



****NEWS RELEASE****

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RESEARCH BY WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY CANADA INFORMS MASSIVE EXPANSION OF NAHANNI NATIONAL PARK RESERVE

Field research by WCS Canada scientist was key to new park boundary

TORONTO (June 9, 2009) – Field studies of wide-ranging wildlife by Wildlife Conservation Society Canada figured prominently in the massive expansion of Nahanni National Park, announced today by the Government of Canada and the Dehcho First Nation. The decision expands the Park from 4766 square kilometres to 30,745 square kilometres of the South Nahanni River watershed and adjacent karst features– a globally renowned wilderness area in the Northwest Territories.

“Nahanni is one of the great natural areas in the world,” said Dr. John Weaver, who studied grizzly bears, woodland caribou, and Dall’s sheep in this remote region during 2002-2007. “The previous boundary was too narrow and too small for these big animals, and this expansion will protect critical habitat for these vulnerable wildlife species.”

Expansion of the Park makes it one of the largest in the world -- 1.5-times the size of the clustered parks in the Canadian Rockies -- with no roads and no major trails. The Park occurs within the traditional territory of the Dehcho First Nation, who were directly involved in the expansion process. An additional 7,600 square kilometres in the South Nahanni headwaters has also been withdrawn from development for consideration as a separate but contiguous national park in the territory of the Sahtu First Nation.

“The studies carried out by Dr. Weaver provided the solid scientific basis for revising the Park’s boundary to help ensure its ecological integrity,” stated Dr. Stephen Woodley, chief scientist for Parks Canada. “This momentous decision by the Canadian government represents a new way of thinking about conservation at larger scales,” said Dr. Justina Ray, Executive Director of WCS Canada. Dr. Weaver’s reports about Nahanni wildlife can be found at the WCS Canada website www.wcscanada.org.

The Wildlife Conservation Society saves wildlife and wild places. We do so through science, conservation, and education. Together these activities change attitudes towards nature and help people imagine wildlife and humans living in harmony. WCS Canada is committed to this mission because it is essential to the integrity of life on Earth.







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Expansion of Nahanni National Park Reserve L'agrandissement de la réserve de parc national Nahanni

Nahanni Expansion Boundary

Limites pour l'expansion de Nahanni

Legend / Légende

- Expanded boundary  Limites élargies
- Nahanni National Park Reserve  Réserve de parc national Nahanni
- Greater Nahanni Ecosystem  Grand écosystème de Nahanni
- Dehcho-Sahtu boundary  Frontière Dehcho - Sahtu
- Mining Access Roads  Routes d'accès aux ressources minières
- Roads  Routes

