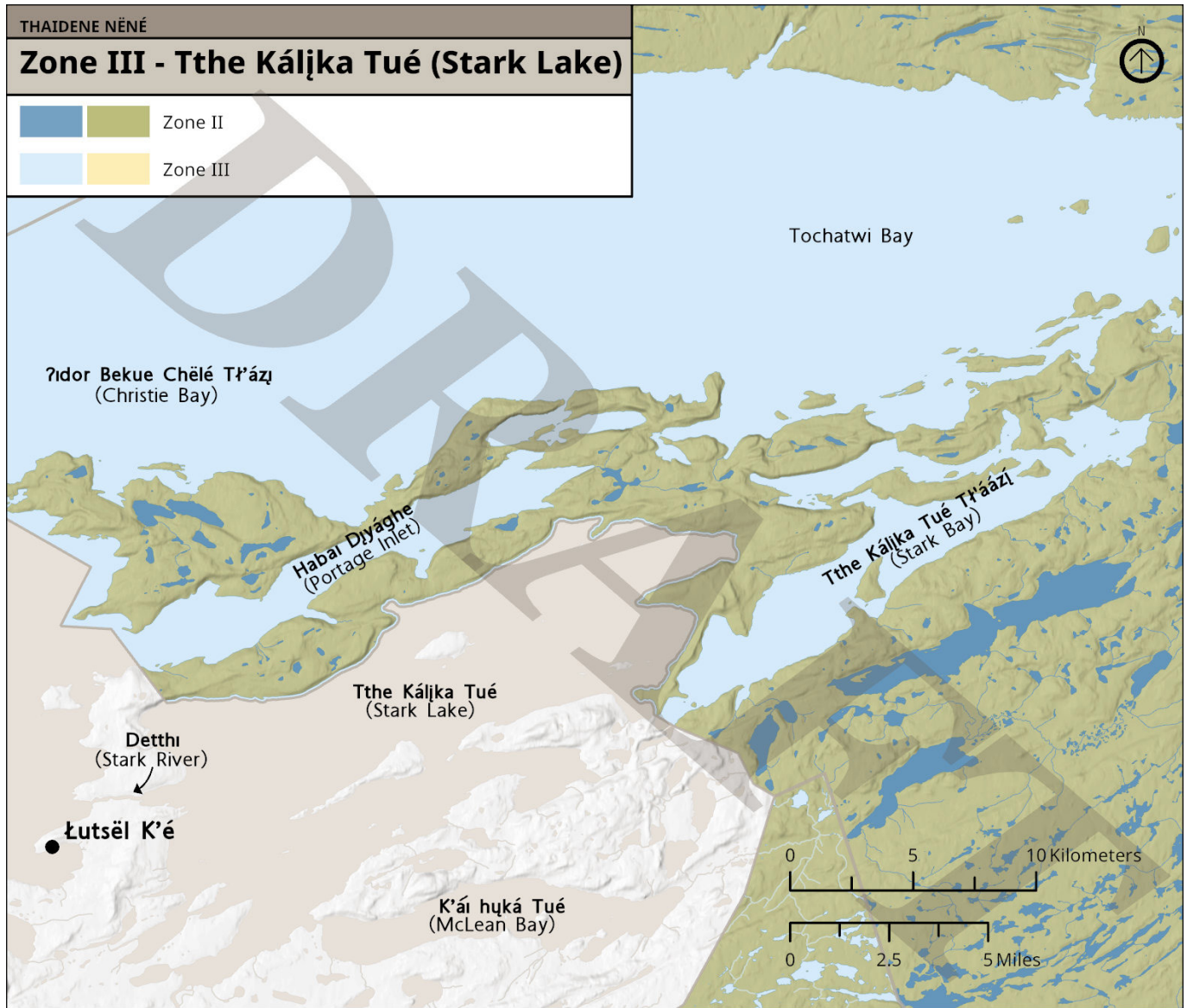
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Map 3: Zone III Keldelé (Taltheilei Narrows) (Commercial Lease)



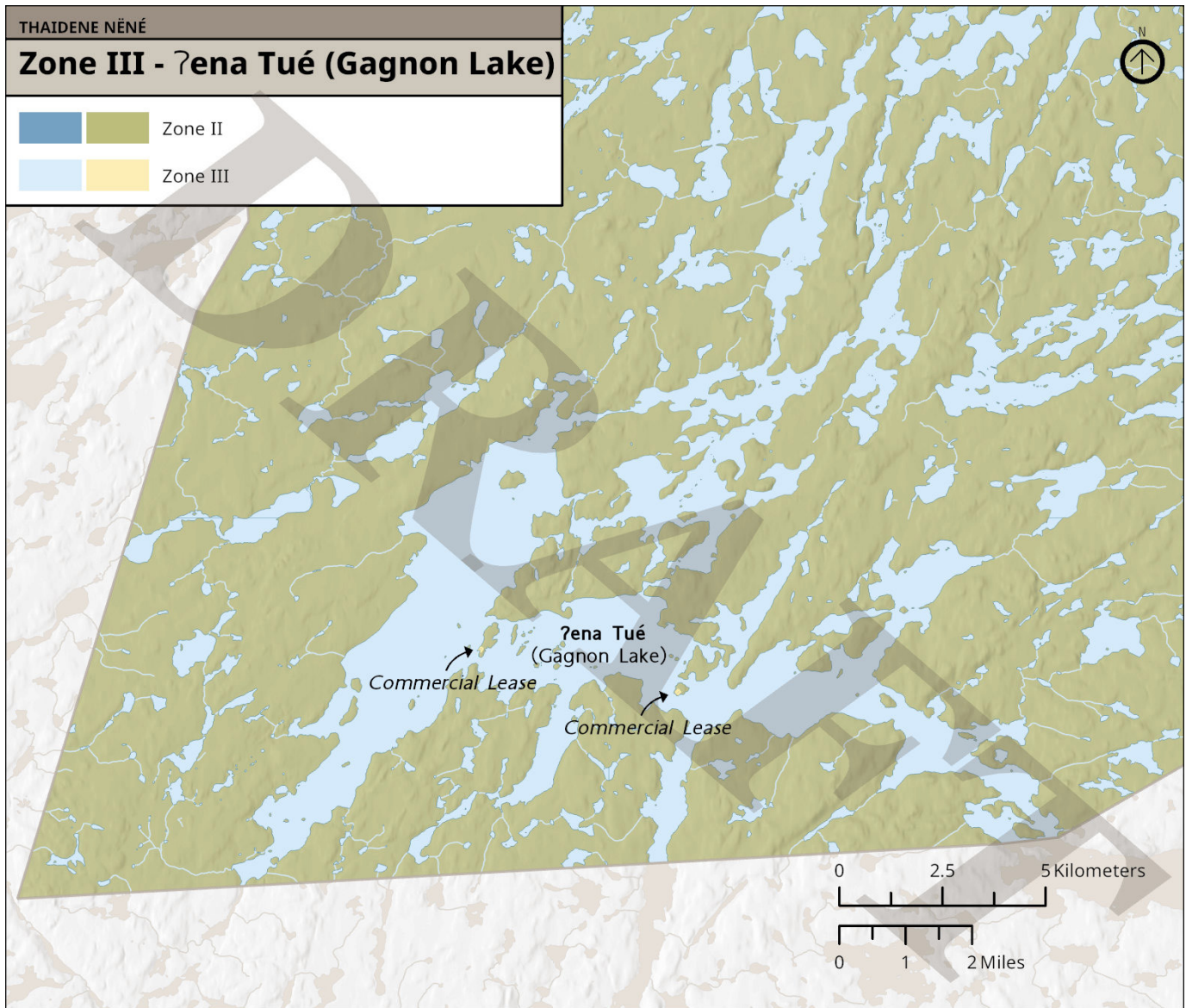
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Map 4: Zone III Tthe Káljka Tué (Stark Lake)



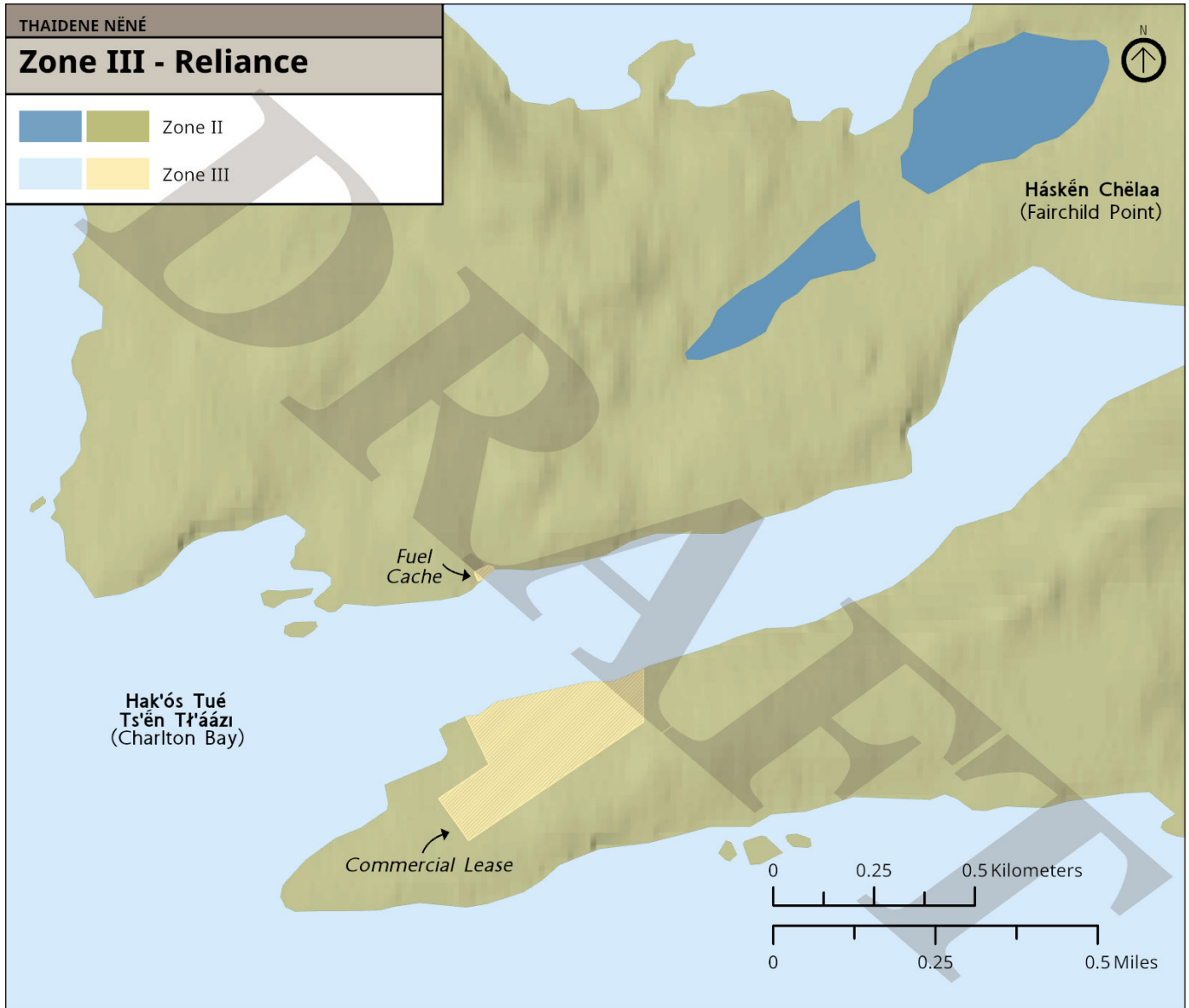
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Map 5: Zone III ʔena Tué (Gagnon Lake) Commercial Leases



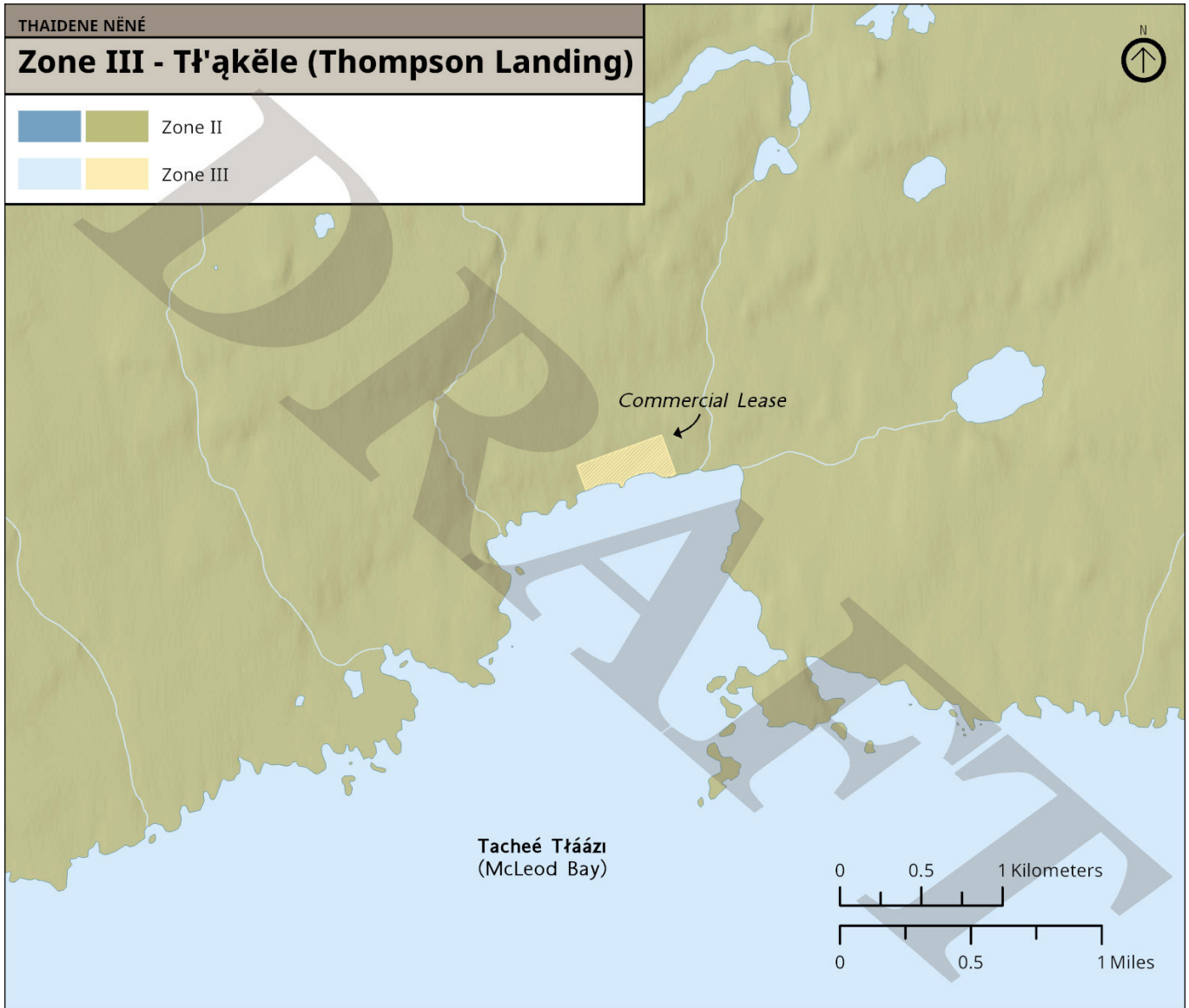
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Map 6: Zone III Reliance Fuel Cache and Commercial Lease



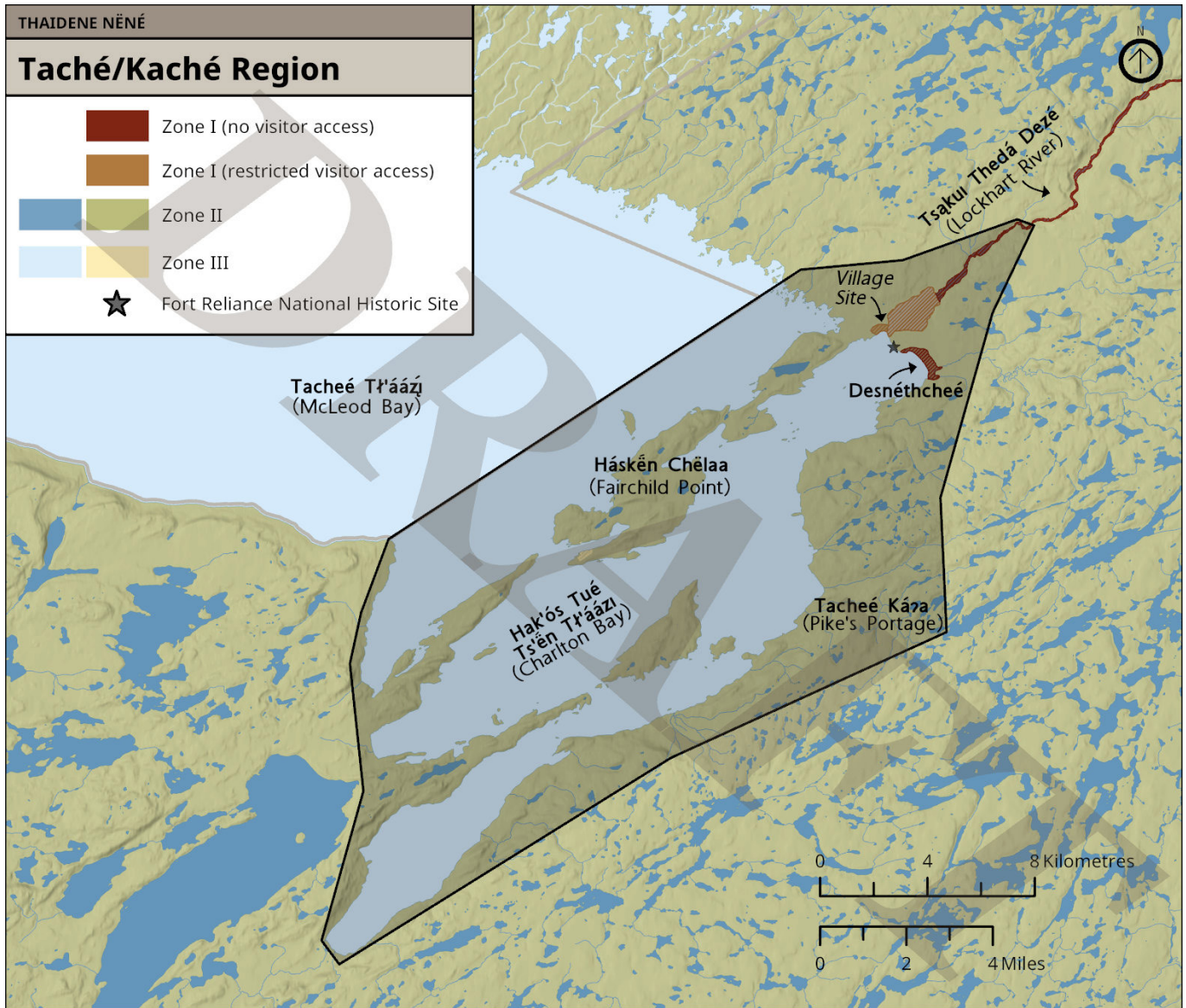
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Map 7: Zone III Tł'ąkěle (Commercial Lease)



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Map 8: Culturally Sensitive Area - Taché/Kaché Region Draft Outline



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