

Written Submission No. 34

2016 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan

Proposed Land Use Designation:

Community Areas of Interest – Multiple Values:

34A. Bjerne – Bauman – Makinson, Ellesmere Island, and

34B. Sverdrup – Truelove – Brae, Devon Island

To: The Nunavut Planning Commission

From: The Qikiqtaaluk Wildlife Board (QWB), and the Hunters and Trappers Organization (HTO) of Grise Fiord

Background Information:

Multiple resources are highly valued by the Inuit of Grise Fiord in two areas (i.e., Multiple Value Areas, MVAs). One of these areas (MVA 34A) is on Ellesmere Island and includes Bjerne Peninsula in the west, and extends mainly to the east in an irregular shape to Makinson Inlet. The second area (i.e., 34B) is on Devon Island to the Ice Cap and out to 10 km off Devon Island into Jones Sound, starting from the peninsula west of Sverdrup Inlet eastward into Brae Bay.

Without protection of these two areas, plus others near Grise Fiord, the Nunavut Land Use Plan will fail in its goal to protect and promote the well-being of all of Nunavut's residents as a primary purpose of land use planning under Article 11 of the Nunavut Agreement.

Both of these MVAs are important community harvesting areas for wildlife and fish, including but not limited to: Peary caribou, muskoxen, Arctic char, polar bears and migratory birds. The coastal islands, sea-ice and marine waters of MVA 34B are very important areas for walrus (including haul-outs), polar bears, marine mammals and birds.

Both of these areas are critically important to maintain the health, culture and heritage of the Inuit of Grise Fiord.

Industrial development in or near these areas would degrade their value. Such development must be prohibited.

Source of information: Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit.

Proposed Designation: Protected Area

Proposed Restrictions:

Prohibited Uses: The following uses are prohibited:

- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
- Mineral Exploration and Production;
- Oil and Gas Exploration and Production;
- Obnoxious Land Use;
- Quarries;
- Hydro-electrical and related infrastructure;
- Linear Infrastructure;
- Seismic testing (MVA 34B only);
- Disposal at sea (MVA 34B only);
- Sonar (MVA 34B only); and
- Related research except Non-exploitive Scientific Research

Conditions:

- MVA 34B only: Closed to all ship traffic, subject to safe navigation, during Ukiq, Ukiuq, Upingakaaq, and Upingaaq .
- MVA 34B only: Regulatory Authorities, where appropriate, must incorporate the setbacks in Table 2 (as amended based on WS-13 from the QWB and member HTOs) for all seabirds, and coastal waterfowl and sea ducks during the issuance of permits, licences, and authorizations.

Proposed Boundaries of the Community Areas of Interest – Multiple Values: 34A and 34B:

- 34A: On Ellesmere Island from Bjorne Peninsula south and east of Bauman and Sor fiords, north, south and east of Stenkul Fiord, and east to Makinson Inlet, north and west of and including Swinnerton Peninsula, based on attached map and associated shp file.
- 34B: From Sukause Island and the fiord west of Cape Svarten and Sverdrup Inlet, southeast and then east to the Devon Island Ice Cap, extending north 10 km off the coast of Devon Island into Jones Sound, then east past Truelove Inlet to Brae Bay to about 6.2 km east of Sverdrup Glacier, based on attached map and associated shp file.

Date of this draft: August 7, 2018

