



Arctic Development
Library

***Fort Laird/ Nahanni Butte Community
Tourism Plan
Date of Report: 1985
Author: Marshall Macklin Monaghan
Catalogue Number: 11-28-22***

11-28-22

FORT LIARD - NAHANNI BUTTE
COMMUNITY TOURISM PLAN

September 1985

Many good ideas.
Priorities must be identified.
The priorities should be a result of what the
communities would like and what the experts
think will work. There must be participation in the
decision making process if people are to be
dedicated to a positive outcome. This does
not mean that they may not need direction.
The communities must truly believe in the
priorities.
Good C.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 What is a Community Plan
- 1.2 How to Use the Plan

PART TWO: MAJOR PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 Factors Affecting the Future Growth of Tourism Development in Fort Liard/Nahanni Butte
 - 2.1.1 Government Tourism Development Priorities
 - 2.1.2 Regional Tourism Development Priorities
 - 2.1.3 Local Tourism Development Priorities
 - 2.1.4 Liard Valley Band Development Corporation
 - 2.1.5 Infrastructure Development
- 2.2 Tourism Potential in Fort Liard/Nahanni Butte
 - 2.2.1 Fort Liard/Nahanni Butte Community Description
 - 2.2.2 Resources of the Land
 - 2.2.3 Resources of the People
 - 2.2.4 Tourism Attractions, Facilities & Services
 - 2.2.5 Organizational Skills/Human Resources
- 2.3 Community Feelings About Tourism
- 2.4 Regional Travel to Fort Liard/Nahanni Butte
- 2.5 Basic Needs for a Local Tourism Industry
 - 2.5.1 Local Tourism Needs in Fort Liard
 - 2.5.2 Local Tourism Needs in Nahanni Butte

PART THREE: FORT LIARD/NAHANNI BUTTE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- 3.1 Introduction
 - 3.2 Regional Tourism Development Strategy
 - 3.3 Tourism Developments and Programs for Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte
 - 3.3.1 Tourism Developments in Fort Liard Area
 - 3.3.2 Tourism Developments in Nahanni Butte Area
-

FORT LIARD / NAHANNI BUTTE
COMMUNITY TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PLAN

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 What is a Community Tourism Plan

In June 1984, the Big River Travel Association entered into a funding agreement with the North West Territories Department of Economic Development and Tourism to undertake a Tourism Development and Marketing Plan for the western section of Big River Country. The study was initiated in recognition of the potential economic and social benefits the tourism industry could contribute to local communities as well as the growth potential generated with the recent opening of the Liard Highway to Fort Nelson, B.C.

The community tourism plans and regional strategy are intended to guide public and private sector interests in the development of attractions, facilities, services and policies. They also provide an organizational structure supportive of increased tourism activity which contributes to the local economy and is beneficial to the surrounding region. Community feelings are reflected regarding the type of industry and under what conditions it should be developed.

Tourism development, including the provision of attractions and services, is at a relatively youthful stage in the Fort Liard / Nahanni Butte area. This plan therefore serves to provide a logical framework for future development while recognizing operating and capital costs are of a critical concern to new businesses.

Adopting a systematic approach to community tourism development ensures maximum short and long-term efficiencies are achieved from the available resources, infrastructure e, local entrepreneurial skills and markets. A systematic approach encourages the various levels of government and the private

sector to evaluate a range of opportunities for their contributions to the goals of the communities and region. Clearly, the findings in this report are intended to reduce uncertainty within the public and private sectors as to future developments/markets. Moreover, the development plans establish an overall community-wide approach both within and between Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte with guidelines and principles for their respective growth.

This community tourism development plan is to reflect: community, government and industry sector goals and concerns; be sufficiently broad in scope and flexible in approach to accommodate unforeseen development; and be responsive to a wide variety of short and long term specialty markets and resource development opportunities. It is recognized that major technological advances, changes in government policy, changes in the energy situation, etc. could alter the direction and implementation of the plan. Therefore, the goals and objectives of the plan should be reviewed at regular intervals. Of particular importance are the changing needs in the two areas, as well as other market, resource and development factors occurring in other parts of Big River Country and the surrounding area.

Promoting the orderly and economic growth of Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte from a tourism perspective can be achieved through a community planning process. In so doing it will be possible to: identify existing and future market opportunities; safeguard and enhance environmental quality, heritage and visitor satisfaction; and realize local social and economic benefits. It is anticipated that with continued marketing of the highway corridor the benefits from the tourism industry will increasingly influence the course and direction of economic development in the two communities and positively impact on regional tourism planning in Big River Country, and in particular promotion of the Liard-Mackenzie Highway Corridor. Thus, the

purpose of the community tourism plan is to: develop practical tourism development strategies that will assist local operators, investors, planners and the community and Band Councils to stimulate and **manage** the tourism economy **over a five to twenty year period.**

1.2 How to Use the Plan

The Fort Liard/Nahanni Butte Tourism Development Plan is one of seven community plans, a corridor plan, and a technical report entitled Big River Country: Markets and Opportunities for Investment.

The community plan provides a detailed outline of community resources and attitudes concerning the type and growth of tourism. This is a result of an ongoing consultative process. The community plan highlights key natural and historic resource opportunities, markets, service sector developments, and program recommendations including priority and phasing for consideration by local and other interested entrepreneurs. For additional reference to specialty markets, summary of regional resource opportunities, and a summary of development opportunities? reference should be made to the technical report.

The community tourism development plan indicates the direction both local councils and the Territorial Government wish development of the industry to occur. The plan recognizes that other opportunities may exist which could contribute to the community's and region's economic well-being, but which may be premature. The scope of this plan is to establish a general framework for public and private investment within which future development may be directed by indicating the type, location and extent of major types of development and related initiatives. Although the plan is intended to guide the Community and Band Councils, other contributing agencies which exercise powers and responsibilities relating to tourism development will also find

the plan useful. Consultation is recommended with local and Territorial authorities prior to undertaking significant investment in a specific business opportunity.

PART 2: **MAJOR PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS**

Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte Communities are located at the entrance to the Mackenzie Mountains and are the first communities to be visited by tourists entering the North West Territories on the Liard Highway. Their location in respect to Nahanni National Park, proximity to the highway corridor and other factors such as existing and proposed land ownerships continue to be some of the primary factors affecting the development of tourism services in the region. In these two communities, it has been found that there are significant undeveloped resources for tourism. There are also many inter-related and complex political, financial and market oriented factors affecting the implementation of a systematic approach to the industry that will meet future visitor requirements and maximize benefits to the local residents.

The following sections outline some of the major factors which may directly or indirectly impact upon the Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte tourism industry.

2.1 Factors Affecting the Future of Tourism Development in Fort Liard / Nahanni Butte

2.1.1 Government Tourism Development Priorities

Policy and resource support for the development of community-based tourism activities have been formalized at both the Federal and Territorial Government levels. As a consequence, it is timely for communities/regions with tourism development aspirations to access planning, infrastructure, human development and marketing support resources. Based on current and anticipated program commitments (i.e. the Canada/NWT Economic Development Agreement, the GNWT Department of Economic Development and Tourism, and DRIE), a high level of government support will continue to the NWT tourism sector. Many of these expire in 1986/87.

In addition, future decisions of the Federal and Territorial governments toward the use and development of services for

tourists in and adjacent to Nahanni National Park will be a major factor in marketing the corridor and specifically the communities of Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte. The timing of these decisions will have a further significant impact on the ultimate type, location, ownership and scale of services and attractions. Implementation of particular services, infrastructure, etc. without the benefit of this information could significantly alter the direct benefits to the communities and the entire region.

2.1.2 Regional Tourism Development Priorities

The official opening of the Liard Highway in the summer of 1984, with increased contact with Fort Nelson, B.C. and tourist traffic on the Alaska Highway, has generated a strong local and regional interest in tourism development. These initiatives, together with the planned Papal visit to Fort Simpson and the continuing Nahanni National Park Management Planning process, have reinforced the need for the systematic development of the tourism industry in the region. In addition, there is an emphasis on development within the communities in association with the marketing and development of the resources and attractions along the Liard-Mackenzie.

A second economic development priority in the region is the establishment of an economic base built on renewable resources, especially the rivers, mountains and big game hunting opportunities. In this respect, various private, band, corporation and public sector groups wish to encourage the development of small and large scale outfitting and related tourism businesses, and naturalist/non-consumptive tourism activities. Fort Liard has abundant timber resources in the nearby region which can supply local log building construction materials. The unique wilderness resources of Nahanni National Park and the surrounding environs can be assessed to increase the local tourism industry. Development of additional visitor services would have a direct economic impact on the region.

A discussion of regional economic development would not be complete without some comment on non-renewable resource development in the area. Specifically, it is noteworthy that recent oil and gas development in the Mackenzie Valley did not have a significant impact on the communities of Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte. It is therefore suggested further work in the hydrocarbon industry in the Mackenzie-Beaufort regions will have only an indirect consequence to these communities and will probably be in the form of increased truck traffic and related services. However, gas field development of the Amoco Pointed Mountain Gas Plant has had some impact on Fort Liard in the past five years. Any further exploration in the region will have a bearing on the need for local services.

2.1.3 Local Tourism Development Priorities

In terms of future economic development priorities, both communities see a future in the development of local natural resources to increase utilization of the wilderness from destination and pass-through markets. Some minor potential is seen in the agricultural sector, and continued utilization of country foods for domestic use and trapping for furs will occur. Some planning has been undertaken at the community level to develop a stronger renewable resource economy. The northern tourism industry is closely linked to these resources. To minimize conflict and competition for resources, each community must take a leading role to ensure planning and the subsequent developments of each sector complements other sectors.

The recent completion of the Liard Highway has directly impacted the local economy. For example, the growth of Beaver Enterprises at Fort Liard provides road construction contracting services. Ongoing maintenance of the highway and any future upgrading will continue to employ local residents. As highway traffic begins to increase through local and regional tourism promotion, Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte will become prominent as "half-way" points between Fort Nelson and Fort Simpson. It is essential that the

communities wisely consider future development opportunities and in particular, the requirements of the destination and pass-through tourist markets.

2.1.4 Liard Valley Band Development Corporation

On a local political level, work has been undertaken recently to improve the organization of the Liard Valley Band Development Corporation (LVBDC) in Fort Liard. The LVBDC was incorporated in 1983 and has the following objectives:

1. To promote the social aspects of its members which would include culture, education, social welfare, hunting, trapping, fishing and training.
2. To act as an agent of its members in all aspects in respect to land claims. This would include present negotiation to the stage of the receipt and investment of the proceeds whether the final settlement is in funds or land.
3. To act as an agent for the provision of municipal services and social development for the community.
4. To promote and to provide training for individuals interested in starting commercial enterprises.
5. To own, on behalf of its members, commercial enterprises.

The Band Council in Fort Liard is very supportive of band operated tourism initiatives. They believe this economic activity can have long term benefits to the community. The Fort Liard Band Council envisions all future economic development of the region occurring through the Development Corporation. This will also include current projects such as ongoing construction, commercial, flying, transportation", and agricultural operations. The Band Council has also had representation from Nahanni Butte

and Trout Lake. The Council would retain complete ownership of the corporation for the benefit of all its members.

Non-band members in Fort Liard wishing to provide services for tourists appear to have been seriously questioned by local Band Councils where support is essential. A prevalent attitude appears to be that any new commercial enterprises should be band-owned and operated. This approach has contributed to considerable political, social and economic difficulties resulting in conflicts which do not appear to be easily resolved in the near future. It is felt, however, that cooperation between all groups is an important factor in meeting the needs of southern tourists over both the short and long time frames.

At Nahanni Butte, the Band Council has not taken the aggressive approach to economic development that has characterized the Fort Liard Council. Further, it has been the opinion of many individuals that the community should remain relatively isolated without year round road access and that major developments required to service the tourism industry should be located at the nearby Blackstone Territorial Park. The future role of Nahanni Butte Council with the LVBDC and the specific implications to the community are yet to be determined.

2.1.5 Infrastructure Development

In the past ten years, local initiatives through the LVBDC have had a significant positive impact on the Fort Liard community. The following activities are examples of projected initiatives that have either a direct or indirect impact on the existing and future tourism industry:

- o built 17 homes for residents

 - o planned and completed a new 3000 foot airstrip
-

- o planned and implemented a Youth Development Program as a unique approach to caring for and training juveniles who get into trouble
- o reduced social assistance payments except for those justified (e.g. the aged and the handicapped)
- o built a Band office, recreational centre and curling rink
- o constructed the initial sections of a highway service centre
- o currently planning for a new school in the community
- o constructed an office and storage area for jet boats
- o successfully managed and coordinated all local government activities in the community such as roads, parks, water and garbage, fire protection, and the administration of GNWT ordinances where applicable

With the concentration of current operations under the direct control of the LVBDC, this will lend itself well to the further development of the tourism industry from the Band's perspective. Future plans include the establishment of transportation services (air and jet boat) and tourist services (outfitting, etc.).

Other private sector services include: Liard Air Ltd. who provides a range of charter services for back country travelers to Nahanni, Trout Lake, etc; big game hunting services by Nahanni Butte Outfitters Limited; and two river boat services to be opened from Blackstone Park in 1986 by Beaver Enterprises and Nahanni Butte Outfitters Limited.

The continuing expansion and development of Blackstone Park near Nahanni Butte has the potential to become a significant service centre for the park entrance and the highway. Much debate has

occurred as to whether these facilities/services should be located at Nahanni Butte, Blackstone or Fort Liard.

The lack of year round road access to Nahanni Butte is a critical factor to the available markets. The limited services at both the village site and at Parks Canada's offices combined with the high cost of road construction are major factors reducing the desirability of the site as a long term major gateway option to Nahanni Park.

2.2 Tourism Potential in Fort Liard/Nahanni Butte

The following sections provide a general description of the two communities. It should be recognized, however, that much change and development is occurring in the communities at this time and it is possibly one of the most challenging periods in the history of the communities for the respective chiefs and band councils. The need for short and long range planning in the communities is therefore seriously required.

This section also includes a detailed listing and summary of the resources of the land, people and communities as well as the organizational/human resources available to direct implementation of the plan.

2.2.1 Fort Liard/Nahanni Butte Community Descriptions

Fort Liard is a community of some 405 residents of which approximately 90 percent are of Dene-Metis ancestry. The village is located 200 km north of Fort Nelson, B.C. and 40 km inside the NWT, and until recently was accessible only by air or river boat. The community is attractively sited on the banks of the Liard River at the confluence with the Petitot River.

With the exception of a service centre located on the Liard Highway, the residential and commercial sections of the Community are located 5.5 km to the west. Highway advertising will be required to attract travelers into the community, although

4. Commission development of exhibits to be placed in the Liard Highway Tourism Information Centre.
5. Commission the development of highway **signage** including obtaining necessary approvals.

recognizing many of their **essential** needs will be available at the service station.

One of the oldest continuously occupied aboriginal site in the NWT a Northwest Company trading post, was established here in the vicinity of the confluence of the **Liard** and **Petitot** Rivers some time prior to 1807. Later abandoned for a few years prior to 1821, **Fort Liard** was then taken over by the Hudson's Bay Company and has since been continuously settled. With all-weather roads to **Fort Simpson** and **Fort Nelson, B.C.** established as recently as **1984**, the community is only now experiencing growth potential as a local service centre. In the past summer barge, winter road and sporadic air services were the only transportation linkages to **Fort Nelson, B.C.** and **Fort Simpson**. The future of **Fort Liard** from a tourism perspective would appear to be positive, based upon its relative location to the **Alaska Highway**, connection with **Yellowknife**, and proximity to **Nahanni National Park**.

Nahanni Butte is a **Slavey Dene** community of about 85 people, of which approximately 88 percent are of **Dene** ancestry. The community was established in the late 1950's when residents of **Netla River** were relocated to the western bank of the **Liard River**.

The community is nestled at the base of **Nahanni Butte** on the south side of the **South Nahanni**, near its junction with the **Liard River**. It is accessible only by air (762m x 18m runway) or by boat in the summer. By river, **Blackstone Territorial Park** is located approximately 42 km downstream. **Fort Liard** is located approximately 125 km south of **Blackstone Park** by road.

Although several alternatives have been considered by **Parks Canada** in developing road access into the community, none were constructed. Based on current information, it is unlikely that this will happen in the near future due to the high cost and the wishes of the residents to maintain their isolation. This action

will ultimately result in the establishment of most of the essential services and infrastructure required by Nahanni Park visitors and other tourists to be located outside the community. As this development process proceeds outside the community, there will be less and less need to undertake expensive road construction into Nahanni Butte.

The community is situated at the south entrance to Nahanni National Park and a park warden's station and craft store is located across the river from the community. The Slavey Indians of Nahanni Butte are a sub-band of the Fort Liard Band. They follow a traditional lifestyle based on hunting, trapping and fishing. In the last three years, increasing numbers of residents in the community are becoming directly involved in tourism. This has resulted from the need for staff by the local big game outfitters and construction activities at nearby Blackstone Park.

2.2.2 Resources of the Land

Table 1 describes the resources of the land, including interesting landforms and geological sites, hot springs, water falls, wildlife and fishing areas. Also included is an inventory of those sites in or near the community which have cultural/traditional significance. This inventory information was gathered through discussions with local residents and NWT personnel, as well as a review of land use maps and other secondary source materials.

Inventory information has been prepared for the southwestern corner of the NWT, including the Petitot River, Liard River downstream to its confluence with the South Nahanni River, Nahanni National Park and the Liard Range south west of the park to the Yukon and B.C. boundaries (Drawings 1 - 4).

The following summary highlights resources significant to the development of a local tourism industry for the two communities.

* Landforms

The South Nahanni River Basin located to the northwest of Nahanni Butte is the most unique geographic element of the entire Big River Country and to a large extent is centred on the World Heritage site, Nahanni National Park. Virginia Falls, steep-sided canyon walls, interesting geological formations and caves, tufa mounds, gold prospecting and hoodos are some of the features of interest to hikers, canoeists and tourists flying in this area.

In closer proximity to the community of Nahanni Butte, is the 1396 m butte which forms the south end of the Nahanni Range. It is quite visible from the Liard Highway. Other mountain ranges of particular interest are the Liard and Tlogotsho Ranges which offer interpretive, hiking-climbing, and hunting opportunities for guides and outfitters located in the two communities. Landforms such as Nahanni Butte, Sawmill Mountain and Mount Elett are the most dramatic landform features visible to tour buses from the Liard Highway (a distance of 15 to 25 km) and will require interpretation. Further to the west on the boundary of the national park, is a mountainous region which includes the Unclimbable Mountains. In contrast to Nahanni Butte, these are mountaineering challenges of international calibre and are accessed by climbers from several communities such as Tungsten, Fort Simpson, Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte.

At Fort Liard and along the Petitot River, there are high bluffs. Although not particularly unique in themselves, these features provide much of the limited relief associated with the highway corridor. Well sited picnic-interpretive areas in association with these features (both in the community as well as the Petitot River crossings along the Liard Highway) will add considerable interest to both tour bus groups and other highway tourists. Because of the relatively flat and undramatic landscape between Fort Nelson, B.C. and Nahanni Butte, compared with sections of

Alaska Highway, it is important that the features in these and nearby the communities be well interpreted.

* Lakes and Rivers

The South Nahanni River is one of the most well known wilderness rivers in Canada for river rafting and canoeing. To date, the communities of Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte have not received significant economic impact as a result of their proximity and ability to serve backcountry travelers on the South Nahanni, Liard and Petitot Rivers. In each case, these rivers provide different types of river recreation experience and may be promoted through the communities and outfitting firms to different market sectors (international wild river enthusiast to major canoe trippers).

Fisherman and Bovie are the only lakes of significance in close proximity to Nahanni Butte and Fort Liard. Bovie, in summer, is only accessible by air, whereas a winter road has been constructed into Fisherman Lake which is attractively situated between the southeast end of the Liard Range and Pointed Mountain (1405m) to the west. Bovie Lake could potentially support fly-in day use fishing as a secondary activity for visitors to Fort Liard. The potential at Fisherman Lake is somewhat greater in light of its location in respect to both the mountains and Fort Liard. As a result, the Band in the past has considered use of the lake as a four-season resort area with cabin developments. The primary activities would include boating, skiing, fishing, hunting and hiking-climbing.

A small lagoon is located along the entrance road to Fort Liard and some of the shoreland has been developed into a local camping and day use area. Although the campground could be used by non-residents, it does not have any particular appeal for visitors spending their first night in the NWT.

Hunting for domestic food supplies as well as providing outfitting services for non-resident big game hunters are important activities for both communities. A single outfitter is located at Nahanni Butte and is licensed to operate in a large area to the west of the community. With the exception of those non-resident hunters brought in through Nahanni Butte Outfitters Limited (25 percent Alberta, 75 percent U.S.A. residents), few southern hunters have any impact on the area. Although poaching does not appear to be a major problem at this time, a number of other issues are affecting big game hunting, resource management and the revenue generated from this activity. Primary considerations include, for example:

- o access into the Mackenzie Mountains for the purpose of hunting be restricted to fixed wing aircraft;
- o former airstrips (e.g. Jackfish) and abandoned resource roads be removed to reduce the heavy pressure from local hunting;
- o market sector difficult to maintain due to the opening of dall sheep hunting areas in Alaska; and
- o difficulty in living locally due to high wages paid by other agencies.

Mackenzie Mountains
In addition to hunting, viewing of wildlife will become increasingly important as the majority of visitors attracted to the area will not be there for the purpose of hunting. The visibility of sheep from boats/canoes is an important consideration and may require a change to local hunting practices. Efforts through game management to increase the likelihood of viewing the small herds of wood bison between Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte should be considered and included within marketing promotions for the area. The Ram Plateau northwest of Nahanni Butte has a high population of grizzly bears, although

sittings from the ground may be limited. Low lying areas on the eastern banks of the Liard are good habitat for beaver and could be used in interpretive displays regarding the economy and natural history of the area.

Sport fishing activities are primarily restricted to Fisherman and Bovie Lakes which are known for whitefish, yellow walleye, and northern pike. In addition to these lakes, fishermen charter into Trout Lake further to the east. Downstream from Fort Liard, the Liard River is an important area for domestic fishing. Reports indicate that rivers such as the South Nahanni and the Liard at Blackstone Park are poor for fishing.

A concern has been placed by Canada Fisheries and Oceans concerning the ability of northern fish to sustain themselves when subjected to intensive fishing pressure. Further, conflicts develop between lodge clientele and itinerant recreationists over improving access to lakes. Improving road access leads to increased pressure and fishing quality varies inversely with the amount of fishing effort.

The banks of the Liard River upstream from Fort Liard, are an important natural area designated as a proposed International Biological Programme reserve. It includes productive softwood forests and a diversity of wildlife, and is of interest for the ecology of the sequence of plant communities. Access to this would need to be by water from Fort Liard.

2.2.3 Resources of the People

For visitors entering the Territories, Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte have a strong and diverse heritage resource base that could be developed and presented to the traveling public. To date, cultural and heritage resources have been primarily confined to the production of local handicrafts (often in inadequate supply at Nahanni Butte), limited descriptions of the area and its people by local authors, and some country food prepared on an

infrequent basis for tour buses. The entire heritage resource area requires further research and assessment. It should also be linked with other existing and proposed services and attractions in order to generate meaningful direct and indirect economic impacts to the communities.

Fisherman Lake near Fort Liard is a historic fishing site that has been inhabited by various Small Knife Indian tribes for about 9000 years. It offers potential as an interpretive site because of the trading activities of several tribes, including the most eastern trading point of the west coast Tlingit tribe. An interesting theme for this area could be entitled "Man at the Ice Edge," as the Fort Liard area was part of an ice-free corridor which existed near the end of the last glacial period. Early post-glacial archaeological sites exist at Fisherman's Lake and at Pointed Mountain and could be an excellent focus for highway/community interpretive displays. No significance or information is currently available to the tourist on these cultural themes.

Netla, an abandoned settlement area, also has potential for historic interpretation of native cultures. It was settled by the Kaska tribe which adopted many customs from west coast tribes, including potlatches and the clan system. It also had a powerful woman chief at the time of early European exploration about 150 years ago. In general, however, there is considerable investigation needed in regard to these early people both prior to and following European contact in the development of appropriate interpretive themes. This type of cultural heritage information could have a strong tourism appeal if adequately researched and presented to the public.

Several cabin sites built earlier in this century are located within Nahanni National Park for trapping and gold exploration. These cabins are part of the region's richness in legends of mysterious deaths related to gold exploration. The park contains many such sites which are potentially important resources for the

development of **itnerpretive** programmed. The history of the area is clearly expressed by the unique names of **places** in the national park.

Fort **Liard** is the historic regional centre of fur trading activities. As such it naturally offers many interpretive theme opportunities related to the operation of the Northwest and Hudson's Bay Companies and early exploration. It was also the birthplace in 1876 of Charles **Camsell**, a well-known northern geologist who later became Commissioner of the NWT. Father **Petitot** was an important missionary with a legacy of achievements in the region. No interpretive displays, etc. have been developed at present to inform and direct the interpretation of the respective communities and area. The area also has many native legends associated with it, including the **Petitot** River. To date, this information has not been well recorded and documented but is an important part of the cultural heritage of strong interest to the **traveller**.

2.2.4 Tourism Attractions, Facilities and Services

Table 2 displays existing community-based resources which are available to support and encourage the local tourism industry. The following summary highlights local infrastructure) attractions and services which are of particular importance to the future growth of the tourism industry. The majority of existing services and attractions in the region are located in **Fort Liard** and **Blackstone** Park. **Nahanni** Butte is a much smaller residential village with no road access and in the past has had little need to develop services/infrastructure to support the tourism industry.

*** Accommodation and Food/Beverage Services**

HRY Holdings in **Fort Liard** has one motel with eight units and capacity for twelve guests. It operates year round but requires advanced booking. Currently, it primarily caters to the needs of local business and government traffic. Approximately \$40,000 was

invested in the facilities in 1984 for upgrading of mechanical systems, including septic sewage, water treatment and air conditioning. Meals are available in a short-order concession that is part of the community hall/curling rink. No country specialty foods are used at the concession, although as previously noted this can be arranged for tour buses. Fort Liard does not have a beverage lounge or permit any sale of liquor. Nahanni Butte does not have any facilities for accommodation or food services, although tenting sites are made available to passing canoeists.

Located on the Liard Highway at Fort Liard is a service centre which is currently being planned and developed to meet many of the immediate and projected needs of the rubber-tired tourist and business traffic. Once complete, this service centre complex will be operated on a 24-hour basis and include a family-oriented restaurant, craft shop and automobile repair services. As a logical spin-off, the existing arts and craft shop in the community will be operated as a local manufacturing centre with the finished products sold through the service centre and other establishments in the community.

* Retail and Arts/Crafts Services

Fort Liard has two general merchandising stores. The Bay has a store located near the centre of the community where a broad range of goods can be obtained. A second store owned by HRY Holdings provides groceries as well as sporting goods and hardware items.

Native arts and crafts produced in the area are sold through the Acho-Dene outlet, currently operated and subsidized by the GNWT Department of Economic Development and Tourism. A marketing manager oversees the production of approximately five local crafts people. Those items sold locally in Fort Simpson and Yellowknife generate an annual gross revenue of about \$50,000. Crafts include birchbark baskets and pictures, miniature

snowshoes and canoes, quilleries, mukluks, and slippers. Nahanni Butte sells these crafts as well. Some of the craft products from in the community of Trout Lake are sold in Fort Liard outlets. A complain expressed indicated that there is a need to increase both the volume and range of products in local outlets.

* Transportation and Other Public Services

The Liard Highway now provides year round access from Fort Liard to Fort Simpson and to Fort Nelson, B.C., although soft road conditions in the spring and dust from the gravel roads can make driving difficult. There is an automobile service station located in the community of Fort Liard, but the operating hours have been limited. As previously noted, there is a new service centre being constructed at the highway junction at the turn-off into Fort Liard. This will be operated to cater more specifically to highway traffic which is considered critical to attract motorists. At Nahanni Butte, gasoline can be purchased for use in outboard motors.

In contrast to the Mackenzie Highway between Enterprise and Fort Providence, there is no scheduled bus service on the Liard Highway. Local trucking services are provided by HRY Holdings and Beaver Enterprises. The LVBDC is considering the establishment of its own transportation operations, including trucking, air and bus service.

The Fort Liard airport is operated by the Band Council and is a day use, gravel runway operation (899m by 30m). Tree clearing has been done to prepare for a runway extension and there is also a water/ice aerodrome. Similarly, the Territorial Government operates a gravel/dirt runway at Nahanni Butte (762m by 18m) as well as a water aerodrome.

Liard Air Ltd. is the only charter airline operator based in Fort Liard, however, both communities are regularly served by charter services from Fort Simpson and Fort Nelson, B.C. There is no

scheduled airline service, although Northwest Territorial Airlines has provided service in the past to Fort Liard.

Other public services in Fort Liard include an RCMP detachment, nursing station, elementary school and some recreational facilities. Public services in Nahanni Butte include a nursing station and an elementary school as well as a Parks Canada warden's office for Nahanni National Park. Electric power in both communities is provided through diesel generators operated by the Northern Canada Power Commission.

* Visitor Infrastructure and Tourism Related Services

Limited facilities for tourists exist in the region and it is unlikely that they will be developed and made operational for several years. A tourist information centre has recently been constructed in Fort Liard but it has not yet been made operational. There is one community campground - Hay Lakes - which includes picnic facilities and ten campsites. The community hall/curling rink can be used to support tourism, although the curling rink is not operational. There is also a dock and boat launch on the Liard River that is available for public use. On occasion, the Band has used the community hall on a recreational basis for entertaining bus tours.

Nahanni Butte has a camping area near the park warden's office. Nahanni National Park itself has limited services with the exception of certain trails and trappers cabins. There is, however, a park service which registers visitors, provides interpretive programmed and controls outfitting operations. There are also several designated campsites along the South Nahanni River.

* Local Attractions and Points of Interest

Fort Liard is of interest historically as the -site of an original trading post, Riviere aux Liards, although its precise location is not known. The continuous habitation of the area for

thousands of years is also historically significant and there are opportunities to develop these historical resources into local attractions. Nahanni Butte's most significant attraction is the "Nahanni Butte", a physical landmark in the region which is visible from the Liard Highway. The community location as a gateway to Nahanni National Park could be of particular significance. This is contingent upon jet boat operations in the park area, constructing hiking trails and promoting Nahanni Butte and Blackstone Park as terminal points on a major wilderness trail system.

In the past, special events have been organized for local sport and entertainment but have not been promoted in other communities to attract their participation. At Fort Liard, there is an annual canoe race, Canada Day celebrations as well as other local events. In expanding these events and attractions, there is a basic question that would need to be addressed in the short term "what food, beverage and accommodation services would be available to meet the needs of these tourists?"

* Tourism Related Services

Liard Air Ltd. is a locally based charter airline providing fly-in services primarily to Nahanni National Park. It is also a licensed outfitting operation, providing guided tours and equipment rental for canoe tours on the South Nahanni and Flat Rivers. The LVBDC has recently applied for a license for air travel. A decision has yet to be made regarding flying applications in and out of Nahanni Park from Blackstone Park.

The LVBDC is becoming active in the provision of outfitting services in the region through the establishment of Nahanni River Tours. Jet boat excursions from Fort Liard and Blackstone Park to Virginia Falls are to be provided in the future. Already, boats have been purchased and an office constructed. Formal approval to proceed is now being considered.

*They have received
2000-11-04/85
D. J. [unclear]*

A third outfitter is now conducting local tour operations into the park. Nahanni Butte Outfitters Limited, active for seven years as a local big game outfitter and guide, is intending to offer guided raft trips and motorized boat trips on the South Nahanni River in 1986. A fourth operation (Sunrise Wilderness Tours) is currently completing their jet boat training programmed for staff. This operation will be located at Blackstone and will essentially provide tours on the Liard and South Nahanni Rivers.

2.2.5 Organizational Skills/Human Resources

The Liard Band Council, through the LVBDC, wishes to control local tourism development for the benefit of the native community. However, they have experienced problems in developing new services due to the lack of local organizational and management skills readily available in the community. The Band views the tourism service industry as a means to encourage local residents to remain in school and learn the necessary skills. The importing of management skills has caused some adverse reaction among the resident population who would prefer to see development of local human skills. Nevertheless, these communities will need to import outside senior management to assist in the operation of these facilities until residents are able to fulfill these positions.

2.3 Community Feelings About Tourism

Over the course of community work undertaken in Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte, a number of local groups and individuals were asked their opinion on tourism. The following points briefly summarize local issues and concerns about the tourism industry as a whole and about tourism as an economic activity for the two communities.

- o There is a desire by some individuals to have the community maintain control of resource opportunities such as outfitting for the economic benefit of present and future generations of local residents. Other individuals feel that
-

there should be equal opportunity for Dene and non-Dene residents.

Crafts persons feel they require greater marketing assistance in placing their crafts in more local and regional shops.

- o Concern was expressed regarding the lack of business skills in the community and the importance of attracting qualified people.
- o Tourism can provide young adults in the communities with additional job opportunities and incentive to acquire improved education and manpower training skills.
- o Lack of funds and management problems have prevented opening of the curling club at Fort Liard.
- o The high cost of services relative to Fort Nelson, B.C. may deter tourists from staying in the area.
- o Dust on the Liard Highway is considered a limiting factor in attracting tour buses.
- o Few residents expressed a desire to keep the traditional trapping lifestyle and most desired at least greater part-time wage earning opportunities.
- o Residents do not feel tourists have created any problems although this may change without adequate provision of services.
- o A greater range of services is identified as a high priority in meeting existing and future travel requirements. Many southern residents are **naive** about the **lack** of facilities and servicing in the north and must be better informed.

- o Concern was expressed over the proposed Nahanni National Park Management Plan and its impact on future jet boat use, day users, river rafting and other tours through the park.
- o High government wages were quoted as a problem in encouraging local residents to participate in seasonal outfitting operations.
- o Concern was expressed regarding the Parks Canada and other interests in the area restricting development of commercial lodges and other businesses in the Mackenzie Mountains.

2.4 Regional Travel to Fort Liard/Nahanni Butte

Since the opening of the Liard Highway in 1985, there has been only a limited amount of business and tourism oriented traffic along the highway past Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte, as discussed in the report Big River Country: Markets and Opportunities for Investment. With limited services in the communities and only modest attractions and outfitting/visitor services situated at the entrance to Nahanni National Park, there has been little justification for north or southbound Alaska Highway traffic to venture into the NWT. Of the 10,500 tourists visiting the Fort Smith region in the summer of 1984, the average summer daily traffic on the Liard Highway was only ten vehicles per day, of which 50 percent were tourist traffic.

The highway is expected to experience an increase in business traffic over the next five years, due to the increasing importance of Fort Simpson as a regional centre. Further, construction of the highway to Wrigley and Norman Wells will generate additional year round traffic which will increase direct and indirect benefits to the hospitality industry. The increase in commercial traffic will have a positive impact on Fort Liard with little or no direct influence felt by Nahanni Butte residents.

Over the next five to ten years, **there are several market segments identified that could be attracted to the region and encouraged to visit these communities.** As outlined in other Community plans, the number of visitors to these communities will, to a large extent, be dependent on the capacity of local camping and fixed-roof accommodation. In the short term, traffic into these communities will be limited primarily to day use visits. Some of the markets to be attracted include:

- o Wilderness campers, hikers, rafters and canoeists planning to enter Nahanni National Park from Blackstone Park;
- o Motor coach tour groups passing through the Territories;
- o Non-resident family automobile/recreation vehicle traffic planning to participate in a range of outdoor and interpretive activities. This market group will be primarily interested in the visitor service **centre** for Nahanni National Park, and participating in commercial recreation services such as chartered river boat trips, day use fly-in trips to Virginia Falls and possibly sports fishing;
- o NWT residents using the Liard Highway as an alternative route when traveling north or south for holidays and business (particularly those with west coast destinations);
- o Other special interest tour groups (e.g. wilderness hiking/climbing tours, river rafting/canoeing trips, jetboat tours, cross-country skiing, scientific expeditions etc.).

2.5 Basic Needs for a Local Tourism Industry

Tourism needs have been identified from a survey of community concerns and an analysis of current levels of regional and **non-**regional visitation and community resources. From this the following basic requirements have been identified which must be

attended to with respect to tourism development in Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte.

2.5.1 Local Tourism Needs in Fort Liard

Until 1984, Fort Liard had very little tourism-related infrastructure. Since then, some initiatives undertaken will enhance the community in developing its role as a local service centre. A primary consideration is to ensure community control and participation in the local tourism industry by both the private sector and the Fort Liard Band. To achieve this end, the following basic requirements should be met:

- o An understanding of the local tourism industry, in terms of past, present and future trends, and essential components to meet market requirements.
- o Commitment to utilizing and expanding local tourism related skills and support structures.
- o Care and maintenance of existing community facilities, public open space and tourism related infrastructure and services. In many instances, upgrading, expansion or development of new facilities will be required to meet minimum requirements.
- o Utilization of unique available natural and cultural resources to enhance the local tourism industry and provide a basic understanding of opportunities in Fort Simpson, Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte areas.
- o Establishment of a committee by the Community Council to assist in the implementation of the plan.

2.5.2 Local Tourism Needs in Nahanni Butte

There is virtually no tourism infrastructure in the community, although the potential for development in the area is very high

due to the proximity of **Nahanni** National Park. Any develop men. must be selective and carefully planned and implemented so as to complement the existing traditional economy. Visitation to the community must be maintained at a level acceptable to local residents. Requirements that should be met in developing a tourism industry in **Nahanni** Butte or at **Blackstone** Park are:

- o Establishment of basic summer-oriented tourism infrastructure (primarily **Blackstone** Park) to service destination and pass-through markets.
- o Development of administrative and management skills of local residents to assist in operating facilities/services.
- o Community awareness of and commitment to the development of tourism as a local industry.
- o Commitment by the Federal/Territorial governments to the development of the **Nahanni** Butte-**Blackstone** Park areas as the interpretive and service centre for **Nahanni** National Park with a broad range of services/attractions to meet non-resident/resident requirements.

3.1 Introduction

Part Three of the Fort Liard/Nahanni Butte Tourism Development Plan is to provide an overall frame of reference to guide and manage a pattern of growth over the next twenty years. The plans are to ensure the continued development of this tourism destination area through enhancement of commercial services, accommodation, events and attractions, and improved access and use of public environments such as Nahanni National Park.

The Plans are intended to guide land development and to reduce uncertainty within both the public and private sectors as to future tourism opportunities by identifying an implementing organization and conceptual development program. The communities of Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte to a lesser extent are experiencing increasing demands for services from commercial and leisure traffic on the Liard Highway. Public interest in participating in backcountry wilderness activities and local events and attractions will in the future place greater demands on the communities as well as Big River Travel Association for the expansion of various forms and types of public and private services. In promoting the orderly and economic growth of these communities, the plans take into consideration the goals and objectives of the regional strategy for Big River Country, and the interests of private investors and local residents.

3.2 Regional Tourism Development Strategy

A regional tourism strategy was prepared for Big River Country to identify the short and long-range development opportunities for the public and private sectors of the industry. The approved strategy considered a wide range of government agency considerations, private tourist operators, local residents and the use of natural and man-made attractions in the establishment of a coordinated program for the "public good" of the region. Based upon the choices and directions considered in the selection

of the preferred direction for tourism growth in Big River Country, the following regional strategy or policy statement emerged:

“To further enhance and promote the Region in recognition of its role as a destination area for high expenditure non-resident specialty adventure markets and as a pass-through area for travelers along the Liard-Mackenzie Highway. Tourism will be stimulated through the provision of community-oriented historical/cultural attractions, recreation facilities, resorts and land and water-based wilderness/backcountry recreation opportunities. Developments are to broaden the base of existing community hospitality and recreation services, and to diversify the regional economy with special attention given to increasing the quality of the visitor's experience while recognizing both the remoteness of the communities and the sensitivity of this northern environment. Services, facilities and attractions will be developed to support hosting of regional events-attractions in order that the image of the corridor/communities can be promoted in a variety of package tours. Emphasis will be placed on capitalization and minimal disturbance to the community. The strategy requires further development of the handicraft industry and creative development of cultural and historical interpretive programs aimed at generating high audience appeal for short periods of time. A unique northern experience with emphasis on the cultural, historical and visual attractions will be promoted to highway travelers as well as to other important destinations on the corridor.

In limited access areas, emphasis will be given to the modernization, expansion and development of new packaged exclusive-deluxe lodges and related commercial services to

to increase both the number of outdoor-wilderness adventure vacations and resultant employee opportunities and revenue to Big River Country. Emphasis will be placed on the marketing of these high profile activities including Nahanni National Park to act as a catalyst in the overall promotion of the region. Emphasis will be placed on nodal development where possible to broaden the appeal and efficiency of operations. Efforts should be placed in areas such as Trout Lake, Nahanni National Park, etc. as some of the infrastructure and planning already exists. The cultural interests of communities to retain their lifestyle and isolation from tourists will take precedence in certain areas."

This regional strategy identifies an integrated approach to the development of tourism opportunities at the community, corridor and remote area levels. It relies and builds upon existing natural and human resources to: realize increased employment opportunities, maximize marketing opportunities, encourage investment, and help achieve economic benefits associated with a strengthening and diversified tourism and recreation industry.

This strategy also reflects government, community and private sector goals and concerns. It is sufficiently broad in scope and flexible in approach to accommodate unforeseen development and be responsive to a variety of markets and resource development opportunities.

As a broad base policy, the regional strategy includes two complementary approaches to tourism development. The initial step involves much needed upgrading of programs at the community level. The strategy provides for additional types of tourism, recreation and entertainment facilities to encourage increased regional travel. The second step attempts to increase economic benefits and growth from the traditional, specialized wilderness markets on a community, highway corridor and remote area basis.

Combined, these two approaches serve to co-ordinate and maximize public and private sector financial investment and marketing initiatives in Big River Country's most spectacular wilderness attractions and historical communities.

The benefits of operating within a regional strategy include, for example, that quality tourism amenities will be encouraged to be developed in areas with the highest potential to succeed and oriented at resident and non-resident market sectors. The strategy also enables the tourism industry to define and work toward long range goals, overcome local concerns, and identify the resources and services required from the various levels of government.

From the regional strategy, three major goals can be defined for Fort Liard/Nahanni Butte which are directed at:

1. Increasing the number and expenditure per trip of residents and non-residents (fly-in and rubber-tired traffic) visiting the Fort Liard/Nahanni Butte area;
2. Improving the quality and range of summer related tourist services for both automobile and air traffic visitors, with specific emphasis placed upon Fort Liard/Nahanni Butte area as the eastern gateway to Nahanni National Park; and
3. Improving the quality and range of events and attractions (cultural and natural) that will appeal to both the pass through and destination travelers on the Liard Highway.

3.3 Tourism Developments and Programs for Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte

This subsection of the plan contains directions to guide and manage a preferred pattern of economic development for Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte. It is based on the tourism industry which is anticipated over the next twenty years. The plan deals with the

physical aspects of development such as accommodation, attractions and food services. It also identifies education and training needs of the residents, many of whom will become employed in the tourism industry. It is anticipated that certain Fort Liard/Nahanni Butte may be the catalyst for tourism development in the region and for the development and implementation of other community plans. The plan further reflects the overall direction of development in the western section of the Big River Country. In so doing, it places Fort Liard and Nahanni Butte in a much better position to obtain the required promotion and technical and financial assistance from the Territorial and Federal Governments.

At present, few tourists are traveling north or south along the Liard corridor. The central problems in this particular area appear to be the lack of developed and promoted attractions and municipal services. Further, the Liard-Mackenzie Highway is not part of an established tourism oriented system with recognized destinations such as are found along the Alaska route. The major attraction in the area, Nahanni National Park, does not have, for example, an interpretive centre adequate to attract and serve destination parkets. Recent policies and expansion plans by Parks Canada have further impacted upon the private sector to develop infrastructure to utilize the resource base and meet the needs of this market. Therefore, the plan must resolve the lack of unique destination attractions, general industry under development, along with the need for strong tourism marketing and local participation and support.

The recommendations for Fort Liard and the Nahanni Butte are based upon a number of assumptions. Some of these are beyond the control of the two communities and Big River Country, while others are strongly influenced by the respective councils and special interest groups. Important to the success of these community plans is increased travel along the Liard Highway by southern tourists. It is assumed that there will be continued

growth in summer daily traffic along both the Alaska and Mackenzie Highways. Further, travel trends indicate the Canadian and international market for unspoiled wilderness experience is growing and will remain strong as long as there is an outstanding resource. Other factors of a more local nature that will influence the success of the plan include: the acceptance and ability of local councils, private business and the Territorial Government to implement the regional strategy; management and promotion of Nahanni National Park as a Big River Country international destination attraction; and finally, the willingness and ability of the communities to work together for the short and long term economic well being of Fort Liard/Nahanni Butte.

The following is a detailed presentation of the tourism developments and programs for Fort Liard, Nahanni Butte and Nahanni Butte/Blackstone Park.

3.3.1 Tourism Development in Fort Liard Area

Fort Liard, as a local service centre, has the potential to serve both tourist and commercial highway traffic. Located near Nahanni National Park, it can provide a limited range of services to the traveling public including, for example, charter air services, boat tours and outfitting services. As the first community in the NWT to be visited by Southern visitors, it is important that the public open space, private sector services and general attitude of the hospitality industry create a lasting positive impression of the community and Big River Country. Essentially, there are two major objectives to be met: develop adequate services to meet the needs of highway travelers, and develop attractions and services that bring visitors to the community for overnight visits and to access other backcountry resources within the region. The latter objective will be realized as the primary resources in the region are developed and marketed, including Nahanni National Park.

Over the lifespan of this plan, it is proposed that the natural resources of the community and of the immediate surrounding area including those of Fisherman Lake and the **Petitot** River as well as the strong cultural-historical attractions, be developed and marketed. Further, these attractions and associated services be aimed at regional, destination and other pass-through markets. Development of these attractions and services will make the southern portion of **Liard** Highway more attractive to both north and southbound traffic. Also, the plan provides for additional tourism services for visiting and utilizing Canada's most significant wilderness river area, **Nahanni** National Park.

The following outlines the general guidelines for realizing the potential of **Fort Liard**:

1. **Expand Fort Liard as a local tourist service centre** providing dining facilities, accommodation, outfitting services, heritage resource entertainment and highway travel services. These services should be marketed toward the **Alaskan Highway traveller** (in particular tour bus operators and pass-through traffic), wilderness groups and major market areas, as well as the NWT residents. It is proposed that many of the additional services should **initially take** the form of a highway service **centre** and be aimed at the pass-through market.
2. **Develop/expand facilities for chartering fishermen, hikers, and day visitors to Nahanni National Park (e.g. Virginia Falls) and other lakes in the surrounding area for day use and extended trips.** The development of additional charter services may be linked with a resort lodge which may bring advantages to both parties.
3. **Encourage the establishment of a local scenic boat tour along sections of the Liard River, identifying specific**

scenic or heritage resources of interpretive interest. Such boat tours could aid in promoting Fort Liard summer events.

3. Establish a Fort Liard cultural museum to interpret and promote the community's heritage. Local crafts could be developed at this central location in conjunction with this project, or an interpretive plan of the community could be prepared describing local features of interest for walking tours. Facilities/programmed should be designed to meet the needs of tour bus groups. A strong promotional theme regarding the community could be developed based on the pre-historic cultural resources.
4. Establish a special image and identity for a riverside lodge and RV campground. This would be developed as the market warrants additional tourism and government-oriented accommodation. During the shoulder and winter seasons, market the lodge for government meetings, private parties and weddings.
5. Examine the feasibility of developing a summer camp at Fisherman Lake with canoeing, hiking, trail riding and sport fishing activities.
6. Improve facilities and organizational arrangements necessary to develop and market local events (all seasons).
7. Where possible, improve the appearance of public lands and encourage private sector operators to provide interesting and positive impressions of the community. The uniqueness of the facilities/services should be stressed whenever possible through special signage, building form (e.g. log), and interior decorating (e.g. pictures, exhibits).

For further details regarding these tourism developments and programs, refer to Sheets 1 to 8 inclusive.

3.3.2 Tourism Developments in Nahanni Butte Area

The community of Nahanni Butte should be planned in a manner to protect and conserve its existing isolated character with limited changes proposed to alter the scale or purpose of the community.¹ However, as the eastern gateway to the park by river, the community - Parks Canada Warden cabin area will need to develop a limited range of services aimed at the pass through visitor (by boat) including a tent camping area, youth hostel, handicraft store and limited food and marine supplies/services.

A Nahanni-Blackstone visitor services centre is proposed to be developed in the area that now includes Blackstone Territorial Park. The centre should be planned to provide a range of services for pass-through traffic as well as be a destination centre in itself for visitors entering or exiting the park.

It is proposed that the service centre include a number of themed private and public sector attractions and services aimed at the RV market, packaged bus tours and particularly the backcountry adventure markets. It is important that the centre be planned and marketed as one of the truly authentic tourism generators in the NWT. Growth of the centre will be linked closely with the establishment of services and attractions in other communities in Big River Country, as well as the development of international class mountain resorts and other adventure attractions (e.g. jet boat operations, backcountry trail systems).

1 It is recognized that the Nahanni Butte site is very attractive for locating a destination service centre. Residents, however, expressed the need to keep the community small as well as the site was difficult to access by road.

This service **centre** is proposed to be of territorial significance and extend the length of time that visitors will be in the area. Most important, the **Nahanni-Blackstone centre** will provide tour buses and other rubber-tire travelers with the type of **highway-**oriented attraction(s) that will generate increased visitation to the immediate area, **Nahanni** National Park and the **entire Liard-**Mackenzie corridor.

The following concepts have been prepared to meet the proposed development intent for the community of **Nahanni** Butte.

1. At **Nahanni** Butte, **it is** proposed that services include marina supplies, groceries, handicrafts and a youth hostel, to be established at or near the village site with easy access for river travelers and hikers.
2. An interpretive program be developed regarding the history of the community and related scenic-cultural attractions of interest to visitors.
3. Examine the feasibility of a walking trail to the top of **Nahanni** Butte.
4. Provide jet boat service to transport **backcountry** travelers between the airstrip, community and the proposed **Deadman** Valley Trail head to the visitor services **centre**.

Like **Nahanni** Butte, **Blackstone** Park presently provides a limited range of services to the traveling public. The following development concepts are considered necessary in establishing and maintaining **Nahanni-Blackstone** visitor services **centre** as a destination attraction for the **Liard** Highway and in achieving the development objectives for the Fort **Liard-Nahanni** Butte section of the corridor as well as Big River Country.

1. It is proposed that a phased development plan be prepared and implemented for an area extending along the Liard River, including **Blackstone** Territorial Park.
 2. The **centre** should be planned to include **resort** accommodation, RV campground, highway automobile services, big game outfitter services and back country-mountaineering supplies, charter air service, trail riding services, Parks Canada interpretive **centre** and a commercial attraction(s).
 3. The resort lodge should be planned as a central feature in the **centre** and designed to accommodate use primarily on a spring-summer-fall season basis with promotional efforts directed at the national-international market sectors. Dene cultural programs to be included at the lodge. The primary purpose of the lodge will be to serve tour buses and visitors to Virginia Falls, hikers from the Deadman Valley Trail and other tourists passing through and/or flying into one of the **backcountry** resorts in Big River Country. The lodge should be modest in **size**, but have a **distinctive** architectural design. Automobile services could be provided as part of the resort development.
 4. Expand the existing **Blackstone** Park campground to accommodate additional units.
 5. Develop an outfitter-charter service **centre** at or near the waterfront. Services to be provided include: air charter , jet boat **scenic** tour service, sport fishing services, **backcountry** hiking-mountaineering supplies and big game hunting services. In addition, a trail riding concession would be established with extended overnight and hourly rides in the immediate area.
-

6. Establish/expand visitor information services concerning Nahanni National Park and other natural and **cultural** attractions in Big River Country. The exhibits and **viewing** areas of **films**, etc. should be designed to accommodate group tours. The centre should be architecturally attractive and be an important attraction **in** itself.
7. Establish a commercial attraction such as a gold panning concession, primarily geared for the adult market that would be "weather proof" during periods of rain and cold weather.

For further details regarding these tourism **developmens** and programs, refer to Sheets 9 to 17 inclusive.

To be relevant over a **period of time**, this plan will require revisions and updating. As a result, the plan will continue to act as a guide to: **private** and public sector investors; **direct** the growth in the tourism industry; and identify and accommodate opportunities which result from changes locally, regionally and Territorially. Areas of change could be involved with, for example, policies, tourism funding programs and markets. Their associated implications to this plan should be identified and adequately dealt with. If necessary, by consensus, the **changes** are incorporated which **would** constitute updating this plan.

PROGRAM NAME: Fort Liard Community Beautification Program

SEASON OF USE: Spring, Summer and Fall

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This program is directed at improving the appearance or charm of the community of Fort Liard. The traveling tourists will frequent to a large extent the entrance road, mainstreet in the community, waterfront, and the airport access road. Therefore, the program is aimed at improving the appearance of public lands including street ditches, **public signage**, open space areas along the waterfront, pathways, etc. It can be anticipated that through the leadership provided by the local Council, private sector businesses and government agencies **will be encouraged** to improve the general appearance of their respective properties.

The second component includes the establishment of additional heritage interpretive **signage** regarding the community, river, folklore and other **events of significance**. This **signage** could be included as part of heritage walking tours of the community.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Identify various funding opportunities available to the community with the objective of improving the appearance and if possible establish a unique "**charm**" to this NWT community.
2. Community Council develop a detailed public lands improvement program.
3. Community Council initiate research on special **signage** and implement fabrication of **approved** program.

PROGRAM NAME: Fort Liard-Nahanni Butte Tourism Development
Committee/Membership in Mackenzie Tourist
Operators Association

SEASON OF USE: N/A

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

A sub-committee of the Fort Liard Community Council including representatives from Nahanni Butte and Blackstone Territorial Park would be recognized and made responsible for the Tourism Plan recommendations and to monitor ongoing developments. Potential development opportunities and related problems within the community would be referred to this committee.

The sub-committee would be comprised of council members and residents involved or concerned with the tourism industry (e.g. outfitters, members of BRTA, etc.).

The sub-committee would provide an important link between BRTA activities on a regional scale and the specific requirements of the communities and the local businesses.

To promote the specific interests of operators in the Fort Liard/Nahanni Butte, Tungsten, Trout Lake and Fort Simpson areas, a tourist association would be developed to promote the specific interests of lodge owners, outfitters and charter air services. The proposed Mackenzi Tourist Operators Association would be a member of the Big River Travel Association.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Community Councils to appoint Committee as well as include a representative from Tourism and Economic Development.

2. Committee to meet on a quarterly basis and act as both an implementing committee as well as a liaison body between the approving/funding agency and the proponent.
3. Local tourist operators would become members in the Mackenzie Tourist Operators Association designed to promote the **specific** interest of the members in the west half of Big River Country.

PROGRAM NAME: Fort Liard Service Centre

SEASON OF USE: Year round

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This program is aimed at developing the existing service centre into a 24-hour facility providing an appropriate standard dining, fuel, automobile/truck maintenance and accommodation services facility for both vacation and commercial traffic. The service centre would include retail sales of handicrafts produced from the community as well as other parts of the NWT. Food services must be designed to accommodate the requirements of single tour buses.

The service centre will provide in the retail handicrafts sales area space for tourist information on services within the community as well as that of Nahanni National Park, Blackstone Park and other special attractions/services in Big River Country.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Prepare a physical development program for the site which is phased.
2. Develop a financial plan including phasing for the development.
3. Initiate negotiations with funding agencies.

PROGRAM NAME: Summer/Winter Events

SEASON OF USE: Summer/Winter

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This program will see the upgrading of existing local events held during the summer and winter to attract regional markets over two and three day periods. A major winter event will be designed around such **activities** as dog racing **events**, cross-country skiing, curling and **snowmobiling** for example, and where possible tied to a continuing series of events. Development and marketing of winter events will occur after additional motel-lodge accommodation is available in the community.

During the summers, this program will be initiated to enhance existing events such as canoe racing, but also to promote new activities such as **jet** boat racing that would be planned and promoted with other activities such as a ball **tournament**, etc. to encourage large numbers of participants/audience. Specialty cultural events may be planned in association with packaged tour groups into the community (e.g. Dene dance and related cultural programs).

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Identify a summer and winter coordinator on behalf of the Community Council to develop special event opportunities.
2. Meet with Territorial government representatives to request special **funding** assistance.
3. Develop detailed event program including costs and benefits to community.
4. Initiate cultural dance, etc. programmed.
5. Market opportunities.

PROGRAM NAME: Fort **Liard** Museum and Heritage **Centre**

SEASON OF USE: Year round

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Establish a community **centre** to house a range of services for both local and tourist needs. The **centre** should be used in **promoting** the overall image of Fort **Liard** to both resident and non-resident travelers. The components of the **centre** should be:

- o cultural hall - exhibit **centre** interpreting the historical development of the community and area
- o area for the development of handicraft products including an area for retail sales
- o tourist information service for the community, **Liard** Highway and Big River Country
- o community hall for local events as well as act as a dining room for specialty meals for tour bus packages

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Examine the feasibility of using existing facilities and the availability of funding.
2. Develop interpretive and facility development program components.
3. Develop conceptual and detailed building design proposals.
4. Develop detailed designs for interpretive programs.
5. Implement recommendations based upon proposed timing, market requirements and **availability** of funding.

PROGRAM NAME: Local Scenic Boat Tours

SEASON OF USE: Summer

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

A jet boat scenic tour service would be provided for pass-through tourists as well as packaged tours. The tour would be designed to take visitors on to the Liard River and provide them with information regarding the cultural-heritage aspects of the Liard as well as identify scenic areas of local interest.

The tour is aimed at encouraging tour buses to overnight in the Fort Liard-Nahanni Butte area as well as provide local employment opportunities.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Develop a series of one, two and three hour boat tours with departures from Fort Liard.
2. Develop interpretive programs for tours including site descriptions and historical-cultural sketches.
3. Market tours with packaged tour bus firms and implement reservation system.

TYPE OF PROGRAM: Infrastructure

SHEET NO: 7

PROGRAM NAME: Fisherman Lake Summer Camp

SEASON OF USE: Spring, Summer and Fall

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This program is directed at the planning and development of a **summer camp**, including several rental and privately held cottages along the shores of Fisherman Lake. Activities of visitors at Fisherman Lake would be primarily oriented toward sports fishing, canoeing, big game hunting, cultural heritage interpretation and hiking and boating for pleasure.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Preparation of a conceptual development for **review** and approval by the Fort **Liard** Band Council and other **approving** agencies.
2. Initiate sale/lease of lands for the purpose of cottage development and summer camp.
3. Initiate development and marketing of **backcountry** cottages package.
4. Initiate development and marketing of summer camp.

PROGRAM NAME: Fort **Liard** Riverfront Lodge and RV Campground

SEASON OF USE: Year round

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

To take advantage of both tourist and commercial traffic, and the big game hunting and other Wilderness resources in **close** proximity to Fort **Liard**, it is proposed that a four-season lodge be established. The development of this lodge and associated campground should be established after the Fort **Liard** service centre is fully operative and additional accommodation units are required. The following development guidelines provide a conceptual framework of this resort:

- o the medium sized lodge including special architectural treatment and complementary to its riverside location
- o include a central recreation area, meeting room facilities, kiosk and generally enough indoor facilities **to be considered "weather proof"**
- o market the lodge for tour bus traffic

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Conduct a feasibility study to determine the financial requirements and probable timing in developing the lodge.
2. Examine the investment market.
3. Based upon conclusions reached, implement recommendations.

PROGRAM NAME: **Nahanni-Blackstone** Visitor Services **Centre**
Master Plan

SEASON OF USE: N/A

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Develop conceptual and detailed plans for the visitor services centre including the **existing Blackstone Territorial Park**. The plan should include an overall development plan, servicing plan, circulation plan, visitor services plan and phasing plan. It is anticipated in this initial phase of planning and development that **adminsitration-ownership** of lands would be confirmed. The **centre** is viewed as an important catalyst in promoting use of the highway corridor.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Commission assignment to develop alternative planning proposals leading **to** a preferred approach for the **short** and long term development of the **Nahanni-Blackstone Centre**.
2. Initiate negotiations for acquisition of lands.
3. Initiate negotiations with Parks Canada, Nahanni **Butte**, private sector organizations and the Territorial Government to determine their specific role in development-operation of **Centre**.
4. Initiate a phased development program.

PROGRAM NAME: **Nahanni** Resort Lodge and Mountain Chalets

SEASON OF USE: Spring, Summer, Fall (short term);
Year round (long term)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

In an attractive, central location within **the centre**, a prestigious mountain resort lodge will be developed to accommodate tour bus and other pass-through and destination traffic. As part of the lodge **operation**, several chalet-type units **would** be provided **to** accommodate families and/or groups. It is anticipated that the lodge itself would have a special architectural image and be a **central feature** in **marketing visits** to **Nahanni** National Park and area.

As part of the lodge, handicraft sales would be provided including many **products** produced **throughout the Territories**. Further, automobile services could be included as part of the lodge development program. The lodge would include a visitor information area outlining opportunities/attractions throughout the Territories and in particular Big River Country.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Initiate planning and financial feasibility analyses to determine the optimum scale and development program for the complex.
2. Initiate research into private sector investor interest.
3. Initiate phased approach to lodge development according to **Nahanni-Blackstone** Master Plan.

TYPE OF PROGRAM: Infrastructure

SHEET NO: 11

PROGRAM NAME: **Blackstone** Campground

SEASON OF USE: Spring, Summer, Fall

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Expand the campground to include group use sites, open camping areas and individual **sites**. As part of the campground, a secured area for storing vehicles for individuals and groups out on the land will be provided.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Initiate program development to determine short and long term campground needs.
2. initiate site planning within the context of the **Nahanni-Blackstone Centre Master Plan**.
3. Outline a phased approach to campground development.

PROGRAM NAME: Private Outfitter Service Centre

SEASON OF USE: Spring, Summer, Fall

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

An integral part of the **Nahanni-Blackstone** Visitor Service Centre will be a private outfitter service centre providing guiding services and supplies. Business opportunities to be included at the centre would include: big game hunting, jet boat and other scenic tours, cultural-historical tours, horseback trail rides, **backcountry-mountaineering** guiding services, sport fishing services, and charter air services. At this time, no winter activities are proposed at this location. The outfitter centre could provide **reservations** for the remote access mountain and sport fishing lodges in the region.

The program would see **the** development of a single structure to house these outfitting services at or in close proximity to the waterfront. It is suggested that the riding stables be located at a reasonable distance from the main building and at or near a trail head.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Develop individual operating plans to determine specific requirements of typical businesses.
2. Undertake site planning program.
3. Incorporate development of the outfitter service centre in the overall phasing of the **Nahanni/Blackstone** Master Plan.

PROGRAM NAME: Deadmans Valley Gold Panning Centre

SEASON OF USE: Summer

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Mackenzie Mountains and **Nahanni** National Park have a long gold mining tradition. Through the summer, a gold panning concession would be operated on or near the banks of the **Liard** River for visitors who have recently been captured by the "gold rush of 1985 . . . **etc.**" The concession could be operated by the lodge and should include many authentic aspects of early **gold** rush panning. Similar types of concessions are currently in operation at **Dawson** City and California historical **gold** mine communities. Other similar commercial attractions that have a direct connection with the history-culture of the area would be appropriate.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Develop a detailed program for the gold panning concession, including operational requirements.
2. Initiate design for approved program and implement project according to **Nahanni/Blackstone** Master Plan guidelines.

PROGRAM NAME: **Nahanni** Butte Youth Hostel/Campground

SEASON OF USE: Spring, Summer, Fall

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The program is designed to identify an optimal location and construct a youth hostel and tent campground for **backcountry** travelers exiting and entering **Nahanni** National Park. The hostel should be designed to be architecturally attractive and sympathetic with the surrounding environments. The hostel and campground will require convenient **access to the** river and be within reasonable walking distance of the local store.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Parks **Canada** to initiate identification and assessment of alternative sites.
2. Review alternatives with Band Council and select preferred site.
3. Construct landing, hostel and tent camp.

PROGRAM NAME: **Nahanni** Butte Interpretive Program

SEASON OF USE: Spring, Summer, Fall

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This program is aimed at providing visitors to the community with an understanding of the cultural and historical events and features of interest. Community brochures would be prepared as well as permanent **signage** developed regarding features of interest. Special events from time to time could be organized for special occasions at the lodge or waterfront.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Research and development of community and area history and culture culminating in the **development** of mass produced brochures, films and local markers/interpretive signs.
2. Disseminate community brochures to appropriate outlets and construct **signage**.
3. Plan special events.

PROGRAM NAME: **Nahanni** Butte Interpretive Trail

SEASON OF USE: Summer

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Following onsite analysis, map a route for tourists to hike to the summit of **Nahanni** Butte. Construct at the top appropriate interpretive **signage** including a "**I've** climbed **Nahanni** Butte" registration shelter.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Assess opportunities in terms of alternative locations to hike to the top of **Nahanni** Butte; map appropriate route.
2. Obtain approvals for the construction of a hiking trail to the top of the mountain.
3. Undertake construction of the route and appropriate interpretive **signage**.

PROGRAM NAME: Fort **Liard/Nahanni/Blackstone** Visitor
Services **Centre** Promotion

SEASON OF USE: Year round

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

This program **is** aimed at improving the awareness of **the** attractions and services located in and around the community and visitor services **centre** to the major market groups. Specific components of the program include:

- o development of color stories in travel magazines, etc. regarding the history and culture of the area
- o develop a community brochure advertising local services, attractions, events, etc. that **would** be distributed through the tourist information **centre**, hotels, trade **shows**, international backcountry travel wholesale firms, etc.
- o special signage/exhibits on the community of Fort **Liard** to be included in the **NWT** tourism information **centre** on the Alaska Highway welcoming visitors to the "First Community in the Territories"
- o special exhibits regarding **Nahanni** and the services of the **Nahanni-Blackstone Centre** including commercial attractions
- o community commercial **signage** on the **Liard** Highway

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION:

1. Meet with **NWT** government and Big River Country representatives regarding opportunities for specific tourism oriented articles on the community **centre**.
2. Commission preparation and printing of community brochures.
3. Commission preparation of Mackenzie Tourist Operators Association Brochures.

TABLE 1

RESOURCES OF THE LAND

(UNUSUAL LANDFORMS, WILDLIFE AREAS, FISHING AREAS, ETC.)

Map No.	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Travel Time From Community (one-way)	Best Time For Visiting Resource (Season, Month)	Other Comments (e.g. person identifying resource)
<u>LANDFORMS</u>					
4-1	Nahanni National Park Virginia Falls, South Nahanni River, Flat River Tlogotsho Plateau, Sunblood Mountain, hot springs, caves, tufa mounds, alluvial fans, canyons	Fly-in, or Jet Boat, or Hiking trail, or Horse- back trail rides	2-3 hrs to Several days	mm	-Whitewater canoe & rafting tours. -Day tours to Virginia Falls. -Hiking, fishing, photography. -Sightseeing by air.
4-2	Laird River: downstream from Fort Liard to Nahanni Butte (153 km)	Canoe/Boat	2-4 days (Canoe)	Summer	-Dangerous for novice. -Evenings good for wildlife viewing.
4-3	South Nahanni: downstream from Virginia Falls to Park exit	Boat/Canoe		Summer	-Suitable for floating or un- demanding canoe trips.
4-4	South Nahanni: downstr from Rabbittkettle Lake (118 km)	Boat/Canoe		mm	-This part of the river more suited for experienced canoeists.

TABLE 1

RESOURCES OF THE LAND

(UNUSUAL LANDFORMS, WILDLIFE AREAS, FISHING AREAS, ETC.)

Map No.	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Travel Time From Community (one-way)	Best Time For Visiting Resource (Season, Month)	Other Comments (e.g. person identifying resource)
<u>LANDFORMS</u> 4-5	Flat River: Seaplane Lake to South Nahanni	Canoe/ Fly-in	1/2-2 days	mm	-Exceptionally scenic area, suitable for camping, viewing, hiking, and fishing.
4-6	Liard River	Canoe/Boat	2-4 days	Summer	-Sometimes difficult due to shoal water
4-7	Petitot River: Liard Hwy. bridge crossing downstream to Fort Liard	Canoe		Spring	-Attractive landscape. -Legends/superstitions.
4-8	Fisherman Lake-NW of Fort Liard	Fly-in Hiking	2	mm	-Important local fishing area. -Starting point for backcountry hiking.
4-9	Lake Bovie-E to Fort Liard	Fly-in	2 hours	Summer	-Important local fishing area. -Beaches suitable for camping/cottage development.

TABLE 1
RESOURCES OF TEE LAND
(UNUSUAL LANDFORMS, WILDLIFE AREAS, FISHING AREAS, ETC.)

Map No.	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Travel Time From Community (one-way)	Best Time For Visiting Resource (Season, Month)	Other Comments (e.g. person identifying resource)
<u>LANDFORMS</u>					
4-10	Celibeta Lake	Boat, Canoe Fly-in	1/2-2 days	Summer	
4-11	Seaplane Lake	Fly-in	1/2-3 days	Summer	-Scenic area, suitable for camping, viewing, hiking, and fishing.
4-12	Hole-in-the-Wall	Fly-in	1/2 day	Summer	-Picturesque setting. -Excellent fishing opportunities. -A warm mineral spring is located at the southwest end of the lake. -Area has potential for both experienced and amateur mountain climbers.

TABLE 1

RESOURCES OF THE LAND

(UNUSUAL LANDFORMS, WILDLIFE AREAS, FISHING AREAS, ETC.)

Map No.	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Travel Time From Community (one-way)	Best Time For Visiting Resource (Season, Month)	Other Comments (e.g. person identifying resource)
<u>LANDFORMS</u> 4-13	Rabbitkettle Lake	Boat, Canoe, Fly-in	/2-3 days	mm	-Boating and canoeing to Rabbitkettle Lake are challenging. -One of the most spectacular features of the region are the Rabbitkettle Hot-springs; located southeast of Rabbitkettle Lake.
4-14	Other Mackenzie Mountain Lakes and Rivers: McMillian, Skinboat, and Clark Lakes (not mapped)	Boat, Canoe, Fly-in	1/2-3 days	Summer	-Exceptionally scenic. -Opportunities for camping, viewing, hiking, and fishing.
4-15	Virginia Falls	Boat, Canoe, Fly-in	1/2-3 days	Summer	-Spectacular viewing. -Boating and canoeing opportunities to the falls are excellent, suitable for less experienced canoeists.

TABLE 1

RESOURCES OF TEE LAND

(UNUSUAL **LANDFORMS**, WILDLIFE AREAS, **FISHING AREAS**, **ETC.**)

Map No.	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Travel Time From Community (one-way)	Best Time For Visiting Resource (Season, Month)	Other Comments (e.g. person identifying resource)
<u>LANDFORMS</u>					
4-16	Canyon Scenery (not mapped)	Boat, Canoe, Fly-in	1/2-3 days	Summer	-Exceptionally scenic area. -Excellent opportunities for boating, canoeing, viewing, and hiking.
4-17	Geologic Features of Interest: Old Pots Mineral Springs, Wild Mint Springs (not mapped)	Fly-in, hiking, canoe	1/2-3 days	Summer	-Abundant wildlife, lush vegetation and spectacular flora. -Opportunities for camping, hiking, and viewing are available. -care should be taken not to <i>over-</i> use this environmentally sensitive area.

TABLE 1

RESOURCES OF THE LAND

(UNUSUAL LANDFORMS, WILDLIFE AREAS, FISHING AREAS, ETC.)

Map No.	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Travel Time From Community (one-way)	Best Time For Visiting Resource (Season, Month)	Other Comments (e.g. person identifying resource)
<u>LANDFORMS</u>					
4-18	Hot Springs (Hole-in-the-Wall Lake; not mapped)	Fly-in	1/2 day	mm	-The spectacular setting of these hot springs offer opportunities for boating, canoeing, and viewing.
4-19	Pointed Mountain - W of Fisherman Lake	Hiking from Fisherman Lake	1/2 day	mm	-Hiking & photography. -Starting point for one week hiking tour of Kotaneelee Valley. -Hunting for moose mountain sheep.
4-20	Nahanni Butte - West of Nahanni Butte Community	Hiking and boat trip from Blackstone Park and Nahanni Butte	1/2 day	ummm	-Hiking & photography.

TABLE 1

RESOURCES OF THE LAND

(UNUSUAL LANDFORMS, WILDLIFE AREAS, FISHING AREAS, ETC.)

Map No.	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Travel Time From Community (one-way)	Best Time For Visiting Resource Season, Month)	Other Comments (e.g. person identifying resource)
<u>LANDFORMS</u>					
4-21	Sawmill Mountain	Fly-in, hiking	1/2-2 days	Summer	-Opportunities for hiking and photography. -Hunting for moose & Dall Sheep.
4-22	Tlogotsho, La Biche and Liard Mountain Ranges	Fly-in, hiking	1/2-3 days	Summer	-Opportunities for hiking and camping.
3-12	Ram Plateau	Fly-in, hiking	1/2-2 days	Summer	-Drop off point for mountain climbing.
4-23	Glacier Lake - West of Nahanni National Park	Fly-in	3 hours	Summer	-Mountaineering in "Cirque of the Unclimbables".
4-24	Ragged Range - West of Nahanni National Park	Hiking from Glacier Lake	1/2 day	Summer	-Legend that gold is believed to be located in the Mountains.
4-25	Gold - rivers and streams in the Mackenzie Mountains	Fly-in, Hike-in from Nahanni Butte	N.A.	Summer	

TABLE 2

RESOURCES OF THE LAND

(UNUSUAL LANDFORMS, WILDLIFE AREAS, FISHING AREAS, ETC.)

FORT LIARD/NAHANNI BUTTE

Map No.	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Travel Time From Community (one-way)	Best Time For Visiting Resource (Season, Month)	Other Comments (e.g. person identifying resource)
<u>WILDLIFE AND FISHING</u>					
4-31	Bison (wild)	Liard Highway	N.A.	All	-Unique herd.
4-32	Dall sheep	Hiking in Liard Range	1/2-1 day	Summer	-Best Dall sheep range in Southern Mackenzie Mountains.
4-33	Beaver	Arrowhead River	1 hour	mm	-Best beaver habitat in area.
4-34	Grizzly	Hiking	1/2-1 day	Summer	-Found throughout the region.
4-41	Arctic grayling, Dolly Varden, Lake Trout, Northern Pike	Nahanni National Park	1/2 day	mm	-Secondary activity while in park.
4-42	Suckers, whitefish, Yellow Walleye, Northern Pike	Liard River Fisherman Lake & Lake Bovie		Fall, Winter All Seasons	-Gill netting by Band.

TABLE 3

RESOURCES OF THE PEOPLE

(HISTORIC SITES, FISH CAMPS, OUTPOST CAMPS, ETC.)

FORT LIARD/NAHANNI BUTTE

Map No.	Resource Description	Best Mode of Access	Travel Time From Community	Best Time For Visiting Resource (Season, Month)	Other Comments (e.g. person identifying resource)
	Nahanni National Park	Jet Boat, Canoe, hiking, or raft	Variable	Summer	-Sheaf Creek: North-west Lands & Forests Cabin. - Kraus Hot Springs: outbuildings built by Gus & Mary Kraus . - Faille-Sibbeston Cabin.
	Fisherman Lake	Fly-in/boat and Hiking	2 hours	Summer	- Evidence of 9,000 years of habitation of fishing area.
	Netla	Boat/Highway	1 hour	May-July	-Historic settlement of Kaska tribe prior to resettlement at Nahanni Butte. -Trading post operated here late 1920's - mid 1950's.

TABLE 4

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Resource	Characteristics (Description, access, condition, operating , use, costs, quality, etc.)	Other Comm
<p><u>FORT LIARD/NAHANNI BUTTE</u> 1. Accommodation</p>	<p>-HRY Holdings Ltd. - motel with 8 units, 6 with cooking, capacity of 12; 3 bachelor apartments; operates year round; primarily used by government, gas drillers, contractors, service repair personnel</p>	<p>Ownership 50% private, 50% LVBDC.</p>
<p>2. Food/Beverage Services</p>	<p>-Community Hall-short order restaurant, operated during the day primarily for the use of local residents.</p>	<p>Facilities are not adequate to meet tour bus demand or the major of rubber-fixed food/beverage needs.</p>
<p>3. Retail/Arts & Crafts</p>	<p>-HRY Holdings Ltd. - grocery and sports/hardware store -The Bay - general merchandising -Acho-Dene Native Crafts -Nahanni Butte Handicrafts store</p>	<p>Native crafts store owned by GNWT Economic Development & Tourism</p>
<p>4. Transportation & Other Public services</p>	<p>-Airport - gravel runway, operated by Band Council, day use only, no scheduled air service. -Liard Air Ltd. - charter air services, water/ice aerodrome. -Service Centre - automobile fuel, servicing and repairs, fuel oil for community use. -Beaver Enterprises & HRY Holdings, local trucking services. -R.C.M.P. - 2 man detachment in Fort Liard. -Nursing Stations - Fort Liard & Nahanni Butte. -Elementary Schools - Fort Liard & Nahanni Butte.</p>	<p>Limited hours of operation.</p>

TABLE 4

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Resource	Characteristics (Description, access, condition, operating seasons, use, costs, quality, etc.)	Other Comments
<u>FORT LIARD/NAHANNI BUTTE</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Recreational Facilities Fort Liard - Community hall, curling rink, playground, outdoor ice ring; Nahanni Butte - community hall. 	Community owned & operated, not located on river.
5. Visitor Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Hay Lakes Campground, Fort Liard - 10 campsites, picnic facilities, no hook-ups. -Tourist Information Centre, Fort Liard - new log building - not yet operational. 	
6. Local Attractions & Points of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sports Day - August -Cabin Fever Days -Dog Races -Canoe races -Nahanni National Park (see Resources of the Land) -Access monitored by Park Superintendent in Fort Simpson -Trading Post - Riviere aux Liards: established by Northwest Company and taken over by Hudson's Bay Company 	Owned by Vrs Schildknecht
7. Tourism Related Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Liard Air Ltd., Fort Liard - charter air services -Nahanni National Park, outfitting services, rental of canoeing/camping equipment, sightseeing trips. -Nahanni River Tours, Fort Liard - jet boat tours to Virginia Falls, not yet operational. -Nahanni Butte Outfitters Ltd., Blackstone Park - daytrips on the South Nahanni and Liard Rivers; big game hunting services 	Owned by LVBDC
		Owned by Greg Williams