



Lutsel Ke Community Traditional Knowledge Project

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When was G.I.S. introduced to Łutsel K'e

G.I.S. was introduced to Łutsel K'e in 1999 to the WLED staff. The software and equipment was donated by BHP



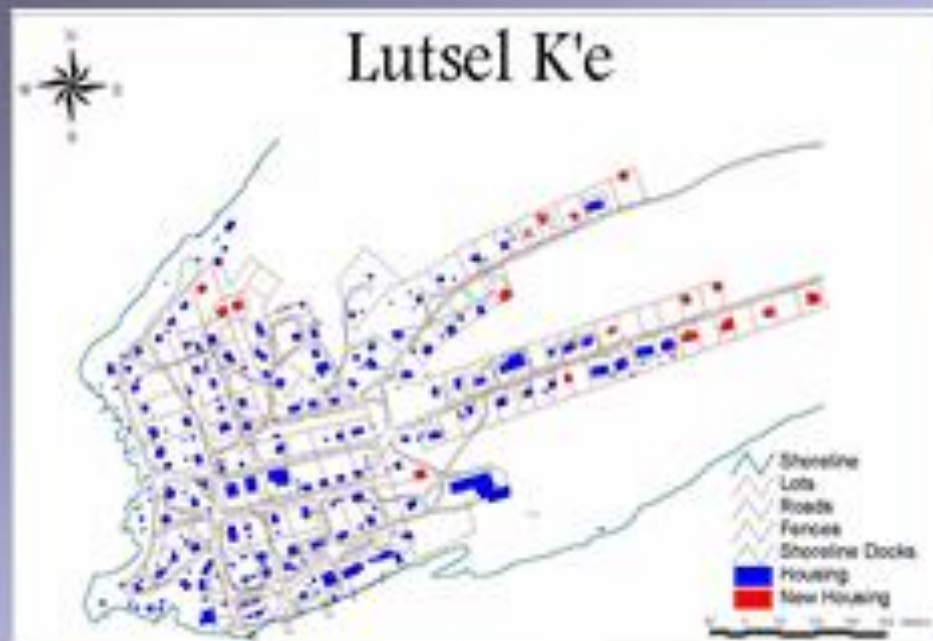
What is G.I.S. used for ?

- **G.I.S. is used for monitoring:**

- **Hunting** (*ducks, caribou, ptarmigan, moose...*)
- **Fishing** (*setting fishnets, fishing lodges, fishing areas...*)
- **Trapping** (*traplines, cabins, fur bearing animals...*)
- **Traditional Knowledge** (*burial grounds, legends, dene place names...*)
- **Industrial Development** (*mining development, parks, ice roads, claim blocks...*)
- **Land Use Plan** (*roads, lots, buildings, geological features...*)
- **Other** (*personal requests for maps, pictures, stories...*)

There are many other related research information in the G.I.S. files. Information is available upon request depending on the nature of request.

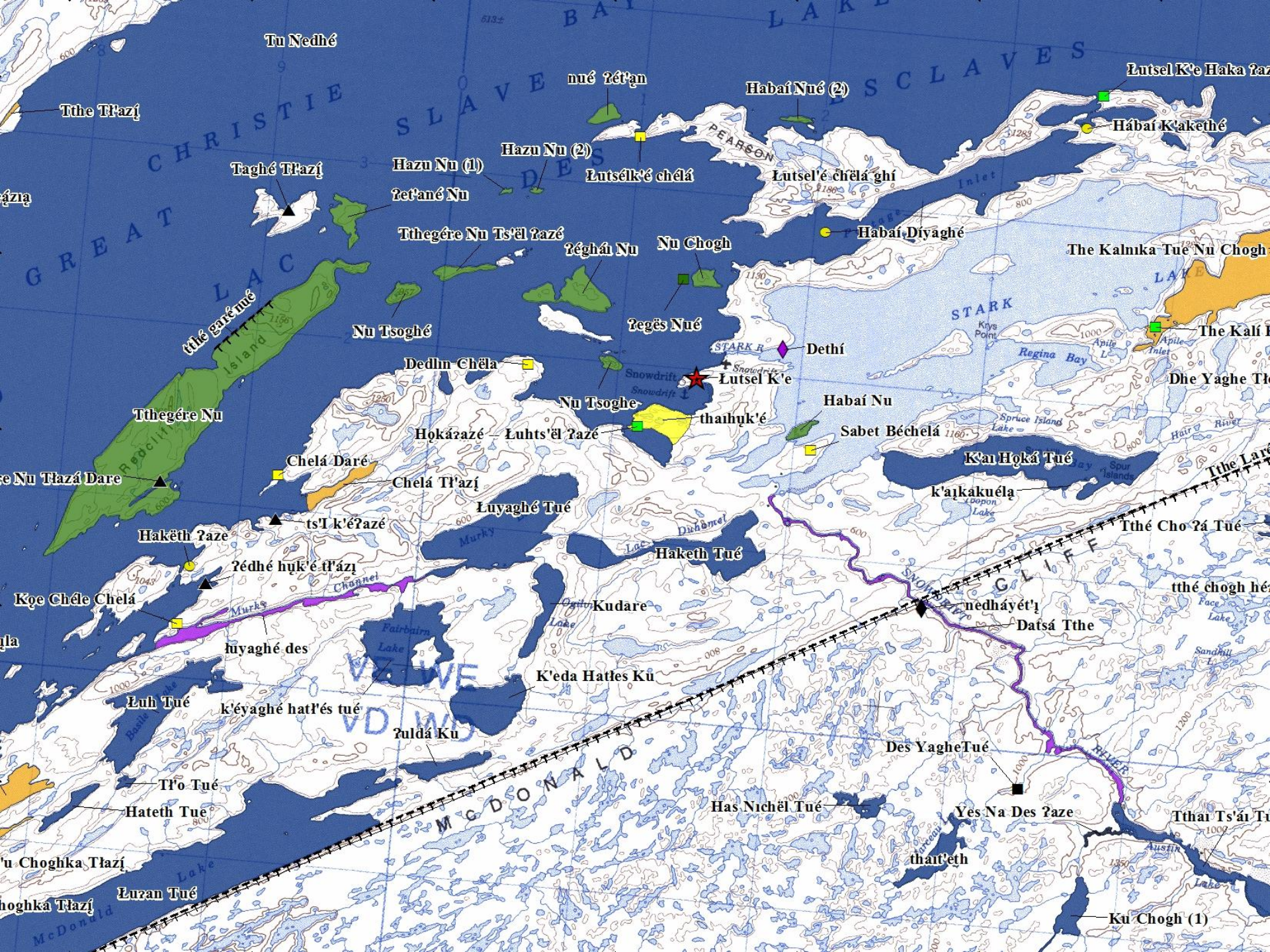
Examples of G.I.S. work



This map layout displays the Lutsel Ke land use blueprint. It was digitized from an original blueprint and is now in G.I.S. format. This is an example of the work G.I.S. can create.



This is another example of the work that G.I.S. can create. The map layout displays the spring harvest in 2004. It also has the legend which contains information about the map



Seasonal Wildlife Monitoring

Spring - geese, ducks, beavers and muskrats

Summer - fishing and berry picking

Fall - rabbit, chicken, ptarmigan, moose and fall caribou hunt

Winter - trapping, setting nets and winter caribou hunt

How it works



For the winter hunting season, a selection of individual hunters are interviewed. They are asked about the abundance, distribution and the general condition of the caribou they have seen or harvested. They are also asked to comment about the weather and anything else they notice.

How it works

After all hunters have been interviewed, the researchers transcribe interviews and enter the information into a searchable traditional database. Spatial information is mapped and digitized into a G.I.S. system.



Topics of Discussion

- How Elders and land-users directed and informed the process of identifying the area of interest.
- The features of cultural and natural importance in the area.
- The type of activities that the community would like to allow/disallow in the area of interest.
- Further steps being taken to advance the area of interest to the candidate protected area level.

Directing the Process



Due to increasing development pressure in the traditional territory, Lutsel K'e Elders have voiced a need to protect some of the land from industrial development. They want some of the land to remain pristine so that the Dene way of life can continue.

Traditional Knowledge

Why is it so important to keep our traditional way of life?



Where our ancestors have
travelled for many generations
and continue to road to this day



Protecting our Land



Traditional and Environmental Research



Traditional Activity

We also want to insure that our rights to hunt, fish, trap, and gather on the land are not restricted.



Land

This is the land where the Denesoline have traveled and lived for centuries. The land is criss-crossed with our travel routes and traplines.





Water

This is the great Lockhart River, or Desnedhe Che, the lifeblood of all living things in the region.

**This land is of vital importance to our people.
Protecting will help insure the wellness of our people
down through the generations.**



Digitization Process

- Lutsel K'e has hundreds of files from various media (video, audio, written) that are to be digitized
- To date the TK project has digitized 95% of historic files and plan on attaching the files to there region on the GIS maps

Benefits to the Community

- Useful education tool for youth to learn the history of the land
- Creates a pathway to maintain the connection between elders and youth

Benefits Beyond the Community

- The use of the information for development potential, or the avoidance of development
- Monitoring migration routes and location of animals for health monitoring



Benefits Beyond the Community

- TK used with scientific knowledge for a more holistic understanding of the land
- All information in one location to provide as TK information for the region



Next Phase

- Short term – Finish digitizing the remaining 5% of media files
- Medium future – Match files to there corresponding map locations
- Long term- Creating a searchable working database accessible to the local community

- TK project is useful not only for development potential, but more importantly, to strengthen the connection between elders and youth and educate the youth on their land and history

