Written Submission No. 11

2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Proposed Land Use Designation:

Community Area of Interest – Multiple Values Area,

West Central Baffin Island

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

From: The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB), and the Hunters and Trappers Organizations (HTOs) of Clyde River, Qikiqtarjuaq, Pangnirtung, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Cape Dorset, Hall Beach and Igloolik

Background Information:

This proposal is to create a Protected Area in the west central part of Qikiqtaaluk (Baffin Island), a vast area that is of interest to eight (8) communities: Iqaluit, Cape Dorset, Kimmirut, Pangnirtung, Qikiqtarjuaq, Igloolik, Hall Beach and Clyde River.

This new protected area should be managed collaboratively as a Community Area of Interest.

The overall area already contains several Protected Areas. Currently recognized Protected Areas could continue to retain their own land use restrictions based on their specific purposes. This new Area is intended to enable continuation and enhanced Protected Area status for the entire area.

The other objective of this Community Area of Interest is to fully recognize the combination of important multiple values that make this a very unique area of interest for Inuit, the use of which dates back more than 3000 years (Stenton 1991).

This combined area has many values of importance to Inuit in these 8 communities, including but not limited to:

- Current, historical and prehistoric Inuit use, and many archeological sites proving continuous occupancy for at least 3,000 years.
- Many Inukshuit and other sites that mark important Inuit travel routes and camping sites

- Caribou freshwater crossings, calving areas, post-calving areas, migration routes and critical wintering areas for the most migratory ecotype of Qikiqtaaluk caribou, known as Natsilik tuktuit.
- Landlocked ringed seals and Arctic char
- Many species of migratory birds
- Wolves unique to Baffin Island
- Polar bears along and inland from the Foxe Basin coast
- Walrus haul-outs along Foxe Basin
- Fossils and pingos
- The world's largest lake on an island
- The world's largest snow goose colony
- More.

For caribou, freshwater crossings across Natsilik (Nettilling Lake) and Kuukjuaq (Koukdjuak River) are very important, as are their calving, post-calving, migration routes, and critical wintering areas. Females migrate 250-450 km each way through this area. Older female caribou and their calves that cross Kuukjuaq in July and August are subject to mortality due to hypothermia, exhaustion, drowning and injury from collisions with candled ice from Natsilik. They also migrate across Camsell Bay in eastern Nettilling Lake swimming from island to island. The calving areas of Natsilik caribou are located on rugged uplands from Longstaff Bluff southeast to Dewar Lakes and Hantzsch River. Their post-calving areas occur on lowlands and uplands from Baird Peninsula and near-shore islands in Foxe Basin south to the Great Plain of the Koukdjuak, eastern Nettilling Lake and northern Foxe Peninsula. Critical caribou wintering areas near Natsilik, Amadjuaq (Amadjuak Lake), and Mingu (Mingo Lake) are well known to elders as places that have caribou during cyclical periods when there may be no caribou elsewhere. Caribou have been harvested in this area by Inuit from all eight communities.

The islands and nearby marine areas in Foxe Basin are very important to ringed, bearded and harbour seals, beluga and walrus.

Natsilik, Kuukjuaq, and other rivers are important for sea-run Arctic Char, while Amadjuaq (Amadjuak Lake) has a unique and large population of landlocked char.

The area includes important areas for the unique Baffin Island tundra wolf (*Canis lupus manningi*). These areas extend from denning areas south and west of the Barnes Ice Cap, which have been hunted historically, and continue to be hunted, by Inuit from Clyde River, Igloolik and Pangnirtung.

The region has been an important Inuit trapping area for Arctic and red foxes. There are many other species of land animals including small game and polar bears.

Ancient fossils are easily seen in many places, especially around Kuukjuaq and Natsilik.

The area contains the world's largest colony of snow geese, and many other migratory bird species.

Scientific research has shown that a large part of the proposed Protected Area contains a unique climatically-stable Low Arctic zone, surrounded by the climatically variable High Arctic zone more common throughout the rest of Qikiqtaaluk. Several plants are found farther north in this zone than anywhere else on Qikiqtaaluk. This special area has had a stable climate for at least 4,750 years (Jacobs et al. 1997).

Archeological studies have shown that this Low Arctic zone has been used continuously by Inuit and their ancestors for at least 3,000 years (Stenton 1991). It has been especially important to Inuit because caribou may be found there in years when there are few caribou elsewhere.

Just as this area provided meat and skins during periods of both caribou scarcity (as in recent years and in the 1940-50s, Ferguson et al. 1998) and caribou abundance, this area will continue to be important to Inuit for decades and centuries into the future, if well protected.

For generations, Inuit from many different parts in this region have gathered in this area, long before there were trading posts, communities, snowmobiles and airplanes. Inuit from Clyde River and nearby met with Inuit from Igloolik and Hall Beach while wolf and caribou hunting west and south of the Barnes Ice Cap. Inuit from Qikiqtarjuaq and nearby met Pangnirtungmiut while hunting caribou and fishing around the Isurtuq River and Tasialukjuaq (no English name), and all the way inland to the islands in Nettilling Lake. Pangnirtungmiut also met Inuit from Cape Dorset, Iqaluit and even Pond Inlet and Igloolik while hunting caribou and wolves, travelling in all directions from Nettilling Lake. Kimmirut and Cape Dorset hunters and their families met around Mingo Lake. Living Inuit and many of their ancestors were born within this vital, productive area, which ties most of the region's Inuit communities together in many ways.

Source of information: Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and limited scientific information.

Proposed Designation: Protected Area

Proposed Restrictions:

Prohibited Uses: The following uses are prohibited:

- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
- Mineral Exploration and Production;
- Quarries;
- Hydro-electrical and related infrastructure;
- Wind turbines for electrical generation and related infrastructure;
- Linear Infrastructure; and
- Related research except Non-exploitive Scientific Research

Conditions:

- Regulatory Authorities, where appropriate, must incorporate the setbacks in modified Table 2[1] for all migratory birds (aerial), and coastal waterfowl and sea ducks (marine and terrestrial) during issuance of permits, licences, and authorizations.
- No vessel may approach within five (5) km seaward of a walrus haul-out, any time during the year.

Description of Proposed Outer Area Boundaries:

The boundaries of the proposed areas include the following specific areas and features:

1. Critical Caribou Wintering Area on the islands and lands south of an unnamed lake northeast of Nettilling Lake (centered at 66.672 N, 68.738 W; Inuktitut name: Tasialukjuaq)
2. Caribou Freshwater Crossing (with 10 km buffer), Caribou Rutting Area, and Critical Caribou Wintering Area in and around Camsell Bay, Nettling Lake, and important habitat for landlocked ringed seal.
3. Critical Caribou Wintering Areas and Caribou Rutting Areas, extending about 30 km east of Magnetic Point and Burwash Bay, Nettilling Lake, then continuing south along an unnamed river that drains north into Camsell Bay, Nettilling Lake, and then to about 360 m asl east of the shore of eastern Amadjuak Lake, and then along the Nuvungmiut River to its mouth in southeastern Amadjuak Lake.
4. Amadjuak Lake, important habitat for landlocked Arctic char, following the southern shore of the lake.
5. Critical Caribou Wintering Area, extending about 20 km from Mingo Lake.
6. Caribou Post-Calving Area on the Great Plain of the Koukdjuak east to the western shore of Amadjuak Lake, and south to the Aukpar River.
7. Caribou Post-Calving Area, and Key Migratory Bird Habitat – Great Plain of the Koukdjuak (outside Dewey Soper MBS), following southeast boundary of the Bird Habitat and its western boundary in Foxe Basin.
8. Caribou Post-Calving Area, and Dewey Soper Migratory Bird Sanctuary (MBS), following the western boundary of the Protected Area for the sanctuary in Foxe Basin, and extending east to Nettilling Lake and Amadjuak River.
9. Caribou Freshwater Crossing Area, Arctic Char Fishing River, and Important Deposits of Ancient Fossils, and Caribou Post-Calving Area and Key Migratory Bird Habitat – Great Plain of the Koukdjuak (outside Dewey Soper MBS), continuing to follow the western boundary of the bird habitat area in Foxe Basin, north of the Dewey Soper MGS, with the area extending east on Baffin Island.

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[1] Modified Table 2 refers to a version of Table 2 that incorporates modifications recommended in Written Submission No. 14 from the QWB and its associated HTOs.

10. Caribou Post-Calving Area, following the coast of Foxe Basin, north of the Key Bird Habitat, with the area extending east on Baffin Island.
11. Walrus Haul-Outs, Potential Caribou Sea Crossing Area, Caribou Post-Calving Areas, Key Bird Habitat – Foxe Basin Islands, Inuit and Other Historical and Prehistoric Sites, with boundary crossing Foxe Basin from Hantzsch Bay coast of Baffin Island to Air Force Island, following boundary of Key Bird Habitat in Foxe Basin, and then back to Baffin Island including Foley Island and Piling Lake.
12. Walrus Haul Outs north and south of Baird Peninsula, Caribou Post-Calving Areas on Baird Peninsula and inland on Baffin Island to about 300 m asl and north along the coast to a point north of Ikpik River, an Inuit camping area.
13. Caribou Calving Areas, Caribou Post-Calving Areas, Wolf Denning and Hunting Areas and some Critical Caribou Winter Areas inland on Baffin Island to the Barnes Ice Cap and Generator Lake, and then southeast generally following the topographical contour at approximately 300 m asl (and the eastern boundary of the buffer zone around the Dewar Lakes DEW Line site), continuing southeast at about 300 m asl, to within 10 km of the western branch of the Isurtuq River, from where the boundary continues at about 360 m asl north along the river and then back south around the middle branch of the river, then at about 300 m asl until east of the easternmost branch of the Isurtuq River, and finally south to join the western end of 1 above at Tasialukjuaq.

References:

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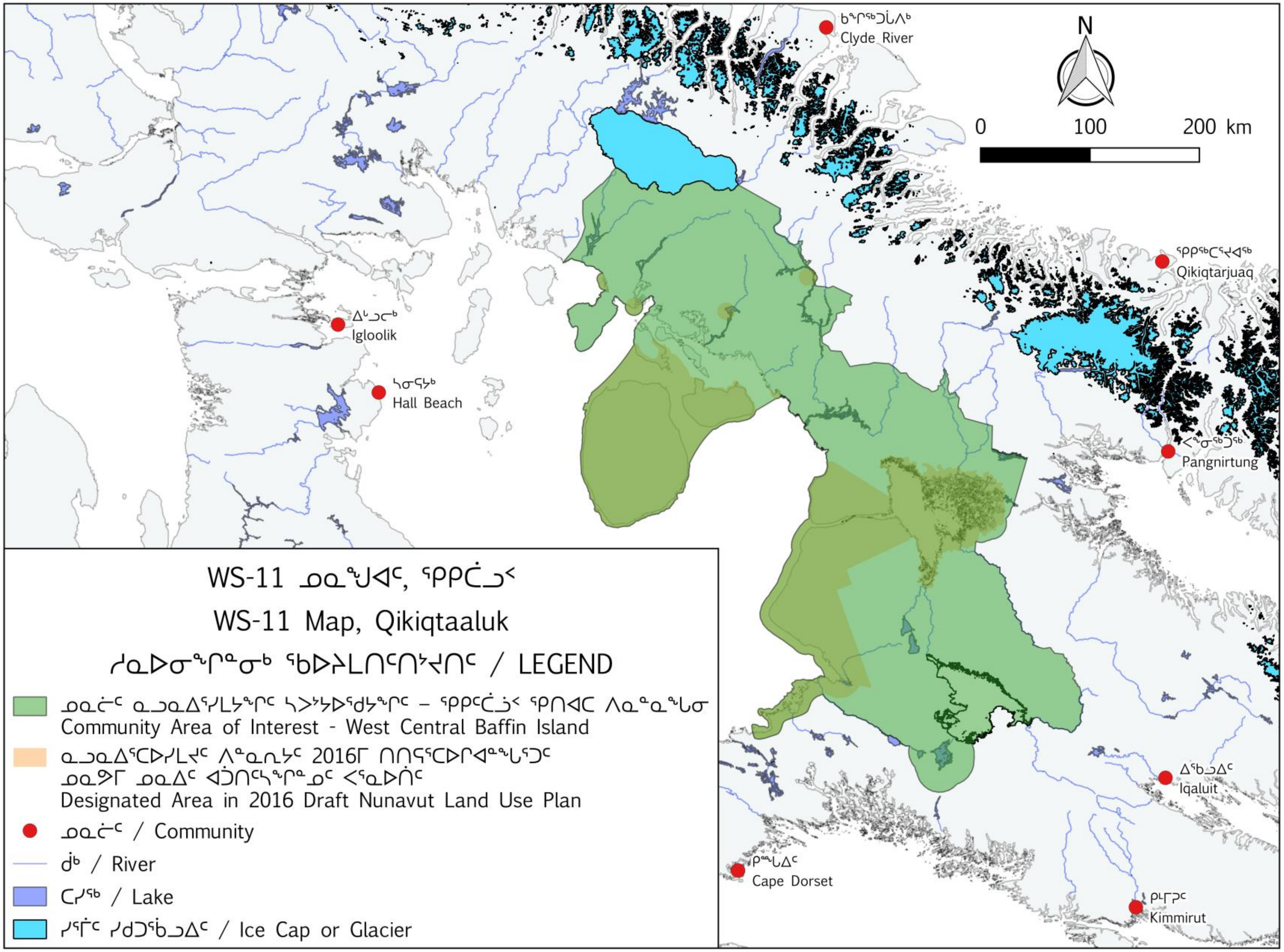

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WS-11 Map, Qikiqtaaluk

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  Designated Area in 2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan
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