



# Edézhzhíe

## Candidate Area



### November 2009

The Edézhzhíe Working Group finalizes the Recommendations Report after a public review process. The report is submitted to the Dehcho First Nations, Tłı̨chǫ Government, territorial and federal governments and other working group organizations.

### June 2010

The Dehcho First Nations and Tłı̨chǫ Government request the establishment of Edézhzhíe as a National Wildlife Area under the *Canada Wildlife Act*.

### 2016

Dehcho First Nations and Government of Canada begin work on an agreement to finalize establishment of Edézhzhíe.

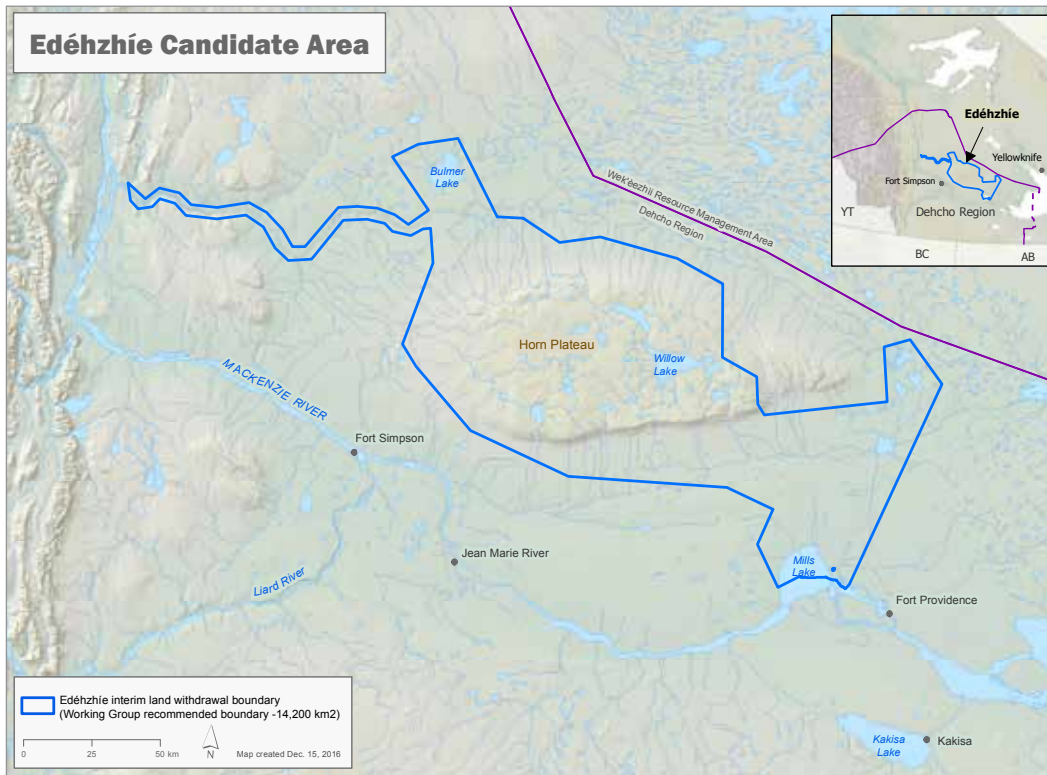
The Edézhzhíe (*eh-day-shae*) Candidate Protected Area of 14,200 km<sup>2</sup> is located in the Dehcho region of the Northwest Territories.

Edézhzhíe has great ecological and cultural significance to the communities of Fort Providence, Fort Simpson, Behchokò, Jean Marie River, Whatì and Wrigley.

The Horn Plateau, a prominent landform in Edézhzhíe, contains the source waters of the Willowlake, Horn and Rabbitskin Rivers. Traditional knowledge identifies the Horn Plateau as a place that could be relied upon during times of food scarcity in the Mackenzie Valley. Mills Lake and the lower Horn River areas are important harvesting areas for surrounding communities.

A Land Withdrawal Order exists granting an interim land withdrawal of surface and subsurface rights until June 5, 2019.

Cooperative management of the protected area will ensure all people have the opportunity to respect and enjoy this unique area for generations.



## Next Steps

- The Dehcho First Nations, Tłı̨chǫ Government, the Government of the Northwest Territories, Government of Canada and other partners are working towards establishing a National Wildlife Area, which will provide long-term protection for this culturally and ecologically important area.

## Why is it important?

- The Horn Plateau is a unique ecosystem. The headwater lakes and muskeg on the Plateau feed the Rabbitskin, Willowlake and Horn Rivers and Mills Lake, all of which are important fish and wildlife habitat, and sources of clean water.
- The richness and diversity of Edézhíe have made this area a central cultural and spiritual gathering place for the Dehcho and Tłı̨chǫ peoples that figures prominently in Dene legends.
- Edézhíe hosts numerous cultural sites, trails and harvesting areas, and has traditionally been used for hunting, fishing, trapping and other activities. Mills Lake is a key northern wetland on the Central and Mississippi continental flyways for migratory birds.