A faint, stylized illustration of a bird of prey, possibly an eagle or hawk, perched on a globe. The bird is shown in profile, facing right, with its wings slightly spread. The globe is light blue and white, representing the Earth. The background is a light, textured grey.

# Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation

Sustainable Development based on Denesoline Beliefs and Traditions

Presentation to the MVEIRB Panel on the  
Proposed De Beers Gahcho Kue Diamond Mine

# Position

- LKDFN position on the proposed project is not an outright no, just not at this time
  - Sustainability Perspective
  - Caribou Impacts
  - Past Performance
- As owners and protectors of the land, LKDFN cannot in good conscience agree to this project

# Position

- LKDFN must not be naive to the situation in the NWT and from hearing from the parties this week
  - Federal Government
  - GNWT
  - Parties



# Overview

- Connections
  - Proximity
  - Water Connections
  - Socio-Economic
- TK Report Summary
  - Recommendations
- Concerns
  - Environmental: Caribou
  - Environmental: Water
  - Environmental: Fish/ Fish Habitat
  - Public: Socio-Economic
  - Public: De Beers Past Performance
  - Public/Environmental: Proposed Protected Area
- Measures
- Conclusions

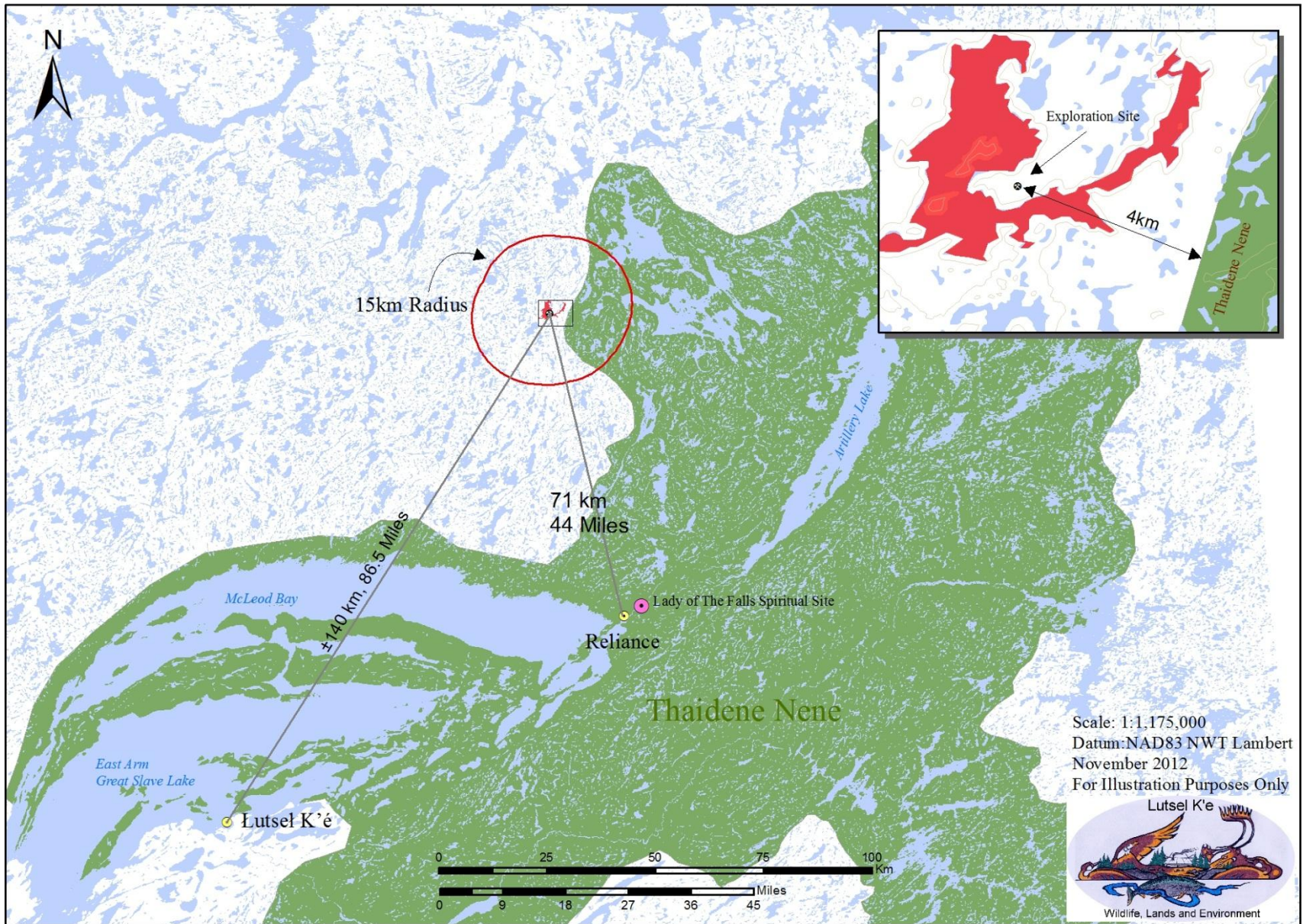


# Connections

Lutsel K'e Proximity and Relations to  
the Gahcho Kue Development



# GahCho Kué Project Location





# Location Connection

- The Lutsel K'e Dene have lived and will continue to travel in the area of Gahcho Kue
- Wildlife will continue to pass through the Gahcho Kue area and will continue to be harvested/consumed by the Dene people
- The Lutsel K'e Dene must be assured that the connections to the land of our ancestors will remain strong, long after the mine has left; this must be understood by the Panel and the company

# Water Connection

- The water from the mine site will end up in Great Slave Lake, Lutsel K'e Dene drink from the Lake, water quality and quantity are critically important
- The quality and quantity of the water affects the health of the fish, and the fish will continue to be harvested/consumed by the Lutsel K'e Dene
- All wildlife require safe, clean water, and the Lutsel K'e Dene require there to be healthy wildlife



# Socio-Economic Connection

- There will be opportunities for the community members to be employed at the proposed mine site in all stages of development
- The proposed development has the potential to incite economic growth in the community
- The proposed development also has the potential to cause an array of negative social impacts to the community

A wide-angle photograph of a vast, flat, snow-covered landscape. A single, winding path of footprints leads from the bottom center towards the horizon. The sky is a clear, pale blue, and a bright sun is visible in the upper right, creating a lens flare effect. The overall scene is serene and open.

# Gahcho Kue Traditional Knowledge Report Summary

# Gahcho Kue TK Report

- Background
- Context
- Water
- Caribou
- Land Use
- Concerns
- Recommendations





# Background

- Original Report 2006 – not released
- Working Group reconvened
- Report re-written to only include GK data
- Interviews from original report verified
- Workshops held to approve report with Elders, with WLEC, and with Council
- Report completed with concerns and recommendations for mitigation

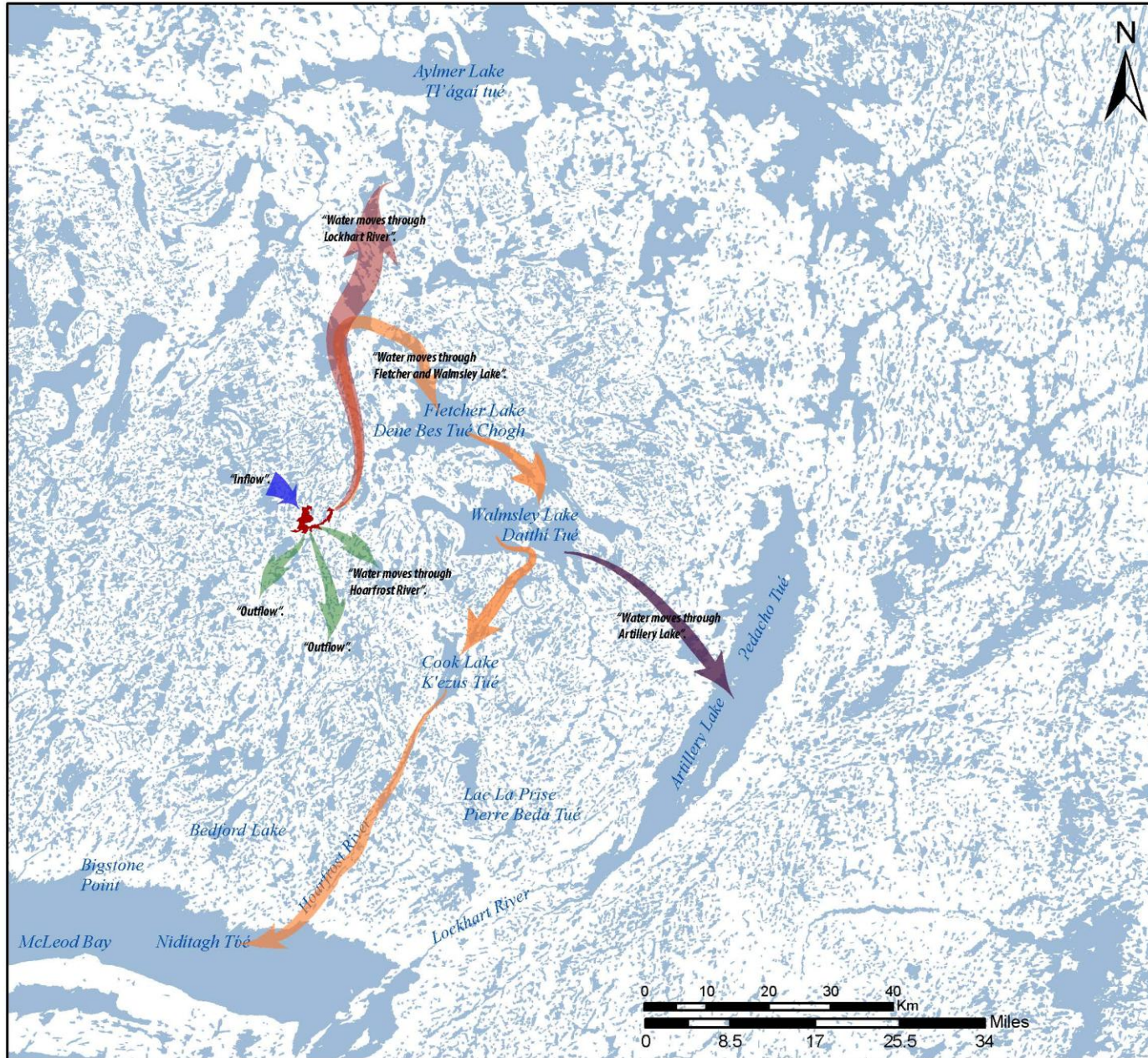
# Context

- “We have to respect the land, anywhere. Not just because it has minerals on it. Anywhere, we respect the land. It’s always been like that, even when the land had no resources on it, same thing.”
- Living off the land makes the Dene people who they are, therefore the Dene must respect the land
- The Dene are speaking from the experience of lifetimes on the land, and the experience with three other mines on the traditional territory



# Traditional Knowledge in the GahCho Kué Nēne Direction of Water Flow from Kennady Lake

*Note: This map only reflects Lutsel K'e Denesuline Land Use in the GahCho Kué Study Area. The Lutsel K'e Denesuline have occupied and used the entirety of their traditional territory since time immemorial.*



- Eastern outflow as indicated by TK
- Inflow as indicated by TK
- Southern outflows as indicated by TK
- Northern outflow as indicated by TK (To Lockhart River)
- Northern outflow as indicated by TK (To Hoar frost River)
- Kennady Lake / Gahcho Kue

Scale: 1:900,000  
Datum: NAD83 NWT Lambert  
November 2012

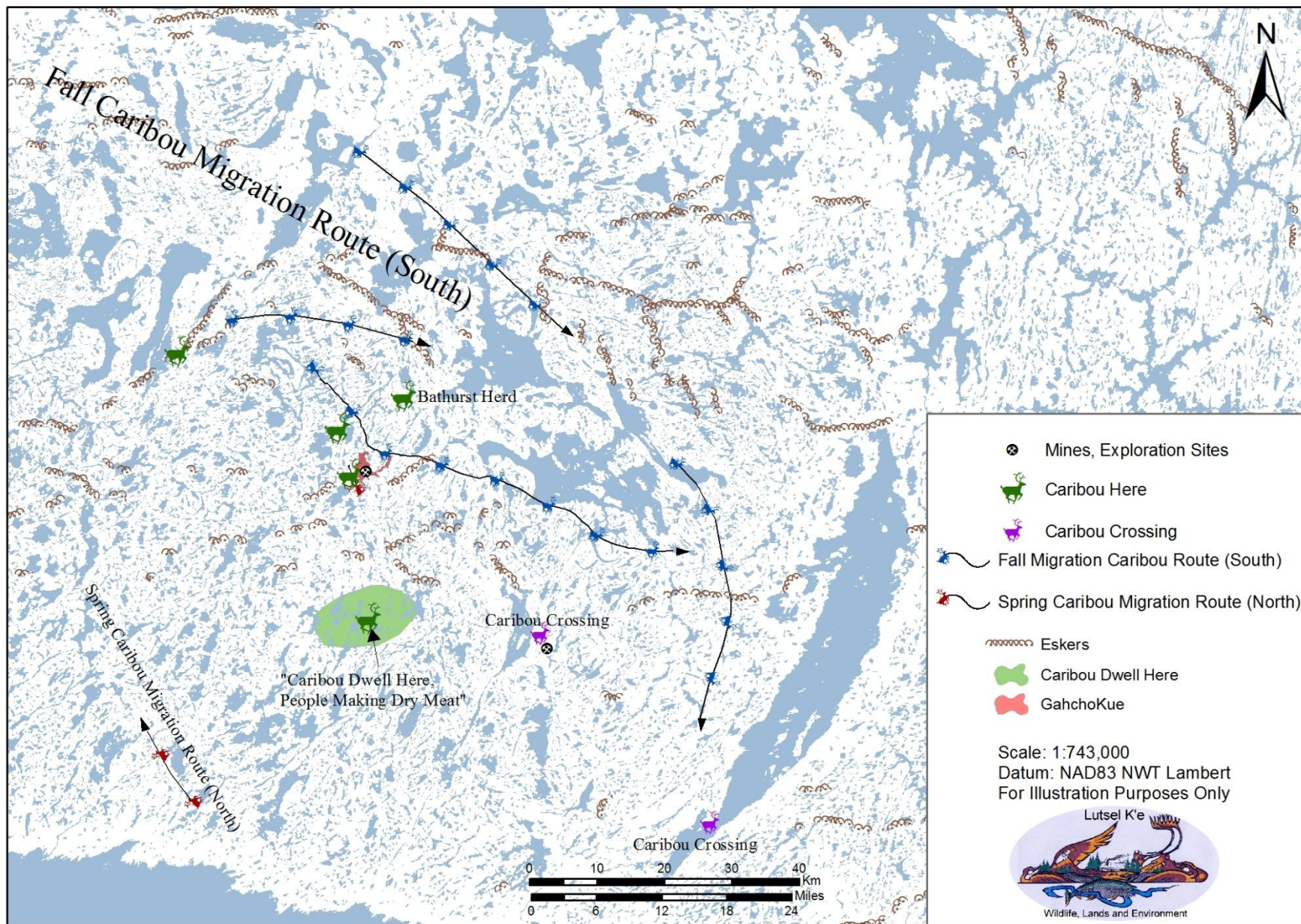
**For Illustrative  
Purposes Only**





# Traditional Knowledge in the Gahcho Kué region Caribou

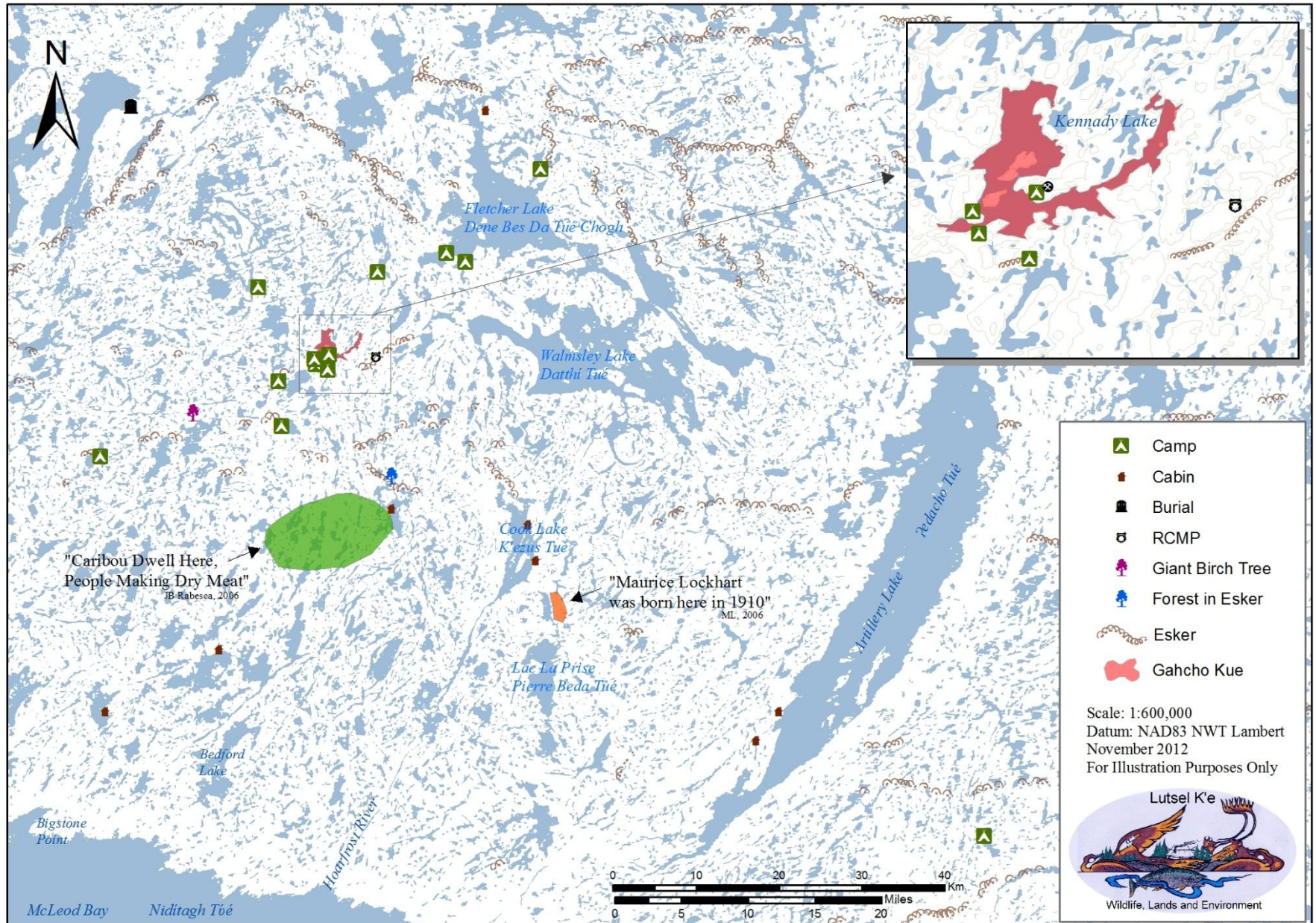
*Note: This map only reflects Lutsel K'e Denesuline Land Use in the Gahcho Kué Study Area. The Lutsel K'e Denesuline have occupied and used the entirety of their traditional territory since time immemorial.*





# Traditional Knowledge around Gahcho Kué Area Camps, Cabins, and other sites

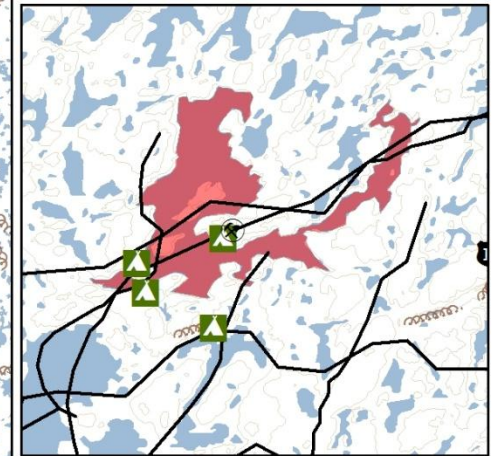
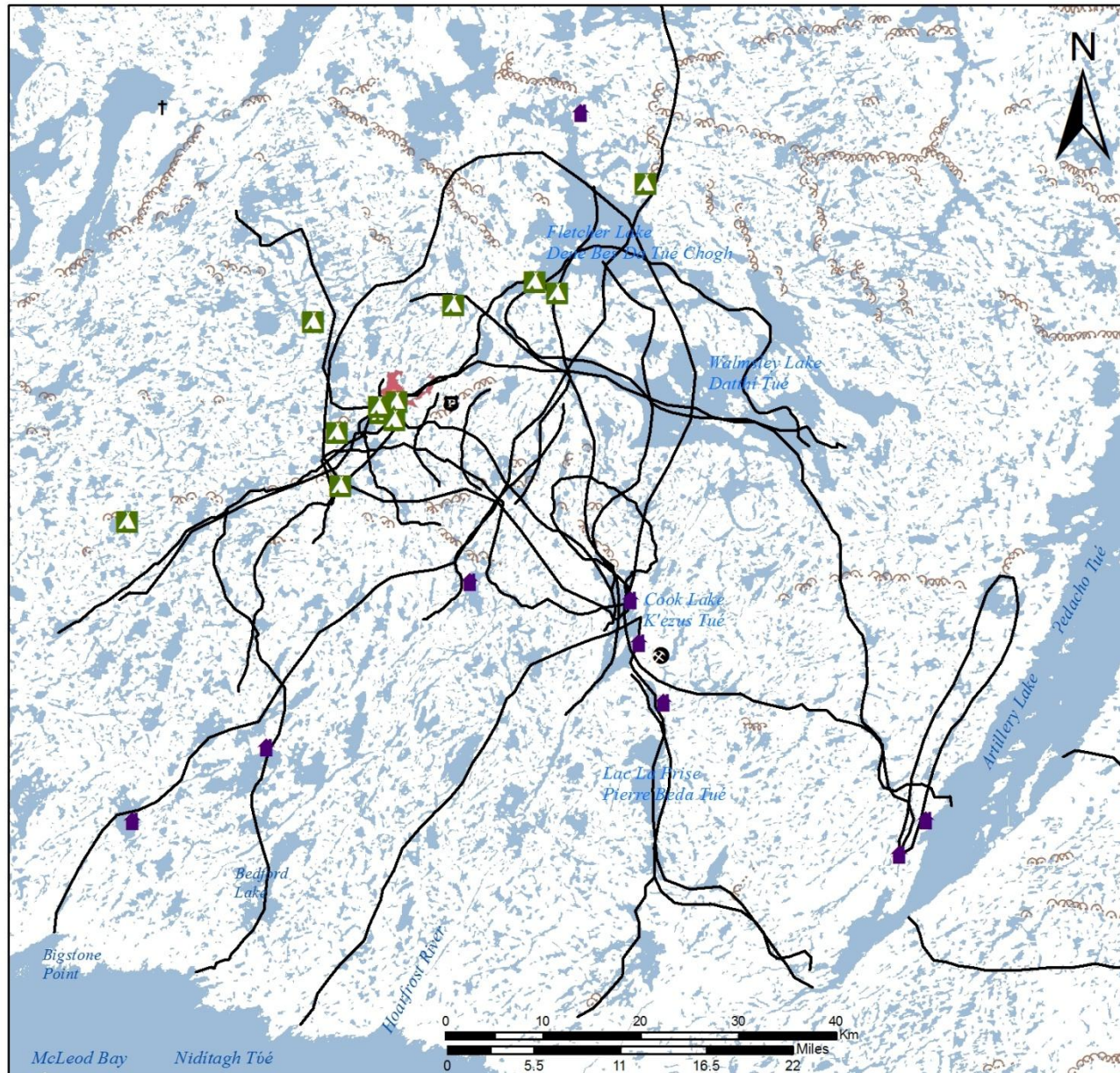
Note: This map only reflects Lutsel K'e Denesuline Land Use in the Gahcho Kué Study Area. The Lutsel K'e Denesuline have occupied and used the entirety of their traditional territory since time immemorial.





# Traditional Knowledge of GahCho Kué Nēne Trails, Traplines and Cabins

*Note: This map only reflects Lutsel K'e Denesuline Land Use in the GahCho Kué Study Area. The Lutsel K'e Denesuline have occupied and used the entirety of their traditional territory since time immemorial.*



- Camp
- Burial
- Cabin
- Mine Site
- RCMP
- Trails and Traplines
- Esker
- Gahcho Kue

Scale: 1:600,000  
Datum: NAD83 NWT Lambert  
November 2012  
For Illustration Purposes Only





# Concerns

- Damage to the immediate surrounding area
- Contamination of the Lockhart River Watershed
- Fish: relocation and pit reclamation
- Caribou health: sick, injured, leg damage
- Caribou migration patterns
- Habituation of caribou and bears to people
- Proper monitoring by the right people
- Proper road construction to minimize impacts
- Runoff from waste rock piles
- Education/training, consultation, accommodation

# TK Report Recommendations 1

- Build an overflow channel for Dyke A and continually monitor this channel
- Do not return fish to Kennady Lake once that pits have been dismantled, their habitat is destroyed
- Some healthy fish be placed in different lakes in the same area, but to prevent overpopulation, give some of the healthy/sick fish to Lutsel K'e (sick fish for dogs)
- Fish camps for fish outs
- Prevent runoff from waste rock piles from flowing into the Lockhart River Watershed

# TK Report Recommendations 2

- Build a ditch to contain contaminated runoff from the waste rock piles, to prevent ingestion of contaminants by the caribou
- De Beers make every effort to prevent caribou from feeding in the mine area
- The proposed project be continually monitored by the Lutsel K'e Dene
- Create caribou monitoring teams from Lutsel K'e that would provide continuous 24-hour monitoring during each 2 week migration period



# TK Report Recommendations 3

- The depth of the roadbed be kept as shallow as possible, and that the road be constructed with smaller rocks or sand, shale injures caribou
- Create designated parking places on the land, not on the lakes, where trucks stop and drivers rest, to prevent contamination of the watershed
- The Gahcho Kue spur and winter roads should be monitored and managed in a way that is acceptable to Lutsel K'e, this means effective consultation

# TK Report Recommendations 4

- De Beers support the involvement of the LKDFN at all stages of decision-making
- De Beers should have regular meetings with the LKDFN, especially when discussing changes to the project
- De Beers create employment opportunities for the community through proper training and education



# LKDFN Concerns

Environmental Impacts:  
Caribou



# Winter Road

- Fragmentation of habitat
- Injuries to caribou trying to cross
- Splitting of herds through confusion and fear
- Forcing caribou further east around the eskers and out into the barren lands – implications to cost of hunting and harvesting for community members with low income

# Health

- Insufficient research into impact of dust deposition to caribou health – lichen
- Potential impacts of waste rock pile runoff on caribou health
- Impacts of caribou use of waste rock piles in closure

# Cumulative Effects

- 2<sup>nd</sup> mine in the same watershed, 4<sup>th</sup> mine on Bathurst herd range
  - What is critical mass?
- Migration route changes from all development
  - Roads in particular
- Cumulative impacts of noise disturbance, scents, and vehicle presence in the barrens





# LKDFN Concerns

Environmental Impacts:  
Water

# Water Quality

- Kennady Lake reconnection to flow regime
  - Potential seepage from FPK facility
  - Kennady Lake as water management pond
- Downstream monitoring south of the mine site, and monitoring connections where TK supports water flow
- Any 'slight' impact to the Lockhart River is a significant impact



# LKDFN Concerns

Environmental Impact:  
Fish/Fish Habitat



# Fish Compensation

- Still undefined, the fish compensation plans must be finalized before issuing of any permits for the development
- Lack of communication between DFO and LKDFN as to proper compensation planning
- Downstream fish monitoring (Hoarfrost)



# LKDFN Concerns

Public Concerns:  
Socio-economic



# Employment by NWT Community

NWT Community	Person Years	% of Total Employment	# of Active Employees	% of Total Employment
Fort Smith	6	2%	7	2%
Hay River	33	13%	4	14%
<b>Lutsel K'e</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>
Behchoko	18	7%	19	6%
Gameti	2	1%	2	1%
Wekweeti	2	1%	2	1%
Wha Ti	3	1%	5	2%
Yellowknife	170	68%	213	68%
Other NWT	15	6%	19	6%

Source: 2011 Snap Lake Socio-Economic Report

# Employment

- Presently we have a large number of employable community members that are unable to secure jobs at a mine site due to the barriers created by criminal records.
- We have also had reports of community members feeling that they are being discriminated against when working at the mine sites. Both male and female workers felt that the southern workers were prejudiced against aboriginal workers.



# Social Impacts

- Increased mining development coincides with increased crime and violent crime rates at the community level
- IBA payouts have coincided with increased activity at the health centre in Lutsel K'e
- Increased drug and alcohol use with increased mining activities

# Social Impacts

- The idea of “mining the land” is philosophically against the cultural values of Dene people. It is seen as disrespectful to the land and animals, it devalues community members’ sense of self, and limits personal and cultural growth
- We are living in a family-oriented community and culture. The work cycle of 2 weeks in, 2 weeks out contributes to the deterioration of family structures and creates single parent homes



A wide, flat, snow-covered landscape under a bright blue sky with a sun flare. A path of footprints leads from the bottom center towards the horizon. The sun is high in the sky, creating a strong lens flare effect.

# LKDFN Concerns

Public Concern:  
Performance of Snap Lake

# Snap Lake Performance

- Of the 3 operational mines, the most often out of compliance is Snap Lake
- Lack of socio-economic benefits for LK
- Spill record:
  - 20,000L of diesel fuel
  - Over 600,000L of sewage/grey water spill



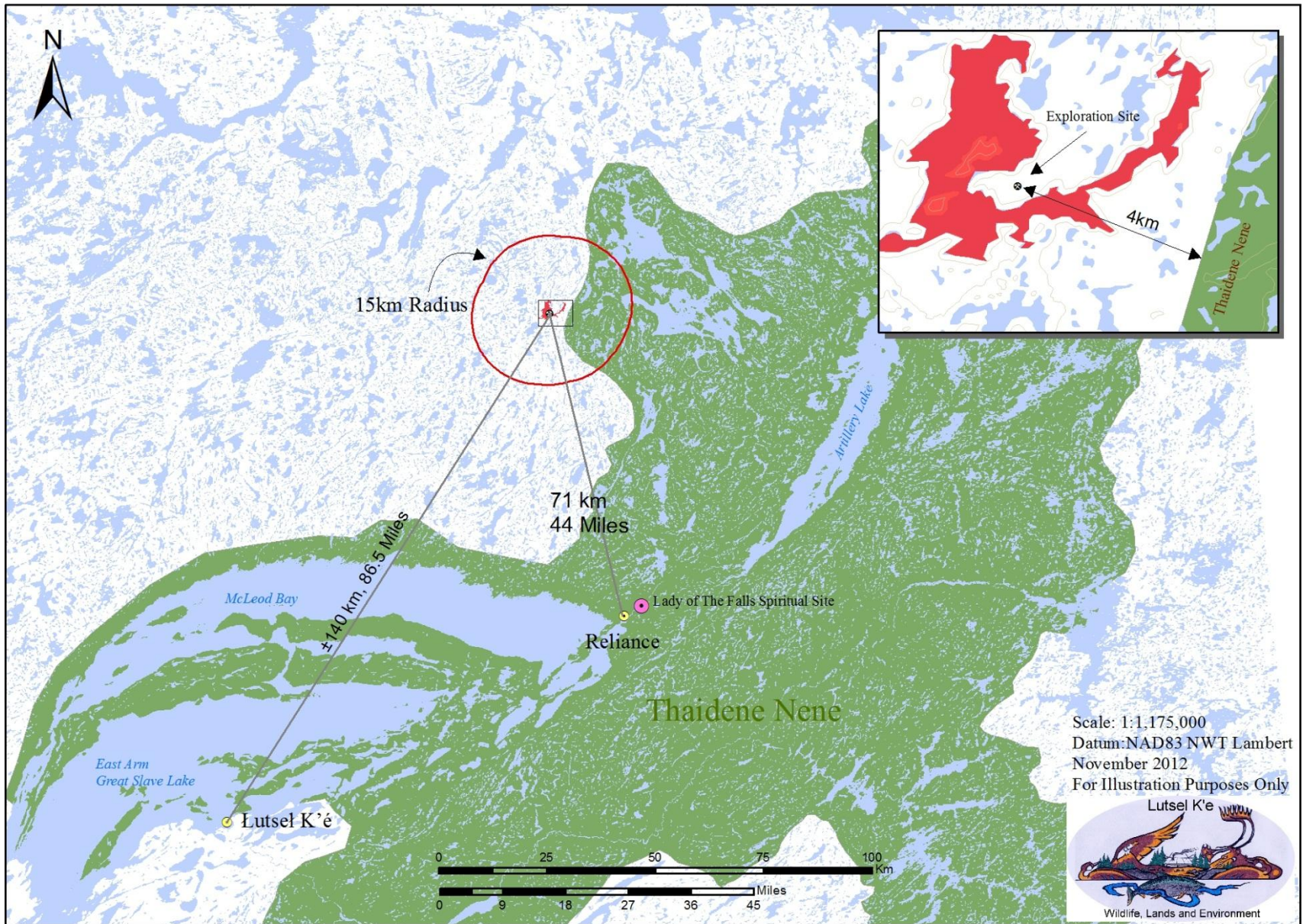


# LKDFN Concerns

Public/Environmental Concern:  
Proposed Thaidene Nene Protected  
Area



# GahCho Kué Project Location





# Thaidene Nene

- Mine located in potential protected area buffer zone
- Potential mine's ZOI includes detriment to the potential protected area
- Water from the mine will flow through the park, impacting the quality of water
- The park is protecting pristine area, decrease in tourism quality with operating mine there
- LKDFN requests a measure from the Review Board requiring DBC to communicate with LK on boundary considerations for TDN near the mine site



# Measures – Wildlife #1

- To address concerns regarding wildlife, LKDFN requests the following measures:
  - 1) That a monitoring team of aboriginal land users/TK holders be selected by the aboriginal parties to develop a TK work-plan to supplement the scientific wildlife monitoring program

# Measures – Wildlife #2

- To address concerns regarding wildlife, LKDFN requests the following measures:
  - 2) That the Panel realize that there is significant concern from various parties regarding the lack of meaningful cumulative effects analysis on the Bathurst Herd range, and require concrete commitments from government and the proponent on monitoring and managing cumulative impacts before this proposal can proceed to the permitting phase

# Measures – Wildlife #3

- To address concerns regarding wildlife, LKDFN requests the following measures:
  - 3) That the proponent be required to design their waste rock piles in a manner that will allow for caribou to have easy and safe access to their summits



# Measures – Wildlife #4

- To address concerns regarding wildlife, LKDFN requests the following measures:
  - 4) That the proponent be required to undertake comprehensive investigations on the health impacts of caribou that are feeding around the mine site and ingesting dust deposited on the ground and in the lichen

# Measures – Water Quality #5

- To address concerns regarding downstream water quality, LKDFN requests the following measures:
  - 5) That the Panel require the proponent to install monitoring stations at locations identified and agreed to by the Lutsel K'e Dene, to ensure that the effects on downstream water bodies are accurately recorded

# Measures- Water Quality #6

- To address concerns regarding downstream water quality, LKDFN requests the following measures:
  - 6) That the proponent investigate and document the subsurface flow from Kirk Lake to Fletcher Lake, as well as Fletcher to Walmsley, and connections of these lakes with the Hoarfrost River and Artillery Lake which both empty into GSL



# Measures – Fish #7

- To address concerns regarding fish compensation, LKDFN requests the following measure:
  - 7) That DFO be required to consult with LKDFN on fish compensation, and that the proponent be required to design and finalize a fish/fish habitat compensation plan with the community prior to the issuing of any permits

# Measures – Social #8

- To address concerns regarding the social impacts of the development on the community, LKDFN requests the following measures:
  - 8) That the proponent be required to consult with the health and social services department of the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation to develop effective plans to mitigate the negative social impacts of the development

# Conclusions

- These measures are suggested should the Panel recommend that the mine be allowed to proceed
- However, as the position of the Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation is firmly opposed to the proposed Gahcho Kue development, we have but one measure to put forward:



# Measure

- This proposal must not be allowed to proceed to permitting/licensing until De Beers comes into compliance with all agreements, licenses, permits, and authorizations in regards to their existing Snap Lake Diamond Mine

# Final Comments

“We don't expect you to understand our culture. You don't have the connection to the land that we have. But we do expect you to respect it; our culture, our connection, and our land.”

MARSI CHO!