



# WHAT WE HEARD: PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE RECOMMENDED DAWSON REGIONAL LAND USE PLAN

JUNE 26, 2023

**PREPARED FOR:**

GOVERNMENT OF YUKON



TR'ONDĚK HWĚCH'IN GOVERNMENT



**PREPARED BY:**





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS.....	V
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	1
<b>1 INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 PLANNING PROCESS .....	4
1.2 REPORT FORMAT AND ANALYSIS .....	6
1.3 LIMITATIONS.....	7
<b>2 CONSULTATION.....</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 OBJECTIVES.....	8
2.2 METHODS .....	8
<b>3 WHAT WE HEARD: SURVEY.....</b>	<b>10</b>
3.1 SURVEY RESULTS.....	10
3.1.1 PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS .....	10
3.1.2 VISION.....	11
3.1.3 ECOLOGICAL VALUES.....	11
3.1.4 SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY.....	12
3.1.5 SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS (SMA).....	12
3.1.6 INTEGRATED STEWARDSHIP AREAS (ISA).....	14
3.1.7 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS.....	16
3.1.8 LANDSCAPE CHANGE .....	18
3.1.9 HARVESTING OR OTHER CULTURAL USES.....	19
3.1.10 IMPLEMENTATION.....	20
3.1.11 WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE PLAN .....	20
<b>4 WHAT WE HEARD: OPEN HOUSES AND WORKSHOP .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>5 WHAT WE HEARD: AFFECTED FIRST NATIONS.....</b>	<b>29</b>
5.1.1 TR'ONDĚK HWĚCH'IN - HIGHLIGHTS .....	30
5.1.2 FIRST NATION OF NA-CHO NYÄK DUN - HIGHLIGHTS ...	30
5.1.3 TR'ONDĚK HWĚCH'IN CITIZEN CONSULTATION REPORT .....	30
5.1.4 DAWSON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT .....	32
5.1.5 FIRST NATION OF NA-CHO NYÄK DUN .....	32
5.1.6 VUNTUT GWITCHIN GOVERNMENT .....	34

6	WHAT WE HEARD: SUBMISSIONS FROM STAKEHOLDERS .....	36
7	THEMES .....	51
8	APPENDICES .....	58
8.1	APPENDIX A: CONSULTATION DETAILS.....	58
8.2	APPENDIX B: COPY OF SURVEY .....	64
8.3	APPENDIX C: OPEN HOUSE / WORKSHOP NOTES .....	79
8.4	APPENDIX D: FACILITATOR'S OPEN HOUSE NOTES .....	86
8.5	APPENDIX E: WORKSHOP WORKSHEET .....	91
8.6	APPENDIX F: FIRST NATIONS' (TH, FNNND, VGFN) FORMAL SUBMISSIONS .....	106
8.7	APPENDIX G: TH CITIZEN LETTER.....	151
8.8	APPENDIX H: STAKEHOLDER LIST .....	152

## FIGURES

Figure 1: Plan Process Timeline .....	6
Figure 2: Consultation Process.....	9

## TABLES

Table 1: Affected First Nations Leadership Meetings.....	29
Table 2: Summary of Stakeholder Meetings.....	36
Table 3: Summary of Template Letters.....	49
Table 4: Summary of 2022 Community Open Houses and Workshop .....	59

# ACRONYMS

CE	Cumulative Effects
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Ocean Canada
CPAWS	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service
EMR	Department of Energy, Mines and Resources
FNNND	First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun
ISA	Integrated Stewardship Area
KPMA	Klondike Placer Miner's Association
LMU	Landscape Management Unit
NGO	Non-government Organization
NYRLUP	North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan
ORV	Off-Road Vehicle
ORVMA	Off-Road Vehicle Management Area
PCH	Porcupine Caribou Herd
RRC	Renewable Resource Council
SMA	Special Management Area
SLC	Senior Liaison Committee
TH	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
THFA	<i>Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement</i>
UFA	<i>Umbrella Final Agreement</i>
VGFN	Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation
VGG	Vuntut Gwitchin Government
YCM	Yukon Chamber of Mines
YCS	Yukon Conservation Society
Y2Y	Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative
YG	Government of Yukon
YESAB	Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board
YLUPC	Yukon Land Use Planning Council
YFWMB	Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board
YSSC	Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee
YWB	Yukon Water Board



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

This report summarizes the input received during the consultation with affected communities and First Nations, stakeholders, and the public, on the Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan (the Recommended Plan). It was released to the public on September 7, 2022, and consultation was held from September 20 through December 20, 2022.

This report includes a description of the consultation methods and communications tools used to solicit input from the public. Tools included a survey, community open houses, First Nation Leadership meetings, community workshops, and one on one interviews. Input included 180 responses to the survey, approximately 100 unique in-person conversations at open houses, three stakeholder interviews, as well as 48 formal written submissions received from stakeholder groups and individuals. The input received was reviewed and is summarized in the 'What We Heard' sections of this report. Key themes that emerged from the consultation are presented below.

## OVERVIEW OF PLANNING PROCESS

The Recommended Plan is an important step towards implementing the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement (THFA) and advancing First Nation reconciliation. It is guided by the objectives of Chapter 11 of the THFA. This regional land use plan is the third to be in process through Chapter 11 of a First Nation Final Agreement. While regional land use planning is the purpose of Chapter 11, the creation of a regional land use plan helps to actualize many other provisions and rights found in First Nation Final Agreements.

The Draft Plan and then the Recommended Plan were created by the Dawson Regional Planning Commission (the Commission) over three years. The Draft Plan was released to the public in June 2021 and the Commission commenced public engagement which went until October 2021. Incorporating the feedback received, the Commission then presented their Recommended Plan to the Parties in June 2022. As per Chapter 11 of the THFA, it is the Parties' responsibility to consult on the Recommended Plan.

## KEY THEMES

Five themes emerged following qualitative and quantitative analysis of the input received. Themes capture shared views, notable remarks, and important topics we heard during the consultation, and help to make sense of input that spans a wide range of interests and connections to the Dawson Region.

## THEME 1: REGIONAL PLANNING PROCESS

Participants generally expressed strong support for how the Commission and the Parties conducted the planning process thus far. The majority of input received was positive with respect to the changes that had been made from the Draft Plan, and there was a positive acknowledgement of the hard work of the

Commission in preparing the Recommended Plan. Some participants did have concerns about the process and felt their Draft Plan feedback had limited influence in shaping the Recommended Plan.

## THEME 2: LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

For many, land use designations and related CE management thresholds are critical to the success of the Recommended Plan.

Some participants indicated that they would like to see lower levels of development allowed in some areas and greater protection mechanisms (i.e., as SMA or lower ISA level). This sentiment was most often tied to the following Landscape Management Units (LMUs):

LMU 6: Tr'ondëk (Klondike)

LMU 7: Whetr'e (Antimony)

LMU 14: Tąy Dèkdhät (Top of the World)

LMU 15: Khel Dëk (Sixty Mile)

LMU 17: Nän Dhòhdäl

LMU 19: Tädzan Dëk (White River)

LMU 21: Wëdzey Tąy (Fortymile Caribou Corridor)

We saw this view reflected in the analysis of long-answer survey responses, as well as letters from some stakeholders, First Nations, and Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) boards and committees (e.g. Renewable Resources Councils (RRCs)). We also heard suggestions about how to adjust some LMU boundaries to increase wildlife connectivity between SMA areas and/or important caribou corridors.

We heard from industry stakeholders that they supported the identification of the Goldfields LMU as an ISA 4, and that existing or expected mining activities in higher-protection focused ISA areas (i.e., outside the Goldfields) could be negatively impacted by the Recommended Plan designations. These concerns were often voiced in combination with those about the CE framework and interim withdrawal / Overlay areas (Theme 2).

Specifically, some stakeholders identified the following LMUs where they wished to see higher development ISA designations, which would allow more disturbance than those presented in the Recommended Plan:

LMU 21: Wëdzey Tąy (Fortymile Caribou Corridor)

LMU 7: Wehtr'e (Antimony)

## THEME 3: SALMON AND CARIBOU

Participants consistently highlighted the importance of salmon and caribou and the need to preserve these species and their habitats for generations to come. Survey and stakeholder responses touched on this issue, with some identifying resource development as a factor in the dwindling numbers of these



animals. We heard significant concerns from TH Citizens, RRCs, and the Yukon Salmon Sub Committee (YSSC) about declining salmon returns to the major watercourses of the Dawson region.

Mining industry representatives said that placer mining and healthy caribou populations can and do co-exist. We heard that the mineral industry prefers development setbacks / buffers, and timing windows for avoiding impacts to caribou over large scale protection of land.

## **THEME 4: WATER AND WETLANDS**

The importance of Water was made clear. Many TH Citizens expressed the need for preservation of water. Similar concerns and priorities for the protection of water were expressed by FNNND. Some survey responses and stakeholder discussions centered on the need to pay more attention to watercourses, watersheds and river systems, and the interaction between mining and fish. Concerns were expressed about cumulative disturbances to water, wetlands, and related environmental values.

## **THEME 5: PLAN CLARITY**

Some participants thought that the Recommended Plan did not have a clear path for Plan direction and implementation. Some did not fully understand how the CE thresholds / management would work in practice, particularly in relation to: monitoring and enforcement, a need for water-based indicators, adaptability to climate change and associated ecosystem stressors, and lack of clarity in relation to project assessment and permitting.

Additionally, there was uncertainty about implementation of some management directions for the Caribou and Wetland Stewardship Overlays in Integrated Stewardship Areas (ISA). In particular, the Recommended Plan lacked clear directions regarding the tools, resources, and new baseline data needed to develop and implement Access Management Planning.

We heard respondents who were unsure about the ability of CE and access management planning to provide certainty for economic activity and preserve environmental values in the ISA areas. Many participants expressed their view that the CE thresholds will negatively impact their ability to attract investment, prospect and mine in the Dawson Region.

Some participants offered suggestions for how implementation could be improved.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

---

The Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan (the Recommended Plan) was prepared by the Dawson Regional Land Use Planning Commission (the Commission) over three years and delivered to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in (TH) Government and the Government of Yukon (YG) (the Parties) in June 2022.

The Commission is an independent body of six community members. The Commission's job is to develop a Draft Land Use Plan, and present a Recommended Plan, and (if needed) a Final Recommended Plan to the Parties.

The Parties released the Recommended Plan to the public on September 7, 2022, and shortly afterward, initiated a (90-day) consultation period, as per the requirement outlined in Chapter 11 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement (THFA). The Parties hired a third-party consultant, 3Pikas, to facilitate consultation on the Recommended Plan and prepare this report.

## 1.1 PLANNING PROCESS

THE REGIONAL PLANNING TIMELINE IS PRESENTED IN

“The Planning Commission views people and the land as interconnected... and that this requires all people to take stewardship responsibility. This approach is articulated as Nän käk ndä tr'ädäl (On the land we walk together) and reflects people's relationship with the land. This vision is achieved through the whole community cooperating, working together, and sharing information.”

*Recommended Plan (2022, p. 8)*

Figure 1. As shown, the Commission was convened in 2010, but the planning process paused in 2014. The planning process resumed in early 2019 with the nomination of a new Commission and signing of a Terms of Reference (TOR). The nomination process was completed jointly by the Parties. The TOR provided direction to the Commission for developing the Draft, and subsequently, the Recommended Plan.

The TOR describes the roles of the Parties, the Yukon Land Use Planning Council (YLUPC), and the Commission. It also outlines the products, timelines, available budget, and processes to be adhered to throughout the development of the Plan. It also explains the inclusion of the three affected First Nations (i.e., TH, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND), and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN)) whose Traditional Territories are included in the Dawson Region.

Chapter 11 of the UFA requires the Parties to consult with affected communities on the Recommended Plan before they decide to accept, reject or request modifications to it. The completion of the Recommended Plan is a significant milestone in the regional land use planning process.

FIGURE 1: PLAN PROCESS TIMELINE



## 1.2 REPORT FORMAT AND ANALYSIS

This report is a summary of all input from the open houses, the survey, and written submissions, from affected First Nations, stakeholders, and other members of the public. Each section of the report provides an overview of the activity followed by a summary of the information collected. The process to identify themes and key insights was as follows:

- 1) Data review: Draft themes were developed based on emerging patterns in the data collected from all sources during the consultation. Draft themes were identified using key word searches, grouping perspectives, and noting key phrases, or ideas that emerged from the data.
- 2) Checking and refining themes: In this step the draft themes were refined and verified by referencing the digital record of feedback.
- 3) The Parties (through SLC and other representatives) reviewed this document to further verify that the themes accurately and concisely represented the feedback, including both support for, and concerns with the Recommended Plan.

## 1.3 LIMITATIONS

3Pikas made efforts to represent the whole range of comments and suggestions that arose.

The themes are not chosen solely based on the frequency in which they occurred, and it should not be assumed that any one opinion is the most popular or that of all participants. Further, it should not be assumed that feedback received is a true representation of community feedback. The data received was primarily qualitative and the analysis reflects this.

Efforts were made by the Parties and 3Pikas to ensure the consultation process involved as many community members, Yukoners, and stakeholders as possible. The Parties do acknowledge that this document does not reflect the views of all individuals affected by the Recommended Plan.

Some other barriers to the public's overall engagement may be related to engagement fatigue, lingering disruptions of Covid, work and family responsibilities, mobility and health challenges, long travel distances, the complexity of the Recommended Plan, and the seasonal residency of some residents. Although access to the internet and basic computer literacy is widespread, the online digital survey was not accessible to everyone.



## 2 CONSULTATION

---

### 2.1 OBJECTIVES

The Parties took a comprehensive approach designed to target key stakeholders, affected First Nations (TH, FNNND, and VGG), and the public through a variety of communication, promotional, and engagement tools. The objectives were to:

- Gather public and stakeholder groups' input by facilitating engaging, and meaningful discussions;
- Revisit the key themes, ideas, and concerns raised during Draft Plan public engagement and gather input on how participants felt the Recommended Plan addressed this feedback;
- Explore critical issues, opportunities, and challenges related to the scope of the Recommended Plan and how this relates to implementation;
- Inform the public about the planning process and critical elements of the Recommended Plan, and;
- Strive to develop the public's understanding of the Recommended Plan and the importance of providing input.

### 2.2 METHODS

The consultation methods were developed in close collaboration with the Parties, based on current best practices and informed by Yukon experience. The Parties also reviewed and built upon work already completed by the Commission on effective engagement tools and key stakeholders to include in the process. The approach followed the framework of the International Association of Public Participation<sup>1</sup>, which assumes that all consultation serves to 'inform' and that meaningful consultation will have increased levels of public participation and impact on the decisions. Based on the consultation objectives, the team elected to 'consult' (i.e., obtain public feedback) and 'involve' (i.e., work directly with the public to make sure concerns and aspiration are understood and considered").

Consultation was delivered in three phases as shown in Figure 2:

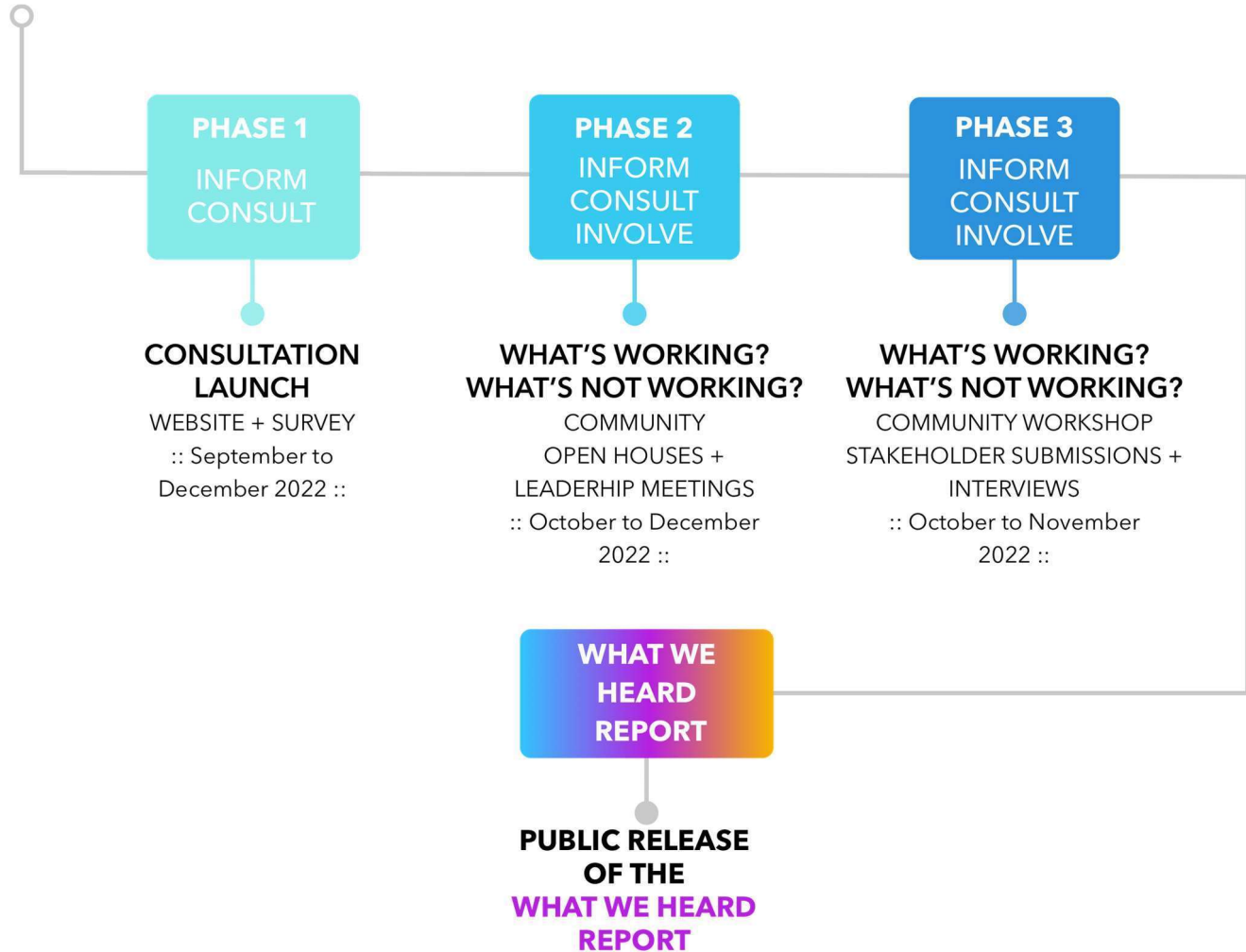
- Phase 1 focused on informing and providing the public with balanced and objective information to assist their understanding of the Recommended Plan.
- Phase 2 focused on obtaining public feedback on 'what's working and what's not working' with the Recommended Plan, through open houses and workshops (consult and involve). In this phase, participants contributed their views, opinions, or preferences.

---

<sup>1</sup> International Association of Public Participation, Core Values, Ethics, Spectrum – the Three Pillars of Public Participation. 2023. Web. <https://www.iap2.org/page/pillars>.

- Phase 3 focused on working directly with the community and stakeholders to ensure that resident concerns and aspirations were captured and understood. This was accomplished through a community workshop held in Dawson City on key topics identified in the engagement process and one on one interviews with key stakeholders.

FIGURE 2: CONSULTATION PROCESS



Affected First Nations, stakeholders, and the public were targeted through various communication, promotional and consultation and engagement tactics. This provided multiple opportunities for public participation. The following activities (see Appendix A for details) were implemented:

- Online survey
- Meetings with affected First Nation governments
- Open houses
- Community workshop in Dawson City
- Stakeholder interviews
- Stakeholder formal submissions

## 3 WHAT WE HEARD: SURVEY

In partnership with the Parties, 3PIkas developed a public online survey (see Appendix B). It was used to collect demographic information, gather opinions about the Recommended Plan, and gather information about how people use and think about the Dawson Region. Respondents were asked where they live, their experiences in the region, and their opinions on several Recommended Plan concepts.

Printed copies of the survey were made for the first Open House in Dawson City, however, they were not used.

The following are the results of the survey. Multiple choice responses are summarized by number and percentages. Open-ended long-answer questions were reviewed and key highlights, trends, or common themes are provided.

### 3.1 SURVEY RESULTS

The following section provides an overview of key results from the survey. One hundred eighty one people filled out the survey.

#### 3.1.1 PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

**Question 1:** Do you live in the Yukon? Total: 181

	#	%
Yes	165	91
No	16	9

**Question 2:** What community do you live in? Total: 166

	#	%
City of Dawson	89	54
City of Whitehorse	64	38
Ibex Valley	4	2
Haines Junction	3	2
Burwash Landing	1	<1
Mt. Lorne	1	<1
Teslin	1	<1
Watson Lake	1	<1

**Question 3:** Are You a Citizen of a Yukon First Nation or Yukon Transboundary First Nation? Total: 180

	#	%
Yes (directed to Q4)	36	20
No (directed to Q5)	144	80

**Question 4:** Which First Nation or Transboundary First Nation? Total: 36



	#	%
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in	27	75
First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun	3	8
Gwich'in Tribal Council	2	5.6
Carcross/Tagish First Nation	1	2.8
Kwanlin Dün First Nation	1	2.8
Ta'an Kwäch'än Council	1	2.8
Teslin Tlingit Council	1	2.8

### 3.1.2 VISION

Questions 5a and 5b asked about the vision statement “Nän käk ndä tr'ädäl” (On the land we walk together).

**Question 5a:** Participants were asked if the Recommended Plan reflected their vision for the Dawson region, choosing a number between 1 (does not reflect) to 5 (reflects very well). Total: 181

	#	%
1	39	22
2	28	16
3	42	23
4	42	23
5	30	17

**Question 5b:** Respondents were asked to use a scale from 0 to 10; 0 indicating the Recommended Plan would establish a ‘Very Negative’ direction and 10 indicating it would establish a ‘Very Positive’ direction. Total: 179

	#	%
7 or 8 – positive direction	54	30
2 or 3 – negative direction	37	21

### 3.1.3 ECOLOGICAL VALUES

**Question 6:** The Dawson planning region contains significant ecological values, and a key guiding principle in the Recommended Plan is conservation, stewardship, and maintaining the integrity of these values. Respondents were asked whether management directions related to ecological integrity and conservation supported their stewardship goals, on a scale from 1 to 5, 1 being “strongly disagree”, and 5 being “strongly agree”. Total: 179

	#	%
1	26	15
2	33	18
3	45	25

4	44	25
5	31	17

### 3.1.4 SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

**Question 7:** The Dawson planning region contains significant economic interests, and a key guiding principle in the Recommended Plan is sustainable development. Survey participants were asked whether the management directions supported their economic goals, on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being ‘Strongly Disagree’ and 5 indicating ‘Strongly Agree’. Total: 180

	#	%
1	45	25
2	36	20
3	39	22
4	37	21
5	23	3

### 3.1.5 SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS (SMA)

**Question 8:** This question was informational and did not ask for a response. Instead, it provided context about LMUs and associated land designations in the Recommended Plan and encouraged respondents to refer to the Recommended Plan for more information. The complete survey and full text of Question 8 can be found in Appendix B.

**Question 9:** The Recommended Plan designates the following five Landscape Management Units (LMUs) as SMAs (highest conservation): LMU 1: Tthetäwndëk (Tatonduk), LMU 4: Tsey Dëk (Fifteenmile), LMU 10: Tintina Trench, LMU 16: Wëdzey Nähuzhi (Matson Uplands), and LMU 20: tuk Tthe K’ät (Scottie Creek Wetlands). Select the option that best represents your views on the designation of these areas. Total: 160

	#	%
Agree	63	39
Somewhat agree	36	23
Disagree	38	24
Somewhat disagree	15	9
Don’t know	8	15

Grouping similar responses shows that more agreed than disagreed with the SMA designations:

	#
Agree & Somewhat agree	99
Disagree & Somewhat disagree	53

**Question 10:** Tell us more about your views on the designation of Special Management Areas in the Recommended Plan.

While the respondents provided a wide range of answers, there were some common themes regarding the designation of SMAs. We heard the following themes expressed by respondents:

- There is a need for more SMAs and connectivity between the SMA areas. Suggestions included:
  - add SMA designation to key caribou habitat outside the recommended SMA areas, especially in LMU 21: Wëdzey Tąy (Fortymile Caribou Corridor).
  - designate the Upper Indian River Wetlands as SMA.
  - the boundaries of SMA (and ISA 1 and 2 areas) should be modified to provide wildlife corridors.
- Some were concerned about how certain SMAs could impact the mining industry in the Yukon, and that permanent staking withdrawals and restrictions on development in SMAs would hurt the long-term viability of the mining industry.

## In their own words: Tell us more about your views on the designation of SMAs in the Recommended Plan.

“I appreciate that the Recommended Plan has strengthened conservation in SMAs (e.g., dispensing with SMA IIs). However, there are several areas where there is weaker protections from the Draft Plan, including the Upper Indian River Wetlands and the Antimony Creek area. Also, the Fortymile Caribou Corridor LMU would be an excellent place for an SMA, given the sensitivity of caribou habitat and the ecological and cultural importance of the Fortymile Caribou Herd.”

“While I agree that these are important areas to permanently protect, protection should not be limited to the SMAs in this plan. Key parts of the Fortymile Caribou Herd's alpine range are currently not protected while they need this protection to have a real chance. The upper Indian River Watershed needs protection. These ecosystems brim with life, and store tremendous amounts of carbon which cannot be restored during reclamation of mining areas. The White River and Antimony areas are culturally and ecologically important areas and deserve to be protected. Although the plan states that the Yukon River will get its own plan at a later time, it's important to protect the corridor at this time.”

“The complete withdrawal of vast land areas from further development--particularly resource development, is a major problem. Responsible development should be allowed on case-by-case basis so that each project can be evaluated on its merits and adjusted as necessary so as to achieve a reasonable impact on the territory. The nature of mineral resource exploration is that we cannot know where deposits occur or how big they are. Until exploration is allowed to occur and an understanding of an individual deposit is developed, it is not possible to evaluate it's merits to the territory. By simply withdrawing this huge area from development, we could be losing opportunities that would benefit the entire territory.”

“I would like the 40 mile caribou corridor fully protected, and the Indian River wetlands. I would like to see the Dempster (7, parts of 8, and 6) fully protected.

### 3.1.6 INTEGRATED STEWARDSHIP AREAS (ISA)

Questions 11a-c focused on the ISA areas with Stewardship Overlays (i.e., special plans developed before mineral staking can resume). The questions began with the following overview:

*The Recommended Plan recommends certain ISAs have special plans developed before mineral staking can resume. These will require planning to manage access and conservation of ecological values (e.g. caribou). The Recommended Plan prioritizes the development of these plans as follows: LMU 17 Upper Indian River Stewardship Plan (Wetlands Stewardship Overlay) LMU 7 Wehtr'e (Antimony) Access Management Plan (Caribou Stewardship Overlay) LMU 3 Chu Kon Dëk (Access: Yukon River Corridor) LMU 21 Wëdzey Tqy (Fortymile Caribou Corridor)*

**Question 11a:** Do you agree with the management of access and conservation of ecological values proposed for these areas? Select the option that best represents your views on the designation of these areas. Total: 178

	#	%
Agree	45	25
Somewhat agree	47	26
Disagree	54	30
Somewhat disagree	23	13
Don't know	9	5

Grouping similar responses shows that a few more agreed than disagreed with the special plans approach for these ISAs:

	#
Agree & Somewhat agree	92
Disagree & Somewhat disagree	77

**Question 11b:** Does this approach fit with your vision for these areas. Total: 176

	#	%
Yes	75	43
No	101	57

**Question 11c:** Respondents were asked for any additional comments on these special areas. Total: 115

- We received a range of responses, some of which are highlighted 'in their own words' below. Overall, the responses to this question were divided: some advocated for more protection, and some for less.
- Some respondents were uncertain of how the Recommended Plan would affect their business or lifestyle and asked how it would impact the mining industry in the Dawson area.
- We heard concerns about how development in previously undeveloped ISA areas could impact caribou and other wildlife values.
- Some suggested that protecting the remaining Upper Indian River Wetlands would reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## In their own words: Do the LMU designations fit your vision?

“I agree that there are certain areas within the planning region that will benefit from removing staking of quartz claims. I believe, however, that with placer mining's economic importance to the community that the best approach to protect these areas, for the most part, is rather than put a halt to placer activities, there should be some sort of density restriction on these areas where there are only a set number of people working per square km based on the needs of the area.”

“These pieces of land have been untouched for years and years and should stay that way. Our Caribou over the years have been declining due to overhunting, but if we allow these areas to be staked and mined we can say goodbye to all the Caribou and wildlife in these areas!”

“I'm a placer miner who wants to work in 21. Placer mines are not what have been stopping/hurting the Caribou herd. Climate change has. All Caribou herds are in decline across the whole north and the Arctic too. Climate change is the problem.”

“Research has repeatedly shown that Caribou are particularly sensitive to environmental upheavals, and avoid returning to developed areas in their range. I support any protections to reduce disruptions to their migratory routes. I would like to see the temporary withdrawal from staking become a decisive permanent withdrawal. The Recommended Plan does very little to address the threat of climate change. Protecting the Indian River wetlands could be (one of) the region's contribution(s) to the global commitment to combat climate disaster.”

“If Caribou and wetland values are to be protected in LMUs 17, 7 and 21, SMA status would be much more appropriate than ISA; if the current level of development exceeds the SMA threshold, that would open the door for reclamation and a possible increase of ecosystem function, instead of assuming the best we can do is maintain and/or slow levels of degradation. Subregional planning for the Yukon River corridor is appropriate, especially if it is made clear in the Plan that it could be looked at as a whole, as opposed to cut into chunks that fit into separate planning regions and dealt with differently. The precautionary principle should be used to ensure the River remains protected at high standards, until such time as planning processes throughout its length are complete.”

### 3.1.7 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

**Question 12:** “Does the CE approach in the different ISAs (1-4) fit with your vision for stewardship of the region?” Total: 180

	#	%
Agree	40	22
Somewhat agree	52	28
Disagree	58	32
Somewhat disagree	23	13
Don't know	7	4

**Question 13:** Tell us more about your views on the designation of ISAs and management of CE in the Recommended Plan. Total: 113

- Respondents suggested many ideas for how the Plan could change designations of different areas and improve the CE framework.
- We heard suggestions that the Plan should give more direction on incentives for reclamation, including clear mechanisms for ‘feeding back’ into the CE framework.
- Some suggested that the Plan should include more management directions aimed at lowering environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., greater emphasis on mitigation of climate change)
- We also heard concerns with the implementation of CE management. Some suggested a ‘test run’ of the Recommended Plan to ensure that it will work ‘in practice’.

### **In their own words: Provide your views on the designation of Integrated Stewardship Areas and management of cumulative effects.**

“The use of linear disturbance methodology doesn't accurately depict what is happening on the ground - how development feels, smells, tastes and sounds for animals and humans. Some development, like drill pads, may look insignificant, but be very loud and scare away all wildlife. Isolated camps may leave garbage or fuel leaks. Let's be more particular about the TYPE of development allowed in these areas (indeed, in the whole region). Why allow any oil or gas exploration at this point in the climate crisis? Why allow any mineral exploration (or activity) that doesn't immediately meet the needs of suffering people or provide solutions for our suffering planet? Why allow for any expanded industry when we're already in trouble? I'm not worried about folks building cabins in the bush.”

“I do not believe the Recommended Plan is practical. It will not work when applied to projects going through assessment. I ask the Parties to run scenarios of applications to ensure the Land Use Plan that is signed will allow for land to be used as intended. This could be done by working with the Commission, YESAB, the Yukon Water Board, proponents, and likely interveners alike. Practice with the Recommended Plan using examples and a broad group of relevant organizations to ensure the Plan is a practical plan.”

“The fact that reclaimed areas are not 'fed back' into the calculation of cumulative effects is extremely problematic. What is the incentive to reclaim historic liabilities in the area when the cost of doing so is so high? I would like to believe that a Plan would support those willing to undertake the responsibility of someone else's mess. Reclaiming properly takes time and money and Yukoners benefit from the outcomes. We need to look at the whole picture and what are the desired outcomes? Do the policy recommendations support reaching those end goals?”

### 3.1.8 LANDSCAPE CHANGE

**Question 14:** How can you tell or measure when the landscape is changing? Are there changes you have witnessed or experienced in your lifetime? Total 141

- Respondents noted many changes on the landscape, many of which were linked to climate change.
- These changes included increased rain and snow, thawing permafrost, more active landslides especially near the Yukon River, and changes to wildlife behaviour, abundance, and movements.
- Some respondents reported changes driven by industry and mining, overhunting, and overfishing of Yukon River Salmon (Alaska and coast),
- Other respondents indicated that the landscape is always changing and that changes from mining have been minimal or even beneficial to wildlife like moose.

#### **In their own words: How can you tell or measure when the landscape is changing? Are there changes you have witnessed or experienced in your lifetime?**

“Lots of changes, land changes from industry and mining. Water, animal and land changes from climate change. Extreme weather patterns year-round. Water drought and then flooding. It's not good. There are less animals around; whether dying because of lack of food or overhunting by our of territory hunters. Salmon numbers have gone down. Probably from boats disturbing spawning, overfishing on the coast/Alaska, and climate change.”

“less animals, less sand bars in the river, sluffing of earth along river.”

“Like stories of salmon, and fish wheels, we don't need those anymore and it means that the landscape has changed. I have witnessed changes in salmon, I can no longer fish or eat fish. The forty mile caribou herd has changed in my lifetime and the first hunt up the Dempster has struggled for years to be able to harvest caribou. This means that the youth are not connecting with their culture.”

“I have witnessed impacts to moose populations in the Dawson region - over harvesting from too much road access is an issue in the Goldfields, Stewart River, and starting to be an issue in the Sixty mile area. I have also witnessed changes to important streams and rivers from mining and development along waterways, like within the Klondike and Yukon river drainages.”

“After going out on the land many times you see the difference in a hill side caving or water disappearing or appearing where it wasn't before, or even in the animals and where they go and their behavior.”

“I have lived here since I was born. Almost 40 years. There are no significant landscape changes that I can see. There are less people living on and enjoying the land. There are too many government



management attempts.”

“Climate change is affecting us fast. Can see very large sink holes, ground is soft, landslides happening before our eyes, animals are hungry, making them come into communities. Water is not safe from melting permafrost.”

### 3.1.9 HARVESTING OR OTHER CULTURAL USES

**Question 15:** Do you use the land for harvesting or other cultural uses? Total: 181

	#	%
Yes	136	75
No	45	25

**Question 16:** Have you noticed areas that have changed for your harvesting or other cultural uses? Total: 112

- Many respondents noted the decline in Yukon River Salmon returns,
- Some respondents reported seeing fewer animals in some areas, such as Top of the World Highway, 40-Mile River area, and the Dempster Highway,
- Others added that climate change is driving changes in areas where animals are present,
- Increased hunting pressure was noted in the Goldfields,
- Others noted that there were increased numbers of moose and other wildlife in old mining areas throughout the region.

#### In their own words: Have you noticed areas that have changed for harvesting or other cultural uses?

“Goldfields have seen increased hunting pressure.”

“Yes. The Top of the World and 40 Mile areas are busier - more traffic and exploration work, fewer animals.”

“Dempster area around the Hart River caribou herd - we used to go there more often to hunt but now it is difficult to harvest. They are no longer there.”

“Mainly water being redirected and limiting access to places that I could get to easily in the past. Erosion along the shoreline and unstable banks have made it more dangerous to access certain spots.”

“Yes. Less caribou, they don’t come down the Dempster Highway as far anymore. Used to harvest porcupine caribou as a kid. Not anymore. Huge king and chum salmon decline on Yukon River.”

“Some areas seem to have more shrubs, vegetation”

“Yes, much less salmon. I'd like to see salmon habitat and salmon repopulation efforts be part of the

### 3.1.10 IMPLEMENTATION

#### Question 17:

*After the Recommended Plan is adopted, plan implementation starts and will carry on for the life of the Plan, including future updates. The Parties to the Plan (Government of Yukon and Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Government) will work together during implementation. Some of the implementation items recommended by the Recommended Plan include: three sub-regional plans (smaller plans for specific areas that have more development), and an ongoing role for the Dawson Regional Planning Commission, including checking to ensure that any new land development conforms to the Plan. Do you have any input about the implementation recommendations? Total: 102*

- Some survey participants expressed their concerns regarding potential impacts to YESAB and permitting approvals and timelines.
- Many expressed support for TH having a continued joint role in Plan implementation.
- There were some for and some against maintaining the Commission during implementation.
- There were calls for completing planning for the whole region and not waiting for sub-regional planning, especially LMU 3: Chu Kon Dëk (Yukon River Corridor)

#### In their own words: Do you have any input about the implementation recommendations?

“Ongoing role for Commission may be useful, however it's not clear how all the various planning initiatives and the Commission would be funded. Likely not realistic for each planning region to have an ongoing Commission.”

“Disagree with passing off areas of the region to be planned later. This is supposed to be a broad view plan and should be able to plan the whole region.”

“The Plan should be jointly implemented between TH and YG, and the commission should include stronger language to ensure that it happens.”

“The Yukon River Corridor and its entire watershed needs special designation and attention.”

### 3.1.11 WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE PLAN

Question 18 introduction: Before answering the last two questions, we suggest you reflect on the plan vision and land use designations.

**Question 18a:** Things respondents want to see more of in the Plan. Total: 125

- Specific measures to protect caribou, salmon, and other environmental values (i.e., culturally important species and their habitats).
- Areas designated as SMAs. A balanced approach that values industry and mining.
- Emphasis on economic sustainability of the Dawson region.

### In their own words: Is there anything you would like to see more of in the Plan?

“More protection of the land and water. More thought about the water, fish and caribou and other animals.”

“More SMAs, particularly 14, 7, 21, 19 and 15. There must be connectivity between the SMAs (and Tombstone), to allow for animals like Caribou to range fully. Regarding the other ISAs, there should be a general scaling-back of industrial activity over the years, with the goal of returning the majority of these lands to a reclaimed state... Instead of looking at all the reasons why mining shouldn't take place, look at the benefits and, as a group, lets come up with real solutions instead of just banning the Activity.”

“Recognition of reclamation in an area to offset cumulative effects; 2. Framework established for requesting access to SMA if there is a change in circumstance; 3. Economic activity being recognized as an acceptable or valued Land Use; 4. recognize the value and input of other Agreements such as the Forest Management Plan which sets out rules relating to access to the Land and compensation for the resources; 5. Stop using the idea of future studies or sub-committees to limit current activities within an LMU.”

“Stronger protection for the 40-mile Caribou and Chinook and other species of Salmon. These are keystone species that are already struggling, they need us to ensure that they have the undisturbed habitats (no more roads or mines near the caribou, more studies - Indigenous Guardians, and protections for salmon), they need in order to live on. I am happy to see the Commission has considered the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's conservation priorities map and report, “Ninänkäk hōzō wëk'âtr'ènhcha (We Take Good Care of Our Land)”, as I said prior this is very important in regards to both Reconciliation and the collective success of solving the twin crisis of climate change and biodiversity loss.”

**Question 18b:** Things respondents want to see less of in the plan: Total: 107

- Complexity in concepts and language.
- Restrictions on mining and other industrial activities in the region (e.g., fewer staking withdrawals)
- Areas that allowed for industrial development, infrastructures (e.g., access roads) and mineral exploration and development.

## In their own words: Is there anything you would like to see less of in the Plan?

“Less ambiguity. Less abstract language about concepts and ecology, more detail about what these things really mean.”

“Yes, less outright removal and regulatory blockages to sustainable resources extraction. The Yukon does not have to be one giant park to still be pristine and beautiful. If mining and exploration are not allowed to flourish, my children will not have the ability to live and work in the wilderness of the Yukon as my family has done for generations.”

“There needs to be less mining. Mining is everywhere. You can be 3 hours away in the middle of nowhere and there is still mining. Wherever you go, you basically see mining.”

“I want to see less of the colonial perspective being the default point of view, so less assumption that mining rights supersede First Nation rights.”

### Question 19: Additional comments - Total: 79

- Some respondents thought the Recommended Plan was not balanced enough and is too focused on conservation.
- Others expressed the opposite view and advocated for larger SMA-designated areas and greater environmental protection.

## In their own words: Views on the designation of Integrated Stewardship Areas and management of cumulative effects.

“Expand the SMAs to 60% of the planning region. Increase connectivity between the SMAs (so that they can actually be effective!) Re-evaluate the approach to cumulative effects management - don't start with the current state of the land, the baseline should be an undisturbed landscape (think pre-1898!). Immediately begin planning for the sub-regional areas. Protect all waterways! Mähsi cho to everyone for their hard work!”

“The protection of our land, water and environment are very important to the TH people, the overreach of industry and human existence has affected our whole live and we need to protect as much as we can for future generations.”

“This Plan seems like a conservation wish-list and does not seem practical to implement. I am skeptical that there is sufficient capacity between the Parties to implement such an administrative burden- especially because this Plan seems to limit the economic activities of the region. Conservation values are important but need to be done in a way that is sustainable- this Plan is unlikely to succeed if the economic costs outweigh the benefits.”

# 4 WHAT WE HEARD: OPEN HOUSES AND WORKSHOP

---

## COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSES

Open houses were held in Dawson City, Mayo, Old Crow, and Whitehorse. This section presents the results from the open houses, which include written comments, posted to display boards by participants. Summary notes were collected by 3Pikas and Party representatives. A summary of the key themes from all the input provided at the open houses is also included.

See Appendix C for participants' verbatim comments, and Appendix D for facilitators' summary notes.

## SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

At open houses, conversations primarily centred around four ideas:

1. Concerns that the Recommended Plan isn't proposing enough to protect caribou and salmon in the region, with a focus on the need for habitat connectivity, and for it to better address water;
2. Confusion regarding how the Recommended Plan would function if approved and when implemented;
3. Concern that the methods that were used to develop the designations were too often framed based on the history and current position of the mining industry, rather than cultural values or environmental priorities; and,
4. Worries the Recommended Plan could limit jobs and income in the local economy.

The other topics that emerged included the need to provide direction on how to manage watercourses and monitoring of the CE framework. This included thinking about rivers holistically, so headwaters that flow north can be protected, and the potential impact of mining operations on fish habitat can be mitigated.

## MAYO

The Parties, Commission staff, as well as approximately 12 people attended the event. The evening began with a presentation from 3Pikas, which allowed the public to become more informed before engaging and giving feedback.

There was a strong interest in water, with participants noting that water is the most valuable medicine in the world, sustaining all life. Participants also noted mining and tourism interest in the region and the importance of encouraging sustainable mining practices and protecting the environment.

Wetlands were conveyed as the most essential element in the ecosystem, providing habitat for moose and maintaining water quality. The Stewart River was also mentioned as a vital resource for sustaining healthy salmon populations, and its protection was noted as key to preserving Yukon salmon and clean

drinking water. Clear Creek and its caribou herd were identified as requiring safeguards. In addition, some of the participants recommended additional protection for traditional medicines, hunting activities, trap lines, trails, burial sites, and campsites.

## DAWSON CITY

The Parties, Commission staff, and approximately 26 people attended the event. 3Pikas made two presentations and the Commission also provided a brief presentation.

Three themes emerged:

1. Protection of wildlife habitat, especially caribou and salmon;
2. Protection of wetlands; and
3. The importance of a sustainable mining industry.

Participants stated that greater steps should be taken to protect waterways and drinking water, such as designating the Yukon River and Stewart River as SMAs.

Participants commented that higher levels of protection should be applied to LMU 1, 3, 4, 7, 14, 17, and 21. Some people requested greater restrictions on mining activities in LMU 1: Tthetäwndëk (Tatonduk) and LMU 4: Tsey Dëk (Fifteenmile). Fish camps along the Yukon River were identified as needing protection, as were all wetlands. The Fortymile River watershed was suggested for SMA status. Protecting the land for caribou, flora and fauna, and mitigating climate change were identified as priorities.

A suggestion was made for TH to co-manage implementation of the Plan. Some participants discussed their concerns about how the Recommended Plan would be implemented and how it would affect current industrial operations and future projects. Especially important topics were CE thresholds, compliance checks, and using the Recommended Plan during YESAB assessments and regulatory permitting.

It was suggested that maps and the explanation of why things were designated could be clearer. Some participants noted needing to consider the ecological and economic goals, climate change impacts, and sustainable development as defined in the Final Agreements. Finally, some participants indicated that consideration should be given to adaptation, mitigation, and the economic costs of climate change.

It was suggested that placer miners' ability to attend the open house was limited as a number of them were working.

## OLD CROW

The Parties, Commission staff, and approximately 20 community members attended the event. The evening began with a presentation from 3Pikas, which allowed the public to become more informed before engaging and giving feedback. Attendees shared insights regarding the land abutting the Region, LMU 1: Tthetäwndëk (Tatonduk), LMU 2: Horseshoe, LMU 4, LMU 5, and the Dempster Highway corridor.

The discussion focused on several issues, including increased conservation of waterways flowing into VGFN lands, revising hunting regulations to lower pressure on caribou along the Dempster Highway, and bilateral approaches between TH and VGFN for caribou management. Discussions also centred around land use planning in the Yukon.

There was frustration with the free entry mining system and the belief that all land should have a purpose, whether for wilderness tourism, cultural use, or industry. There was interest in expanding SMA areas to protect the entire Porcupine River headwaters. We heard that in recent years the Porcupine River has had very low water levels.

Discussions also included the importance of water surveys and heritage values in the North of LMU 1: Tthetäwndëk (Tatonduk) and the significance of traditional names for all lands. A participant suggested renaming the Dempster Highway after Joe Henry or Joe Sha Daa, who showed surveyors the route from Dawson to Inuvik along his trapline.

The concern was raised regarding the sustainability of the Porcupine Caribou harvest in LMU 2: Horseshoe, as it was noted that the Porcupine Caribou winter in this area and are often harvested from the Dempster Highway.

Participants acknowledged the important role of land use planning in managing quartz and placer mining on the landscape and the VGFN's agreement with YG for ongoing caribou conservation management.

## WHITEHORSE

The event was attended by members of the Commission, the Parties, as well as approximately 50 members of the public. 3Pikas made two presentations, which covered the fundamentals of the Recommended Plan and gave the public a chance to ask questions.

There were various opinions and views on the Recommended Plan, with some wanting more conservation and others wanting less. There was a lot of discussion and attendees had many questions about changes from the Draft to the Recommended Plan.

Participants noted the need to ensure the successful implementation of the vision as expressed by the Commission. Others wished for a more explicit statement that TH and YG will be jointly implementing the Recommended Plan. Some participants requested more clarity on how the Implementation Committee would communicate with the Technical Working Group. Someone suggested using a flowchart to illustrate the bodies involved in the implementation process and their respective functions.

Participants requested that the text and structure of the Recommended Plan be clearer. It was also suggested that a secretariat (technical staff) be established to provide independent support to the Parties for implementation.

It was recommended that all the wetlands in the region have protection under the Recommended Plan. There was support for “Wetland of Special Importance” designations for the entire region, to provide full protection of all wetland types.

It was suggested that LMU 21: Wëdzey Tay (Fortymile Caribou Corridor) be widened and lengthened to encompass more of the Fortymile Caribou's range to improve ecological connectivity. Additionally, more

SMA's should be created to ensure landscape connectivity east and west and north and south, specifically on LMU 7: Wehtr'e (Antimony), LMU 2: Horseshoe, LMU 16: Wëdzey Nähuzhi (Matson Uplands), and LMU 19: Tädzan Dëk (White River). It was suggested that an overlay should cover the entire White River watershed, recognizing that certain wetlands are different and have more moss development. Some thought water quality monitoring should commence immediately. Lastly, it was suggested that in areas where staking prohibition exists, existing claim expiry dates should be extended until after the prohibition is lifted.

Participants recommended a CE framework should be applied to sub-regional planning areas during implementation. Additionally, the CE threshold for LMU 18: Therian Dëk (Coffee Creek) and headwaters and watersheds in this area should be considered.

Many participants focused on the need to support the economy. Costs associated with preventing development should be weighed appropriately against benefits. Participants highlighted the importance of understanding how these goals connect with cultural and ecological goals.

Some participants suggested the need for the Department of Fisheries and Ocean (DFO) to be more involved in implementation, especially CE management.

Someone suggested adding a caribou overlay to parts of ISA 3 and ISA 4 to ensure more habitat connectivity. In addition, traditional salmon harvesting in the region should be considered. Some mentioned that CE of development and activities on the landscape, such as traffic on the Dempster Highway, air traffic, and oil and gas exploration, should be better captured.

One participant mentioned feeling like the Recommended Plan was "dropped" on miners and is "closing the door" on miners. Others were concerned about their businesses and that closing areas off from staking without completing comprehensive studies is an oversight. Finally, there were some concerns that centralizing development in the goldfields would lead to increased development in that area.

## COMMUNITY WORKSHOP



On November 16th, 2022, a workshop was held in Dawson at the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Community Hall. It was advertised in the Klondike Sun, CFYT FM radio, rolling ads at various businesses around town and on Facebook. Approximately, 27 people participated in the workshop which focused on four topics related to the plan: Water, Wetlands, Cumulative Effects and Designations. Worksheets (Appendix E) were provided with information on the plan and there was a short presentation giving a high-level overview. Attendees were encouraged to engage and share their thoughts. Comments were recorded and summarized.



## **Water**

Participants were asked to provide input into ways to control access along the major waterways. Participants discussed various considerations for access, particularly in the Dempster Highway area. They suggested that the *Forest Resources Act* provides guidelines for access to waterways. Some also suggested considering winter access, regulation of recreation sites and barge landings, economic activities, and hydroelectric development when determining access regulations.

Participants were asked to provide input on the adequacy of the Recommended Plan, in terms of water quality. Responses included that the Recommended Plan should not conflict with existing requirements and future research should not limit current permits. Water quality monitoring needs to be done and considered a priority by the Parties. There are concerns about industrial development in Brewery Creek.

Finally, participants were asked to provide input on the adequacy of the Recommended Plan in terms of protection for salmon and other fish habitats. Participants discussed the need for improved management of the Yukon River, including restoring salmon runs, ensuring clean water, and giving special management starting at the Alaska border. Some stated that there was not enough information about fish habitats, especially for the over-wintering areas.

## **Wetlands**

Participants were asked to provide feedback on the adequacy of the Recommended Plan in terms of wetland protection. In general, participants felt that wetlands were not treated the same, and that the standard for reclamation varies from site to site.

Participants were asked to provide input on the level of development that should be allowed in wetlands. One participant suggested limiting development and leveraging advancements in technology for reclamation. Another suggested assessing each site individually and considering economic values in order to mitigate long-term effects.

Participants had mixed opinions regarding the protections outlined in the wetland overlay of LMU 17 Nän Dhòhdäl (Upper Indian River Wetlands). One participant mentioned the need to consider new technologies that would allow for the reclamation of bogs, while another suggested considering the protection of all wetlands, water, and animals. Others proposed allowing development in LMU 17, while establishing reclamation standards and incentives for reclamation.

## **Cumulative Effects**

Participants were asked to provide input into the adequacy of the Recommended Plan in terms of using surface disturbance and linear density indicators for thresholds. Participants discussed refining CE indicators. Some noted that neither surface disturbance, nor linear density indicators address water quality, and that it is important to measure the water quality impacts of CE, as well as the effects on people and traditional values.

Participants were asked for suggestions on how to measure changes on the landscape. Participants suggested using wildlife surveys to measure impacts of activities on populations and using vegetation to measure changes. Some mentioned the need for an adaptation framework for changes to Plan areas. Natural disturbance such as wildfires through an entire LMU should be taken into account within the

thresholds. Some activities have a greater impact than others. Participants asked if CE assessments could account for the type and depth of impacts for different activities, and set different CE standards and thresholds. For example, a seasonal logging road shouldn't be held to the same standard as a permanent access route.

### **Designations**

Participants were asked to offer suggestions on LMUs. Some expressed that LMU 21: Wëdzey Tąy (Fortymile Caribou Corridor) and LMU 8: Brewery Creek should be designated as SMAs. It was acknowledged this may require thresholds for the remaining ISA portion to be increased to accommodate its reduced size: this would help to ensure activities in these LMUs are managed sustainably and the amount of mineral development and other activities be limited. Participants suggested that LMU 17 and 19 should be designated as SMAs. Others argued that the category of an ISA should not be determined, based on what is currently staked or explored. Rather, they suggested that the existing environmental and cultural values should be the main considerations in determining the ISA designation.

## 5 WHAT WE HEARD: AFFECTED FIRST NATIONS

---

The FNNND and VGFN provided formal written submissions to the Parties (see Appendix F). As TH is a Party to the process, a formal government submission was not provided. However TH did provide a citizen consultation report for consideration, as well as a form letter (signed by citizens) (Appendix G) and a youth engagement report.

In the following sections we provide summaries of the submissions, as well as meetings held with TH and FNNND leadership. A leadership meeting with VGFN was not possible, due to an election occurring during the consultation period.

### AFFECTED FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

Table 1 shows a summary of early consultation sessions with affected First Nations.

TABLE 1: AFFECTED FIRST NATIONS LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

Meeting	Details
TH leadership & key staff	October 6, 2022 10-11:30 AM TH Main Administration Building Dawson City
FNNND leadership & key staff	October 5, 2022 2-4 PM FNNND Government House, Mayo
FNNND key staff (technical)	December 5, 2022 3-4:30 PM Online
VGFN	Not held due to active election cycle

### 5.1.1 TR'ONDĚK HWĚCH'IN - HIGHLIGHTS

3Pikas made a presentation and reviewed consultation materials. Key points from the meeting are listed below:

- A second open house or workshop in Dawson was requested (a workshop was added to the program and delivered in December 2022, based on this input);
- TH would carry out their own Citizen consultation and submit a report to the Parties; and
- Two key improvements for the Recommended Plan would be:
  - More emphasis on the Yukon River and wetlands management and conservation.
  - A science-based approach to management.

After receiving TH's feedback, 3Pikas revised the presentation and consultation materials to reflect TH's input.

### 5.1.2 FIRST NATION OF NA-CHO NYÄK DUN - HIGHLIGHTS

3Pikas was presented with the following:

- FNNND would be providing a formal written submission;
- The Recommended Plan generally needed to address conservation of rivers, such as the Stewart;
- Development setbacks from rivers could be an easy way to do this; and
- FNNND is willing to pursue co-management of overlapping TH / FNNND areas under the Recommended Plan.

On December 5, 2022, 3Pikas facilitated a virtual technical follow-up meeting between FNNND Lands and Resources staff and Nicole Percival (Commission Senior Planner). During the discussion, the Recommended Plan's provisions regarding climate change, protection of watercourses (particularly Steward River), stewardship of wetlands and the Wetland Policy were discussed. The meeting also included a brief discussion of FNNND's view on comprehensive water withdrawal and reporting.

## FORMAL SUBMISSIONS FROM AFFECTED FIRST NATIONS

Consultation with affected First Nations is a requirement of Chapter 11 (S11.6.2). FNNND and VGFN provided formal written submissions to the Parties. TH as a Party, submitted a citizen consultation report. Submission summaries are below.

### 5.1.3 TR'ONDĚK HWĚCH'IN CITIZEN CONSULTATION REPORT

The *Recommended Plan for the Dawson Region Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Citizen Consultation Report* (December 20, 2022), presented by TH includes feedback from citizens. This consultation was conducted independently by TH, as it fell outside of 3Pikas' scope of work for this project, but the content is a critical source of information for the Parties' consideration. The report identifies TH Citizens' issues and

interests related to the Recommended Plan, which is a specific and important objective under the Chapter 11 planning process.

TH staff conducted in person interviews, open houses, and a dinner for citizens and the following main themes emerged:

- Strong support for additional protected areas in the Dawson planning region, over and above what is currently presented;
- Priority values include wetlands, caribou habitat, river systems, salmon, and water quality; and
- Water resources and waterways were identified as critical for preservation, and their importance to the culture of the TH was emphasized.

The report stressed the importance of TH's role as stewards of the land and water, and that they must be involved in any decision-making regarding the region. It further advocated for a balanced approach, involving both responsible development and future economic opportunities.

“Whether or not the salmon return, depends on the habitats they have waiting for them. Many citizens expressed distress over the state of salmon stocks and the impact this has on our culture. They indicate strong connections and parallels between clean water, protecting salmon habitat, and preserving their culture for future generations.”

2022 Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Citizen Consultation Report

## From the Report:

1. The vast majority of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens who participated in this consultation support the identification of additional protected areas in the Dawson planning region. Many identified specific areas that require further protection and preservation, including those LMUs along the Dempster (6, 7, and 8), all portions of key Caribou habitat, including the Fortymile Caribou Corridor [LMU 21], and major river systems.
2. Wetlands hold strong intrinsic value and are necessary habitats for wildlife. Many citizens spoke to the value of wetlands throughout the region and how we must protect all types of wetlands given their overall importance on the landscape.
3. It is critical that we protect our water resources and our waterways. Many citizens expressed concern for drinking water sources along the Klondike and Yukon rivers, and urged greater protections of these important river systems. Water is life and our collective survival depends on it.
4. The land has changed dramatically, and it is continuing to change. Many citizens talked about places where they no longer hunt or harvest, conveying frustration over changes on the land that were out of their control. Some spoke about the impact a changing landscape has had on our culture overall, and the inability to transfer skills to their own children, such as with the Fortymile Caribou Herd.
5. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens are key caretakers of this land and must be treated as equal decision makers for this region. Many citizens spoke about the need for more guardianship programs and opportunities for citizens to directly participate in the management of resources. Similarly, citizens spoke about the need for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in government to see the value in all resources, including minerals, and the need to take a balanced approach to planning for the future of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in economic opportunities.

### 5.1.4 DAWSON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

On December 14, 2022, members of TH government provided Robert Service School students (grades 8 and 10) an opportunity to express their views on how they access the land, what they do for fun on the land, and conservation values. This exercise was not conducted by 3PIKas as it fell outside of their scope of work, but the feedback received is important.

TH staff distributed worksheets and a total of 22 were filled out and submitted. Many students camped with their families at Tombstone (campground) and fished and hunted in the Dawson region. Generally, they recognized the land as very important, and that water is the most important element to life.

### 5.1.5 FIRST NATION OF NA-CHO NYÄK DUN

FNNND submitted a formal written letter raising concerns and citing the following:

1. A lack of consideration of climate change, protection of wetlands, cultural values, and water quality;

2. A need for more clarity and specificity on how the Recommended Plan will be implemented, and to ensure that climate change is included in the annual reporting requirements; and
3. A request to the Commission to take their recommendations into consideration as they continue to work towards the Final Recommended Plan.

A summary of their submission is provided here:

### **Climate Change**

FNNND expressed concerns regarding the severity, rate of change, and disproportionate impacts of climate change in the North. They argue that the Recommended Plan does not fully consider how extreme events such as more frequent and more intense wildfires or increasing occurrence of winter freezing rain events, might affect wildlife values. They assert that it does not go far enough in implementing a precautionary approach for managing wetlands as carbon sinks. They also maintain that the Recommended Plan does not include protection for swamps and generally does not integrate protection of carbon sink areas into all land use decisions.

FNNND also requested the Commission to:

1. Ensure the Recommended Plan explicitly sets out how the Parties shall incorporate and address climate change in an adaptive way;
2. Recommend that all commercial and industrial activity on the land reach net zero emissions from their operations;
3. Establish thresholds based on full consideration of climate change impacts;
4. Give explicit recognition that the North is becoming a net carbon emitter;
5. Develop or re-develop climate and water monitoring regimes to track and monitor climate change effects in the long-term; and
6. Include a specific recommendation for the implementation of the Yukon Mineral Development Strategy and Recommendations.

### **Special Management Areas**

FNNND praised the Commission for removing the distinction between the two SMA designations and requiring all SMAs to become legally designated as protected areas with management plans. They suggested that certain LMUs should be provided with better protection. They stated support for TH's recommendation that 60% of the planning region be protected.

### **Water**

FNNND is calling for more conservation attention for waterways, caribou habitat, wetlands, and salmon. They are concerned that the Recommended Plan does not go far enough in terms of protecting water, as it largely focuses on potable water access, instead of the cultural value of water. They are also advocating for specific protective measures for Tagé Cho (Stewart River), as well as special designations for the Klondike and Yukon rivers. They are further recommending more comprehensive water withdrawal and use reporting.

### **Wetlands**

FNNND has expressed concerns about the Yukon's (then Draft) Policy for the Stewardship of Wetlands, as it fails to provide adequate protection for wetlands. They are also disappointed with the 50% fen disturbance rate outlined in the Recommended Plan, which may lead to the degradation of wetlands due to limited connectivity and potential impacts from adjacent development. They are also concerned about the lack of clarity for the Wetlands Stewardship Area and the 20m no-development buffer.

### **Cumulative Effects**

FNNND is disappointed with the Recommended Plan, which sets out thresholds for surface disturbance and linear feature density that are not linked to cultural values and does not adequately address the importance of water quality and salmon. They urged the Commission to provide more clarity around the implementation of the CE framework, specifically by establishing indicators and metrics.

### **Plan Implementation**

FNNND is pleased that the Commission has recommended the continuation of the Commission's operations beyond the completion of the Final Recommended Plan and the establishment of an implementation committee. However, FNNND is concerned with the lack of specificity and clarity with implementation direction and requests that the Commission provide stronger and clearer language regarding responsibilities and standards. FNNND also requested that climate change be included in the annual reporting requirements and wants to be kept up to date on matters of implementation.

## **5.1.6 VUNTUT GWITCHIN GOVERNMENT**

VGG highlighted several areas of interests in their submission. A summary of the letter is provided below.

### **Miner River Watershed and LMU 1: Tthetäwndëk (Tatonduk)**

VGG is in support of the SMA classification for LMU 1 in order to protect the Miner River watershed. Additionally, the Rivers and Watercourses section should account for transboundary watersheds. There is an abandoned well in the Kandik Basin of LMU 1 that needs to be clarified in terms of rights status. VGG has concerns about the potential for new access to this remote location.

### **Transboundary Values**

VGG sees the importance of values that cross the boundaries between planning regions, such as the Porcupine Caribou Herd, watersheds, the Dempster Highway, and oil and gas basins. They are requesting that these transboundary values be acknowledged in the Recommended Plan, and that VGG be notified, and engaged for matters related to these values.

### **Adjacent LMUs**

The LMUs adjacent to those within the NYRLUP have different land use designations and CE thresholds. The Recommended Plan should note the differences between these adjacent areas, and any implications for

“VGG recommends the Implementation section recognize the importance of ongoing communication and cooperation between the planning regions to continue to learn from each other and to share our experience with common issues as the plans are implemented. We should continue to share our experiences with climate change and work together on adaptive management strategies, which require monitoring, learning, and adjusting to new conditions as we carry out land and resource management in a changing climate.” (VGG formal submission)



future land uses should be addressed through ongoing communication between governments. VGG will further address these incongruities in a review of the NYRLUP.

### **Climate Change and Adaptive Management**

VGG has been involved in three regional planning processes and notes that all of them have a common concern for climate change: the Recommended Plan should acknowledge the need for adaptive management strategies for climate change. They requested communication and cooperation between the regions for sharing experiences and developing strategies for effective land and resource management in a changing climate.

### **Plan Implementation**

VGG has gained experience in the successful implementation of the NYRLUP over twelve years, including identifying and tracking annual priority actions, and implementing recommendations. Important factors for successful implementation include having adequate resources to support an implementation committee as well as resource managers.

## 6 WHAT WE HEARD: SUBMISSIONS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

It was important to hear from as many stakeholders as possible to gain a better understanding of how the Recommended Plan may impact their interests in the region. The Commission and the Parties spent a significant amount of time and resources engaging with key stakeholders.

The list of stakeholders included groups who live and work in the Dawson region. Other groups outlined within the THFA (e.g., Yukon Water Board (YWB), YESAB, RRCs, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (YFWMB)) were also included which was asked to comment on the Recommended Plan.

It should be emphasized that the smaller number of pages dedicated to public submissions is not an indication of their influence in this process. Each submission was carefully considered.

### STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Invitations for one-on-one meetings were sent to all stakeholder groups identified on the list.

Meetings were arranged with three stakeholder groups (Table 2), who also provided written submissions. 3Pikas made a brief presentation, which was followed by an informal discussion. Summary of the input from the interviews is provided below.

All other stakeholders indicated that they would provide formal written submissions and declined the invitation for an interview. A complete list of stakeholders is provided in Appendix H.



TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Stakeholder	Details	Attendees
<b>Klondike Placer Miners Association</b>	November 17, 2022 KPMA Office, Whitehorse	<b>KPMA, the Parties, the Commission, 3Pikas</b>
<b>Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) - Environment and Climate Change Canada</b>	October 19, 2022 Online	<b>CWS, 3Pikas</b>

<b>Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee</b>	November 22, 2022 Online	<b>YSSC, 3Pikas</b>
-----------------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------

### **Klondike Placer Miners Association (KPMA)**

On November 17, 2022, 3Pikas facilitated a meeting between KPMA, Nicole Percival (Commission Senior Planner), and the Parties. The meeting was attended by six KPMA representatives.

We heard the following:

- Reclamation is an important concept that requires a clear definition. The Recommended Plan should establish a process to ensure reclaimed work is put back in the threshold bank.
- Some of the assumptions and the thresholds derived from the ISAs are questionable, as they were 1.7 times higher than the high growth scenario. Is important to consider the impacts of ISA designations and how reclaimed areas are included in the data.
- The industry needs to be involved in tracking thresholds. A reliable baseline is essential, and a process of field verification is needed to accurately change the disturbance values from satellite imagery.
- There is a need for clearer definitions and rules about what is allowed (e.g., barging and tenure). There were questions about whether existing claims in the Scottie Creek Wetlands LMU can be removed, and if the boundary of Scottie Creek can be changed accomplish that.
- YG does not currently have a system to implement the proposed CE framework .

### **Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) – Environment and Climate Change Canada**

On October 19, 3Pikas facilitated a meeting with CWS. There was a brief overview of the Recommended Plan and it was attended virtually by seventeen CWS staff.

We heard the following:

- The mapping and overlays could be displayed in a more user-friendly way; and
- There was a question about how CE limits would be monitored .

### **Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC)**

On November 22, 2022, 3Pikas facilitated a meeting with YSSC, which was attended by eleven individuals. We heard the following:

- YSSC had questions about reclamation, CE and associated development thresholds, and how these could impact salmon and salmon habitat in the Dawson Region;
- Their formal submission would recommend more protections to better safeguard undisturbed salmon habitat, which they viewed as a priority; and

- The Dawson Region is important to Yukon salmon populations. The Recommended Plan and implementation will be important to bringing back salmon populations.

## FORMAL WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS FROM STAKEHOLDERS AND INDIVIDUALS

Thirty-one formal written submissions were received from stakeholder groups (i.e., government agencies, mining and exploration companies, non-government organizations etc.), and 17 from individuals (people who were not pre-identified as part of a specific stakeholder group). In addition, two form letters were received from two different organizations with multiple individual or company signatories. All of these were received via email except one letter that was delivered in person. The following are summaries of each submission.

## STAKEHOLDER GROUP SUBMISSION SUMMARIES

In this section the content of the formal letters from 31 stakeholders are summarized. They provide a high-level overview of each stakeholder's position, ideas, and concerns about the Recommended Plan. The content of these summaries reflects 3PIKAS interpretation of each submission and it should be noted that submissions were not fact-checked as they are considered opinions. The summaries are presented in alphabetical order.

### 1. ATAC Resources Ltd (ATAC)

ATAC describes their interests in the region and provides input on several specific areas, organized into five themes: land availability, CE thresholds, inconsistencies, uncertainty and implementation challenges, Fortymile Caribou Herd, and environmental impacts of exploration and development. ATAC provides specific recommendations for how to address each theme. A particular area of concern is LMU 21, which includes the Connaught property. ATAC points out that *“Land is being withdrawn from exploration in Yukon at a concerning rate. As of the writing of this submission, 53% of the entire landmass of Yukon is permanently or temporarily withdrawn from quartz staking.”*

### 2. Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS)

CPAWS commends the Commission for the care they have put into the plan. CPAWS highlights multitude of positive changes, including strengthened protections for caribou, conservation areas, and climate change; the incorporation of Tr'èhudè; and the recognition of UNDRIP and cultural landscapes. CPAWS's recommendations and comments are organized into three main categories: major, overarching recommendations; recommendations specific to each Land Management Unit; and other comments on the plan.

CPAWS identifies priorities such as adequately protecting the Fortymile Caribou herd's key habitat over exploration and hardrock mining and the Klondike Plateau ecoregion. They advocate for improving measures to protect peatlands to address climate change. CPAWS also provides

comments on and recommendations for specific LMUs. Finally, CPAWS advocates prioritizing salmon and providing clearer language on implementation.

**3. Canadian Wildlife Service – Environment Climate Change Canada (CWS)**

CWS has the aim of protecting migratory bird specialist species, waterfowl nesting and staging habitat, species at risk, and contributing to Canada's conservation targets. They suggest editing the wording for the Ecological Values of several LMUs. They support the designation of LMU 20 as a SMA and the interim withdrawal of lands from placer and quartz mineral staking until the completion and approval of a Sub-Regional Plan. CWS advocates for Research Recommendations to build knowledge on the location of species at risk and rare or endemic species.

**4. Dawson District Renewable Recourse Council (DDRRC)**

The DDRRC acknowledged the efforts made by the Commission to accommodate and engage with the public. The DDRRC commends the Commission and affirms their support for the Recommended Plan and LMU designations in their current state. However, the DDRRC identifies specific areas of concerns including new access and the CE on key species (salmon and Fourtymile Caribou) and traditional economy. The DDRRC also makes recommendations regarding wetland protection and advocates for the development of Sub-Regional Plans for wetlands.

**5. Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)**

DUC commends the Commission for their hard work and dedication over the last number of years compiling such a thorough Recommended Plan. DUC provides suggestions to improve Wetland Management, Wetlands of Special Importance, SMAs, and Implementation. DUC advocates for a no-net-loss of wetland values. They call for the Parties to adopt a definition for “undisturbed” wetlands that considers the functionality of these wetlands. They recommend using the watershed as the boundary for the Wetlands of Special Importance for Flat Creek and Ladue River. They advocate for the Ladue River Wetland of Special Importance and Nän Dhòhdal to be designated as SMAs. They advocate for Management Direction for the Nän Dhòhdal LMU to be based on long-term goals rather than existing regulations. Finally, DUC encourages TH and YG to work together to implement the land use plan in a timely manner and with opportunities for organizations to work alongside the parties.

**6. Fireweed Metals Corp (Fireweed Metals)**

The Recommended Plan will have a negative impact on mineral exploration and development in the region. Fireweed Metals identifies a number of key issues that remain unaddressed. Issues include the amount of land withdrawn from staking, inconsistency between land designations and overlays, and low CE thresholds in ISAs. Fireweed Metals advocates for the removal of the caribou and wetland overlays. They call for compensation for claim holders, and the removal of staking withdrawals. Fireweed Metals makes several recommendations regarding ISAs such as accounting for all currently permitted and environmentally assessed projects in an LMU and increasing CE thresholds in ISAs. Finally, Fireweed Metals recommends updating language around caribou to recognize that the Fortymile Caribou Herd (FMCH) has been successfully recovering and undertaking scenario workshop of projects through the conformity process far in advance of the acceptance of the Recommended Plan.

**7. Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)**

DFO acknowledges the Commission's effort to develop a plan to manage land, water, and resources while promoting First Nation self-governance and reconciliation. DFO asserts that significant declines in Yukon River salmon stocks over the past two decades are largely due to the loss of habitats. They point out that Recommended Plan's objectives for LMU 3 Chu Kon Dëk align with the DFO's goal of protecting and enhancing water quality and salmon habitat. They support the objectives for LMU 3 Chu Kon Dëk, which are consistent with the habitat provisions of the international Pacific Salmon Treaty. Finally, DFO supports the implementation of the Recommended Plan and appreciates the opportunity to provide input.

**8. Friends of The Dempster Country (FODC)**

FODC expresses their appreciation for the work of the Commission in learning about the planning region, gathering public input, and creating the Recommended Plan. FODC advocates for the Special Management Directions and Priority Objectives to be modified to include LMU 6, LMU 7, and LMU 8 as SMAs and LMU 9 to be set aside for future sub-regional planning. Additionally, FODC recommends that the Final Land Use Plan should consider the CE of any activity within the Dempster Highway Corridor on the adjacent land. In doing so, FODC points out that the Recommended Plan would fulfill the obligation under the Umbrella Final Agreement, honour the wishes of TH for their Traditional Territory by protecting 60% of the area, and provide a large, connected wilderness area.

**9. Granite Creek Copper Corp**

Granite Creek Copper Corp highlights key scoping issues in the Recommended Plan, such as the amount of land withdrawn from staking, inconsistency between land designations, overlays, special management directions, and low CE thresholds in ISAs. Granite Creek Copper Corp recommends the establishment of science-based ecological habitat disturbance thresholds and the removal of staking withdrawals. Granite Creek Copper Corp maintains that a large land base is necessary for successful mineral exploration to find economic mineral deposits. However, they point out that the Recommended Plan's withdrawal is more than double the amount recommended in the Yukon Mineral Development Strategy, which they write would severely impact Yukon's economic future. Finally, Granite Creek Copper Corp recommends the formation of a Technical Working Group to create science-based ecological habitat disturbance thresholds that reflect baseline assessment, monitoring, research, traditional knowledge, and data.

**10. Klondike Active Transportation and Trails Society (KATTS)**

KATTS expresses their support for the overall vision and general management direction, however they note that the Recommended Plan does not provide enough recognition and protection for non-motorized trails. KATTS argues that it should include Recreation as a heading (Section 2) and trails and travel routes should be included as a sub-heading. KATTS calls for the Commission to reinstate the Draft Plan's objective to maintain existing trail networks. They support the establishment of new trails and / or the revival of historic trails. KATTS suggests that the Recommended Plan should try to distinguish between motorized and non-motorized trail use and point out that motorized and non-motorized trails promote different values. KATTS recommends greater buffers and protection for non-motorized trails.

## 11. Klondike Placer Miners' Association (KPMA)

KPMA thanks the Commission for considering and incorporating their comments. KPMA's submission was electronically signed by 242 KPMA members and non-members, as well as the Board of Directors. KPMA points out that Placer miners are significantly affected by land use planning and management in the region. KPMA indicates support for the management direction in LMU 11 (Goldfields) and provides 37 specific recommendations to address a range of issues. Some of the recommendations to consider include clarifying how reclamation will be considered under the CE framework / thresholds; extending the timeline between Recommended Plan review and Implementation; introducing clearer language around existing tenure renewal guidelines; amending the Recommended Management Practices for Moose values; re-introducing the placer secretariat; and considering the intersection of natural climate changes and how water quality, quantity and flow is measured.

Furthermore, KPMA recommends including industry in the development of overarching access management plans for LMUs identified and adjusting the LMU 20: Łuk Tthe K'ät (Scottie Creek Wetlands) boundary. Finally, KPMA states that it does not accept the Recommended Plan in its current form, and questions whether it can be used in practice. KPMA advocates for scenario workshops to be carried out.

## 12. Mayo District Renewable Resources Council (MDRRC)

MDRRC identifies concerns with the plan including the designation and management directions for LMU 7. They point out that LMU 7 has been the predominant area used by the Clear Creek Caribou Herd. MDRRC states that the herd has been avoiding a large portion of their southern historical range (rutting, wintering, calving). MDRRC believes that this is likely due to an increase in industrial activities in the Clear Creek area. MDRRC notes that hunters have been seeing fewer caribou in LMU 9 in recent years and surveys support this observation. MDRRC points out that herd is important to them, and they don't believe that there is adequate level of protection.

## 13. Metallic Minerals Corp

Metallic Minerals Corp recommend removing staking withdrawals, establishing science-based ecological habitat disturbance thresholds, updating language around Caribou to recognize that the Fortymile Caribou Herd has been successfully recovering, and incentivizing surface disturbance recovery objectives. They advocate for ISAs to account for all currently permitted and environmentally assessed projects in an LMU and compensation for claim owners. Finally, they suggest allowing for a scenario workshop of projects before acceptance of the Recommended Plan.

## 14. Metallic Group of Companies and True Point Exploration

Metallic Group of Companies and True Point Exploration recommend establishing science-based ecological habitat disturbance thresholds, increasing the level of training for regulators, creating wetland restoration policies, and tracking the effectiveness of land use planning through implementation. Metallic Group of Companies and True Point Exploration recommend forming a technical working group of representatives from government, First Nations, industry, and ENGOS to ensure the protection of ecological and heritage values while allowing for sustainable economic development. They recommend establishing disturbance thresholds that more

accurately reflect habitat criteria. Finally, Metallic Group of Companies and True Point Exploration recommends holding a workshop to ensure transparent communication between governments, First Nations, YESAB, YWB, industry, and ENGOs to create a Final Plan that adequately balances land stewardship, economic development, and compensates stakeholders for resources, time, and investment made in good faith.

#### **15. Minto Metals Corp**

Minto Metals Corp points out that the withdrawal of 54.1% of the land area for quartz claims is more than double the amount recommended in the Yukon Mineral Development Strategy. According to Minto Metals Corp, the Recommended Plan does not seem to reflect the ability for caribou and mineral exploration or other development to co-exist, despite evidence of successful cohabitation of land by humans and caribou. Minto Metals Corp argues that critical thresholds for wildlife are too low and maintains that combining small LMUs with the same designation and similar management direction could be a better approach. They recommend removing staking withdrawals, ensuring that ISA's account for all currently permitted and environmentally assessed projects in an LMU and consider all reasonably foreseeable future developments. They recommend removing caribou and wetland stewardship overlays, increasing CE thresholds, and completing a scenario workshop of projects prior to a decision being made. Finally, they recommend compensating claim holders and updating language around caribou to recognize that the Fortymile Caribou Herd has been successfully recovering.

#### **16. New Era Engineering Corporation (New Era)**

The Recommended Plan will have significant negative impacts on the future of mineral exploration and development in the Dawson region. In their letter, New Era identifies scoping issues and concerns and provides several recommendations. They point out that the large amount of land withdrawn from staking would significantly impact the economic future of the Yukon. They advocate for ISA thresholds that account for all currently permitted and environmentally assessed projects. They argue that appropriate compensation for claim holders located within areas designated for conservation be provided, and that a scenario workshop of projects through the conformity process take place. They advocate for solutions to protect both the environmental and economic future of the region. Finally, New Era suggests updating the language around caribou to recognize that the Fortymile Caribou Herd has been successfully recovering.

#### **17. Newmont Coffee Mine (Goldcorp Kaminak Ltd.)**

Newmont recognizes the considerable effort to improve the development scenarios between the Draft and Recommended Plan. The key areas of interest in relation to the Coffee Mine Project include scenarios, CE thresholds, conformity checks, reclamation, LMU 18 (to ensure that the Coffee Mine Project can be advanced) and Recommended Plan implementation. Newmont advocates for Plan Partners be included in developing definitions of reclamation, and for disturbance quantum amendments to be provided to the party responsible for reclamation to incentivize industry to complete reclamation activities. Newmont advocates amending LMU 18 to accommodate the CE of the Coffee Mine Project. They point out that increasing the threshold



to ISA 4, amending the CE thresholds in ISA 3, and changing the Special Management Directions would allow for the project to be successfully advanced.

**18. Parks Canada – National Park Establishment Branch**

Parks Canada suggests including a description of the Klondike National Historic Sites of Canada in the glossary and creating a spatially explicit map. Parks Canada supports exploring the possibility of a national park protection designation within the region. They point out that a national park protection designation would align well with the Recommended Plan's Intent Statements for SMAs and would be managed for the maintenance or restoration of ecological integrity. Finally, Parks Canada offers to collaborate and discuss this possibility further.

**19. Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB)**

PCMB acknowledges the progress made on the Recommended Plan. PCMB expresses appreciation for the Recommended Plan and the collaboration with PCMB throughout the planning process. PCMB notes that their concerns have been addressed to a great extent. However, PCMB provides additional comments and recommendations. PCMB points out that LMU 1 is identified as an SMA. The SMA designation provides assurance that conservation methods can be implemented and enforced in this important area for the Porcupine Caribou Herd. Further PCMB argues that caution should be used when considering development within LMU 2 given its designation as ISA 2. PCMB points out that it will be at the management table to help ensure development in LMU 2 is sustainable and avoids adverse impacts to the Porcupine Caribou Herd. Finally, PCMB recommends that the Recommended Plan should adequately address concerns about winter roads.

**20. RST Klondike Discoveries Ltd, Coccinella Mining Corp, Small Hydro Investments Ltd (Joint Submission)**

Mining is important to the Yukon's economy. The joint submission advocates for proper consideration of social, environmental, and industry considerations in the Regional Land Use Plan. They recommend that the voices of industry professionals are heard, and their recommendations are acted on.

**21. Sphinx Exploration Inc.**

In 2017, Sphinx Exploration chose the Moosehorne Range Region as an unexplored area in which to invest significant resources. They access the region either by aircraft and two primary airstrips or by a winter tote road and an all-weather road from the US side of the border. However, Sphinx Exploration notes that the area is designated ISA I, and the access route is located within a designated SMA, making access challenging. Sphinx Exploration argue that despite their investment and exploration, they were not included in the consultations for the Draft Plan. They point out that most of the planning region was closed to mineral tenure and, as such, they have incurred a cost. Sphinx Exploration notes that it had to move exploration focus out of the region and are disappointed with the Recommended Plan, as it neglects their industry.

**22. Spere Exploration Inc.**

For 10 years, Spere Exploration has been exploring and mining Swede Creek, investing hundreds of thousands of dollars in wages and over a million dollars in the local economy. Spere

Exploration has found success in placer mining and harvesting timber with commercial permits and is now looking to invest in zero-emission equipment. Spere Exploration points out that it is planning to build a sustainable mine that could last for many generations and is looking to the Dawson Planning Commission to provide certainty that they can continue to explore and mine without fear of being removed from the land. They are also looking to the Parties to protect existing exploration and mining activity in this emerging and highly prospective economic area. Additionally, Spere Exploration asks that the Parties to consider supporting early-stage prospecting programs for budding prospectors on the land within the planning area.

### **23. Wildlife Conservation Society Canada (WCS)**

The Recommended Plan is much stronger than the Draft Plan in terms of its support for conservation values and protection of water, wildlife, and land. WCS notes that the changes made to the Recommended Plan warrant support. However, WCS identifies a number of issues such as removing mineral tenures from SMAs, linking thresholds of human footprint to scientific literature, and including a clearly laid out implementation strategy. WCS provides detailed comments and an overall assessment which is organized around key areas of interest and includes recommendations for protected areas, stewardship outside protected areas, and implementation. Recommendations include increasing protection for the Fortymile Caribou Herd and designating the Ladue River watershed as a SMA. WCS advocates for removing existing mineral tenures from SMAs and reclassifying certain LMUs. Finally, WCS suggests including specific details on timing windows and spatial buffers and classifying ISAs critical for caribou conservation as ORV Management Areas with ORVs restricted to designated trails.

### **24. Yukon Chamber of Mines (YCM)**

YCM supports a balanced approach, which preserves the ability to continue to work in areas that are economically important today, while also protecting sensitive habitats and Indigenous ways of life. YCM points out that successful implementation must involve industry and they appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and ensure Yukon's economic future is protected. YCM suggests allowing for a workshop scenario prior to finalizing the Recommended Plan take place, which would involve governments, YESAB, industry, and ENGOs to identify any potential issues. YCM's concerns reference low CE thresholds for LMU 7 and the special management directions 1 and 2 in LMU 9. Further, YCM provides recommendations and comments on several LMUs. YCM recommends more clarity regarding timelines for sub-regional planning and definitions of activities that could potentially disturb salmon. They call for changes in the designation of certain LMUs given their mineral potential and ongoing activity. They advocate for compensation to claim holders. Finally, YCM calls for preserving quartz tenure for exploration and development and removing caribou stewardship in certain LMUs.

### **25. Yukon Conservation Society (YCS)**

YCS congratulates the Commission, and everyone involved. YCS suggests making the preservation of biodiversity a primary goal, reducing the footprint of disturbances in specific LMUs and protecting 100 percent of fen wetlands. They make further suggestions to better protect environmental values in the region.

### **26. Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB)**

YESAB submitted a detailed breakdown of how the Recommended Plan could be modified to better work with the assessment and regulatory processes. YESAB congratulates the Commission and notes that the Recommended Plan currently lacks clarity on how certain content, such as Recommended Management Practices, Policy Recommendations, Research Recommendations and Recommended Actions should be treated regarding project conformity. As such, YESAB advocates for further information on how precautionary, cautionary, and critical thresholds are meant to be applied to socio-economic and socio-cultural values. Other requests for clarification include stating who is responsible for completing climate risk assessments and what these assessments entail and including criteria to determine when a project needs to be evaluated for conformity. Additionally, YESAB advocates for an annual summary of surface disturbance and linear feature density for each LMU to be provided in order to inform project assessments. They point out that the Mitigation Hierarchy language should be expanded to include projects near wetlands. Lastly, YESAB recommends that the Recommended Plan use "environmental and socio-economic assessment" instead of "assessment" to properly reflect the breadth of the function of YESAB.

#### **27. Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board (YFWMB)**

The Recommended Plan has many improvements over the previous version. However, cumulative impact thresholds for industrial development is one of the main outstanding issues. The cumulative impact thresholds for industrial development are set too high and, as such, the Recommended Plan is bound to allow too much industrial development on the landscape. YFWMB points out that this could be remedied by balancing the impacts of industrial development with the conservation and protection of natural values. Furthermore, YFWMB identifies connectivity as an issue, as there is no corridor connecting the three SMAs in the western region. YFWMB advocates for their issues to be addressed before the Recommended Plan is implemented to protect the caribou herds and ensure a positive future for the region.

#### **28. Yukon Land Use Planning Council (YLUPC)**

YLUPC submitted a formal letter and a report from Stantec Architecture Ltd. which was commissioned by YLUPC. The letter outlines minor edits, and the report provides a list of observations. YLUPC suggests that overall, the Recommended Plan is good, well-written, logical, and backed up by appropriate rationale. YLUPC points to TH land management practices reflected throughout, and the use of Hän language as evidence that the Commission worked through the planning process to develop a Recommended Plan rooted in reconciliation.

YLUPC argues that the Recommended Plan's adaptive management approach, combined with the most advanced design of such an initiative in Canada, allows for the Cumulative Effects to be reactive to climate change with added flexibility. Further to this YLUPC recommends developing a user guide. The guide would be structured in a logical sequence and include a "How to Use This Plan" flow chart with page numbers and hyperlinks, a general management direction section, and a suggestion for how a user might access help. It would also use a checklist approach for the general management directions section.

#### **29. Yukon Prospectors Association (YPA)**

YPA advocates for some modifications that are necessary to ensure that responsible land use is possible while protecting biodiversity and cultural values. Mining interests should be considered in the Recommended Plan rather than having their activities curtailed or prohibited. They advocate for CE thresholds based on scientific evidence and appropriate compensation for expropriated properties. Finally, YPA points out that critical minerals are needed to combat climate change and that more consultation and evaluation of the Recommended Plan is required before implementation begins.

### 30. Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee (YSSC)

YSSC expresses support for the direction taken by the Dawson Planning Commission, however the Recommended Plan does not address the current salmon crisis. They provide specific recommendations to address this issue, including avoiding direct and indirect disturbance to salmon habitats, using publicly available aquatic inventory, conducting a full evaluation of the Fish Habitat Management System, and designating the Yukon River as a SMA with permanent mineral withdrawal.

### 31. Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y)

Y2Y recommends the permanent protection of certain areas in the Yukon, including Wehtr'e (Antimony), Wëdzey Tąy (Fortymile Caribou Corridor), Tădzan Dëk (White River), Yukon River Corridor, Klondike River Corridor, and Stewart River Corridor. They advocate for these areas to be designated as protected areas (SMAs) and buffer zones to be implemented to restrict activities harmful to Caribou. Additionally, Y2Y recommends designating other areas, such as Scottie Creek Wetlands, as Wetlands of Special Importance, and including water quality as an indicator in the Cumulative Effects Framework. Y2Y also recommends the establishment of an Implementation Committee and Technical Secretariat to aid in the implementation of the Recommended Plan.

## INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSIONS

Throughout the consultation, 17 letters were received from individual members of the public who did not identify as members of a specific stakeholder group. Many individuals expressed gratitude to the Commission and staff for their hard work in creating the Recommended Plan. These letters from the public are summarized below in no particular order.

1. Adjust LMU 8 by following the eastern boundary west of the defunct Brewery Creek Mine. The land east of that line should be included in LMU 7 as an ISA 1, which would help preserve the existing historical moose population and Caribou herds, as well as maintain connectivity between areas of key habitats and migration pathways. Combine LMU 16 Wedzey Nahuzhi and LMU 21 Wedzey Tay as a SMA, to give the Fortymile Caribou Herd a chance to have safe refuge in the Yukon. They appreciate the effort put into the development of the Recommended Plan and the idea of the Dawson Land Stewardship Trust.
2. The health of the land, water, and wildlife must be the primary objective of the land use plan in the Dawson Region, and that salmon and caribou should be the two indicator species to determine the success of the Recommended Plan. Expand protected areas, tighten thresholds,

protect more areas from development, and apply the Precautionary Principle more rigorously. These measures would prevent further fragmentation and disturbance of habitat and wildlife populations.

3. The Recommended Plan prioritizes ecological and cultural values over economic values. They see this as depriving the mining industry of access to land, eliminating jobs, and creating a climate of division in the Yukon. It is short-sighted and goes against the original intent of the UFA and it has already caused investments to dissolve and work plans to be cancelled. A more collaborative approach is possible. Supports the positions and facts submitted by the YCM, the YPA, and the KPMA.
4. Mineral prospecting is a low-impact activity that should be incorporated into the final Dawson Land Use Plan. This would allow for the discovery of potential economic mineral deposits on most of the land before any land withdrawals are made. Owning mineral rights does not prevent other activities or uses of the land . Review and modify the Recommended Plan to incorporate ideas and suggestions made in their submissions, and then hold another public consultation period. This will be an improvement and will be more inclusive of stakeholders and their rights.
5. The land that has been harmed by development is concerning and recommends that the Parties take more actions to rectify this. They are unhappy with the loss of protection for two areas but understand the justification for it. They also appreciate the wisdom of keeping the Commission in place after the Recommended Plan is accepted.
6. The overall direction in the Recommended Plan is favourable but it needs to include initiatives to protect key areas from future mineral development, specifically Indian River wetlands, White River area, Stewart River, and the Forty-mile Caribou Herd. Additionally, the success of the Recommended Plan depends on full collaboration of the Parties, which includes a detailed implementation and review of the Recommended Plan and YG funding.
7. The protection for animals, water, and wetlands are of the highest importance.
8. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in lands should be preserved for the benefit of everyone and believes that the economy and climate change are playing a negative role in landscape changes. This individual does not trust YG and feels that mining activities are contributing to pollution. Lands should be used for healing, culture, harvesting, research, education, archeology, and anthropology instead of mining. Keeping the lands clean and combatting climate change should be a priority and that development should not be allowed on the Dempster Highway to preserve its pristine beauty.
9. The Recommended Plan is failing to consider mineral potential and is not accounting for the temporary use of the land for mineral exploration and mining, which they feel would directly impact their family's ability to make a living. They understand the importance of conservation but the Recommended Plan is unbalanced and does not adequately consider mineral potential and development.
10. A Final Plan should balance environmental protection with responsible economic development. The Recommended Plan is not practical or clear enough to achieve this balance. The Plan should include a wetland mitigation hierarchy system, should reconsider Caribou timing windows and protect placer miners in LMU 20. The Recommended Plan should be practical and the Parties and Commission should take their time to get it right before signing.

11. Priority should be given to caribou, salmon, and people whose culture, health and sustenance depend on them, over industrial development. They also advocate for the TH to be a full partner in implementing the Final Plan.
12. Priorities for conservation in the Dawson Region as indicated by the TH include key ecological areas, connecting key habitats, and protecting wetlands. Additional criteria for reclamation and land use need to be implemented to protect values such as caribou migration corridors and salmon. Protect the Stewart River, ensuring good management practices for grizzly bears, and monitoring water quality and wildlife populations.
13. It is important to preserve natural landscapes and exercise caution regarding development in SMAs. Climate change needs to be a core value and measurable indicators to monitor climate change should be included within each LMU. The Recommended Plan should state how land uses and activities may contribute to and exacerbate the causes and impacts of climate change.
14. More than 50% of the Yukon is now off limits to exploration but the call for more land withdrawals and more restrictions on exploration activities continue. Grassroots exploration is in peril of disappearing in the Yukon, and the Recommended Plan does not help this situation. The permitting processes should be sped up rather than further extended with another layer of policy.
15. An individual that has been prospecting in the Dawson Area for 25 years and has had two major discoveries, which have brought in many junior mining companies and improved the local economy. They and other prospectors are being held in a state of uncertainty by the land use planning process and that the changes made to the Recommended Plan have real-life consequences. The outcome from the process should be balanced and not discourage the next generation of prospectors.
16. The Recommended Plan could negatively affect the ongoing viability of mining and related jobs.
17. A Recommended Plan should address the concerns of small placer miners and allows small placer mining to continue, especially in the Mayo area where their family had been placer mining for generations.

## TH CITIZEN LETTER

Highlights of a letter (Appendix G) signed by 15 TH Citizens emphasized that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory has sustained them for generations, and that maintaining their culture is the goal of Chapter 11. The letter advocates for the collective knowledge and experience of citizens to be incorporated and upheld in the land use planning process. Three important areas were highlighted:

1. More action to protect landscapes and wildlife habitat;
2. Establishing the Yukon River Corridor as SMA; and
3. Adding a statement that TH and YG will jointly implement the final Plan.

The letter ends with support of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens participating in the management of public resources throughout the Dawson planning region as it is their responsibility as a Party and as ancestral stewards of the landscape.

# TEMPLATE LETTERS

Throughout the consultation, template letters were received from various stakeholder groups. These letters were created to help their members convey their thoughts and were structured in a similar manner. The submitted template letters and their signatories are summarized in 3.

TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF TEMPLATE LETTERS

Stakeholder Group	Summary of Template Letter	Individual Signatory Submissions
<b>YCM</b>	Yukon Chamber of Mines (YCM) expressed concern with a large amount of land withdrawn from staking, inconsistency between land designations, overlays and special management directions, and low CE thresholds. They recommended considering removing staking withdrawals in ISA areas, increasing CE thresholds, and project assessment scenario workshops in advance of the acceptance of the Recommended Plan.	Signed by 14 companies.
<b>KPMA</b>	<p>In addition to their formal submission (summarized in Section 0) KPMA also facilitated form-based email submissions from member individuals highlighting:</p> <p>KPMA supports a healthy Yukon which balances environmental protections with responsible economic development and believes the health of the placer industry is critical to the social and economic health of the Dawson Planning Region. They do not believe the Recommended Plan is practical or clear enough to achieve this balance and have asked the Parties and Commission to consider reclamation values, planning of LMU 3, Caribou timing windows, and the practical application of the Recommended Plan. They urge the Parties and Commission to take their time and ensure the Recommended Plan is right before signing it.</p>	Signed by 33 individuals.
<b>CPAWS</b>	<p>In addition to their formal submission (summarized in Section 6.2.1), CPAWS also facilitated a form-based email submission from 66 members highlighting:</p> <p>Individuals support the conservation priorities of TH for the Dawson Region and believe that the health of the region's lands, waters, wildlife, and people should be prioritized. The Recommended Plan has taken positive steps towards protecting the Fortymile caribou herd and the Indian River wetlands, but further protections are needed, especially for lands critical for wildlife and traditional pursuits. Additionally, the waterways need to be protected and salmon need clean water and intact habitat. Lastly, the plan should be jointly implemented by YG and TH.</p>	Electronically endorsed by 66 CPAWS members.





# 7 THEMES

---

Collective themes from all the input received are presented here and organized as follows:

1. Regional planning process
2. Land use designations
3. Salmon and caribou
4. Wetlands and water
5. Plan Clarity

## THEME 1: REGIONAL PLANNING PROCESS

Participants generally expressed strong support for how the Commission and the Parties conducted the planning process. A majority of the input received included positive feedback regarding the changes made to the Draft Plan. However, some of the input conveyed concerns about the process and that input did not adequately shape the Recommended Plan's direction. We heard the following about the Commission:

- It worked hard in developing a comprehensive and far-reaching Recommended Plan.
- It worked through the planning process to develop a Recommended Plan rooted in reconciliation.
- It provided opportunities for participants to learn about the planning region, gather public input and create the Recommended Plan.
- It listened to many diverse opinions and perspectives.
- It fostered opportunities for collaboration.

### In their own words:

"The Yukon Land Use Planning Council [YLUPC] suggests that overall, the Plan is good; it is well-written, logical and backed up by appropriate rationale. YLUPC has identified that TH land management practices are seen throughout the Plan, and that much is written in Hän. This, in turn, shows that the Commission worked through the planning process to develop a Plan rooted in reconciliation." (YLUPC)

"CPAWS Yukon is deeply grateful that the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement has provided an opportunity to participate in the development of a plan for the Dawson Region, and we are thankful to the staff and Commission members who have created a process that lives up to the plan's motto: On the Land We Walk Together' / 'Nän kāk ndä tr'ädäl." (CPAWS)

"The Commission has listened long and hard to many diverse opinions and perspectives and we believe that for the most part, their Recommended Plan is something that reflects industry." (KPMA)

"This is a significant step in the land use planning process and ECCC-CWS would like to acknowledge the Commission's continued hard work and collaboration efforts that have gone into the release of the Recommended Plan." (CWS)

## THEME 2: LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

For many respondents, land use designations, and CE management thresholds are critical to the success of the Plan. We heard that more land should be designated for lower levels of development (i.e., as SMA or for ISA designation to be changed to ISA 1 – lowest level of development). This sentiment was most often tied to the following LMUs:

- LMU 6: Tr'ondëk (Klondike) (ISA 2)
- LMU 7: Whetr'e (Antimony) (ISA 1, Caribou Stewardship Overlay)
- LMU 14: Tąy Dèkdhät (Top of the World) (ISA 2)
- LMU 15: Khel Dëk (Sixty Mile) (ISA 3)
- LMU 17: Nän Dhòhdäl (Upper Indian River Wetlands) (ISA 2, Wetland Stewardship Overlay)
- LMU 19: Tädzan Dëk (White River) (ISA 1)
- LMU 21: Wëdzey Tąy (Fortymile Caribou Corridor) (ISA 2, Caribou Stewardship Overlay)

We saw this view reflected in the analysis of long-answer survey responses as well as letters from stakeholders. We also heard the suggestion to adjust some LMU boundaries to increase wildlife connectivity between SMA areas and/or important caribou corridors identified in ISA 1 and 2 areas.

Industry stakeholders expressed support for the ISA designation of the LMU 11: Goldfields (ISA 4). We heard a range of concerns from this sector about designations as well (in stakeholder submissions, interviews, and at open house events). Concerns included existing or expected mining activities in higher-protection ISA areas (i.e., outside the Goldfields) could be negatively impacted by the Recommended Plan. These concerns were often voiced in combination with those about the CE framework and interim withdrawal / overlay areas (theme 2).

Specifically, these mineral exploration and development stakeholders often cited the following LMUs where they wished to see higher development ISA designations than those presented in the Recommended Plan:

- LMU 21: Wëdzey Tąy (Fortymile Caribou Corridor) (ISA 2)
- LMU 7: Wehtr'e (Antimony) (ISA 1)

**We heard the following input on what land use designations and management thresholds should include:**

- More development restrictions and higher CE thresholds for some LMU areas to protect sensitive areas and provide connectivity between SMAs (i.e., wildlife corridors).
- SMA designation for Yukon River, Stewart River, Ladue River, and Fourtymile River.
- SMA designation or ISA 1 for LMU areas 6, 7, 14, 15, 19 and 21.
- Stronger protection of wetlands in LMU 17: Nän Dhòhdäl (Upper Indian River Wetlands) through SMA designation.
- An ISA 1 designation for LMU 9: Clear Creek and include a Caribou Overlay.
- Time limits on the existing mineral claims in SMAs.

- Stronger measures to protect all wetlands. It was recommended by participants to protect all wetlands, and to provide full protection for the four wetland types, as well as to give Wetland Special Importance designation for the entire Region.
- Greater consistency between land designations, overlays, and special management directions in ISA areas for greater certainty for mineral sector.
- Certainty that ISAs account for all currently permitted and environmentally assessed projects in an LMU and consider the reasonably foreseeable future development in the area.
- Balance needs of industry and the environment. Some of the concerns relate to how the Recommended Plan would affect their businesses and industry in the region, mainly due to the (temporary and permanent) withdrawals from staking and SMA designated areas.
- Consideration for the industry and its importance to the economy as some SMAs and ISA 1 areas could impact the mining industry in the Yukon.
- Cumulative effects thresholds in LMU 18: Therian Dëk (Coffee Creek) to ensure that the Coffee Mine Project can be advanced.
- Acknowledgement that the economic significance of placer mining to the Yukon is a way to protect areas. Rather than put a halt to placer activities, there should be fewer restrictions and easier permitting.
- SMA designation for LMUs 6: Tr'ondëk (Klondike), 7: Wehtr'e (Antimony), and 8: Brewery Creek as SMAs.
- Protection for the Porcupine River headwaters.
- Consideration for simplifying ISA designations to 3 levels of categorization (low, moderate and high development).
- Changing LMU 21: Wëdzey Tày (Fortymile Caribou Corridor) from ISA 2 to ISA 3 to allow for more certainty for ongoing mining activities and future exploration. There should be recognition that the caribou population is increasing in this area under the current environmental and regulatory management of placer mining in this area.
- Changing LMU 7: Wehtr'e (Antimony) from ISA 1 to ISA 2 to allow for a higher threshold of development. Re-mining historic disturbance will in turn promote better reclamation or remediation of historically mined sites (for example, the significant dredge disturbances in the area).

## THEME 3: SALMON AND CARIBOU

Participants consistently highlighted the importance of salmon and caribou and the need to preserve those species and their habitats for generations to come. Survey and stakeholder responses touched on this issue, some of whom identified resource development as a factor in the dwindling numbers of these animals. We heard concerns from TH Citizens, Resource Councils, and the YSSC about the declines in salmon returns to the Dawson region.

We also heard from those in the mining industry on this issue, in particular relating to caribou. Several responses articulated their position that placer mining and healthy caribou populations can and do co-exist. We heard that the mineral development industry prefers development setbacks and buffers, and timing windows for avoiding impacts to caribou.

**We heard the following input on how the Recommended Plan could better protect salmon and caribou:**

- Conservation measures to ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to experience salmon and caribou populations.
- Mandatory development setbacks, and other avoidance measures, in areas of known or possible salmon habitat.
- More management directions and water quality indicators for avoidance of impacts to known and potential salmon spawning and rearing habitat across a range of water uses and activities.
- More emphasis on development setbacks and timing windows to protect wildlife from mining activities, rather than temporary staking withdrawals in ISA Overlay areas.
- Caribou overlay for Clear Creek Caribou Herd.
- Caribou overlays as parts of ISA 3 and ISA 4 to ensure more connectivity.
- The proposed ISA level in LMU 21: Wëdzey Tąy (Fortymile Caribou Corridor) is not adequate. A reduction in the CE thresholds would provide protection to the caribou range.
- LMU 21: Wëdzey Tąy (Fortymile Caribou Corridor) – ISA 2 should be larger and / or an SMA to act as a corridor for caribou.
- More protection for LMU 8: Brewery Creek. This area is relatively undisturbed, surrounded by ISA 1 and an SMA, which is part of the caribou range. Should change the border to make the area west of Brewery Creek ISA 1 or SMA.

**In their own words:**

Protect our lands, the rate we are going we won't have anymore protected areas for our youth leaders. I see my children coming back to these lands and continuing the teachings that I've taught them and surrounding themselves with what the land can offer. That's what I want to see! It's not about what we want it's what we need to keep our young people alive and thriving. (Survey Respondent)

"The need for a conservation corridor is acknowledged in the Recommended Plan by the designation of LMU 21 (Fortymile Caribou Corridor) as a caribou corridor, including a caribou overlay and the interim withdrawal of the LMU from Quartz staking and exploration." (YFWMB)

"Spawning grounds for the fish - that's an area you really have to protect, the Klondike, because those fish come all the way from Beaufort Sea and have to fight their way up just to lay their eggs."

(TH Citizen Consultation Report)

"The Council recognizes that the recommended Sub Regional Plans for the Yukon River Corridor (LMU 3: Yukon River - Chu kon dek) and the Klondike Highway Corridor (LMU 13: Klondike Valley)

may go a long way towards protecting Salmon habitat within the planning region. We would like to see development of these Sub-Regional Land Use Plans expedited. The Council has grave concerns about the impact of human activity on Salmon spawning areas within the two yet to be developed Sub Regional Plans.” (DDRRC)

“Y2Y further recommends confirmation in the Recommended Plan that the Fish Habitat Management System is robust enough to protect salmon into the future. Absent such confirmation, species specific indicators are needed as part of the Cumulative Effects Framework.” (Y2Y)

## THEME 4: WATER AND WETLANDS

The importance of water to the TH was made clear, with an emphasis on its preservation. We also heard this from the FNNND. Furthermore, survey respondents and stakeholder discussions revolved around the need to pay more attention to watercourses and river systems and the interaction between mining and fish. We heard concerns about how the Recommended Plan will oversee the limits of CE to water, wetlands, and related environmental values.

### **We heard the following input on how the Recommended Plan could better protect water and wetlands:**

- Cumulative effects, water quality indicator and / or specific management directions and metrics related to water quality.
- Water quality monitoring to be done and considered a priority and should commence immediately.
- Measures to track the water quality impacts of CE.
- Reclamation standards for water and wetlands.
- There should be a focus on viewing rivers holistically to protect their headwaters.
- More clarity for the Wetlands Stewardship Areas and buffers.
- Adopting a no-net-loss of wetland function or value.
- Setting wetland goals for Nän Dhòhdäl (Upper Indian River Wetlands).

### **In their own words:**

“Major waterways receive their own protective designation, in alignment with the obligations and intent of Chapter 14 of the Final Agreement. FNNND will reiterate and support TH’s recommendation in this respect by recommending Tagé Cho, the Klondike River, and the Yukon River receive special management area designation specific to waterways. This should include specific management directions and recommendations related to waterways.” (FNNND)

“We strongly believe that placer miners can work WITH the Parties to come up with ways to research wetlands, new ways to perform wetland reclamation, and ways to maintain water quality, quantity, and flow during the life of a placer mine.” (KPMA)

“This planning process has decided not to include in the CE approach values associated with water and therefore salmon habitat. This is a huge disappointment and leaves a lot of concern for ongoing

high risk of impacts from placer mining on water quality.” (WCS)

“One shortcoming is that the Recommended Plan’s cumulative effects thresholds are land-centric. The health of the land and water are interconnected, but using only land-based indicators limits the plan’s ability to manage the health of the region’s waters. The Final Plan should strengthen protections for salmon and water by adding water quality indicators into its cumulative effects framework and linking these indicators to linear and surface disturbance (which increase sediment runoff).” (CPAWS)

## THEME 5: PLAN CLARITY

Many comments focused on implementation. A number of survey respondents, and stakeholders (through letters and input at open houses and the workshop) expressed their view that the Recommended Plan did not show a clear enough path forward for implementation. Many did not fully understand how the CE thresholds and management would work in practice. Specific concerns about CE were related to monitoring and enforcement, the need for water-based indicators, adaptability to climate change and associated ecosystem stressors, and lack of clarity regarding the interpretation of CE effects thresholds and management objectives (i.e., during project YESAB and Permitting).

Additionally, although some acknowledged the overall purpose of the ISA Caribou and Wetland Stewardship Overlay areas, there was uncertainty about the implementation of some of the management directions for these areas. In particular, we heard that the Recommended Plan lacked clear directions regarding the tools, resources, and new baseline data needed to develop and implement Access Management Planning for Caribou Stewardship Overlay areas. These concerns closely mirrored those we heard about the need to be more specific on how the CE framework would be implemented.

We heard respondents who were unsure about the ability of CE and Access Management Planning to adequately facilitate economic activity (e.g., provide certainty), and preserve environmental values (e.g., have the right data, management, and enforcement to mitigate impacts) in the ISA area.

Many of industry stakeholders said that the CE based management could negatively impact their ability to mine and prospect in the Dawson Region.

Some participants offered suggestions for how implementation could be improved.

### **We heard that Plan implementation should include:**

- Full partnership with TH to ensure that the Recommended Plan is effective at the permitting level.
- Stronger climate change considerations.
- Climate change indicators must be incorporated into a CE framework.
- Robust considerations for updating thresholds baseline data.
- Add a CE water quality indicator.

- Include the CE framework as part of sub-regional planning to effectively link the inclusion of water quality indicators to an implementation timeline.
- Cultural values as part of the CE framework.
- Criteria for measuring changes and CE along the waterways should be included.
- Reclamation standards and clear integration with CE management.
- Show ways that adequately reclaimed land can be removed from the CE disturbance area so that it is acknowledged by regulators in a timely fashion.
- Speak to what constitutes reclamation as there is confusion between reclamation and restoration.
- Provide more clarity around the implementation of the CE framework, specifically by establishing indicators and metrics.
- Provide more clarity regarding timelines and objectives for management of Stewardship Overlay areas. Include a clear outline of the tools, metrics, and research requirements that would inform management planning (i.e., access during Plan implementation).
- Be stronger and clearer regarding CE enforcement, compliance, responsibilities, and standards.
- Add climate change in the annual reporting requirements as well as in the 5 and 10-year reviews. The Parties should provide updates on matters of implementation as the Implementation Committee carries out its work.
- Apply disturbance credit amendments to the party responsible for reclamation as it could help to incentivize industry players to complete reclamation.

## 8 APPENDICES

---

### 8.1 APPENDIX A: CONSULTATION DETAILS

#### ONLINE SURVEY

An 18-question online survey was available throughout the 90 day consultation period via: [www.onthelandwewalktogether.ca/survey](http://www.onthelandwewalktogether.ca/survey). 181 responses were received.

#### MEETINGS WITH FIRST NATION LEADERSHIP

Under the direction of the Parties, 3Pikas contacted the affected First Nations to arrange meetings with their respective Lands and Resources departments and leadership. These invitations were sent out early in the consultation period allowing time to schedule meetings, and to ensure there would be time after the meeting for follow-up questions and for the governments to prepare their respective formal submissions.

At leadership meetings, 3Pikas presented the Recommended Plan's highlights and an overview of the consultation process. These meetings were informal to allow for discussion and information exchange, and to answer questions and record concerns.

To foster open and candid discussion, the Parties and Commission did not attend meetings with First Nation leadership, except for the meeting with TH, which is both an affected First Nation and a Party. Notes from meetings and input from affected First Nation leadership are provided.

VGG leadership was in an election cycle and as such, was unable to meet with 3Pikas during the consultation period. VGG did provide written comments.

#### COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSES

Open houses were hosted in Dawson City, Mayo, Old Crow, and Whitehorse during the consultation period. The goals were to:



- **Inform** the public about the Recommended Plan, the planning process, the consultation, and next steps.
- **Consult** on specific aspects of the Recommended Plan.
- **Involve** participants by soliciting ideas and opinions on how the Recommended Plan could be improved or changed to reflect their values and unique connections to the Dawson region (i.e., what’s working, what’s not working). These events (summarized in Table 4) provided opportunities for the Parties to hear feedback from those who would be most affected by it. Open houses were held in accessible and central locations in the communities. Dinner was provided in Dawson City, Mayo, and Old Crow, and snacks were available in Whitehorse.



TABLE 4: SUMMARY OF 2022 COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSES AND WORKSHOP

Event	Community	Details	~ Attendees
Open House	<b>Mayo</b>	October 5 5:00 – 8:00 PM Mayo Community Centre	12
Open House	<b>Dawson City</b>	October 6 12:00 – 7:30 PM TH Community Hall	26
Open House	<b>Old Crow</b>	November 3 4:30 – 7:30 PM Darius Elias Community Centre	23
Open House	<b>Whitehorse</b>	November 16 4:30 – 7:30 PM Northlight Innovation	50
Workshop	<b>Dawson City</b>	December 7 5:00 – 8:00 PM TH Community Hall	27

## COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

As a follow-up to the October 6 Open House in Dawson City, 3Pikas and representatives of the Parties and the Commission hosted a community workshop in Dawson City on December 7, 2022.

The workshop was open to the public, included dinner and was advertised in Dawson using the same channels as the previous Open Houses.

Approximately 27 members of the public attended, most of whom identified as full-time Dawson residents.



Participants participated in facilitated discussions and gave written feedback on four main topics: water, wetlands, CE, and designations. These topics were chosen by the Parties, based on prior input. Each topic was assigned a table and a facilitator from either the Parties, 3Pikas, or the Commission, and the participants were guided through each theme in succession.

The format encouraged discussion, and verbal responses were recorded by facilitators. Additionally, participants were encouraged to provide written responses on the worksheets that were provided. A blank copy of the worksheets is provided in Appendix E.

## STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

It was essential to the Parties that stakeholders were given the opportunity to be interviewed as part of the consultation process. Earlier in the planning process, the Parties and the Commission had developed an extensive list of stakeholders (Appendix H), which included both government and non-government organizations (NGO).

3Pikas used that list to both email and (follow-up with) phone calls to schedule interviews. Stakeholders were also notified that they could provide feedback on the Recommended Plan in writing, during the comment period. The stakeholders included municipal governments, government agencies, wildlife management boards, industry associations, and environmental NGOs.

## FORMAL SUBMISSIONS

Formal written submissions were received from individuals, groups, government, and non-government organizations, as well as the three affected First Nations. In total, over 50 submissions were collected and analyzed for common themes.

## COMMUNICATION TOOLS

Several public consultation and outreach tools were used to inform the public, stakeholders, and governments about the Recommended Plan and to solicit broader participation and feedback during the consultation. These tools included a website, a Facebook page, and direct stakeholder outreach.

## Website

The public release of the Recommended Plan on September 7, 2022 was followed by the launch of the consultation period on September 19, 2022.

The consultation website ([onthelandwewalktogether.ca](http://onthelandwewalktogether.ca)) went live on that date, and included:

- a summary of the planning process and consultation;
- survey page;
- links to download all three (summary, condensed, and full) versions of the Recommended Plan;
- contact information for 3Pikas, TH and YG;
- links to the Commission’s website;
- regularly updated list of upcoming open houses, including event details and links to the event posts hosted on the project’s Facebook page (see below).

### Website traffic:

- 2,816 site visits
- 2,456 (87.2%) of the site visits originated from Canada
- Canadian visits originated from Yukon (1,597 or 65%).
- 1,967 unique visitors
- 5,136 page views
- The survey page on the site was viewed 1,255 times.

## Open House and Survey Promotion

A mix of print, Facebook, radio, and website advertising were used to build awareness and increase participation at the open houses / workshop and in the survey.

3Pikas administered a *Recommended Plan Engagement Facebook* page during the consultation period. This page was regularly updated with posts promoting the open houses and survey. These posts were promoted to help increase awareness and participation. Boosting the Facebook post increased the reach and visibility to Yukoners and Dawson residents. Advertisements and links to the survey were also provided through TH government and YG social media channels.

Public comments on promoted posts were not considered public input in the process.

Throughout the consultation period, the survey was available on the consultation website, where anyone could access it. A prize was offered to participants to encourage people to complete the survey. A \$250-dollar flight voucher, jointly awarded by the Parties, was given to the winner, who was randomly selected. The prize was included on Facebook posts and advertised in person at open houses.

Posters were prepared for each community open house and workshop, and posted in Mayo, Dawson, Old Crow, and Whitehorse. These included basic event information (event name, date, time, and location) and included a QR code to direct viewers to the *on the land we walk together* website.

All advertisements were approved by the Parties and were circulated for two weeks or longer, depending on the event or purpose of the advertisement. Specifically, the following advertisements were circulated for the following consultation events:

## Survey:

1. Three separate promoted Facebook posts throughout the survey period,
2. Pamphlets including QR code linking to the survey were printed and distributed at the open houses,
3. The presentations at the Open Houses promoted the survey to attendees.

**Mayo Open House:**

1. 3Pikas-prepared posters were sent to FNNND, who distributed them to community bulletins and posted at the Community Hall (venue),
2. Promoted Facebook post two weeks prior to the event.

**Dawson Open House:**

1. 3Pikas-prepared posters were sent to TH who distributed them to community bulletins and posted at the TH Hall (venue),
2. Promoted Facebook post two weeks prior to the event,
3. TH government promoted the event with social media posts, videos, radio ads, print outs (to citizens only), and phone calls (to citizens only).



**Old Crow Open House:**

1. Printer posters were distributed around the community, focusing on high-traffic areas,
2. Promoted Facebook post two weeks prior to the event.

**Whitehorse Open House:**

1. Newspaper advertisements were run in the Yukon News and Whitehorse Star two weeks prior to the Whitehorse Open House,
2. Promoted Facebook post two weeks prior to the event,
3. TH (Whitehorse Office) promoted the event with posters and phones calls to Citizens.

**Dawson Workshop:**

1. Newspaper advertisements (print and on the newspaper website) were run in the Klondike Star two weeks prior to the Dawson Workshop,
2. Promoted Facebook post two weeks prior to the event,
3. 3Pikas-prepared posters were sent to TH government who distributed them to community bulletins and posted at the TH Hall (venue),
4. Rolling ads were on display in local businesses in Dawson City,
5. A radio sound bite read by radio hosts on CFYT,
6. TH promoted the event with social media posts, videos, radio ads, print outs (to citizens only), and phone calls (also citizens only).



## 8.2 APPENDIX B: COPY OF SURVEY

1 → Do you live in the Yukon?\*

*Description (optional)*

Yes

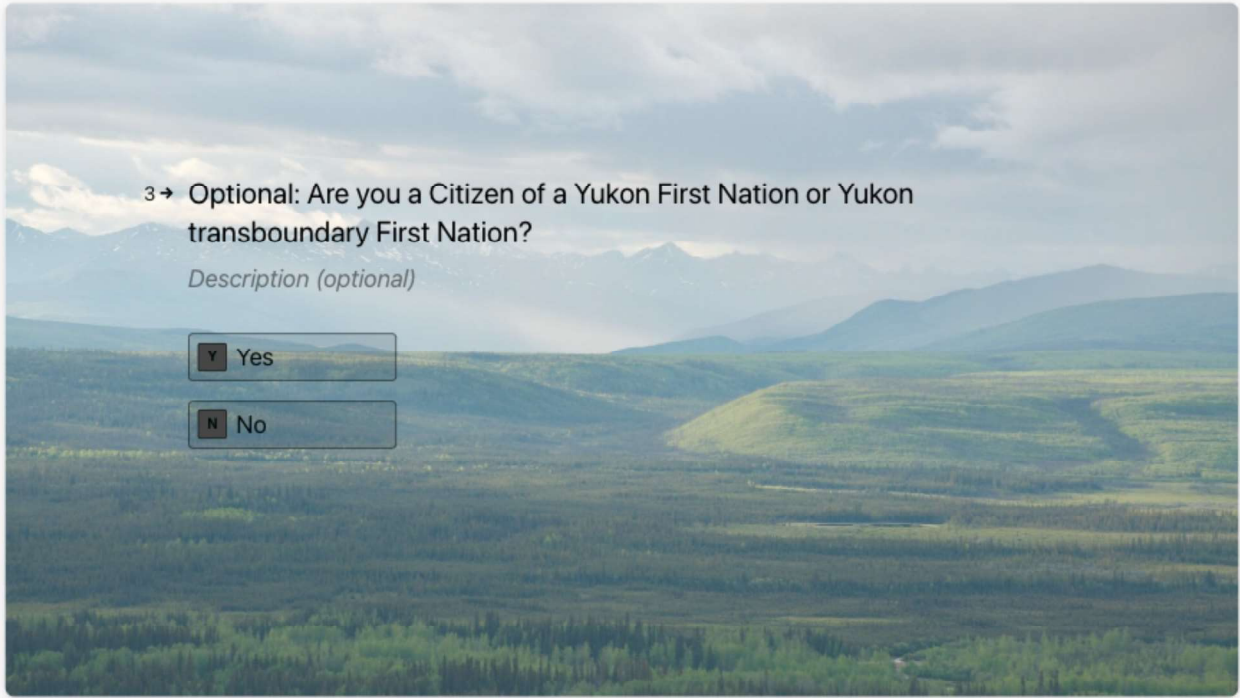
No

2 → What community do you live in? \*

*Description (optional)*

Type or select an option ▼

[Edit choices](#) 19 options in list

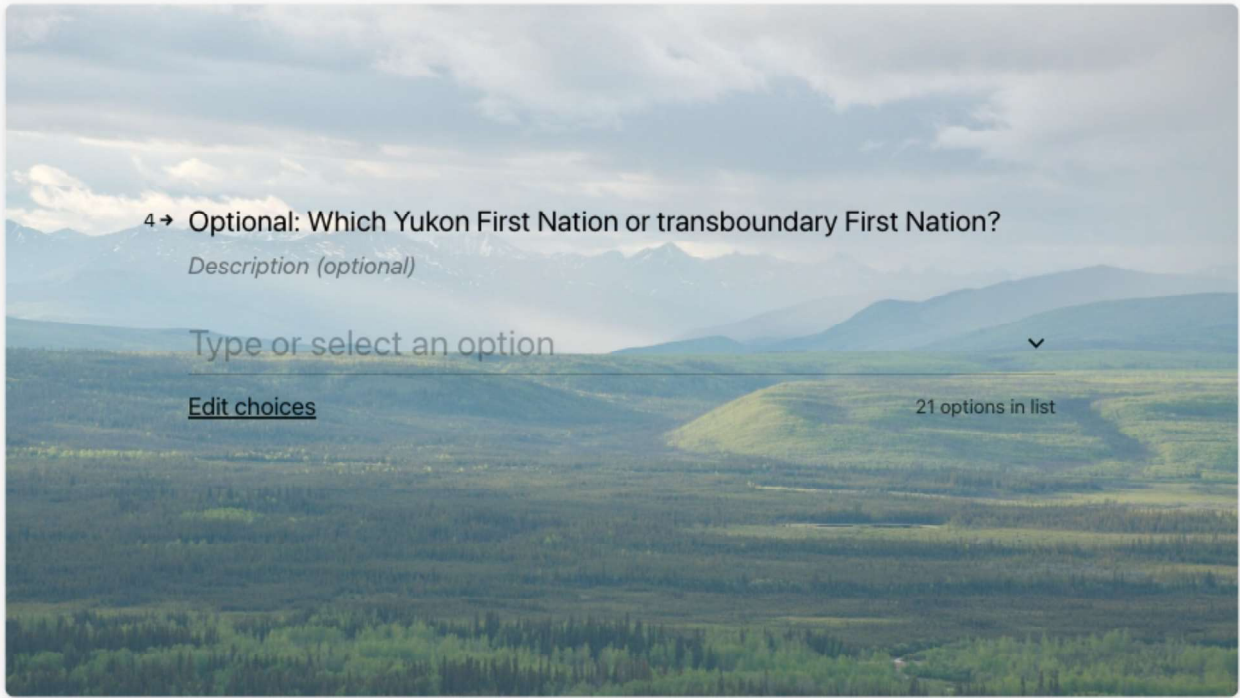


3 → Optional: Are you a Citizen of a Yukon First Nation or Yukon transboundary First Nation?

*Description (optional)*

Y Yes

N No



4 → Optional: Which Yukon First Nation or transboundary First Nation?

*Description (optional)*

Type or select an option ▼

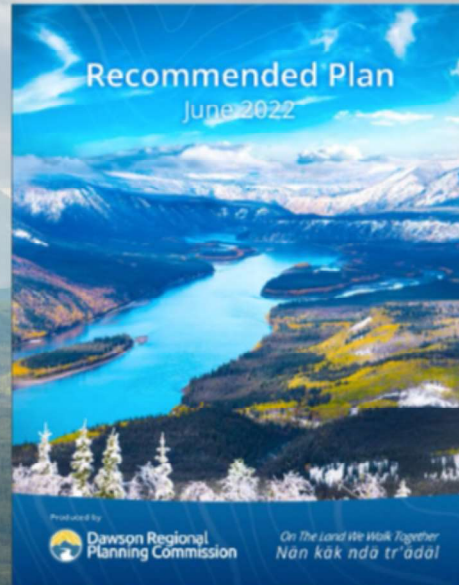
[Edit choices](#) 21 options in list



5 → **Recommended Plan Vision:**

**"Nän kāk ndā tr'ädäl"** (On the land we walk together) reflects the Commission's vision for the region.

**For the Region:** The Dawson Region encompasses a unique landscape that enables our community to build a diverse and sustainable economy that maintains a rich cultural legacy and a healthy environment.

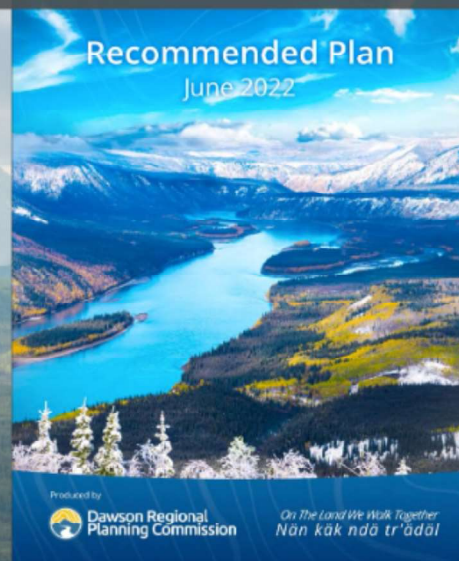


**For the Process:** Shared and

5 → **Recommended Plan Vision: "Nän kāk ndā tr'ädäl" (...)**

5a → Does the Recommended Plan reflect your vision of the Dawson Region?\*

1 star = does not reflect vision; 5 stars = reflects vision very well.



5 → Recommended Plan Vision: "Nän kāk ndä tr'ädäl" (...)

5b → Overall do you think the Recommended Plan sets a good direction to achieve the vision?

0 = bad direction; 10 = amazing direction.

[Link to Map](#)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



6 → The Dawson planning region contains significant **ecological values** and conservation, stewardship, and maintaining the integrity of these values is a key guiding principle in the Plan.

Do the management directions for ecological integrity and conservation in the Plan support your stewardship goals for the region?

1 star = does not meet goals; 5 stars = meets goals very well.



1 2 3 4 5

7 → The Dawson planning region contains significant **economic interests**, and a key guiding principle in the Plan is sustainable development.

Do the management directions for sustainable economy in the Plan support your economic goals for the region?

1 star = does not meet goals; 5 stars = meets goals entirely.



8 → Each Land Management Unit is assigned a land use designation based on the values and land use issues identified within the area, and the sensitivity of each area to disturbance.

See page pg. 46 of the full Plan to see a summary of the different designations.

**Continue**

press **Enter** ↵

8 → Each Land Management Unit is assigned a land use de...

The Recommended Plan assigns land designations for 21 Land Management Units (LMUs) that are areas within the planning region. The amount of land designated in each is described in the table below.

**Special Management Areas** and the **Tombstone Territorial Park** (which have the highest conservation of ecological and heritage values) encompass about 34.1% and 5.3% of the Dawson region in the plan, respectively.

Integrated Stewardship Areas (ISAs) (1 = lowest development; 4 = highest development) encompass 57.5% of the plan area. These allow for development in a managed stewardship approach, with consideration of cumulative effects.

The remaining 3.0% of the area is designated for sub-regional

9 → The plan recommends the following five Land Management Units (LMUs) be designated Special Management Areas (highest conservation):

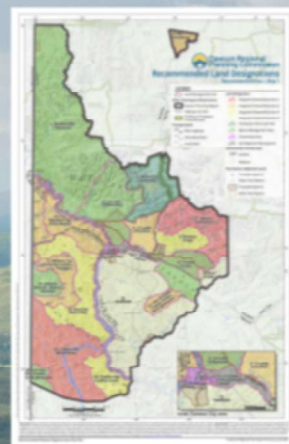
**LMU 1:** Tthetäwndëk (Tatonduk),

**LMU 4:** Tsey Dëk (Fifteenmile),

**LMU 10:** Tintina Trench,

**LMU 16:** Wëdzey Nähuzhi (Matson Uplands), and,

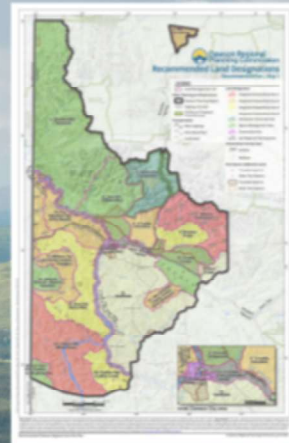
**LMU 20:** tuk Tthe K'ät (Scottie Creek Wetlands).



10 → Tell us more about your views on the designation of **Special Management Areas** in the Recommended Plan.

The Special Management Areas are represented by the green areas of the map. The long-answer character limit is 800, unless otherwise noted.

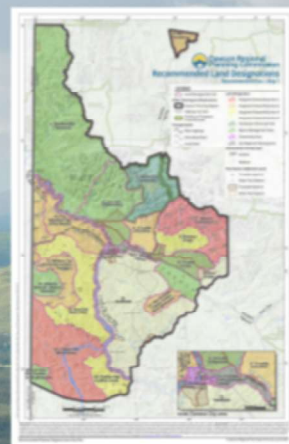
Type your answer here...



11 → **The Plan recommends certain Integrated Stewardship Areas have special plans developed before mineral staking can resume.** These will require planning to manage access and conservation of ecological values (Caribou).

The Recommended Plan prioritizes the development of these plans as follows:

**LMU 17** Upper Indian River Stewardship Plan (Wetlands Stewardship Overlay)



11 → The Plan recommends certain Integrated Steward...

11a → Do you agree with the management of access and conservation of ecological values proposed for these areas?

*Description (optional)*

- A Agree
- B Somewhat agree
- C Somewhat disagree
- D Disagree
- E Don't know

[Add choice](#)

11 → The Plan recommends certain Integrated Steward...

11b → Does this approach fit with your vision for these areas?

*Description (optional)*

- Y Yes
- N No



11 → **The Plan recommends certain Integrated Steward...**

11c → Please provide any additional comments below on these special areas.

If you use any of these Integrated Stewardship Areas (i.e., LMUs 17, 7, 3, 21) please tell us more about this use in your response.

Type your answer here...

Shift ⌘ + Enter ↵ to make a line break

OK ✓

press Enter ↵

“ **Cumulative Effects** are the result of human activities and natural ecological processes, and include past, present and potential future activities.

To address potential cumulative effects of multiple projects on the landscape on ecological or heritage values, the plan sets thresholds for acceptable level of development.

The thresholds include surface disturbance and linear feature density (e.g. trails, cutlines, roads) that can happen in the Integrated

The cumulative effect of new cabins being built in an area may have the effect of reducing places someone can hunt in an area.



One cabin may not have a very big impact on the allowable hunting area, but the accumulation of many cabins may significantly impact someone's ability to access hunting areas.



Figure 3-2. An example of how cumulative effects have an impact on the Region's values

12 → Does the cumulative effects approach in the different Integrated Stewardship Areas (1-4) fit with your vision for stewardship of the region?

*Description (optional)*

- A Agree
- B Somewhat agree
- C Somewhat disagree
- D Disagree
- E Don't know

[Add choice](#)

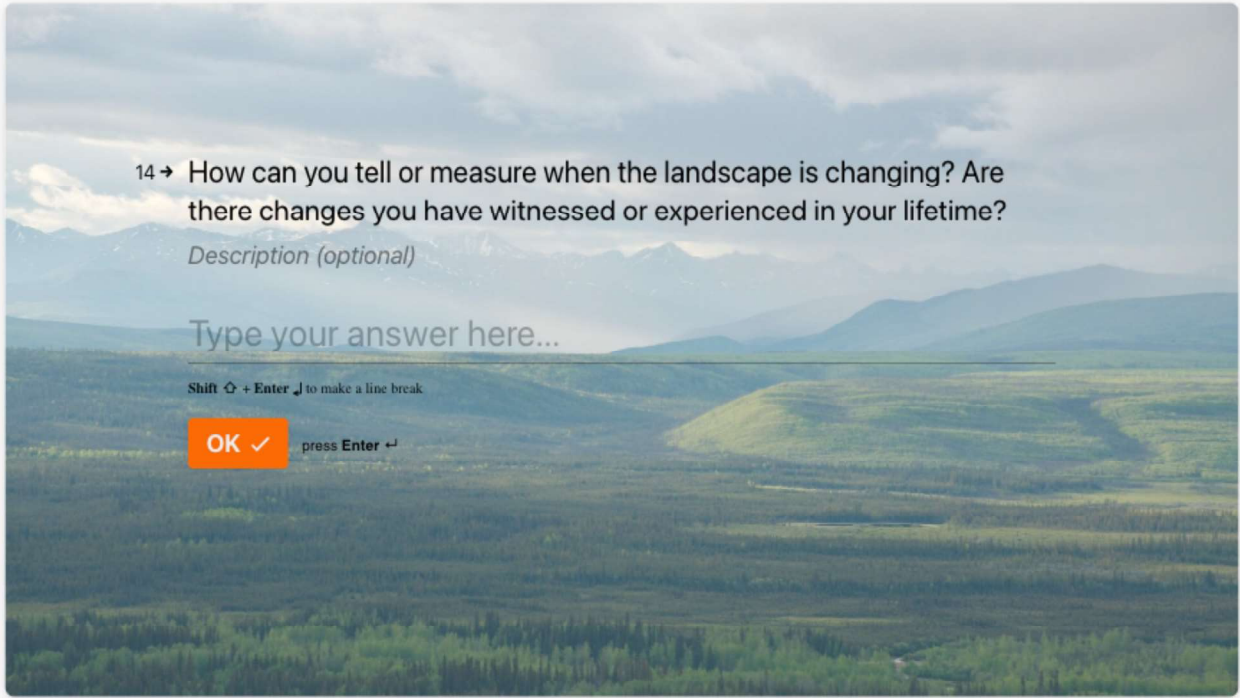
13 → Tell us more about your views on the designation of Integrated Stewardship Areas and management of cumulative effects in the Recommended Plan.

*Description (optional)*

Type your answer here...

Shift + Enter to make a line break





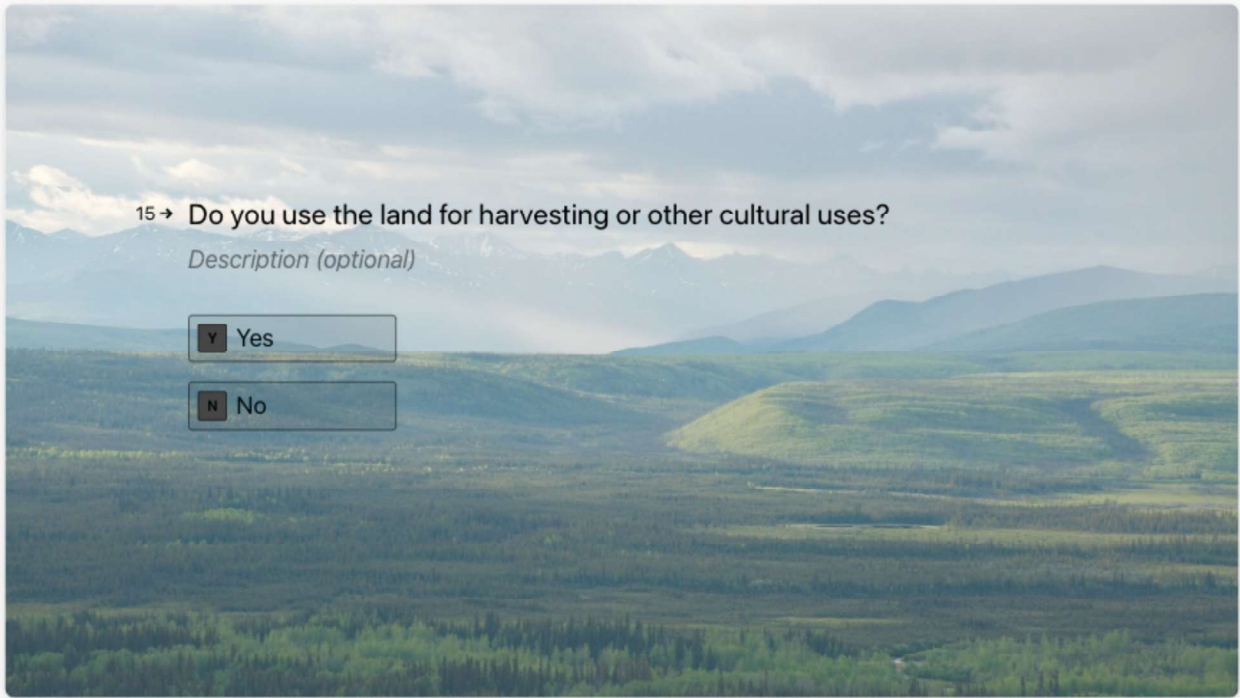
14 → How can you tell or measure when the landscape is changing? Are there changes you have witnessed or experienced in your lifetime?

*Description (optional)*

Type your answer here...

Shift ⬆ + Enter ⬇ to make a line break

**OK ✓** press Enter ↵

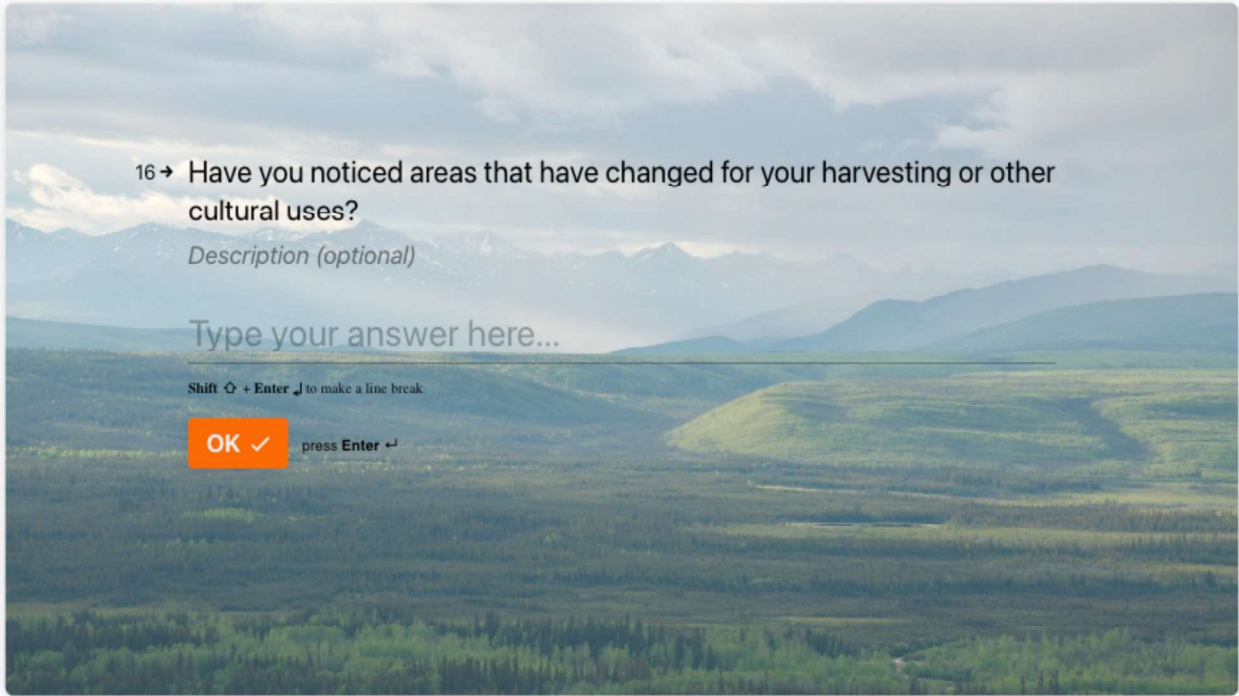


15 → Do you use the land for harvesting or other cultural uses?

*Description (optional)*

Yes

No



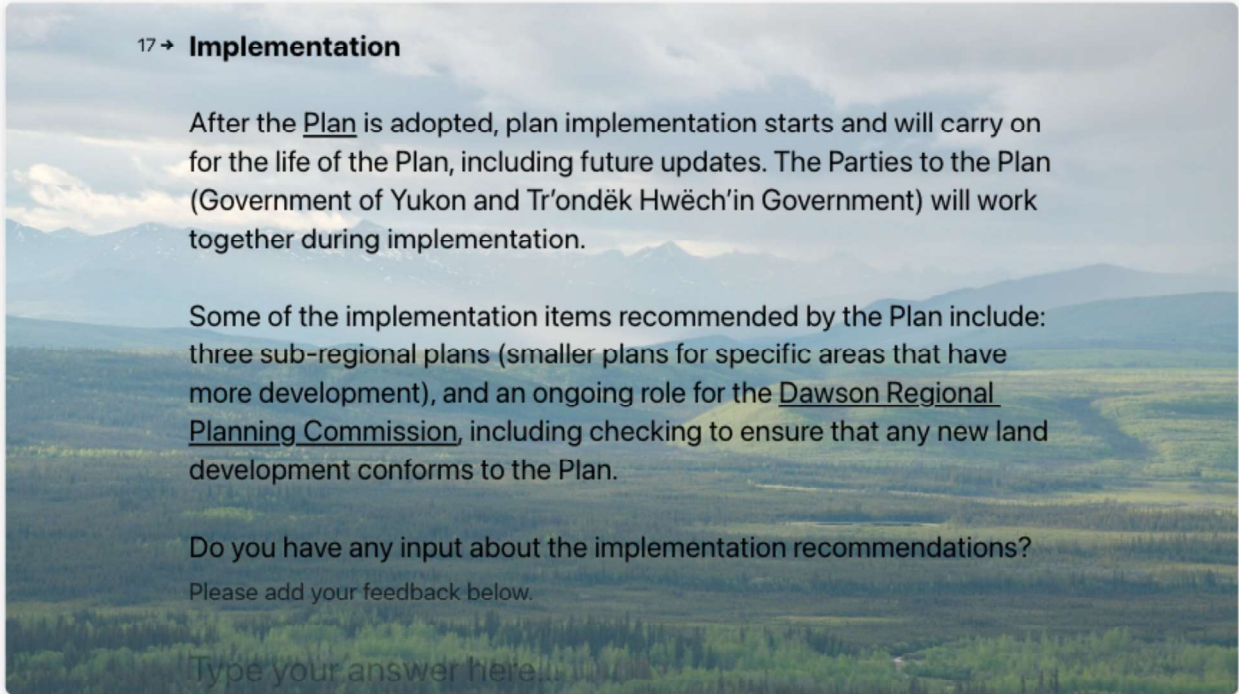
16 → Have you noticed areas that have changed for your harvesting or other cultural uses?

*Description (optional)*

Type your answer here...

Shift ⌘ + Enter ↵ to make a line break

OK ✓ press Enter ↵



17 → **Implementation**

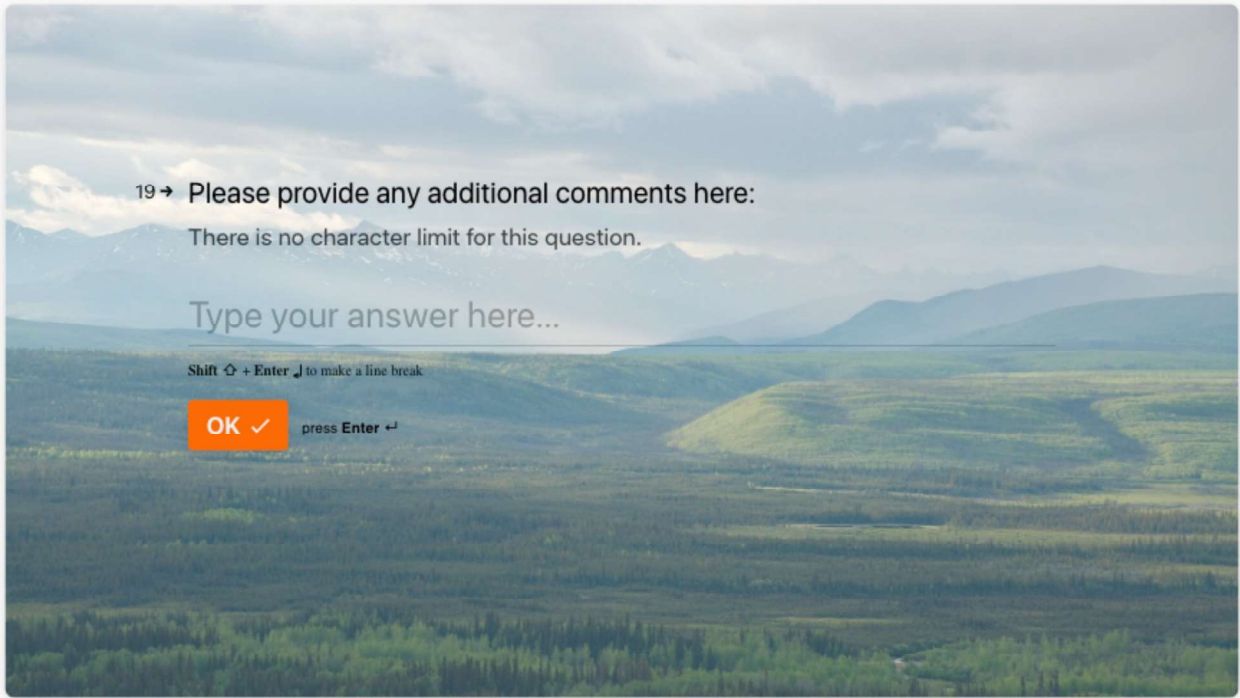
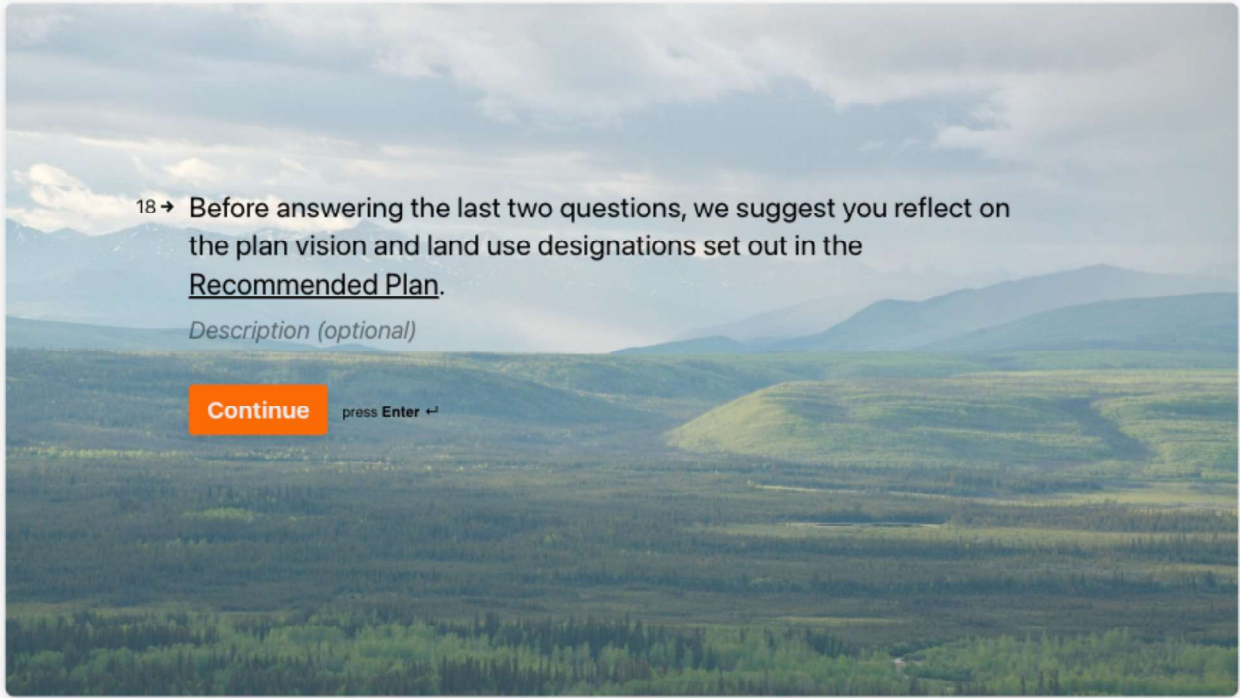
After the Plan is adopted, plan implementation starts and will carry on for the life of the Plan, including future updates. The Parties to the Plan (Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government) will work together during implementation.

Some of the implementation items recommended by the Plan include: three sub-regional plans (smaller plans for specific areas that have more development), and an ongoing role for the Dawson Regional Planning Commission, including checking to ensure that any new land development conforms to the Plan.

Do you have any input about the implementation recommendations?

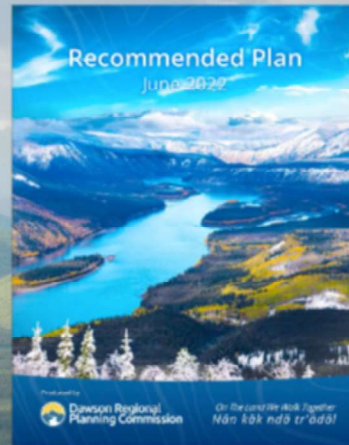
Please add your feedback below.

Type your answer here...



20 → Enter your email below for the chance to **Win a \$250 Air North** voucher.

Type your email below



## 8.3 APPENDIX C: OPEN HOUSE / WORKSHOP NOTES

### MAYO OPEN HOUSE POSTER NOTES

#### Ecological Goals

- We have to focus on the water – it is our number 1 medicine in the world. It keeps everything alive.

#### Special Management Areas

- How can we link mining and tourism
- We need protection of all wetland types – they are important moose habitat and they are important filters for contaminants. They are like the kidneys of the landscape.
- We need to protect the Stewart River because of the salmon. The Stewart flows into the Yukon, anything that happens on the river impacts the Yukon.
- We need protections along Clear Creek to the Stewart to the Yukon for the Clear Creek Caribou Herd.

#### Cumulative Effects

- Traditional medicines, Hunting activities, Traplines, Trails, Burial sites and Camp sites are all important

### DAWSON OPEN HOUSE POSTER NOTES

#### Vision

- Environment over economy
- A healthy environment should also come first

#### ISA Areas

- How are we going to protect Waterways?
- Need more protection in LMU 3
- ISAs don't make sense
- Need to protect drinking water sources
- Mining isn't Stewardship
- There needs to be more connectivity between SMAs, we need to provide corridors for animals

#### SMAs,

- Extend Tombstone Park
- LMU, SMA and ISA are confusing but more consultation needs to be done on ISA levels
- Wetlands are important
- Designate Yukon river as SMA
- Wetlands are of vital importance
- More withdraws from staking
- All wetland types should be protected
- Stewart River should be SMA to protect salmon
- More protection in LMU 1 and 4
- LMU 1 no mining period
- Remove mining from LMU 4

#### Overlays

- Fish camps need to be protected along Yukon River

- More protection across the board
- Fortymile water shed should be SMA
- LMU 14 should be SMA
- LMU 21 should be SMA
- Yukon River and Klondike should be SMA
- We need to protect the land as it has protected us
- The dump is contaminating our water
- LMU 3 need more protection
- LMU 21 needs more protection
- Overlay needed for Clear Creek Caribou
- Need more explanation of why things are designated the way they are
- What happens to existing claim holders
- The maps could be better
- Caribou need to be a core value
- LMU 7 needs more protection
- LMU 17 should be SMA

#### **Cumulative Effects**

- Need to update threshold data
- Climate change is the mother of all CE, We should consider climate change.

#### **Socio-cultural goals**

- Land-based activities that support a greater understanding of the land and land stewardship
- Strengthen and support knowledge on mitigation adaptation and awareness of climate change
- The TH government should co-mange
- Flora and Fauna are a core value
- Co-implementation should be an explicit goal

#### **Socio-ecological goals**

- While awareness and adaption are going to be necessary, mitigation should be more heavily weighted
- The ecological goals are great, it is not that they are met in the Plan. When ecological and economic goals are balanced the eco goals are suffering.
- Climate change considerations must be at the forefront of the Plan.
- A key goal should be not contributing to climate change

#### **Socio-economic goals**

- Sustainable development as described in the Final Agreements
- The economic costs of the Climate Change impacts must be considered.

## **OLD CROW OPEN HOUSE POSTER NOTES**

- Need time limits on mineral claims in SMA
- Joe Henry's trap line moved to horseshoe
- Timeframe for when starting new mineral claims can happen on SMA
- VGFN looking to extend Fishing Branch SMA to the south, adjacent to SMA 1
- Extending Fishing Branch south will protect headwaters of Porcupine River
- Last time the Caribou passed the Porcupine river was 2014
- Oil and Gas development along the Dempster likely a factor in the Caribou not coming down the Dempster anymore.
- LMU 1 are the headwaters for VGFN waters and as such should be protected
- Water is Everything
- Good that more Claims can't happen in LMU 1
- The weather hasn't been behaving like normal this year
- I always wonder what the traditional names of these places are?

## **WHITEHORSE OPEN HOUSE POSTER NOTES**

### **Vision Poster,**

- The on the land we walk together vision should be added to the Plan
- Please explicitly state that TH and YG will be jointly implementing the Plan
- Sustainable economy that maintains culture plus environment make it sounds like economy is first priority
- Please indicate thinking on how implementation committee relates to the historical technical working group
- Flow chart on how the bodies involved in implementation plus what their functions would be
- Text can be streamlined
- Secretariat (technical staff) is crucial for implementation
- Secretariat must be independent of the Parties

### **SMA Poster,**

- Protect all wetlands
- Strongly support WSI designation for this watershed
- Full protection of all wetland types
- Fully support this designation for the entire watershed with protection of all 4 wetlands types
- LMU 21 needs to be widened and lengthened to advance Caribou protection on the face of climate change and improve socio-ecological connectivity
- SMAs – more needed to ensure landscape connectivity east and west and north and south SMA needed on LMU 7,2,16,19
- The interconnected ecological + social systems need certain actions to be maintained for future.

### **ISA Overlay Poster**

- Wetland special importance
- This is important positive recommendation
- Overlay should cover the entire watershed
- These wetlands are different (more moss development)
- In areas with staking prohibition exists, existing claim expiry dates should be extended until the prohibition is lifted.

- Water quality monitoring should start now

#### **Cumulative Effects Poster,**

- Disappointment that this value is not point of quantitative ICE indicators
- Please clearly link the defended process for dealing with water quality to an implementation timeline
- Reclamation of disturbance in remote areas will still show up in satellite imagery
- Ensure CE framework is applied to sub-regional planning
- CE threshold needs to be in LMU18
- Are watershed taken into account in the designation delineation design of the different areas
- Are these Plan goals like the ecological, socio-economic, cultural goals
- The goals should be on how economy is balanced okay so then what do I do here share
- Looking ahead who or what is recoding the monitoring threshold of the CE
- Cumulative effects 2 or 3 cultural values are needed as part of framework
- Cumulative effects water quality indicator needed
- Explicit need to get FOC (DFO) involved – must be part of an implementation
- FOC is currently developing a CE position statement (this needs to be referenced)

#### **Socio – economical values Poster,**

- There are costs associated with preventing development are those costs weighed appropriately against benefits
- Huge areas withdrawn from development
- How do these goals connect with cultural ecological goals
- What is the overall goal?

#### **Eco Goals Poster,**

- Reclamation do not restore ecosystem function (on the no side)
- Adding Caribou overlays to parts of ISA 3 and ISA 4 to ensure more connectivity ( on the no side)

#### **Cultural Goals Poster,**

- How about traditional harvesting fit for salmon
- Make a clear statement about the Plan’s intention to be jointly implemented by the Parties

#### **Welcome Poster,**

- Air traffic CE
- Dempster Highway CE Fiber Oil and Gas What happens?
- Implementation who is the committee? Need less bureaucracy

### **DAWSON WORKSHOP: WORKSHEET NOTES**

The Workshop in Dawson used facilitator led discussions where participants recorded their feedback on worksheets. Feedback from participants from the worksheets have been recorded verbatim below and organized by the four themes of the workshop: Water, Wetlands, Cumulative Effects, and Designations.

#### **WATER**

*Question 1. How would you control access along the major waterways? How does the proposed access in the Plan measure up to what you would like to see?*

- The same way we do along much of the Dempster. Difficult to say if it measures up as we haven’t seen the subregional Plan.
- Winter access (winter roads, recreation)



- Forest Resource act has good guidelines for access to waterways
- Recreation sites and barge landings should be regulated
- We must consider economic activities as equal value to culture and conservation.
- Hydroelectric development should be considered.
- Not clear, is concerned about access. Intermediate or paused access might limit access to the placer mining industry as miners won't be able to access streams.

*Question 2. Do you think the Plan adequately considers water quality?*

- I don't know
- The water board has oversight on waterways/permits currently.
- The Plan should support and not conflict with existing requirements.
- Future research criteria should not limit current permits.
- Set criteria for measuring changes/CE along the waterways.
- Jet boats impact on moose and Caribou, they are allowing new access.

*Question 3. Are there areas along the Yukon River that need better management?*

- Yes, the entire Yukon River needs to be given special management from the Alaska border to Teslin/bennet.
- Alaskans have a big impact

*Question 4. Does the Plan provide adequate protection for salmon and other fish habitats?*

- We don't know enough about fish habitats. Especially over the wintering areas.

## **WETLANDS**

*Question 1. Does the Recommended Plan provide adequate protection for wetlands*

- The miners will keep mining until the land is all gone
- Wetlands within the Plan are not treated the same
- Recognition for reclamation
- Standards for reclamation are different for each site
- Yes, if anything too much

*Question 2. What level of development do you think should be allowed in wetlands?*

- I don't think it should be limited, but rather be managed and recognized proper reclamation where and when need also that advancements in technology may in the near future provide methods for the reclamation of bogs, marches and fens.
- Does the Plan account for advances in reclamation tech?
- Should be assessed on an individual basis based on each site's individual values. Economic values need to be considered if long-term effects can be mitigated
- We see nothing form the mining

*Question 3. Are the protections outlined within the wetland overlay on LMU 17 Nän Dhòhdäl (Upper Indian River Wetlands) sufficient?*

*LMU 17 (Upper Indian River Wetlands) has been identified as an ISA with an interim withdrawal and placing a 50% disturbance threshold to development in fen wetlands. Like elsewhere in the Region, there is also no disturbance allowed in bogs and marshes.*

- The statement doesn't allow for new technologies which may allow for the reclamation of bogs
- The protection of all wetlands and animals/water
- Need to establish reclamation standards

*Question 4. Wetlands represent many different values for different people, for example, socio-cultural value, wildlife habitat, intrinsic being, carbon storage, and water filtration. When thinking about wetlands, what value is most important to you?*

- The gold beneath
- Water needs to be cleaner

### **CUMULATIVE EFFECTS**

*Question 1. Would using surface disturbance and linear density indicators for thresholds be adequate? If not, how would you further refine the CE indicators?*

- “If you can’t afford to do reclamation, you can’t afford to mine” – A Klondike placer miner
- Not adequate... we need social indicators (what do people say) [and] ecological indicators (wildlife)
- No. Neither of these address water quality. The Plan should measure the water quality impacts of CE.
- Need to measure the effects on people. Traditional values.

*Question 2. How would you measure changes on the landscape?*

- Wildlife surveys to measure impacts of activities on population.
- Vegetation
- Usage
- Attitude
- Water quality

*Question 3. The proposed ISA designation for LMU 21 (Fortymile) is ISA 2. Do you agree with the proposed ISA level in LMU 21?*

- Not really. If we want to protect Caribou range, then protect it [and] make a Plan to reduce the [CE] in the [Landscape Management Unit].
- No. If current suggestion is [ISA] 2, it is already high up in the cautionary level and if forestry or any more development occurs, it would be difficult to stay under critical. Passed years show this area as high potential for placer development and forestry.

*Question 4. How will the CE thresholds impact your quality of life?*

- Applied well, it would become easier to harvest Caribou.
- If the permitting process uses the levels (cautionary-critical) as tools to deny permits it will potentially affect my quality of life greatly.

### **DESIGNATIONS**

*Question 1. Are there LMUs that should have different designations? If so, how do you think that designation will affect values in the area?*

- Yes, both LMU 19 and 17 should be SMA
- Increased road access through SMA to ISA. Regular review and modification will be required for moving into the future. The Plan is based on current effects when disturbed land gets reclassified as reclaimed to counting as not disturbed.
- 50 mile in Matson uplands is a potential placer area. How is an existing road through an SMA considered for future maintenance?
- ISA is just as important to have high enough thresholds and areas new for mining.

*Question 2. Are there any areas currently designated as ISAs that you think should gain higher protection? Less protection?*

- Generally speaking, ISAs are set at higher thresholds than in the Peel and North Yukon. We should have amendments to reduce disturbance.
- Brewery Creek area is important
- LMU 21 should be SMA

*Question 3. We have heard a lot about LMU 21: Wędzey Tqy (Fortymile Caribou Corridor). The proposed designation for LMU 21 is ISA 2. Do you agree with this designation?*

- Not really, if it remains withdrawn from hard rock plus remains in the high country, so no placer counting, and if it is to really act as a corridor for Caribou, it needs to be an SMA.
- High country, no point in being open to development

*Question 4. Please indicate on the map how you would change the designations or LMU areas.*

- The remained of Sixtymile should be SMA

## 8.4 APPENDIX D: FACILITATOR'S OPEN HOUSE NOTES

*The notes from the facilitators were not considered as comments to the Plan. They are included for reference.*

### OLD CROW MEETING NOTES

The following are notes on conversations from the table taken by the facilitator.

- Review of the north Yukon land use Plan – need to look at seismic lines now vs when the Plan was created. We might be over thresholds from the Plan and not even know it.
  - At what point do you consider the seismic lines reclaimed?
  - “One of the reasons I came here is to talk about the upper Tatunduk LMU. The headwaters of the Porcupine, Snake, and Bonnet Plume are in the Dawson region, and we are concerned about water quality in these important waterways.”
  - The salmon run in the river – water is everything
  - 2014 last time the Caribou crossed the Porcupine River. Likely a variety of factors that have caused the Herd not to cross the Porcupine and move more south in their range, but one of the factors is likely that in 2011 until 2014 there was heavy oil and gas exploration by northern cross around km 220 on the Dempster. Another factor is streams have become overgrown with willows, and Caribou avoid these areas.
  - VGFN is looking to future planning of the North Yukon Annex, that is located outside the Dawson planning region and is meant to be planned for the next time the North Yukon Plan is reviewed (which is happening now). There is interest in extending the Fishing Branch SMA to protect the headwaters of the Porcupine River – so participants noted that they were happy to see LMU 1 as a protected area SMA, which would be adjacent to the annex.
  - There are a lot of environmental research opportunities and heritage values in the north of LMU 1. There is also a known deposit of chert in that area.
  - Caribou in the miner river area – there’s a Caribou fence on the miner river that needs to be protected.
  - History of how we got to doing the land use Plan – when we were negotiating the land claim, we were told we couldn’t change the legislation around mining, so we had to go through land use planning – all this planning is just trying to find a way to deal with the issues of today’s placer and quartz mining.
  - How do you want to regulate placer mining? That’s the real issue we need to answer
  - We only got 1000 miles<sup>2</sup> of settlement land in the whole TH TT – land use planning provides TH with a way to have a say in the whole territory. – from commission member
  - Questions around what the traditional names are for areas and what they mean.
- Notes from consultants and Government of Yukon:
- The only reason there is Land Planning is because we couldn’t change the Placer Quarts Acts - it is the only tool we have.
  - Caribou hang out on the mountain top in Horseshoe, trucks come along and drive them down into deep snow where they can’t feed
  - You can’t conserve lands for no reason, you must conserve for something, Tourism in LMU 1?
  - If Legislation was better, we wouldn’t need Regional Land Use Plans.
  - All this planning is to slow down all the quartz and placer mining

- If there are historical areas/things it doesn't mean we have to stop using it, LMU 1
- TH should protect the horseshoe for Caribou
- Overhunting on the Taylor Hwy blocking from moving to other range
- Type of tourism matters- need to have a use for lands even those that are protected
- The 40-mile Caribou used to travel as far as the Ogilvie's – trees have caused the change
- Water Shed habitat connectivity
- Joe sha Daa – Joe Henry
- Protect the headwaters of Porcupine River
- Land Use Planning would be less critical if mining legislation was better.
- Caribou spend winter on the horseshoe
- TH+VG agreement for Caribou conservation
- Land Planning needs water survey – Planning for water in the Yukon needs to be done, headwaters should be considered.

## **WHITEHORSE CONVERSATIONS MEETING NOTES**

The following are notes on conversations from the table taken by the facilitator.

- WSC - Cumulative effects only deal with terrestrial disturbance
- Concerns regarding water
- Concerns about fish
- Placer salmon issue
- Need for water sampling.
- There were concerns raised regarding salmon living in placer tailings.
- Where is the sense of urgency?
- Cumulative effects are very important
- Friends of the Dempster Country - Concerns regarding Fiber optics and Oil & Gas Cumulative effects on highway is a good idea and should be considered by the Parties Air traffic over LMU's should be considered in the CE
- Lots of questions and discussions surrounding the difference between the Draft and recommended
- Is the Caribou compatible with LMU ISA 3
- There should be an overlay in the 60-mile area
- Questions regarding how the SMA's were formed
- Concerns regarding who will be monitoring of the ISA thresholds
- Pg. 23 poor wording regarding understanding the role development plays
- Consider the scale on pg. 23
- How do permits fit into the Plan
- How will YESAB use the Plan
- Klondike area is not worth it for mining these days
- Feel like the Plan was dropped on miners
- Miners are concerned about their businesses
- Closing areas off from staking without doing geo studies to find out what's in the ground is an oversight
- Feels like we are closing the door on mining
- Centralizing development in the goldfields is a bad idea and it will become overdeveloped

- The scale of the Plan is overwhelming
- No science no Geotech is being done to evaluate lands
- The industry is not being represented
- The Plan has overwhelmed stakeholder groups
- It's hard to work in the Yukon now
- LMU 1 & 4 being closed is a bad idea
- Areas being protected within geo work is an oversight
- How does new exploration for battery metals fit into the Plan
- Re-gig wording for a regional vision

## **DAWSON WORKSHOP MEETING NOTES**

The following are notes on conversations from the table taken by the facilitator.

### **WATER**

- Change the research suggestion to include all motorized transport rather than just jet boats.
- Residents have noticed high water and more hunting.
- There needs to be a framework for amending ISA levels that happen more frequently, this framework would need to consider things like wet/dry summers and forest fires.
- Less red tape, we need an easier approval process for projects.
- Consider hydroelectric and Plan accordingly.
- Water quality monitoring needs to be done and considered a priority by the Parties.
- There are concerns about industrial development in Brewery Creek.
- Drinking water needs to be considered.
- Riverbank stability should be considered within the subregional planning process.
- Consider the traveller creation story when we think of how we should treat the river.
- Consider the impacts of float planes.
- Why bother with planning the river it's not a high-use area.
- Make the river an SMA.
- The river is an arbitrary thing, a 1km buffer will not work along the whole region.
- Using the river as access is a lower impact than building new roads.
- We should consider how much wake a boat is producing and regulate it.

### **WETLANDS**

- What happens to wetlands post-mining
- A pond can turn into a fen in 1000 years
- People make it seem like placer miners are destroying the land but we really aren't
- What reclamation activities are necessary to support wetland development
- Peat-based wetland is hard or impossible to recreate
- Questions regarding carbon capture in wetlands
- How is peat managed when dug up
- The Plan treats wetlands differently in the Plan
- Bogs are protected but others aren't
- Need more information in wetlands
- Water is life and should be treated as such
- Wetlands are over-protected in the Plan there needs to be room for placer activities

- We need an incentive for reclamation.
- The less destruction of land the better, don't dig deeper than trail depth
- Mining – hunting – fishing are Klondike values
- We need to consider future reclamation technologies
- Looking back to how our ancestors did land management, humans need to step back and let the land heal.
- Maybe we need to just concentrate on mining areas
- The Plan needs to accommodate successive legislation
- Look to oral history tour long ago stories
- Our duty is to the land
- How do you define wetlands was asked and answered – questions regarding how the Plan considered permafrost was also posed.
- Brewery Creek is a very wet area
- General management direction should apply the whole region
- You need to go where the gold is, sometimes it is in the wetlands
- Placer miners are not going out of their way to destroy wetlands
- LMU 17 should allow for more development
- No credit is being given to miners who are reclaiming their mines
- What about the idea of using winter roads to protect wetlands

#### **CUMULATIVE EFFECTS**

- Is there a Plan in place to shut down activity when it reaches critical?
- Need adaptation framework for changes to Plan areas. Environmental – forest fires. IF a natural disturbance deforests an entire LMU, the thresholds should take that into account.
- Socio-economic is not considered a priority in the Recommended Plan.
- More protection for LMU 8 west of Brewery Creek. This area is relatively undisturbed, surrounded by [ISA] 1 and [SMA], part of the Caribou range, why is it [ISA] 3? Should change the border to make the area west of brewery creek [ISA] 1 or [SMA].
- Protect more of Clear Creek, Brewery Creek.
- Previous reclamation of disturbed areas is not taken into account when calculating baseline disturbance levels.
- No definition of what reclamation is – when is something no longer considered
- 'disturbance' or disturbed? When does disturbance "come off the balance sheet". [This comment was made 3 times by different participants – more clarity needed on when something that was disturbed will be considered not disturbed again; when will it no longer be counted towards CE thresholds.]
- Need clarity around linear disturbances, e.g. are winter roads considered linear disturbances?
- "If you can't afford to do reclamation, you can't afford to mine"
- There should be bonding! [a bond ensures that when a mine is closed or it reaches the end of its useful life, that the land is then returned to its original condition and any monitoring required under the reclamation Plan is carried out.]
- "Claim group based thresholds" Cumulative effects thresholds should be based on the type of claim (placer or hard rock), because there are different extents and degrees of disturbance. Also, each claim type should have their own quota because if two hard rock mines open up in an LMU, the threshold might be critical, and it would preclude any placer mining from taking place.

- Water quality should be used as an indicator for CE.

## DESIGNATIONS

- ISAs: The definitions of ISAs have an expectation for development - promote development and presume development - rather than their capacity to protect ecological values.
- ISAs: Many ISA areas are ecologically similar, yet management is different, solely based on what is currently staked or explored. Many claims have been there for decades with no sign of development ever taking place. These should not determine the category of an ISA.
- LMU 7: Was the recent announcement by government on 'critical mineral' development considered in the designation for LMU7? Is this why it is not an SMA? (The answer was yes to the first question, and likely, for the second part)
- Hunting access: Concerns over hunters using industry access to increase hunting.
- LMU 8: Land users have seen declines in wildlife populations over the years especially wolves and Caribou. This is partly due to increased hunting using access routes and existence of industry camps.
- LMU8: Caribou migrate through LMUs 7, 8 and 10. LMU8 (with a high level of allowed disturbance) intrudes into this route – even though the area remains remote and has little disturbance. Although some claims exist, the area to the east (beginning west of Brewery Creek) has seen no prospecting or activities that may lead to mining. LMU8 should be an SMA from west of Brewery Creek to its eastern extent. It was acknowledged this may require thresholds for the remaining ISA portion to be increased to accommodate its reduced size.
- Reclamation: Adequately reclaimed land should be removed from CE disturbance. No criteria or mechanisms in place for this to happen, and it takes years for reclamation to be acknowledged by regulators.
- Reclamation: Higher standards for reclamation/restoration could be introduced (and accepted by industry) if these lands were removed from the cumulative total of disturbance more quickly.
- Reclamation: No standard criteria for what constitutes reclamation, and confusion between reclamation and restoration (which is the definition)



# 8.5 APPENDIX E: WORKSHOP WORKSHEET

# DAWSON REGIONAL LAND USE RECOMMENDED PLAN

## 1 TOPIC: WATER

### 1.1 WHY ARE THE PARTIES ENGAGING ON THIS TOPIC?

Throughout the engagement process, members of the public have identified watercourses and headwater protection as a high priority when considering the plan for approval. Further, the linkages between water quality, mining, wetlands, wildlife, fish, and significant rivers have been identified. As such, we would like to consult further on these topics.

#### 1.1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION FROM THE PLAN

##### Policy Recommendations

- Within LMU 3: Chu kon Dëk Yukon River Corridor development can continue within existing claims. All other land is withdrawn from quartz and placer staking until subregional planning is completed.
- Subregional Planning for LMU 3: Chu kon Dëk Yukon River Corridor.

##### Recommended Actions

- Better monitoring and enforcement related to barge landings (i.e., clean-up).
- Construction of stream crossings to minimize the impact on fish.
- Aquatic inventory (mapping) and water quality monitoring on major rivers in the region.

##### Best Management Practises

- Guardianship and monitoring of waterways (including education and clean-up initiatives).
- Support for opportunities for First Nation citizens to reconnect with river systems (e.g., re-establish traditional ceremonies).
- Timing windows, water withdrawals, avoiding large infrastructure projects in rivers, maintaining riparian buffers, avoid direct disturbance to salmon habitat.

##### Research Recommendations

- Research the potential of rivers as transportation routes (for industry, tourism, recreation, and hunting).
- Research the ecological and social impacts of barging along the Yukon River and create best management practices.
- Research jet boat use and its impacts on water quality and fish habitat.
- Many recommendations on research and water quality monitoring in partnership with DFO, including re-evaluating existing management systems.

# DAWSON REGIONAL LAND USE RECOMMENDED PLAN

## 1.1.2 QUESTIONS FROM THE PARTIES

**Question 1.** How would you control access along the major waterways? How does the proposed access in the plan measure up to what you would like to see?

**Question 2.** Do you think the plan adequately considers water quality?

**Question 3.** Are there areas along the Yukon River that need better management?

# DAWSON REGIONAL LAND USE RECOMMENDED PLAN

**Question 4.** Does the plan provide adequate protection for Salmon and other fish habitats?

# DAWSON REGIONAL LAND USE RECOMMENDED PLAN

## 2 TOPIC: WETLANDS

### 2.1 WHY ARE THE PARTIES ENGAGING ON THIS TOPIC?

Wetlands and their level of protection in the plan have been a recurring theme throughout the engagement process. Participants talked about how the management of wetlands under the plan will have implications for conservation / stewardship and industry (especially placer mining). The plan's interactions with Territory-Wide Wetlands policy were a common discussion topic. We would like to engage further on these topics.

#### 2.1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION FROM THE PLAN

##### Policy Recommendations

- LMU 17: Nän Dhòhdäl (Upper Indian River Wetlands):
  - Limit development in wetlands.
  - Development is permitted in up to 50% of fens on a claim block or permit area.
  - Interim withdrawal on mineral staking until the Upper Indian River Stewardship Plan is completed by both Parties.
  - Coordinated access management.
  - Partner with stakeholders to consider innovation (research and techniques) in post-mining reclamation.
- No development in fens in all Special Management Areas and LMU 19: Tädzan Dök (White River).
- No development in bogs and marshes throughout the whole region.
- Three (3) areas were identified as wetlands of special importance (Scottie Creek, Flat Creek, and Ladue Wetlands).
- Development in wetlands should be avoided where possible and reclaimed to the highest standard reasonable after the activity is complete.

##### Recommended Actions

- Further research of wetlands identified as special importance be completed.

# DAWSON REGIONAL LAND USE RECOMMENDED PLAN

## 2.1.2 QUESTIONS FROM THE PARTIES

**Questions 1.** Does the Recommended Plan provide adequate protection for wetlands?

**Question 2.** What level of development do you think should be allowed in wetlands?

# DAWSON REGIONAL LAND USE RECOMMENDED PLAN

**Question 3.** Are the protections outlined within the wetland overlay on LMU 17 Nän Dhòhdäl (Upper Indian River Wetlands) sufficient?

*LMU 17 (Upper Indian River Wetlands) has been identified as an Integrated Stewardship Area (ISA) with an interim withdrawal and placing a 50% disturbance threshold to development in fen wetlands. Like elsewhere in the Region, there is also no disturbance allowed in bogs and marshes.*

**Question 4.** Wetlands represent many different values for different people, for example socio-cultural value, wildlife habitat, intrinsic being, carbon storage, and water filtration. When thinking about wetlands, what value is most important to you?

## 3 TOPIC: CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

### 3.1 WHY ARE THE PARTIES ENGAGING ON THIS TOPIC?

The public and industry stakeholders raised concerns about how the plan will impact new industrial development. We heard questions about what the plan means for those who have claims in recommended protected areas or in areas with interim staking withdrawal / special management directions (e.g., access or wetlands). Please share with us what you think about the proposed cumulative effects in the Dawson region.

#### 3.1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION FROM THE PLAN

Cumulative Effects are the result of human activities and natural ecological processes and include past, present and potential future activities. To address the potential cumulative effects of multiple projects on the landscape on ecological or heritage values, the plan sets thresholds for an acceptable level of development. The thresholds include surface disturbance and linear feature density (e.g., trails, cutlines, roads) that can happen in the planning region.

ISAs identify areas where varying levels of industrial and other human development can occur. There are four levels.

- **ISA 1:**
  - Very high ecological or heritage / cultural value within a sensitive biophysical setting.
  - The priority is to maintain ecological integrity and cultural resources.
- **ISA 2:**
  - High ecological and cultural values within a moderately sensitive biophysical setting.
  - The priority is to maintain ecological integrity and cultural resources and minimize land use impacts.
- **ISA 3:**
  - Moderate ecological and cultural values within a moderately sensitive biophysical setting.
- **ISA 4:**
  - Lower ecological or heritage / cultural value within a moderately sensitive biophysical setting.



# DAWSON REGIONAL LAND USE RECOMMENDED PLAN

## 3.1.2 CUMULATIVE EFFECTS THRESHOLDS

Designation	Management Intent	Precautionary		Cautionary		Critical	
		Surface (%)	Linear (km/km <sup>2</sup> )	Surface (%)	Linear (km/km <sup>2</sup> )	Surface (%)	Linear (km/km <sup>2</sup> )
ISA 1	Lowest Development	0.0625	0.0625	0.1875	0.1875	0.25	0.25
ISA 2	Low Development	0.25	0.125	0.75	0.375	1.0	0.5
ISA 3	Moderate Development	0.5	0.25	1.5	0.75	2.0	1.0
ISA 4	Highest Development	1.0	0.5	3	1.5	4.0	2.0

# DAWSON REGIONAL LAND USE RECOMMENDED PLAN

## 3.1.3 CURRENT (2020) DISTURBANCE AMOUNT AND THRESHOLDS PER LMU

Land Management Unit (# and name)	Rec. Plan Zoning	Rec. Plan threshold equivalent*	Linear Feature Amount (km) Current 2020	Linear Disturbance Thresholds (km)			Surface Disturbance (km <sup>2</sup> ) Current 2020	Surface Disturbance Thresholds (km <sup>2</sup> )		
				Pre-cautionary	Cautionary	Critical		Pre-cautionary	Cautionary	Critical
1 Tthetäwndék (Tatonduk)	SMA	ISA 1	159.2	497.5	1492.4	1989.8	0.0	5.0	14.9	19.9
2 The Horseshoe	ISA 2	ISA 2	164.5	41.1	123.3	164.5	0.5	0.8	2.5	3.3
3 Chu Kon Dëk (Yukon River Corridor)	SRPA	ISA 2	84.6	48.1	144.3	192.4	0.4	1.0	2.9	3.8
4 Tsey Dëk (Fifteenmile)	SMA	ISA 1	386.5	172.5	517.6	690.2	0.0	1.7	5.2	6.9
5 Ddhäl Ch'ël (Tombstone)	TTP	ISA 1	105.4	131.7	395.1	526.8	0.0	1.3	4.0	5.3
6 Tr'ondëk (Klondike)	ISA 2	ISA 2	263.7	103.0	309.0	412.1	2.2	2.1	6.2	8.2
7 Wehr'e (Antimony)	ISA 1	ISA 1	42.9	134.0	402.0	536.0	0.0	1.3	4.0	5.4
8 Brewery Creek	ISA 3	ISA 3	284.4	237.0	710.9	947.8	5.2	4.7	14.2	19.0
9 Clear Creek	ISA 4	ISA 4	284.0	232.8	698.3	931.1	7.8	4.7	14.0	18.6
10 Tintina Trench	SMA	ISA 2	417.1	226.7	680.1	906.8	1.3	4.5	13.6	18.1
11 Goldfields	ISA 4	ISA 4	4672.1	3073.8	9221.3	12295.1	143.9	61.5	184.4	245.9
12 Tr'ondëk tak'it (Klondike Valley)	SRPA	NA	339.4	NA	NA	NA	7.5	NA	NA	NA
13 Ch'ënyäng (Dawson City)	CA	NA	208.4	NA	NA	NA	11.1	NA	NA	NA
14 Tay dëkdhat (Top of the World)	ISA 2	ISA 2	487.9	196.7	590.2	786.9	5.7	3.9	11.8	15.7
15 Khel Dëk (Sixty Mile)	ISA 3	ISA 3	1043.0	724.3	2172.9	2897.2	21.7	14.5	43.5	57.9
16 Wëdzey nãhuzhi (Matson Uplands)	SMA	NA	205.4	NA	NA	NA	0.1	NA	NA	NA
17 Nãn dhöhdäl (Upper Indian River Wetlands)	ISA 2	ISA 2	232.8	60.6	181.9	242.5	1.2	1.2	3.6	4.9
18 Tthetryän dëk (Coffee Creek)	ISA 3	ISA 3	159.7	249.5	748.4	997.8	4.1	5.0	15.0	20.0
19 Tãdzan Dëk (White River)	ISA 1	ISA 1	371.9	258.3	774.8	1033.0	1.2	2.6	7.7	10.3
20 Łuk tthe k'at (Scottie Creek Wetlands)	SMA	ISA 2	142.3	44.5	133.4	177.9	1.1	0.9	2.7	3.6
21 Wëdzey Tay (Fortymile Caribou Corridor)	ISA 2	ISA 2	606.2	252.6	757.7	1010.3	3.4	5.1	15.2	20.2
Regional totals			10661.19				218.41			
Regional totals (excluding LMU 13)			10452.82				207.30			

\* From Special Management Directions for SMAs and SRPAs

Explanation of colours
Below precautionary threshold
Below cautionary threshold
Below critical threshold
Above critical threshold
No threshold in plan

# DAWSON REGIONAL LAND USE RECOMMENDED PLAN

## 3.1.4 QUESTIONS FROM THE PARTIES

**Question 1.** Would using surface disturbance and linear density indicators for thresholds be adequate? If not, how would you further refine the cumulative effects indicators?

**Question 2.** How would you measure changes on the landscape?

**Question 3.** The proposed ISA designation for LMU 21 (Fortymile) is **ISA 2**. Do you agree with the proposed ISA level in LMU 21?

# DAWSON REGIONAL LAND USE RECOMMENDED PLAN

**Question 4.** How will the cumulative effects thresholds impact your quality of life?

# DAWSON REGIONAL LAND USE RECOMMENDED PLAN

## 4 TOPIC: DESIGNATIONS

### 4.1 WHY ARE THE PARTIES ENGAGING ON THIS TOPIC?

The public expressed a desire for less protection in some areas and more in others throughout the engagement process. Please share with us what you think about the plan designations.

#### 4.1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION FROM THE PLAN

- The Dawson planning region has been divided into 21 discrete areas of land called Landscape Management Units (LMUs). They are generally based on differences in use, ecology, land status, etc. Each has its own management direction.
- Special Management Areas (SMAs) need the highest conservation focus because of their ecological, cultural and heritage values. They should have full protection through legal designation.
- Caribou Stewardship Overlay – The intent is to maintain ecological integrity and cultural values but still allow low levels of some land use activities.
- Wetlands Stewardship Overlay – The intent is to maintain wetland ecological integrity and cultural values but still allow low levels of some land use activities.
- Corridor Areas – These are for features (e.g., highways or agricultural areas) where adjacent land requires special consideration and additional management direction beyond the designation.
- Integrated Stewardship Areas (ISAs) identify areas where varying levels of industrial and other human development can occur. There are four levels. Land management in these areas is based on the concepts of stewardship and cumulative effects management. (See table (3) for further information)

# DAWSON REGIONAL LAND USE RECOMMENDED PLAN

## 4.1.2 QUESTIONS FROM THE PARTIES

**Question 1.** Are there LMUs that should have different designations? If so, how do you think that designation will affect values in the area?

**Question 2.** Are there any areas currently designated as ISAs that you think should gain higher protection? Less protection?

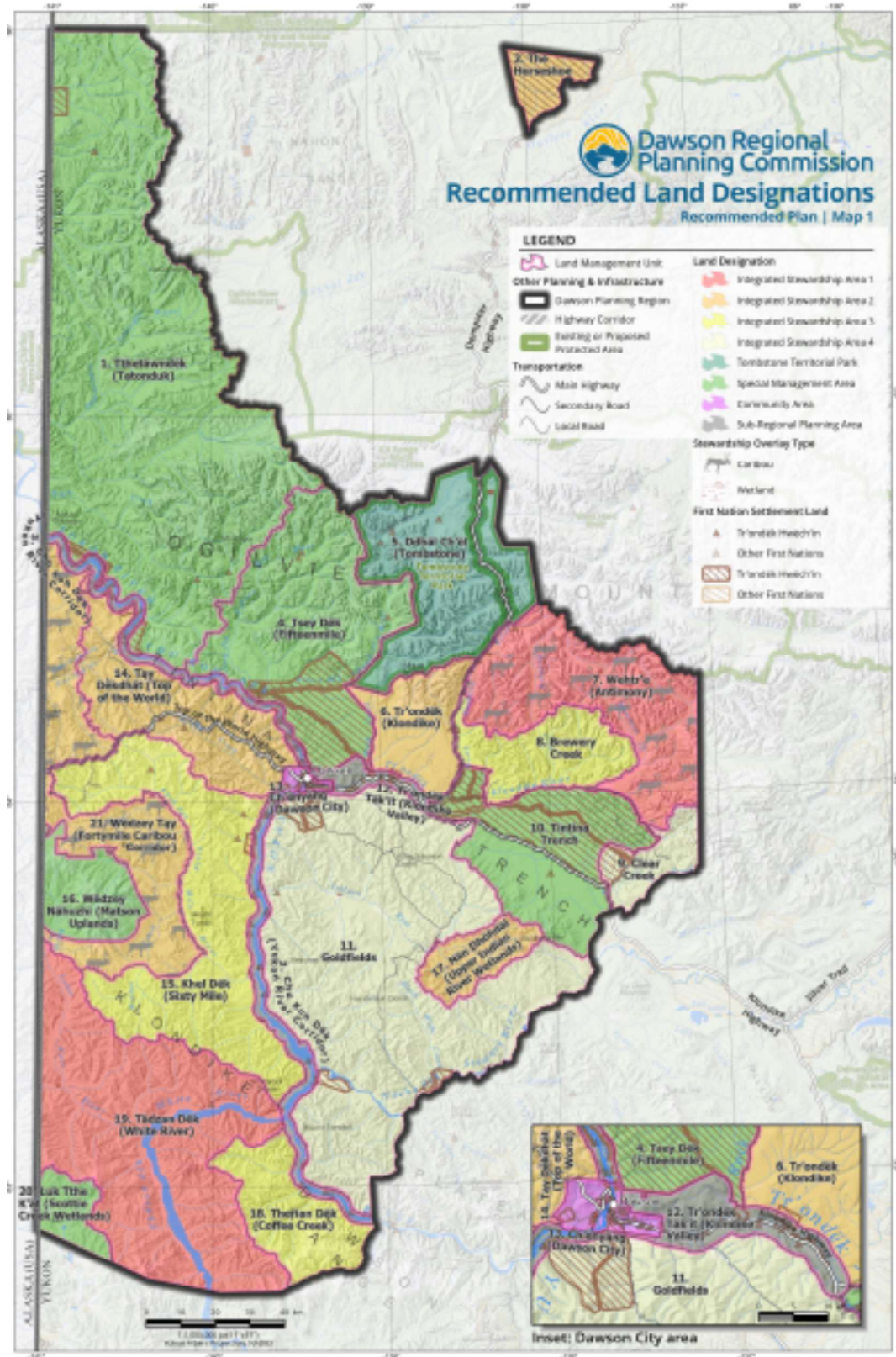
**Question 3.** We have heard a lot about LMU 21: Wëdzey Tąy (Fortymile Caribou Corridor). The proposed designation for LMU 21 is ISA 2. Do you agree with this designation?

2 of 3

# DAWSON REGIONAL LAND USE RECOMMENDED PLAN

## Question 4.

Please indicate on the map how you would change the designations or LMU areas.



## 8.6 APPENDIX F: FIRST NATIONS' (TH, FNNND, VGFN) FORMAL SUBMISSIONS



# VUNTUT GWITCHIN GOVERNMENT

Government of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation



---

## STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABILITY

---

P.O. Box 94,  
Old Crow, Yukon  
Y0B 1N0

Phone: (867)966-3261  
Fax: (867)966-3800  
Web: [www.vgfn.ca](http://www.vgfn.ca)

February 1, 2023

Dawson Regional Planning Commission  
201-307 Jarvis St  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2H3

Via email: [dawson@planyukon.ca](mailto:dawson@planyukon.ca)  
[tim@planyukon.ca](mailto:tim@planyukon.ca)

Dear Dawson Regional Planning Commission

### **RE: Vuntut Gwitchin Government Response to Recommended Dawson Regional Plan**

Vuntut Gwitchin Government (VGG) congratulates the Dawson Regional Planning Commission on producing the Recommended Plan. The Plan is an important piece of work for the Yukon. We appreciate that you have considered the comments we submitted on the Draft Plan, and we acknowledge and support the following changes that note Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN) connections with the region, through the Porcupine Caribou Herd (PCH), the adjacent Chuu TI'it Gwa'an and North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan (NYRLUP) Landscape Management Units (LMUs), and the Dempster Highway.

- Using the Gwich'in name of Chuu TI'it Gwa'an for the sacred headwaters area of the Porcupine River from the Miner and Whitestone River watersheds.
- Identifying the NYRLUP adjacent planning region (s. 2.2.4).
- Adding recognition of the VGFN connection with the Dempster Highway and oil and gas development activity in Eagle Plains (s. 5.4.3.1.1).
- Including VGFN as one of the affected First Nations to be involved in jointly developing the Dempster sub-regional plan that will:
  - 1) Address oil and gas coordinated access management to Eagle Plains Basin LMU 9;
  - 2) consider the effects of access on the health and harvest of the Porcupine Caribou Herd (PCH);
  - 3) consider First Nations' values, knowledge, issues, and interests in planning.
- Recognizing LMU 2 Horseshoe (s.6.2) as adjacent to NYRLUP LMU 9 and the recommendations for the Dempster sub-regional plan and habitat research.
- Adding clarity to the conservation of PCH habitat in LMU 1 and LMU 4, by designating them SMA and removing the previous SMA 2 category.
- Expanding the cumulative effects framework section (s. 4) to more fully explain the indicators and thresholds.

# VUNTUT GWITCHIN Government

Government of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

---

## Stewardship and Sustainability

---

- Having an ongoing planning commission to act as plan champion and to monitor plan implementation.

VGG has the following comments on topics about transboundary and adjacent values that would require our governments working closely together during Plan implementation. We would also like to share some comments from our experience of implementing the NYRLUP.

### 1. Miner River Watershed and LMU 1

VGG wants to ensure protection of the Miner River watershed and we support the SMA classification for LMU 1. The DRLUP section on Rivers and Watercourses (s.5.2.4) should acknowledge transboundary watersheds and the need to consider transboundary implications during implementation.

Map 8 indicates a well in the Kandik Basin in LMU 1. The Plan should clarify the rights status of this abandoned well. Any potential for new access to this remote location would raise significant issues of concern to VGG.

### 2. Transboundary Values

As noted above, a number of values of importance to VGG cross the boundaries between our planning regions including the PCH, watersheds, the Dempster Highway, and oil and gas basins. We appreciate the efforts of the DRPC to engage with VGG in preparing the Plan. During Plan implementation VGG would like to continue the communication and cooperation on these transboundary matters. Similar to other initiatives between our governments, these matters would require notification and consultation with VGG to determine the significance of our concerns and the level of our involvement.

These transboundary values should be acknowledged in the relevant Plan sections, with ongoing notification, communication and engagement of VGG as required:

- 1) LMU 1 and LMU 2 and ongoing protection of transboundary PCH and watersheds;
- 2) PCH in sections 5.2.1.1 and 4.5.1 issues and recommendations with VGG input to improving understanding of PCH and habitat, and cumulative effects indicators research and development;
- 3) SMA Management Plans for LMU 1 and LMU 4 as they relate to the PCH and watersheds;
- 4) Access management planning as it relates to the oil and gas basins and the Dempster Highway;
- 5) Sub-regional planning of the Dempster Highway corridor;
- 6) Plan Implementation.

### 3. Adjacent LMUs

Two LMUs of the Dawson Plan lie adjacent to LMUs in the NYRLUP. The Dawson LMUs have different land use designations and cumulative effects thresholds from those in the NYRLUP:

- 1) DRLUP LMU 2, category ISA 2 (Low Development) is adjacent to NYRLUP LMU 9 IMA IV (highest development) and LMU 11 IMA III (moderate development). The cumulative effects thresholds and management intent of these adjacent areas differ.
- 2) DRLUP LMU 1 Tatonduk management intent is to focus on conservation with limited use. The intent and Tr'ëhudè visions include landscape connectivity, cultural connectivity, cultural continuity, passing down of traditional knowledge, and healing. It is adjacent to NYRLUP LMU 13, which is an IMA IV zone. The cumulative effects thresholds and management intent of these adjacent areas differ.

The differences in management intent and cumulative effects thresholds between these adjacent areas should be noted in the Plan. The Plan should note that any implications for future land uses in these LMUs because of the different management regimes would be addressed through ongoing communication between our governments. VGG would further address these incongruities in a future review of the NYRLUP as an opportunity to have the conversations about how these adjacent areas of our planning regions align.

### 4. Climate Change and Adaptive Management

As VGG has now been involved in three regional planning processes, we are seeing that the planning regions have common concerns. One of the most significant is climate change. As we noted in our response to the Draft Plan, adaptive management is an important strategy for responding to the uncertainties and risks of climate change. The Recommended Plan includes some general references to climate change and adaptive management but these matters require more consideration.

VGG recommends the Implementation section recognize the importance of ongoing communication and cooperation between the planning regions to continue to learn from each other and to share our experience with common issues as the plans are implemented. We should continue to share our experiences with climate change and work together on adaptive management strategies, which require monitoring, learning, and adjusting to new conditions as we carry out land and resource management in a changing climate.

### 5. Plan Implementation

# VUNTUT GWITCHIN Government

Government of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

---

## Stewardship and Sustainability

---

VGG has gained much experience from over 12 years of implementing the NYRLUP that relates to the DRLUP Implementation Section (s.7). We have gained experience with identifying and tracking yearly priority actions and monitoring the plan status, including implementing plan recommendations. We also gained experience from the 2019 evaluation of the NYRLUP to inform the need for a Plan Review. From this experience, we have found the following factors are important for the successful implementation of the plan:

- 1) having adequate resources and identifying responsibilities and timelines for carrying out priority plan actions;
- 2) developing a structured approach to regular plan reporting to the Implementation Committee that promotes accountability on completing specific actions, as well as that provides an overview of how the plan is achieving its objectives overall, and its ongoing relevancy and effectiveness;
- 3) good ongoing communication between the Implementation Committee and land and resource managers carrying out plan actions;
- 4) tracking changes in the region that could influence the relevance and effectiveness of plan actions. For example, VGG declared a state of climate emergency after the NYRLUP was completed, which is influencing yearly priority setting by the Implementation Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Recommended Dawson Regional Land Use Plan.

Sincerely,



Erika Tizya Tramm  
Strategic Lead  
Stewardship and Sustainability  
Vuntut Gwitchin Government

**First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun**

P.O. Box 220

Mayo, Yukon Y0B 1M0

Tel: (867) 996-2265

Fax: (867) 996-2267

E-mail: [main@FNNNDfn.com](mailto:main@FNNNDfn.com)

Website: [www.FNNNDfn.com](http://www.FNNNDfn.com)



---

**WRITTEN SUBMISSION  
OF  
THE FIRST NATION OF NA-CHO NYÄK DUN**

---

**To:** Dawson Regional Planning Commission

**From:** First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun

**Date:** December 19, 2022

**Re:** **Recommended Dawson Regional Plan**

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction .....	1
2. Alignment with FNNND’s Aboriginal and Treaty Rights .....	1
3. Climate Change .....	2
4. Protection of Important Areas .....	5
A. Special Management Areas.....	5
B. Water ( <i>Tu</i> ).....	5
C. Wetlands ( <i>Nan Dātsaw</i> ).....	7
5. Cumulative Effects Indicators .....	10
6. Land Management Units in FNNND’s Traditional Territory .....	13
A. LMU 7: Wehtr’e (Antimony) (ISA I) .....	14
B. LMU 8: Brewery Creek (ISA III) .....	14
C. LMU 9: Clear Creek (ISA IV).....	14
D. LMU 10: Tintina Trench (SMA) .....	15
E. LMU 11: Goldfields (ISA IV) .....	15
F. LMU 17: Nān Dhòhdāl (Upper Indian River Wetlands) (ISA III) .....	15
G. Dempster Highway .....	16
H. Implications for Future Chapter 11 Land Use Planning .....	16
7. Plan Implementation.....	17
8. Plan Conformity and Assessment.....	18
9. Adequate Interim Protection.....	18
10. Conclusion .....	18

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (“FNNND”) congratulates the Dawson Regional Planning Commission (the “Commission”) for releasing the Recommended Dawson Regional Plan (the “Recommended Plan”). This is an important milestone towards fulfilling the promise of land use planning in Chapter 11 of the *Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Final Agreement* (the “TH Final Agreement”) for the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Traditional Territory and the Dawson Region.

FNNND thanks the Commission for considering FNNND’s submission of December 1, 2021, on the Draft Dawson Regional Plan (the “Draft Plan”), and for this opportunity to provide further comments and recommendations on the Recommended Plan. FNNND has reviewed the Recommended Plan, and while we are pleased that the Commission has addressed some of the comments and concerns in our previous submission on the Draft Plan, there are still critical areas that FNNND feels the Commission has not incorporated into the Recommended Plan.

FNNND also thanks the Commission for engaging directly with FNNND as an “affected First Nation.” As the Commission knows, part of FNNND’s Traditional Territory falls within the Dawson Region subject to the Draft Plan. These lands have sustained us since time immemorial and are integral to the life and culture of FNNND Citizens. As such, FNNND has a strong interest in the outcomes of the Commission’s work as well as its potential impacts on future planning processes impacting adjacent portions of FNNND’s Traditional Territory.

FNNND expects that our comments and concerns in this written submission will be addressed in future iterations of the Plan. We also ask that the Commission continue to engage with FNNND on the development of all future planning products, including those related to plan implementation and review, for the Dawson Region

## 2. ALIGNMENT WITH FNNND’S ABORIGINAL AND TREATY RIGHTS

As the Commission was established pursuant to Chapter 11 of the TH Final Agreement, FNNND would like to reiterate that the Commission’s work must reflect and incorporate the objectives and the spirit and intent of the TH Final Agreement and the *First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun Final Agreement* (the “FNNND Final Agreement”). Importantly, this includes ensuring that First Nations are true decision makers and co-managers of our lands. In *First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun v Yukon*, the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed that the “clear objective of Chapter 11 [is] to ensure First Nations meaningfully participate in land use management in their traditional territories” so as “to foster a positive, mutually respectful, and long-term relationship between the parties to the Final Agreements.”<sup>1</sup>

This is also consistent with the principles under the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (“UNDRIP”), which has now been adopted in Canada. UNDRIP confirms FNNND’s rights to, among others, “the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of [our] lands or territories and resources,” as well as to “determine and

---

<sup>1</sup> *First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun v Yukon*, 2017 SCC 58, [2017] 2 SCR 675 at para 47.

develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of [our] lands or territories and other resources.”<sup>2</sup>

FNNND also reminds the Commission that an underlying goal of Chapter 11 of the Final Agreement is to protect our lands and our connection to them. The Final Recommended Plan must therefore protect and promote FNNND’s culture, well-being, and way of life to support and maintain our ability to exercise our constitutionally protected Aboriginal and treaty rights. Such rights include, among others, the protection of our waters, our right to harvest fish and wildlife, and the protection and respect of our heritage resources and culture.

Our ability to exercise these rights—and the ability of future generations to exercise these rights—depends on a healthy and diverse landscape. As such, the protection of FNNND’s rights through the proper protection of FNNND’s Traditional Territory within the Dawson Region must be a central goal of the Commission. FNNND recommends that the Commission explicitly include the protection of FNNND’s rights and Traditional Territory as a goal of the Recommended Plan, and to ensure that this goal is adequately reflected throughout the Plan. These principles must guide and inform the Commission’s work as it considers this submission and develops all future planning products.

### **3. CLIMATE CHANGE**

In our previous submission on the Draft Plan, FNNND provided four pages of comments and information relating to our concerns about the severity, rate of change, and disproportionate impacts of climate change in the North. While we note that the Recommended Plan has increased the ways in which climate change impacts are considered on land uses, FNNND still considers that critical elements of climate change mitigation are missing.

Firstly, we note that the Recommended Plan largely contemplates the impacts of climate change from the perspective of trends and does not fully reflect concerns related to the increasing variability of climate, particularly extreme events. While these are unpredictable, and the Recommended Plan does reiterate the need for resilience in infrastructure development, it does not fully consider how such extreme events (e.g., more fires of higher intensity, or increasing occurrence of winter freezing rain events) will affect valued wildlife species such as caribou. These climate affects impact our Aboriginal rights. We acknowledge these issues are hard to quantify. As such, we suggest, instead, broad application of the precautionary principle in the relevant Land Management Units (“LMUs”) containing habitat, as these climate events will form part of a suite of cumulative effects on vulnerable species and therefore our right to harvest.

---

<sup>2</sup> *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, GA Res 61/295, UNGAOR, 61st Sess, Suppl no 49, UN Doc A/RES/61/295 (2 October 2007), Articles 29(1) & 32(1) [UNDRIP]



Secondly, we previously noted that the North is becoming a net carbon emitter simply due to thawing permafrost.<sup>3</sup> While the Recommended Plan acknowledges uncertainties around the extent of impacts of thawing permafrost particularly as it relates to wetlands underlain by permafrost, we do not feel this iteration of the Plan goes far enough to implement a precautionary approach in terms of restricting land uses that will contribute to thawing of permafrost in these wetlands, or disturbance of the wetlands resulting in release of stored carbon and limitations on future carbon storage potential.

Given the limited land base within the planning region that is covered by wetlands (10-12%), we would have expected to see an analysis of the fen threshold in terms of carbon release. In our previous submission, we noted the Ducks Unlimited Canada (“DUC”) calculations relating to the range of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents stored in fens in the Dawson Planning region. In our view, it would have been reasonable to investigate the impacts of the fen threshold in LMU 17 in terms of disruption of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents storage, as well as the impact of potential disruption to various wetlands in all other LMUs. We feel presenting the calculations showing the loss of carbon storage and/or greenhouse gas emissions due to permissible disruption of wetland types in the region would have been the climate-responsible planning move. If this information is not known, or is not possible to calculate, that too should have been made explicitly clear. We feel that highlighting the unknowns in this manner signals to the Parties the need to invoke the precautionary principle when managing wetlands as carbon sinks.

Beyond this, the Recommended Plan also continues to allow activities in existing permits or tenure in wetlands, meaning sequestered carbon currently stored in these bogs, fens and marshes will be disturbed. Further, there is no protection for swamps in the Plan. While swamps may be the most straightforward class of wetland to recreate following a disturbance, this single factor is not enough to allow development in currently undisturbed swamps.

Support for areas that are carbon sinks is also lacking from the Recommended Management Practices in Section 5.2.6. Instead, the focus here is on risk management and building resilience. While we do not deny that these are necessary actions, we feel it is an oversight not to integrate an overarching regard for and protection of carbon sink areas (be they forests or wetlands) into all land use decisions.

Thirdly, while the Recommended Plan states it “relies heavily on the need to consider the potential impacts of climate change through the principle of adaptive management, and how it will be incorporated in future Plan updates and reviews,” we struggle to see this being effectively mandated under the Plan as written and are concerned real progress on climate change will be lost in the broad strokes of adaptive management or future reviews. In our previous submission, we noted that:

---

<sup>3</sup> Natali, S.M., et al. 2019. Large loss of CO<sub>2</sub> in winter observed across the northern permafrost region. *Nature Climate Change*, **9**: 852-857.

Reliance on “adaptive management,” as currently framed in the Draft Plan, without clear delineation as to the methods, metrics, timelines and implementation of such adaptive management offers no certainty to public agencies or to the public in the process for tackling climate change and its effects. These offer, perhaps, the greatest level of uncertainty for any land-based activity in the region.

FNNND considers this comment to still be applicable. For example, Recommended Action 61 indicates that the Parties should emphasize climate change considerations when following and implementing adaptive recommendations related to cumulative effects, and in undertaking plan implementation and review. We agree that adaptive management and cumulative effects are intimately linked to climate change. However, given the severity of the impacts we as First Nations citizens are already experiencing that we have already documented, the Plan needs to include more concrete actions. FNNND urges the Commission to ensure that the Plan explicitly set out *how* the Parties shall incorporate and address climate change in an adaptive way, and report on this going forward. Additionally, the Plan’s Monitoring Framework (Figure 7-3) should include an explicit consideration of how the Plan is effectively addressing and responding to climate change. This should also be added to Recommended Actions 150 and 151.

FNNND appreciates that the Recommended Plan includes the addition of climate change as a key issue related to General Management Directions in sections on Heritage Resources and Sites, Stewardship, and Community Water. Although these are important advances, additional work must be done to integrate wetland protection with taking serious and proactive climate action on a regional level which will result in significant progress towards Yukon’s climate goals.

FNNND therefore reiterates the following recommendations to the Commission regarding climate change:

- *Make a recommendation for all commercial and industrial activity on the land (including mining and agricultural sectors) to reach net zero emissions from their operations. This net zero calculation must not be made only in relation to direct emissions from equipment and active processes, but include impacts on land and removal or addition of carbon storage potential (e.g., clearing/stripping, permafrost disruption, and wetland degradation).*
- *Establish thresholds and create monitoring metrics based on full consideration of climate change impacts, including the role of natural systems in both climate change abatement and contribution.*
- *Give explicit recognition that the North is becoming a net carbon emitter and any action, including goals within the Our Clean Future strategy,<sup>4</sup> must be considered and measured against a shifting reality. This necessitates the need for all targets and goals to be measured with appropriate metrics at appropriate intervals.*

---

<sup>4</sup> Yukon Government, “Our Clean Future: A Yukon strategy for climate change, energy and a green economy” (2020).

- *Recommend strategic climate and water monitoring regimes be developed or re-developed to track and monitor climate change effects in the long-term within the Dawson Region.*
- *Any proposed adaptive management measures related to climate change must have timelines and identified goals/targets so as not to defer action further.*
- *Include a specific recommendation for the implementation of Strategic Priority No. 5 (“demonstrate environmental responsibility and preparedness to adopt practices to address climate change including utilization of green energy measures”) of the Yukon Mineral Development Strategy and Recommendations (the “YMDS Strategy and Recommendations”).<sup>5</sup>*

#### **4. PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT AREAS**

##### **A. Special Management Areas**

FNNND would like to thank the Commission for removing the distinction between the two Special Management Area (“SMA”) designations previously used in the Draft Plan, and such that all SMAs are required to become legally designated as protected areas with management plans, pursuant to Chapter 10 of the Final Agreements.

[While FNNND commends the Commission’s work in identifying important areas that need to be protected by the SMA designation, there are some LMUs which FNNND believe should be provided with better protection, as outlined in the section below on “Land Management Units in FNNND’s Traditional Territory.” FNNND also would like to provide our support for TH’s recommendation that 60% of the planning region be protected, above the 39.4% in the Recommended Plan.]

##### **B. Water (Tu)**

There are particular areas which FNNND believes require more conservation attention within the Plan. These include holistic and serious consideration of water and waterways, caribou and caribou habitat, wetlands, and salmon. Water often forms the center of planning discussions and is often the topic of most interest and most concern to FNNND Citizens and Elders in relation to lands and resources issues. Waterways literally form a link between generations and form the arteries that connect waters, land, and people.

Although FNNND is pleased that a community water section has been added to the Recommended Plan, it does not go far enough as it largely focuses on the need to access potable water, both municipally and in other development nodes. While this is clearly a necessary resource for the

---

<sup>5</sup> Yukon Mineral Development Strategy Independent Panel, “Yukon Mineral Development Strategy and Recommendations” (15 April 2021).

people of Dawson, it does not integrate the cultural value of water as well as FNNND's water rights under Chapter 14 of the Final Agreements.

FNNND notes that the Recommended Plan specifically chooses not to identify major river corridors or specific management directions with the understanding that all watercourses are important. FNNND feels strongly that Tagé Cho (Stewart River)<sup>6</sup> requires specific protective measures. It is a vital river whose watershed encompasses a large portion of FNNND's Traditional Territory and whose health and well-being are absolutely central to the well-being and long-term sustenance of FNNND. We raised concerns about the lack of consideration of and protection for Tagé Cho in our comments on the Draft Plan, and have not seen sufficient changes in the Recommended Plan in response.

The current Recommended Plan designates LMU 11: Goldfields as an ISA IV with the highest level of allowed development within the region and does not make any specific provisions for Tagé Cho itself. In addition, Clear Creek is a direct tributary of Tagé Cho which flows through FNNND settlement lands near its confluence, and which was a salmon creek. Cumulative effects on Clear Creek (most notably high levels and pulses of sedimentation observed on the lower stretches of the creek) in recent years has garnered significant concern from FNNND and FNNND Citizens. This is one example of how cumulative effects far upstream from settlement land has direct impacts on our lands and waters, as affirmed and protected under Chapter 5 and Chapter 14 of FNNND's Final Agreement. We note that Tagé Cho has been included as a recommended site for an additional long-term water quality monitoring station. While monitoring is important, it will not prevent or mitigate the current effects to water quality our citizens are observing.

FNNND reiterates the following recommendations from our 2021 submission be included in the Final Recommended Plan:

- *Major waterways receive their own protective designation, in alignment with the obligations and intent of Chapter 14 of the Final Agreement. FNNND will reiterate and support TH's recommendation in this respect by recommending Tagé Cho, the Klondike River, and the Yukon River receive special management area designation specific to waterways. This should include specific management directions and recommendations related to waterways.*
- *The Commission should recommend that the south-east side of Tagé Cho directly opposite the southern planning region boundary also receive special interim management provisions, consistent with those in the planning region to be carried forward as regional planning commences for the bordering Northern Tutchone area. Although this part of the Tagé Cho is outside of the Dawson Region which is subject to the Draft Plan, impacts to one part of Tagé Cho will impact the entire waterway. The entire Tagé Cho must therefore be managed in an integrated way.*
- *The Commission should make specific recommendations regarding water to ensure their long-term protection, including, among others:*

---

<sup>6</sup> Sourced from local Mayo Elder. Also referred to as *Nacho Nyäk gé*, or *Náhcho Nyäk*.

- *comprehensive water withdrawal and use reporting across all sectors and consideration of water withdrawal and use thresholds at the watershed level;*
- *more robust and appropriate water quality compliance standards, associated water quality monitoring and water quality and quantity reporting as part of water licenses; and,*
- *integrate long-term water and climate monitoring as part of existing monitoring efforts with specific provisions for data analysis and resulting management directions to include long-term consideration of climate change.*

### **C. Wetlands (*Nan Dātsaw*)**

FNNND reiterates that wetlands and Indigenous lifeways are inextricably linked such that when discussing wetlands, we are discussing an intrinsic part of our lifeways built on thousands of years of living on the land. As discussed above, climate change is a major factor influencing wetland health in the Central Yukon and wetlands and wetland complexes exist dynamically in ways which respond to, and interact with, global climate processes. The link between wetlands, permafrost, and climate change in the planning region is absolutely central to their importance.

FNNND has serious concerns regarding Yukon’s Draft Policy for the Stewardship of Wetlands (the “Draft Wetlands Policy”), as it fails to ensure robust and meaningful protection of our wetlands, particularly in light of unquestionable evidence that further disturbances in wetlands exacerbates the climate crisis facing us all. FNNND is therefore concerned that the Recommended Plan endorses the Draft Wetlands Policy and recommends use of the Wetlands of Special Importance (“WSI”) designation for the Scottie Creek, Ladue and Flat Creek wetlands.

FNNND has made clear in our comments on the Draft Wetlands Policy that the WSI designation will not be an effective, long-term tool for wetland protection—both in terms of the ability for this designation to be removed from the area and the transparency around the designation process. Under the Policy, even if a wetland is designated as a WSI, that “does not require the withdrawal of the area from land disposition or a prohibition of mineral staking, exploration, and mining.”<sup>7</sup> Proponents seeking to undertake work in a WSI must simply provide details on potential impacts and mitigations during regulatory processes. This removes any potential protection the WSI designation claims to offer. This is compounded by lack of clarity in the Recommended Plan regarding who will undertake the designation for these LMUs, the specific area within the LMU, and what will happen in mineral tenure within these areas.

While we agree that it may be helpful to create linkages between policies and reduce overlaps or redundancies, consistency between policies should not come at the expense of effective measures to protect wetlands. The Commission is not bound to follow the Draft Wetlands Policy; in fact, the Draft Wetlands Policy explicitly states that “if there is a conflict between the guidance in this

---

<sup>7</sup> Yukon Government, Draft Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon’s Wetlands (July 2022) at 577-578.

policy and a [land use] plan, the plan will supersede this policy.”<sup>8</sup> We strongly urge the Commission to ensure adequate steps and measures within the Plan will bolster wetland management and protection in more holistic and meaningful ways. This may include creating tools other than WSI to fully protect wetlands.

We observe that the Wetlands Stewardship Area (“WSA”) is a new concept in the Recommended Plan and understand that this overlay is intended to highlight the wetland value in LMU 17 Nän Dhöhdäl (Upper Indian River Wetlands). It is unclear if this applies to the entire LMU or only to wetland areas within the LMU and believe this should be clarified. Further to this, it is disappointing to see that the intent statement for this LMU speaks about limiting the scale of development within the upper drainage of the Indian River rather than fully protecting wetlands here. The Recommended Plan also states that the intent of the WSA overlay “is not to allocate these areas with a legal designation for protection, and they are not intended to be permanently withdrawn from activity.” It is therefore not clear what the overlay will achieve and how it will be effective in protecting wetlands. Furthermore, the WSA concept is not cross-referenced in the General Management Directions for wetlands to fully integrate this concept.

Given the current state of wetland complexes in the remainder of the Indian River valley, and lack of protection for wetlands in this area within LMU 11, the WSA in LMU 17 should go further to prevent additional development in wetlands. This could include no disturbance in any undisturbed wetlands within the LMU, or no further development on existing tenure that overlaps wetlands.

FNNND is also disappointed with the fen threshold that allows a 50% disturbance rate in the Recommended Plan. This threshold is inadequate and will not effectively protect wetland values and functions. Furthermore, we fail to see how it can be applied as a useful conservation tool spatially and hydro-geomorphologically. If it is permissible to develop in 50% of a fen within a claim, our concern is that the remaining 50% may become hydrologically isolated due to surrounding disturbance to groundwater sources or changes to upland morphology. As currently worded, the threshold may allow this within claims or within a permit area. Notwithstanding the fact that FNNND does not consider development in fens to be appropriate, application of this threshold on a claim-by-claim basis may lead to conservation of effectively far less than 50% of fens as those that are not developed dry out, lose function or vegetation due to limited connectivity, and become lower quality habitat. Further to this, fens occurring in complexes where multiple wetland classes are adjacent to one another may be affected by permitted development in swamps and shallow open water wetlands.

In addition, it is not clear how the 50% fen disturbance rate will be implemented, including tracking and reporting. It does not seem feasible to track how 50% of a fen may be disturbed, while the other 50% of it adjacent to the disturbed area may not be disturbed. Instead, FNNND urges the Commission to ensure that fens be fully protected.

Furthermore, the outline of wetlands thresholds described in Section 5.2.5 explicitly acknowledges and caters to the current regulatory context, presumably for ease of implementation on a project-by-project level. FNNND has continued to note the inadequacies and deep flaws in the current

---

<sup>8</sup> Yukon Government, Draft Policy for the Stewardship of Yukon’s Wetlands (July 2022) at 7

regulatory context which has inflicted ongoing cumulative effects for decades in our Traditional Territory. The Yukon Government and First Nations are currently undergoing a process to revise mining legislation in the Yukon and bring the regulatory structure for mineral activity into conformity with our modern treaties and a modern reality. We therefore find it troubling that the Commission has decided to formulate wetlands management tools which fully accommodate the current, deeply flawed regulatory system. Considering the large and diverse region being planned, it would be much more appropriate and impactful to develop wetlands thresholds based on ecological realities such as watershed boundaries, wetland complex hydrology and habitat connectivity as opposed to arbitrary claim blocks and project boundaries.

Policy Recommendation 50 suggests a no development buffer of 20 m around protected wetlands, until such time as additional research informs buffer sizes in more detail. While FNNND considers connectivity between upland and wetland habitats to be very important and acknowledge the usefulness of buffers, we respectfully inquire about the information and research behind the determination that a 20 m distance is an adequate interim distance.

The Recommended Plan does not clearly define (or draw on an existing definition of) disturbed versus undisturbed wetlands. This is critical because it influences the application of no development provisions in various wetland classes. We note that Policy Recommendation 48 advocates for the completion of wetland reclamation guidelines, and this document may clarify disturbance status but there needs to be either some explicit linkage within in the Plan, or a compatible definition contained in the Plan.

In FNNND's earlier comments, we suggested that the Plan:

Include climate change contribution (in terms of wetlands/peatlands destruction and carbon release, sequestration and storage value, and effects of climate change on wetlands alteration or degradation) in establishing thresholds for wetlands and also in considering their value and long-term management.

As mentioned above, there are significant connections between climate change and wetlands. We expected this to be clearly articulated and quantified as best as possible in the Recommended Plan to assist in creating a cumulative effects indicator for wetlands.

In summary, outside of broad regional protections for undisturbed bogs and marshes (which are not applicable to areas under existing permits and there is no definition of undisturbed) and specific protections in SMAs and two LMUs (as identified in Table 1), wetlands of various classes remain vulnerable to development. Given that FNNND has advocated for the use of the precautionary principle to limit the impact of development in wetlands, and especially in light of potential climate change contributions from wetland disturbance, the gaps in this approach do not provide us with confidence that wetlands in the planning region are well protected.

Table 1. Wetland protection in the Recommended Plan

Location	Bogs (Undisturbed)	Marshes (Undisturbed)	Fens (Undisturbed)	Swamps	Shallow Open Water
Whole region except existing permits	No development	No development	N/A	N/A	N/A
SMAAs except existing permits	(As above)	(As above)	No development	N/A	N/A
LMU 19 (ISA 1) except existing permits	(As above)	(As above)	No development	N/A	N/A
LMU 17/WSA (ISA 2)	(As above)	(As above)	50% threshold development	N/A	N/A

## 5. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS INDICATORS

### ***“We are part of the land part of the water:”***

*“Heritage is our knowledge of and connection to the land. We are part of the land. When we are out there on that land, we are part of it, but we are not the be-all and end-all. Every rock, plant tree and animal are part of the land and the water is part of it. Everything has a spirit. Our connection to the land is a spiritual connection.”<sup>9</sup>*

Cumulative effects are a foremost concern for FNNND with respect to management of lands, waters, and resources; especially as they relate to our ability to exercise our rights and the long-term sustenance of our people. For FNNND, connection to land encompasses links that have bearing on all aspects of life through all seasons, including economy and trade, material sustenance, geographic connectivity, cultural importance, spiritual significance, and inter-generational relationships. This interconnectivity means that adverse impacts to one area affect much more than a particular site—they affect entire ecosystems and social fabrics. Given development footprints are most visible at the site-specific scale, it is not surprising that larger spatial and longer temporal scales are often overlooked during cumulative effects assessment and the mitigation process.

FNNND has expended considerable time and resources in detailing the impact of cumulative effects (“CE”) on our way of life at the project-specific level during the regulatory assessment process. Not only is this resource intensive, but, as we previously noted, this process occurs at spatial footprint that is completely incongruous with the complexity and spatial and temporal distribution of actual experienced effects. The Commission has the unique opportunity to offer the tools at a regional level to guide the development assessment and regulatory processes for individual activities on the land so cumulative effects can be accounted for and managed in an effective and holistic way.

<sup>9</sup> Quotations from FNNND Citizens and Elders from *Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Heritage Act*, 2016.



Just as our experience of CE is complicated, nuanced and changing over time, we appreciate the difficulty and intricacy involved in monitoring and responding to such effects, particularly in an active landscape such as the Dawson Planning Region. We appreciate that the Recommended Plan intends that the CE framework will eventually monitor for a number of values identified throughout the planning processing (per Figure 4-2), including concepts and issues raised by FNNND and others such as salmon, caribou, wetlands, and socio-economics. We also appreciate that, to date, a number of indicators are under consideration under Section 4.2.2.

However, the Recommended Plan then goes on set out thresholds in Section 4.3.2. for indicators (surface disturbance and linear feature density) that are poorly tied to the values in Section 4.2.1. FNNND understands that a CE framework is complex, but we note the disjunct between the values and the only thresholds created thus far. We feel the Recommended Plan is not entirely transparent about how much work remains, how the work done on indicators to date stacks up against the work that must still be completed, or about how the framework will actually be implemented in a practical way.

Instead, much of this section is more aspirational and theoretical, and does not adequately consider how to actually develop and implement the framework. The language in this section is far too vague for us to be confident this framework all achieve what is needed—either in its current, unfinished format, or in its final yet-to-be completed arrangement. FNNND urges the Commission to include explicit and clear details about how the CE framework is to be developed and implemented, as it is critical to ensuring the Plan is effective at managing land use impacts.

In our previous submission we outlined the importance of salmon, Lyok Cho, as it forms a central part of FNNND's culture, heritage, economy, and lifeways. Associated with this is the need to maintain water quality to support salmon populations. Yet, this portion of the CE framework has received very little attention other than being mentioned in Figure 4-2. This is disappointing, particularly as we have repeatedly put forward our concerns, both at a project level and in our previous comments on the Draft Plan, that the current Fish Habitat Management System ("FHMS") is unable to address issues relating to salmon arising from the placer industry due to a lack of diligence in monitoring, evaluating, responding, and adjusting as required for effective adaptive management. In addition, the FHMS does not contemplate other impacts such as climate change and permafrost thaw slumps falling into water ways increasing turbidity which affects water quality, fish habitat and their spawning grounds, harvesting pressures, and others. We appreciate that Recommended Action 27 in the Plan highlights the necessity of evaluating the current Watershed Authorizations, the FHMS and its associated Adaptive Management Framework. Nevertheless, we would expect that the data has been collected under the FHMS system be used as a starting point for salmon and water quality indicators for the CE framework. Furthermore, the Recommended Plan fails to include any linkage between the two terrestrial (surface disturbance and linear feature density) indicators and associated thresholds that have been established.

In our previous submission, we expressed concern about a research recommendation suggesting the creation of "a comprehensive, publicly accessible aquatic habitat inventory" for salmon habitat prior to mining and other land use activities. While FNNND supported this concept in principle, we have concerns that the creation of such a "baseline" in the present day is not a true

representation of the ecosystems of the Planning Region prior to the effects of development. The Recommended Plan has done nothing to adjust the wording in this recommendation and we remain concerned that this approach does not capture the current context of cumulative effects for aquatic organisms such as salmon, but rather, considers these to be accepted as the status quo.

In the Draft Plan, the Commission included a recommendation to evaluate other indicators such as water quality. This suggestion is no longer present in the Recommended Plan and instead seems to have been replaced with the recommendation to undertake values-based indicator research, with a priority on caribou, moose, salmon, and wetlands. Although salmon and wetland disturbance indicators will take water quality into consideration, this approach is not enough and fails to consider the importance of all aspects of water. As we have noted, the health of our waters is a value of great importance to our citizens and all people in the planning region. FNNND reiterates that a water-based cumulative effects indicator must contain thresholds relating to water quality, and quantity/withdrawal. These thresholds must be applicable across all industries.

Accordingly, while we recognize the complications, challenges, and lengthy timelines inherent in developing water as an indicator of cumulative effects, and associated thresholds, we suggest that while such overarching work is underway, the Commission consider recommending a timeline for the development of interim thresholds.

To further address all cumulative effects, FNNND also urges the Commission to consider more concrete and explicit measures to bolster a cumulative effects framework and build steps towards utilizing additional indicators. These suggestions are reiterated from our December, 2021 submission below:

- *The suggested levels of surface disturbance and linear density for the ISAs appear relatively arbitrary as opposed to being based on key values such as impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat, water quality, impacts on First Nation harvest opportunity and success, or use and enjoyment of the land and maintenance of cultural connection to land. FNNND does not have the information and analysis completed to make a recommendation as to specific threshold numbers for linear density and surface disturbance for the various LMUs. FNNND has been closely monitoring YG's efforts to document and analyze linear disturbance data in relation to moose population decline stemming from a request under section 110 of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Act ("YESAA") request. While results are not concluded in this work, our observations and continued grappling with cumulative effects impacting multiple subsistence species such as moose and extirpated caribou in the Mayo area lead us to caution the Commission that the thresholds for ISAs III and IV are likely too high.*
- *Climate change indicators must be incorporated into a cumulative effects framework. There may be many ways of doing this, and a multi-faceted approach will likely be more robust considering the complexity of effects resulting from climate change and the various aspects and activities which contribute to climate change. Some possible considerations include:*

- *Establishing regional wetlands disturbance thresholds in relation to climate change based on carbon storage and release. Such an analysis would require periodic (eg. 5-year) reviews of information and data related to emissions, climate data, and documented alterations to wetland habitats to inform any necessary changes to thresholds or necessary management measures.*
- *Recommend strategic climate and water monitoring regimes be developed or redeveloped to track and monitor climate change effects in the long-term within the Dawson Planning Region.*
- *Provide more clarity around the actual implementation of the cumulative effects framework to ensure actions are taken in a timely and stepwise manner to achieve concrete goals:*
  - *Clearly define the indicators to be used, including their metrics and the scale of their applicability (e.g., watershed level vs. across an entire LMU).*
  - *Stepwise process for establishing, measuring/monitoring, and adjusting cumulative effects indicators which includes resources, roles and responsibilities as well as approximate timelines to ensure expedient implementation.*
  - *Clear delineation of the process when cautionary level is reached in terms of implication and definitive actions for proponents, public government, First Nations, the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Board (“YESAB”), etc.*
    - *FNNND recommends definitive actions to be outlined including halting authorizations of further disturbance when cautionary thresholds are reached until satisfactory knowledge of reclamation success and most updated disturbance estimates suggest current indicator levels have fallen well below the cautionary level.*

It is essential that concrete tools, steps and directions be undertaken to manage ongoing cumulative impacts effectively. This includes clear delineation of adaptive measures and not relying on “adaptive management” as a high-level concept which may ultimately defer decisions and actions much further down the road and possibly beyond the crossing of certain thresholds. FNNND commends the work already completed by the Commission and urges the Commission to consider the seriousness of the issue of cumulative effects management as they strengthen the framework within the Recommended Plan. This will be a vital piece of how the Plan ensures the true implementation of Chapter 11 within the spirit and intent of the Final Agreements and the affected rights of First Nations citizens for generations to come.

## **6. LAND MANAGEMENT UNITS IN FNNND’S TRADITIONAL TERRITORY**

The Recommended Plan offers some considerable changes to the boundaries, designations, and management directions for a number of Land Management Units (“LMU”) in comparison with the Draft Plan. FNNND would like to thank the Commission and staff for their dedicated work in integrating the wide range of views and information submitted and compiled. The following is a

summary of highlighted concerns, notes, and recommendations from FNNND pertaining directly to the LMU's affecting FNNND Traditional Territory.

**A. LMU 7: Wehtr'e (Antimony) (ISA I)**

FNNND thanks the Commission for altering the LMU boundaries more consistently with TH's proposed alternative map, consistent with FNNND's recommendation in our previous submission.

We are disappointed, however, to see that the LMU 7 designation has been changed from an SMA II to an ISA I, reducing the level of protection. FNNND recommended in our previous submission on the Draft Plan that this LMU be given full SMA protection as an area of high ecological value that is important for the Clear Creek and Hart River Caribou Herds.

While the current recommendation includes a caribou overlay, we remain concerned about implications the Clear Creek and Hart River Caribou Herds and for connectivity of important habitats generally both within the planning region and for upcoming regional planning in adjacent lands. The caribou overlay puts a focus on caribou for this LMU and the special management directions offer some tools for attention to caribou and caribou habitat; however, we do not believe they fully protect these herds and promote their expansion and sustenance to healthy levels into the future. For example, special management direction 4(a) states "when new access is required, coordinated access routes for industrial activities should be encouraged to reduce linear footprint." This statement implies that industrial needs for access will be accommodated ("when" not "if" new access is required) and simply encourages coordination as opposed to stipulating long-term requirements including disallowing particular access (e.g., linear intensity in particular habitats, looped roads near key areas, etc.). In addition, the caribou overlay provides no legal protection.

FNNND maintains our original recommendation that this LMU be given full protection as an SMA.

**B. LMU 8: Brewery Creek (ISA III)**

FNNND again thanks the Commission for altering the LMU boundaries more consistently with TH's proposed alternative map.

Special Management Direction 2 in the Recommended Plan notes that new surface access (except winter access) off the Dempster Highway should be considered jointly by the Parties. The language for this recommendation in the Draft Plan specified a Plan variance or amendment was required to consider new access. FNNND questions why the new recommendation includes less specificity and clarity around the mechanisms for considering new access by the Parties and suggests maintaining clarity of mechanism for this process.

**C. LMU 9: Clear Creek (ISA IV)**

As noted in our submission on the Draft Plan, this LMU holds considerable value to FNNND. The level of impact from industrial development in this LMU is high. It has been observed that the Clear Creek Caribou Herd range has shifted north and the remaining rutting areas around East Ridge and north of the Klondike River are preferred over the previously used southern locations.

Access management, ability for First Nation use of the land, and provision of caribou habitat for future re-growth of the herd to healthy and resilient levels are all a major concern in this LMU.

Yet, some directions have become more relaxed in the Recommended Plan as compared with the Draft Plan for this LMU. For instance, the priority objectives within the Draft Plan stated that “new access infrastructure is planned for and managed to minimize adverse effects on caribou.” This objective is not included in the Recommended Plan. Further, Recommendation 2 within the Special Management Directions should specify any access development within caribou fall rut habitat be disallowed, not simply avoided. Access is already a major issue in this LMU. There should be a requirement for an access management plan within LMU 9.

FNNND reiterates our recommendation to designate this LMU as an ISA I, and further recommends including a caribou overlay.

**D. LMU 10: Tintina Trench (SMA)**

FNNND commends the Commission for integrating the Tintina Trench on both sides of the North Klondike Highway within an SMA. This will ensure continuity of habitat, protection of values and more coherent achievement of plan goals.

**E. LMU 11: Goldfields (ISA IV)**

FNNND further reiterates its endorsement of the TH Alternative Map in response to the Draft Plan for this LMU. The diversity of values, landscapes, habitats, and land uses within the large and highly impacted Goldfields is not fully accounted for in an ISA IV designation for such a large area. Larger special management buffers along major river corridors (i.e., Indian River, Stewart River and Yukon River) would better protect these major waterways. Indeed, the Stewart River is not even mentioned within the objectives for this LMU. Appropriate integration of the important waterways flowing through and adjacent to this LMU must be addressed more robustly.

**F. LMU 17: Nän Dhòhdäl (Upper Indian River Wetlands) (ISA III)**

FNNND recommended in our previous submission on the Draft Plan that this LMU (previously LMU 19) be given full SMA protection to ensure the long-term protection of key values, particularly the remaining undisturbed wetland complex. FNNND is therefore disappointed to see that the Commission significantly reduced the protection level of LMU 17, from an SMA II—the second most protective designation under the Draft Plan—to an ISA III—the second least protective designation—in the Recommended Plan.

Although the Recommended Plan includes a Wetland Stewardship Area overlay for this LMU, FNNND is concerned with the efficacy of the tool, as it does not offer the same legal protection as the SMA designation. The Recommended Plan notes that the purpose of the overlay “is not to allocate these areas with a legal designation for protection, and they are not intended to be withdrawn from activity.” Our concerns with the overlay and the Recommended Plan’s approach to managing wetlands are outlined in more detail in the section above on “Wetlands (*Nan Dātsaw*).”

In addition, the intent for LMU 17 changed from “protect function of the Upper Indian River wetland complex” to “limit the scale of development within.” It is unclear why the Commission decided to reduce the protection of LMU 17 by several levels to a much less protective designation, despite FNNND’s previous submission. FNNND recommends that the intent of LMU 17 should be to protect all wetlands, and LMU 17 be designated as an SMA.

### **G. Dempster Highway**

The Dempster Highway corridor is recommended for further sub-regional planning, consistent also with the adjacent Peel and North Yukon Plans affecting the Dempster Highway. FNNND is supportive of this recommendation. However, we wish to note that adjacent land use designations will have significant influence on potential outcomes of sub-regional planning for the Dempster corridor and, moreover, implications for land use facilitated by the Dempster Highway.

The Dempster forms a vital transportation link in the North and is a key facet of providing accessibility to particular areas of First Nation territories essential for a variety of land uses, cultural practices and well-being—all linked directly to the exercise of multiple First Nation rights as outlined in the TH and FNNND Final Agreements. The Recommended Plan includes almost no protection designations for LMUs adjacent to the Dempster with the exception of the initial portion of the Tintina Trench and the already existing Tombstone Territorial Park. Adjacent LMUs 6, 7 and 8 are all ISAs which allow industrial development. These LMUs provide the most accessible lands and habitats off the Dempster Highway proximal to both Dawson and Mayo/Stewart Crossing. Ensuring intact landscapes capable of upholding the continued exercise of First Nation rights requires attention to adequate protections for water, habitats, fish and wildlife populations and ecological resilience in the face of significant climate change impacts.

In this spirit, we further reiterate our support for TH’s alternative map which included SMA designation for LMUs 6 and 7.

### **H. Implications for Future Chapter 11 Land Use Planning**

As FNNND initiates its process for Chapter 11 planning in the southern portion of our Traditional Territory, we take great interest and involvement in how bordering land use planning processes set precedents, pave the way, and ultimately influence future planning processes. With respect to LMUs, compatibility of neighbouring designations and their implications for land uses and future management is of particular interest and concern.

With the exception of a small portion of Tintina Trench (LMU 10), most of the land bordering the upcoming land use planning areas in FNNND Traditional Territory are designated an ISA, mostly ISA IV (Clear Creek and Goldfields). These ISAs contemplate ongoing development (including the highest level of development within Clear Creek and bordering the entire lower Stewart River). Compatibility of neighbouring land use designations and management directions is imperative for good planning and when the final DRLUP is signed, it will pave the way for planning to the east.

Our concerns expressed in our submission on the Draft Plan and reiterated here must be understood in the broader context of planning in the Yukon and ensuring the objectives of Chapter 11 can be

met not only now but moving forward. In particular, objectives 11.1.1.3, 11.1.1.4 and 11.1.1.6 are not fully being met in consideration of upcoming planning processes given the current LMU designations along the eastern planning boundary. We therefore reiterate our recommendations for Clear Creek to be subject to a designation of ISA I, Wehr'te (Antimony) to be an SMA and for a specific SMA designation to be afforded the Stewart River corridor.

## **7. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

FNNND is pleased that the Commission has recommended the continuation of the Commission's operations beyond the completion of the Final Recommended Plan pursuant to Chapter 11 of the TH Final Agreement, as well as the establishment of an Implementation Committee within one year.

FNNND has concerns, however, with the lack of specificity and clarity in providing implementation direction to the various bodies. The Recommended Plan relies on future activities and decision-making, including monitoring and sub-regional planning. FNNND is concerned with how these will be implemented effectively and urges the Commission to provide strong and clear language regarding which party will be responsible and the standards that will be required in addressing the many important decisions to be made by future processes. In particular, the Commission should provide clearer and more detailed direction regarding the responsibilities of the Implementation Committee. FNNND further urges the Commission to ensure that implementation matters are guided by the objectives of Chapter 11 of the TH Final Agreement.

The Commission should also consider and ensure that all aspects of the Recommended Plan can be effectively implemented in practice. As outlined in previous sections of this submission, FNNND also has concerns with the efficacy and ability to implement certain parts of the Recommended Plan, such as the 50% fen disturbance threshold. In addition, there is very little in the Recommended Plan regarding how the CE framework will be tracked or how thresholds will be enforced.

FNNND also urges the Commission to explicitly include specific and measurable requirements in the annual reporting requirements. For example, we recommend that climate change be clearly and formally integrated into the annual reporting on plan implementation progress, as well as the 5- and 10-year reviews. While this is alluded to within the Recommended Plan, explicitly identified it will help provide more clarity.

As part of FNNND's Traditional Territory falls within the Dawson Region, implementation of the Plan has direct impacts on FNNND. FNNND is pleased that the Recommended Plan identifies FNNND as an "affected First Nation," and requests that the Parties ensure that FNNND is consulted on and kept up to date on matters of implementation as the Implementation Committee carries out its work.

## **8. PLAN CONFORMITY AND ASSESSMENT**

FNNND endorses the Recommended Plan's recommendation to continue the Commission's activities, including Recommended Action 139 that the Commission be responsible for "conformity checks and representations to YESAB." As we noted in our previous submission on the Draft Plan, verifying whether proposed land uses are in conformity with the Draft Plan and the finalized Plan is critical to fulfilling the very purpose of Chapter 11 Land Use Planning. We recommend that the Commission also explicitly include the recommendation that the Commission be responsible for conformity checks under Section 7.5, "Plan Conformity and Assessment."

## **9. ADEQUATE INTERIM PROTECTION**

FNNND reiterates our call to the Commission to require a mineral staking moratorium and pause on mineral development in the entire Dawson Region until the Plan is fully finalized and adopted. FNNND's position has been clear and consistent: there must be a moratorium on mineral staking and a pause on mineral development until Chapter 11 regional land use planning has been completed for our entire Traditional Territory. The part of our Traditional Territory within the Dawson Region subject to the Draft Plan is no exception.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

FNNND applauds the Commission for its hard work in releasing the Recommended Plan. This is a much-welcomed milestone towards fulfilling the promise of land use planning in Chapter 11 of the Final Agreements.

We thank the Commission for providing this opportunity to provide our comments and feedback on the Recommended Plan. In this age of reconciliation, where the modern-day treaties were intended to serve as an act of reconciliation, and in the 21<sup>st</sup> century where our environmental, political, and legal landscapes have evolved but the cumulative socio-economic effects have not kept pace since the time of signing the modern-day treaties, FNNND expects the Commission to take our recommendations into serious consideration and to address them as it works towards the Final Recommended Plan.

As an "Affected First Nation," our comments and perspectives must be given significant weight. We reserve to the right to be food sovereign, harvesting salmon and caribou as we always have as independent people, therefore we reserve the right to influence policy regimes that serve to protect the habitat upon which our sovereignty relies. We also ask the Commission to keep FNNND engaged and up to date as it continues its work. Thank you for your attention to this matter.





Recommended Plan for the Dawson Region  
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in  
Citizen Consultation Report

*December 20, 2022*

## Table of Contents

Introduction .....	3
Summary .....	4
Protection and Preservation .....	6
<i>Do you support the SMAs identified in the Recommended Plan?</i> .....	6
<i>Are there other areas that should be designated as SMAs?</i> .....	6
Protection in the Dempster Region [LMUs: 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10] .....	7
Economic Development .....	8
<i>What are your thoughts on mining and other economic interests in the region?</i> .....	8
<i>Do you have any comments on the Integrated Stewardship Areas (ISAs)?</i> .....	9
The Importance of Reclamation .....	9
Water .....	10
<i>What are your thoughts on water in the region?</i> .....	10
The Yukon, Klondike, and Stewart River Corridors (LMU 3, 14, 11, 6) .....	10
Salmon .....	11
<i>What does salmon mean to you?</i> .....	11
<i>How can this Land Use Plan better serve salmon?</i> .....	11
Wetlands .....	12
<i>What do wetlands mean to you?</i> .....	12
<i>How can this Land Use Plan better serve wetlands?</i> .....	13
Wildlife .....	13
<i>How can this Land Use Plan better serve caribou?</i> .....	14
Knowledge Transmission and Cultural Continuity .....	15
<i>What changes have you seen on the Landscape?</i> .....	16
Stewardship and Education .....	18
Climate Change .....	18
Plan Implementation .....	19
<i>What Should TH's role be in managing this region?</i> .....	19

## Introduction

The following report includes verbatim comments provided by various Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens on the Recommended Plan for the Dawson Region (Recommended Plan). Collecting this feedback was facilitated by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Implementation staff Katie Fraser and Donna Michon, who strived to ensure citizen voices were accurately and respectfully captured in the broader public engagement phase of this process.

As per the objectives under Chapter 11 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement, it is imperative that the development of a regional land use plan uses the knowledge and traditional experience of Yukon First Nations, as well as promotes our overall well-being. Specifically, for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, this process must recognize and protect our distinct way of life that is based on an economic and spiritual relationship between us and the land.

Between September 7<sup>th</sup> and December 20<sup>th</sup>, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in staff conducted several in person consultation events with citizens, including:

- Consultation Lunch: September 20, 12 pm – 2 pm
- Consultation Lunch: October 18, 2022 12 pm – 2 pm
- Consultation Lunch: October 25, 2022, 12 pm – 2 pm
- Consultation Dinner: November 10 2022, 5 pm – 8 pm

In between in person events, staff met with citizens one on one to talk about the Recommended Plan. In total, roughly 30 citizens have lent their voice and have contributed to the feedback included in this report, however many other citizens have also directly contributed in other ways. The format of each meeting or one on one interview was different depending on the interest of the group or individual. Generally, staff sought responses related to the questions listed in this report, however the questions often varied and for the purposes of this report, they have been simplified. All consultation activities were recorded and transcribed such that the words contained in this report remain true and unaltered.

Citizen feedback has come from a broad demographic (Elders to youth) as well as from a broad range of perspectives on land use. We have not attributed names to each comment in this report, but many have also filled out the online survey or have provided additional letters of support.

Please note that the contents of this package are the words of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens as shared with staff during the consultation events. While citizen's words have not been altered or interpreted by staff, spelling mistakes or incomplete sentences have been fixed when necessary. In these rare instances, parenthesis [] have been added to the words for clarity.

In closing, it is important to remember that we are the original and longstanding caretakers of this land. The words of this report are from the voices of those who have lived in, and cared for, this region on a permanent and fulltime basis. Without proper and heightened consideration of this feedback, the regional land use plan will not meet the objectives of Chapter 11 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement.

## Summary

While this report is broken down into discrete themes, it is important to acknowledge that several overarching common sentiments have emerged from the feedback. To support the interpretation of the data and analysis, we have provided several cross-cutting observations below.

1. The vast majority of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens who participated in this consultation support the identification of additional protected areas in the Dawson planning region. Many identified specific areas that require further protection and preservation, including those LMUs along the Dempster (6, 7, and 8), all portions of key caribou habitat, including the Fortymile Caribou Corridor [LMU 21], and major river systems.

*“More protection, more land. There needs to be more caribou herd migration areas. Waterways should be protected. People and animals should not have to change their ways for industry (mining activity).”*

2. Wetlands hold strong intrinsic value and are necessary habitats for wildlife. Many citizens spoke to the value of wetlands throughout the region and how we must protect all types of wetlands given their overall importance on the landscape.

*“Wetlands, from way back, left for thousands of years for ducks, beaver, muskrats, that kind of wildlife. We left it for them, we didn't mine it. The land is for the beaver, birds and muskrats, the land is going for them, it's gone for them. Whatever wetlands we have left, we should leave for them.”*

3. It is critical that we protect our water resources and our waterways. Many citizens expressed concern for drinking water sources along the Klondike and Yukon rivers, and urged greater protections of these important river systems. Water is life and our collective survival depends on it.

*“Water is very important to everybody. We need water to survive.”*

*“I think it's important to have rivers protected.”*

4. Whether or not the salmon return depends on the habitats they have waiting for them. Many citizens expressed distress over the state of salmon stocks and the impact this has on our culture. They indicate strong connections and parallels between clean water, protecting salmon habitat, and preserving their culture for future generations.

*“And I'm thinking back a few years ago when the young ones were down at first fish. They see how the salmon are caught, how to pull the nets, what to do with them, how to filet, how to smoke, how to dry, then they take the fry, the little fries and they take them up Moosehide Creek and they let them go. So they think they'll come back in seven years and same with the children from daycare taking the fry's and putting them in the Klondike River by the farm. Hoping they come back in seven years. That's why we have to protect our water. If we don't have water, we don't have life.”*

5. The land has changed dramatically, and it is continuing to change. Many citizens talked about places where they no longer hunt or harvest, conveying frustration over changes on the land that were out of their control. Some spoke about the impact a changing landscape has had on our culture overall, and the inability to transfer skills to their own children, such as with the Fortymile caribou herd.

*“I used to trap on the Indian River with my husband. Beautiful, beautiful country. Used to hunt for beaver. Now I go back, I get lost. Where’s the road? So many roads this way, that way, they go around in a circle. They just damage the ground; all they do is look for that yellow thing. Sometimes I get mad when I go over there.”*

*“Growing up and not seeing the 40 Mile herd and now being able to see the full herd and for my son to be able to see that now, we need to protect it.”*

6. Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in citizens are key caretakers of this land and must be treated as equal decision makers for this region. Many citizens spoke about the need for more guardianship programs and opportunities for citizens to directly participate in the management of resources. Similarly, citizens spoke about the need for Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Government to see the value in all resources, including minerals, and the need to take a balanced approach to planning for the future of Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in economic opportunities.

*“TH needs more of a say in the land use, to protect it for future generations to hunt, harvest, do other traditional uses and recreational activities on the land. TH should be partnering with YG on all the lands to govern.”*

It is clear from the feedback that Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in citizens see themselves as ultimately responsible for caring for the land in a way that respects other animals, like caribou, moose, and salmon. Many shared views that reflected a different way of viewing the world, one in which humans are part of the environment rather than separate from it.

## Protection and Preservation

### *Do you support the SMAs identified in the Recommended Plan?*

- 34% [SMA] is not enough.
- We need more [protection]. At least 75%.
- At least 75% to be protected, at least. We've given up enough. Give us something back. We gave you something, now give us something. Maybe our animals and fish might come back?
- More protection, more land. There needs to be more caribou herd migration areas. Waterways should be protected. People and animals should not have to change their ways for industry (mining activity).
- We need more land for traditional uses to see and use without industry, to also protect the animals and waters. We need to protect the boreal forests because with mining, spruce trees don't get a chance to grow because the other trees take over quickly. The mining is disturbing the lands to grow naturally.
- We need to protect more of our land.
- Protecting our ecological values and making sure we are all on the same page. Our land, our animals. It's all the same.
- What about the other land that is not protected? How much will we let go - when there is no more land to protect?
- We need laws in place to protect these lands, and [Plans] that cannot be changed easily, for fish and wildlife. These districts need to stay forever. If we get rid of everything, we'll be in a sorry mess.
- This land was here before any of this. We need to make sure that the percentage 34% is [actually] protected and [we need to add] wetlands and areas impacted by climate change. We have to be stewards and protect it more.
- Water needs to be majorly protected. Invasive species, more needs to be done on the invasive species, they're going up the Dempster. We have to get it right away. It's coming into my mom's backyard.

### *Are there other areas that should be designated as SMAs?*

- 60 Mile, Indian River, 40 Mile, Yukon River: all need more protection.
- Temporary withdrawal areas [LMUs 7, 3, 21, 17] should be fully protected.
- Don't touch the Dempster and 40 Mile, they can have the goldfields.
- The current map should be more protected, it should include the 40 Mile Caribou corridor [LMU 21], Matson Creek – uplands undisturbed, 60 Mile and Indian River [LMU 17].
- LMU 21 [Fortymile Caribou Corridor]- Why is it not protected? It should be green.
- I noticed you had protected areas, and this white area of the goldfields [LMU 11]. Well, the Forty-mile herd comes all the way across, this is a big area, they consume, so why is there no protection in the goldfields? That's real important for the Forty-mile herd. You have to redesign the map, because it doesn't make sense to me. You know you have thousands of animals coming over and crossing the Yukon and they head back in February but there is no protection in there.
- Horseshoe [LMU 2]. That should be protected.

- On the map, number 21 where it says Fortymile Caribou Corridor; why is that not protected by the green as well if that's where the caribou are going? I think that should be green.
- We want to protect those caribou areas [LMU 15, 21, 19]. It's very important. They need to be connected together.
- Historical trails through unprotect areas, we had trails that went from Moosehide, to Dawson to Tetlin and Northway. If there is a route overgrown, have them protected as historical values for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people.

#### Protection in the Dempster Region [LMUs: 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10]

- I know that Cache Creek there, east of Cache Creek that there is a mine exploration project going on right now. It's not very far from Cache Creek too. And from my understanding it's a five-year exploration program. And if that develops into a mine project there, they're going to want to do a proposed road right to the Dempster Highway. Which is slightly north of Cache Creek. And once you allow the mining project to happen like that, people are going to move up the highway. And its also going to move way up into the Ogilvie River area, north of the Tombstone. So, if that Silver47 goes ahead, wide open country. And there's not much can happen, not much we can say to halt that exploration program. My concern is they want to build an eighteen-kilometre access road to the Dempster and cross the Klondike River. Now are they going to have a bridge there or? And how will they get their fuel into the camp, will they fly it in or a winter road that brings fuel in. I don't think it should be recommended if it's carrying fuel in. At least there is some protection for the park.
- I think strongly that this Dawson Planning Commission should really work at saying let's keep fifty kilometres on either side of Dempster Highway clear of mining, mining of any sort, mineral development of any sort. Is the horseshoe [LMU 2] TH lands? That should be green and protected. Because north of there is there's that oil and gas rig up there, they're going to fire up this winter for seismic. And I'm pretty sure they're going to get close to that number, number two there. The horseshoe parcel there.
- Ogilvie is another one too, the Ogilvie headwaters and below that Cache Creek area should be protected too.
- They should extend the protection from the Peel to the east and all the way down to the park boundary. Lots of good country there.
- If they choose more development to occur in these areas [the Dempster region], the animals will be pushed in different directions and there will be different migrating. It's untouched, it's their natural land.
- East of Dempster, from what I saw on the on that YESAB website, was there was exploration there too [referring to Antimony Cr. claim block] [LMU 7]. I don't know if that's still going on or not. See, now you got two potential projects [Silver47 and Antimony] and that might develop into a mining project. Now they want roads that come in there and that area is pretty rugged. That area, well, I don't see why they don't stay in number eleven goldfields. Why go up north? Just spoil our country.
- Right from the top of the Dempster highway should be protected and all the way down.
- Most of that [the Dempster region] should be green and protected. Especially by the waterways.

- The Dempster Highway is homeland to Gwich'in people, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and other First Nations. They hunted and traveled there long before miners came, long before. So those land should be protected 50 km or more on each side of the Dempster highway.
- For the caribou and the animals that live up the Dempster - One gallon of gas is equal to twenty-two pounds of pollution. So, just imagine all the traffic that is going on the Dempster Highway alone, the amount of traffic back and forth and the amount of pollution, that's keeping the caribou away for one thing. I remember one of our old chiefs saying that if that highway comes through, we're not going to see the caribou anymore. And it's true. There is caribou there, but we don't see it in the thousands and thousands of caribou like we used to.
- [The land use plan for LMUs 6, 7, and 8] makes me really, really angry. How much land did we give up in land claims? And now they want to take away more? How much more do they want? You know that makes me really mad. Enough is enough. How much more do you want? They want more and more and more. They want to destroy more and more and more. Enough is enough. Start listening to us.
- So, protect as much land as possible, going way up the Dempster and all the way down into the map, whatever can be protected. Enough is enough.
- We used to spend a lot of time on the Dempster, going back and forth, when my mother was still here. Quite a few years now, we don't travel as much, not because we don't like it but because of winter storms. That's the only thing. We don't mind the long drive; it doesn't bother us. I can say where did that mountain come up from or where did that lake appear from. We can go up and back a million times. Different landscape, I never get tired of it.
- There is no protection North from Dempster corner. Should be absolutely no mining!
- None for areas North of Tombstone Park should be developed. There should be a recommended 50 km protective corridor either side of the highway – no mining, no oil/gas.
- Antimony: there is economic value in mining there, not against miners (there are good and bad miners) but they need to do the reclamation work and we may need to make compromises.
- I don't want the Dempster touched, needs to be protected.
- I know many tourists have said keep the Dempster Highway as is. Do not let any development happen. These lands are one of the most pristine we have seen in the world. Many of these tourists come back year after year to enjoy the clean air, water and land and to enjoy the beauty and quiet. I agree with the tourists.
- Horseshoe [LMU 2] should be conservation zone for the caribou in winter. Two hundred caribou winter here, and it goes down to fifty by April. Mountain tops is where they feed. Trucks on the highway scare the caribou down into the deep snow, so the caribou are not getting enough sustenance. Should be a conservation area for the caribou. Also, limit the caribou hunt.

## Economic Development

### *What are your thoughts on mining and other economic interests in the region?*

- I think all resources are good water, caribou, moose, fish, wildlife, mining. Everything in moderation – I think our role of TH Government needs to be fair and balanced as well, instead of one sided.
- It seems like The Commission is valuing the claims over all the rest. Whether I go out or not on the lands, my rights are the same.



- To protect all these areas is good but we all have to co-exist together. We need to find how many resources are we giving up. Our government [TH] needs to take care of our resources. In these designated protected areas – how much are we losing? These resources need to last forever, if we are shelving all the resources now and they can't be touched in the future, what will we do? These resources need to support our government infrastructure.
- We need to look after the land and have proper stewardship and guidelines, we can take care of it all. Subject to review, how much are we willing to give away, we need the resources.
- We have to be careful of [locking up] important resources. We need them. We don't want to sacrifice future generation's needs; we have to co-exist together.
- People have to jump through hoops to get through YESAB, and it doesn't get approved anyway or it takes the government forever to approve anything. If YESAB is doing its job, then everything should be covered for protections. I think everyone should be satisfied with the process as it's pretty tight already.
- [Miners] got to start thinking: thinking about mining. Everything was put here by Mother Earth. Everything was made by Mother Earth. Plants, you name it, water, you name it. Whatever we have here, what we supposed to do with it, look at it, how nice it grows, nice flowers, nice berries, nice moose, nice animals. Now, it's not the same no more.
- While I don't know the exact numbers of active mining in the Yukon, I would say mining activities are also contributing to pollution and the number of mines is growing. I wish I could be given certainty that mines would be environmentally friendly and keep the lands clean including water and air but the certainty will never be there as some things are just out of our control and sometimes mistakes are made that do not adhere to safety or danger, in this case to the land as has been seen in BC some years ago. There was huge destruction to the lands and water of BC First Nations.
- On another note, we should protect [land]. I worked in a mine last year and I went for walks, and I can't believe the resources, it was so beautiful out there. I'm looking at the natural plants out there and a person could actually live out here, just on what's there as it is. I thought it was amazing, what we have, in the Yukon. I wouldn't have known that if I was never out there.

#### *Do you have any comments on the Integrated Stewardship Areas (ISAs)?*

- The green [SMAs] are protected but what about the other ones [ISAs]? We need to know more about the other sections and how much each are different. [We need] more conversations on protected areas, but also more conversations on the [ISAs]. Don't forget those areas.
- There should be clarity of how much is high and low [in the ISAs]. How much land is disturbed and how many roads are allowed?

#### *The Importance of Reclamation*

- Everything that has been mined, has to be able to grow again.
- Can we grow food in the [mine] reclamation areas? Test out rice, get cattle - we need to be able to feed people. We rely so heavily on the highway. We must think about it in the future. There is going to be instant conflict over our food resources.
- We need more protection. If there's a way that...you know they move from one area to the next. While they're opening a new area can they use, because you know they have to take off

the overburden right, can they backtrack it and then start their reclamation behind themselves? So, there is something for them to move through. Can it be something like that?

- Mining, some miners are very bad, I have nothing against mining but there are some bad miner's who leave junk behind. Too much action in one section, they need to cleanup after themselves.

## Water

### *What are your thoughts on water in the region?*

- We don't get any salmon anymore. How much mining activity do we have in the Yukon? This is destroying the water. The water is just murky and muddy, we used to drink out of the river. We never distilled it, nor did we boil it, and I'm still sitting here talking to you. It didn't kill me then when I drank out of the water, out of the river. So now, I wouldn't even wash my clothes in the river. And why is the river all muddy and dirty? I'm thinking it's from all the mining that's going on in the Yukon. All the sediments and all the oil and gas going into the river.
- Water is very important to everybody. We need water to survive.
- What's going on right now [with our water]? What kind of water are we drinking? Where is our water intake, below or above the dump. All that stuff is leaching into our water. What about our grayling? That's why wetlands are important. There's a little bit of wetlands they pass through to get to the river but the tailing piles, it just sieves right through. There are not enough wetlands to filter it before it gets to the river. Do they test it? How often do they test it?
- We don't drink that tap water. People get water from Wolf Creek, it's good water but I wonder what's in the back of it, you know what I mean, it could be mining. Someone should take a plane or helicopter and see if anything in that creek. It draws from different area. Moosehide the same thing, look at Moosehide Creek, people could mine it but our membership could mine with shovel, they can't take big machine in there. That's for protection of the watershed, but you have how many little draw come in. You have to look at the draw, what I mean is, okay maybe another area come in with water, where does it come from? That spring water, where does it come from? Head waters, or out of the rock or the ground, that's what they call spring water. And it's really important now today.
- I think it's important to have rivers protected.
- We are losing our waterways - everything is going [to be] different now. We need to have a sit around the campfire, we need to hear from everybody what's happening with their lifestyle. A big circle table and feast to talk about everything. That's how we are going to understand each other. Just hearing people talk, that helps.

### *The Yukon, Klondike, and Stewart River Corridors (LMU 3, 14, 11, 6)*

- We are losing water. Water levels are going down in some areas. [Elders] say that some lakes are drying up. Around the Yukon and more around Old Crow. So, why not save the Yukon River before it dries up, before there is nothing left to save? It might happen in our lifetime if we continue to do what we are doing today, [like] mining and what not. We may some day lose it.
- Yukon River needs more protection, water and creek overflow is getting bad. In the springtime there will be land changes.
- [The Yukon River] is important too. In the olden days they used to throw everything on the ice, everything. And when they had that old dump down there in the corner (north end), down

there. The hospital supply, everything, needles, everything from that hospital they dump it in that old dump site. Where does it go? In the river. The Chief told us in Moosehide, “don’t drink that Yukon water, you drink that Moosehide Creek water”. That was long time ago, I was only 13, 14 year old.

- Fortymile River, that’s where people fish for white fish, and grayling. But they don’t go all the way up cause vicious water, strong water, your boat could tip over, you have to go up river. Us, we just go a little ways and just get one or two.
- Klondike water used to be clean and drinkable. Water is very important; we need it to survive.
- They should protect [the water] from day one. Look at the Klondike. How many houses do we have from Henderson Corner to Rock Creek to C4 land and in between. In the summertime if you come down that Klondike River, you’re going to see little tent here, little tent there where people camp, you don’t even know they are there. That’s in the summer and then you get these tourist people come down the river in rubber raft and they float down in our drinking water. And then there is septic tanks, how many of them got that. That’s why I hardly drink the town water, especially in the springtime. You get all the water off the ground, different pond area, the dump. That dump, the seepage it goes down, what’s going to protect us, all it’s got is ground gravel and rocks. The Klondike used to run [before dredges] on the other side, not this side.

## Salmon

### *What does salmon mean to you?*

- We used to get a lot of salmon way back when I was a little kid across [the river] over at Tr’ochëk, we used to stay there. A lot of salmon, my dad made a fish wheel, and we got a lot of salmon. As we grew older, we went down there and cut the fish open and gut ‘em out and all that. We learned all that stuff, we learned it all, we could still do it, some things but we were learning 5 or 6 years old, and then they take us away. Our language and all that stuff, So, yeah, I seen all of it happen, when you’re a little kid you watch first and you start learning. Then they tell you do not do that stuff, yeah, but I still got it in my head. I guess a person can always relearn stuff, it’s up to the person.

### *How can this Land Use Plan better serve salmon?*

- The Yukon River needs protection. Give it protection.
- Spawning grounds for the fish - that’s an area you really have to protect, the Klondike, because those fish come all the way from Beaufort Sea and have to fight their way up just to lay their eggs. I’ve brought it up before, something really needs to be done such as putting signs up in the area. Any area, there is a lot of changes. Klondike, we need to keep the boats off there when the fish are spawning.
- The fish started coming back at Haines Junction way or Klukshu River last year, and they were not sure how it happened, or why it’s happening. It’ takes years for them to grow and go out to sea. What happened to them out there? Is it the big trawlers or disease?
- I have a concern about the Yukon River, Klondike River, and Stewart River corridors, and I believe they need to be protected from large ocean-going vehicles such as the Yukon Queen, which ran a successful business that was American owned, and they ran on our river system, and they didn’t have to abide by the inland water act or the rules or the regulations. And we lost a lot of salmon, we’d see them all washed up on the beach and 8 ft tidal wave every time that

boat came by or went down the river, who knows how fast they would be going. Because they didn't have to abide by our laws, and it took us a long time to shut that down. I feel that when you really want to talk about protecting the rivers that should be taken into consideration that no large boats, tour operations should not be able to operate in such a fashion where it causes corrosion on our riverbanks and death to our small salmon.

- On water protection on Fifteen Mile, Twelve Mile, Forty Mile, Klondike, Indian, those rivers are salmon bearing rivers and we made an effort to see if we could put a stop to the jetboats from going up the Klondike when salmon spawning is happening but apparently, through the waters act and fisheries and federal government say nothing can be done about that. I don't believe that. Once this plan goes through, we have jurisdiction over how we navigate certain rivers that are salmon bearing so maybe we have to investigate or put a little pressure on the feds to have this plan within reason that during spawning on these rivers to have no jet boat on the Klondike, or 15-mile, 12 mile 40 mile. Jet boats cruise on very low water and disturb the eggs, they run over them, and the eggs get washed away. That's something to think about. That's one of my concerns.
- Salmon needs to be protected, still see fishing down river, it's sad. Fish are important to our family, grew up on the river, and fished lots and made dry salmon.
- One of the things we have the biggest problem with the salmon on the Yukon River is at the delta where it meets the ocean and forever and ever the American's have just been overfishing this area and just having their way with the salmon and it doesn't seem like anything we do in Washington and lobbying against it has any means to us. They don't hear our voice. I don't think they ever will hear our voice and if they do they won't ever act on what we ask for because today we've suffered such astronomical numbers of lost salmon and about 80% of that is from the Americans and we need a stronger voice in Washington.

## Wetlands

### *What do wetlands mean to you?*

- Wetlands, from way back, left for thousands of years for ducks, beaver, muskrats, that kind of wildlife. We left it for them, we didn't mine it. The land is for the beaver, birds and muskrats, the land is going for them, it's gone for them. Whatever wetlands we have left, we should leave for them.
- The wetlands are becoming filthy. When you drive along and see some of those wetlands look oily and dirty looking wetlands. I feel sorry for the ducks and cranes landing there. What are they eating?
- Wetlands are there for the animals.
- Wetlands are there for the animals, food for the caribou, moose, beaver, muskrat. There is a reason the wetlands are there.
- What's going on right now? What kind of water are we drinking? Where is our water intake, below or above the dump. All that stuff is leaching into our water. What about our grayling? That's why wetlands are important. There's a little bit of wetlands they pass through to get to the river but the tailing piles, it just sieves right through. There are not enough wetlands to filter it before it gets to the river. Do they test it? How often do they test it?

- Some year back there was a plan from the Alaskans that wanted to build a railway [through LMUs 18 and 19]. It was right through wetlands. This area North Ladue is full of undisturbed wetlands.
- Up the Dempster there used to be wetland, it dry out in certain spots. You can tell when they dry out, the wetland. You can tell when it dried out. It's really important right now, I don't care what the miners say, if you go over to Sixtymile. These old timers used to use shovel, not loader not grader. They had good life. They don't damage the earth. Now you go over there, it's not the same. Big piles of rock looks like a mountain. You go up those different draws.
- [Wetlands] are really important for any animal. They come they drink that water. Bird, they come drink that water. Beaver, the most important animal.
- I used to trap on the Indian River with my husband. Beautiful, beautiful country. Used to hunt for beaver. Now I go back, I get lost. Where's the road? So many roads this way, that way, they go around in a circle. They just damage the ground; all they do is look for that yellow thing. Sometimes I get mad when I go over there.

#### *How can this Land Use Plan better serve wetlands?*

- All wetlands should be protected in the region. There is a lot of animals in there that are affected by activity. The animals are in the wetlands all the time and birds always flying in. I don't know much about it, but I know it's good.
- There should be no mining in wetlands.
- The Indian River should be protected.
- I want to see waterways + wetlands protected - We need to protect our water. I want to protect 100% of fens! Fens matter. We should have had our heritage areas in Indian River protected. Don't break up the wetlands into bogs and swamps. It's all wetlands.
- Protect the wetlands. Water is life. It gives life to the animals, the plants, to our citizens, everybody. I want to make sure the all the wetlands are protected. The rivers, Yukon, Klondike, gives us fish, our food sources is there. I want to make sure it's protected for future generations.

#### Wildlife

- Once you deplete the area of all your wildlife, it's just like if you over trap and area. If you trap and area for 2 to 3 years straight and take 400 or 500 animals of course that areas going to be dead for a while. Sometimes, you know when things get hard we depend on those animals to be there. So, we have to take that into consideration and curbing the hunting aspect of our animals in our traditional territory.
- There are a bunch of butterfly species in the Tombstone Park. We have guest speakers that come all the time and one speaker talked about all the butterflies in that area. Butterflies will only go to certain flowers and those flowers have to be there for the butterflies to be there. So, they have ecological value.
- Beaver, the most important animal. It's really important, you don't shoot them all. You try not to shoot the female. You take one out of each pond, like miner's close by around here, maybe Bonanza or Hunker.
- Angelcomb Mountain, Sheep Mount [in Tombstone Park], there is sheep there that are protected, [but] there are other user groups that take groups up there [during] certain times of the year when the sheep have babies. [This] puts the herd at risk. If the sheep get scared and

run and the babies get scared, they could fall. I wanted to do something about it and I basically had three supervisors and if I wanted to do something, I would ask one and there always seemed to be a barrier from the YG. Elders went up there to block access [to protect the sheep].

- We should make sure salt licks are protected for the animals.

#### *How can this Land Use Plan better serve caribou?*

- We want to protect those caribou areas [LMU 15, 21, 19]. It's very important. They need to be connected together.
- We should find out where the herds migrate and what roads they cross and how many are in the herds. How many times they go through the area. This is what we need to know in order to protect caribou.
- Mining will disturb the caribou herds. Too much mining and ruining the land.
- The Dempster herds need more protection. People killing off the [caribou] bulls. Leaders killed and hunted, and they need to let the bulls pass and teach the future bull to migrate further north.
- If ground is moved, mining or anything, grazing areas of caribou is affected by mining, they will move on and not stay. They'll move on to Alaska.
- Animals should be where they are supposed to be. All caribou land should be protected with corridors. Migration of animals can change direction and interaction of other animals when human activity such as mining and exploration changes the lands and the water ways.
- Human activity effects migration patterns of animals and caribou. These areas need to protect the wildlife and herds in these areas for future generations.
- LMU 21 [Fortymile Caribou Corridor] - Why is not protected? It should be green.
- I noticed you had protected areas, and this white area of the goldfields. Well, the Forty-mile herd comes all the way across, this is a big area, they consume, so why is there no protected in the goldfields. That's real important for the Forty-mile herd. You have to redesign the map, because it doesn't make sense to me. You know you have thousands of animals coming over and crossing the Yukon and they head back in February but there is no protection in there.
- On the map, number 21 where it says Fortymile Caribou Corridor; why is that not protected by the green as well if that's where the caribou are going? I think that should be green.
- I notice in the last few years and I'm talking 20 years, I've hunted on the top of mountains of the 60 Mile area, the borders, and all through the Clinton Creek area. Once YG opened up the [40 Mile] caribou hunt, there's a lot of people from Alberta, and Alaska, and we're going to have to put a curb on that somehow.
- In 2017 went to Fairbanks and it really opened my eyes. When it was time for the migration towards this area and the caribou going towards Eagle, Alaska. It was eye opening with the Feds telling them how to hunt. When they are coming towards the border, within 2 km, the caribou are getting slaughtered just like when you see it up the Dempster, so many people come up from different areas. Where are our traditional lands and who's allowed to hunt in our traditional territories? I just didn't like the way they slaughtered them, and I mentioned it with the Feds in Fairbank. These trigger-happy people and they got to cross the Taylor Highway to make their way and they try to tell people to not shoot them.

## Knowledge Transmission and Cultural Continuity

- We don't get any salmon anymore. How much mining activity do we have in the Yukon? This is destroying the water. The water is just murky and muddy, we used to drink out of the river. We never distilled it, nor did we boil it, and I'm still sitting here talking to you. It didn't kill me then when I drank out of the water, out of the river. So now, I wouldn't even wash my clothes in the river. And why is the river all muddy and dirty? I'm thinking it's from all the mining that's going on in the Yukon. All the sediments and all the oil and gas going into the river.
- Somewhere in the [Plan] I read something about trails, "Protect our language and the trails". That's really important, I was really happy to see that. [There are] trails from Eagle, Alaska, through the Dempster and goes up to Old Crow and Fort McPherson. [Elders] talk about trails, how they walk, they didn't have ATV's, 4 wheelers, skidoos and trucks. They walked on foot and later they traveled by dog team. Big, big country. So those trails are really really important. We should be bringing those trails and roads back to surface and making all that land green rather than destroying with mining.
- I would rather see [the Region] for use by Non-Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens for their own healing ways, cultural camps, harvesting, programming, research, education, archeology/anthropology digs and finds and so on.
- [We need] more opportunity for culture camps.
- I think all Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in lands is important to preserve for the benefit of everyone which includes Non-Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens. We have been known to share and to help one another. By sharing our First Nations culture from yesterday, today and tomorrow, we are saying how important these lands mean to our way of life in surviving before settlers came and how it still provides for us.
- I just wanted to make a comment again about the water, like I said water is life. And I'm thinking back a few years ago when the young ones were down at first fish. They see how the salmon are caught, how to pull the nets, what to do with them, how to filet, how to smoke, how to dry, then they take the fry, the little frys and they take them up Moosehide Creek and they let them go. So they think they'll come back in seven years and same with the children from daycare taking the fry's and putting them in the Klondike River by the farm. Hoping they come back in seven years. That's why we have to protect our water. If we don't have water, we don't have life.
- We need to teach the children how to survive, to collect and harvest food to survive. Those with skills to teach.
- I used to trap on the Indian River with my husband. Beautiful, beautiful country. Used to hunt for beaver. Now I go back, I get lost. Where's the road? So many roads this way, that way, they go around in a circle. They just damage the ground; all they do is look for that yellow thing. Sometimes I get mad when I go over there.
- Where's all our berry patches and where do we hunt the caribou and moose? We don't talk about our berry patches. If we do, then people will go to our berry patches. If we use the land those kinds of things show that if our families and our ancestors used that land, then it shows we belong to the land and land belongs to us.

- Growing up and not seeing the 40 Mile herd and now being able to see the full herd and for my son to be able to see that now, we need to protect it. It shows that there was good conservation done and we need proper stewardship.
- Many traditional areas of hunter are overhunted by out of towners and the locals get no harvest. Plus, we must travel through lots of developed areas to hunt in places with minimal impact and have to go farther and farther out.
- I lived on the land with my parents before being taken away to residential school. The foods from the land were very tasty and in abundance. Now today because of pollution, these foods do not taste the same anymore. Foods are almost tasteless. You will only know this if you lived on the land when the land and air and waters were clean, free of contaminants. As some elders in Environmental meetings some years ago in Whitehorse, lakes and rivers are drying up
- We want to protect some land. Not only for animals but for our own enjoyment too. We may not go out hunting but still that is our well-being. Land is our health. Like my mother said the land is my grocery store and Percy Henry said that the land is my university, that's where he learns. That's where we heal. What in those statements do they not understand? I'm sure they heard them before.
- Tr'ochëk is important for our family. We grew up there and fished there. We collected berries and grew gardens. Then we were moved off the land and into a small house for our big family.

#### *What changes have you seen on the Landscape?*

- We get a lot of snow here, so we get a lot of chemicals and pollutants falling down. Which goes into the ground and comes up from the ground in the springtime and we eat, the animals eat, and we eat the animals and now today the caribou, moose, berries taste different for me. It does not taste the same as when I was a kid growing up on the land. Back then foods were delicious and now there is no taste to it. Thanks to economy and greed our food is no longer the same. Berries taste way different.
- Too many changes to the landscape, drought, no wildlife.
- I never see any animals lately, except the odd squirrel.
- [Have seen] harvesting changes on the Indian River and Chandindu – no fishing – no salmon (12 Mile).
- Used to hunt in the goldfields but now no animals out there or if they are, the miners get them.
- Moving roads for miners is a big thing. I've seen miner roads moved and this effects animal activity. The human activity is scaring away wildlife. The Yukon River has changed a lot over my short life, and I've seen years when it dried way too much and years when there is too much water. This is due to climate change, but we are huge contributors to climate change. Mining also effects water ways, disturbing creeks and moving them and this effects the ecological systems.
- When you fly out of Dawson, and you look at the creeks where they mine and it looks like a city. That's how it's starting to look over by the Sixty Mile. Reclamation is very important after mining.
- You used to be able to use the goldfields for traditional uses and hunting and now there is so much activity and land disturbance that the animals are sparse and the berries with gone or over picked.



- About three years ago, I went up to California Creek with my brother. Up the creek they put a road in. They started a mining company, and they were up the creek from us. This was Discovery Day weekend, so they shut that camp down on the Friday and the creek where we are, where our camp is, that creek was muddy, it was silty and this creek where we fish for grayling. It was muddy and silty, it was thick. And then by Sunday when we were ready to go that creek was almost clear, but they were coming back to start up their mining activities again.
- I notice in the last few years and I'm talking 20 years, I've hunted on the top of mountains of the 60 Mile area, the borders, and all through the Clinton Creek area. Once YG opened up the [40 Mile] caribou hunt, there's a lot of people from Alberta, and Alaska, and we're going to have to put a curb on that somehow. If you get four or five hunters at one time. Animals can't sustain that you know. We won't have any animals left. Once you shoot out an area, say hypothetically you shoot 400 moose, it takes years and years for that ground to recover, for the moose to recover.
- Up the Dempster, I've seen a lot of change working up the Dempster with Highways.
- Born and raised in Dawson City, I've seen the climate changed, the weather has changed in the past two years, 2020-2022. The weather has changed. Now we have landslides, water changes, the river, people having to cross the river. The mining. I'd say more the animals. Migrating animals from the north flying over. I feel sorry for them because the weather blows them off patterns. So used to flying home and now they get confused. Everything has change. Moose populations have gone down. People take the bulls. Dempster there is a lot of change.
- Where people used to hunt, last year, for two years now I count how many boat with moose, last summer there was 14. I got people different places, I have people on the Sixty Mile, Indian River, up the Dempster, Fortymile, not too much around Dawson or Moosehide. I have friends that look out. You could see the horns in the boat and truck back up, they throw moose in and away they go. This year another one, that's fourteen. We got to do something about that too.
- I liked the [trapping] life. Get everything ready and go early the next morning and come back about 3 or 4. Bring everything in, thaw it out, next day we flesh it all out. It makes lots of work but that's kind of life you like. At that time fur was a good price but now, they want ten dollar for marten! All that work you have to do, take that paws out and everything. You gotta make sure you do it the right way. And they want ten dollars for it? It's too cheap, for the gas and oil, you name it, for skidoo.
- Sometimes you see moose, sometime you don't, lately, down [river towards Fortymile]. Before they used to cross back and forth at Twelvemile or Fifteenmile.
- [Speaking about travelling on the river] What a change, what a change though through my lifetime to now. How people do different things, how they talk.
- Mining is getting so bad out [in the Goldfields, LMU 11]. There are hardly any animals out there. Well, the odd moose may travel through there but will get caught by miners.
- If you get four or five hunters at one time. Animals can't sustain that you know. We won't have any animals left. Once you shoot out an area, say hypothetically you shoot 400 moose, it takes years and years for that ground to recover, for the moose to recover.
- I used to trap on the Indian River with my husband. Beautiful, beautiful country. Used to hunt for beaver. Now I go back, I get lost. Where's the road? So many roads this way, that way, they go around in a circle. They just damage the ground; all they do is look for that yellow thing. Sometimes I get mad when I go over there.

## Stewardship and Education

- There's a lot happening in the world today. A lot of famine, different changes and I strongly believe it's because of us. We're not looking after the land; the land is dirty. Not only us, but around the world, it's because of greed and economy.
- I know it's not talking about Land Use but it is talking about Land Use, how we used the land, how we enjoy it.
- We consider all our land [to be] everything: the land, water, air, it's all part of us.
- We need to plant more trees in the goldfields.
- We all need to work together. Not just governments but communities. We need education and more interaction from the Elder's and youth.
- We need to look after the land and have proper stewardship and guidelines, we can take care of it all. Subject to review, how much are we willing to give away, we need the resources.
- Once you deplete the area of all your wildlife, it's just like if you over trap and area. If you trap and area for 2 to 3 years straight and take 400 or 500 animals of course that areas going to be dead for a while. Sometimes, you know when things get hard we depend on those animals to be there. So, we have to take that into consideration and curbing the hunting aspect of our animals in our traditional territory.
- There is so much struggle between governments on lands, water and resources. Rather than fighting on how much lands go to who, I think all governments should start thinking of ways of keeping the lands, water, air clean and doing your part in combatting climate change and making huge changes on how mines will operate to seriously mitigate damages. I am not interested in hearing "Yes, we will keep your lands clean" and "Yes, we will hire First Nations". Many times this has not happened. How will we know if they will keep the lands clean if we allow mining especially in sensitive areas where there are still some habitats and animals.
- What I've always asked for it and talked about, is that we need more stewardship on the land. We have hands on the ground, boots on the ground so to speak right now but for the amount of area, amount of work, and scope of projects that you can get involved in, it takes a lot of personnel. It takes a pretty big department which would mean you'd have to a bigger budget. Maybe this is the reason why we don't have lots of stewardship or maybe, I know it's not a lack of people interested in being land stewards. There's a lot of people that are interested in it. I think it just that we don't have funding or we haven't tried to pursue it anymore or looked at it but that's one of the things we need most of out on the land, is more feet on the ground paying attention to what's happening, walking around with their ticket book and handing out infractions. Don't be scared of giving somebody a ticket, right them up, or give them a warning. But right now, there is a lot of wild west actions going on out there that we don't see, so I think we need more people involved.

## Climate Change

- Climate change is playing a big part in [salmon impacts] too. We traveled up the Dempster and I was looking around and there was a lot of ground water coming up. A lot more than I've ever seen. There is going to be a lot of ground slumping, so if they do any mining up there, it doesn't matter where - There is going to be more damage. There's already a lot of land slumping out there.

- Climate change has changed animal behaviour and they don't go where they used to.
- Not much we can do about climate change, but we must be able to survive and learn things to survive and teach our children. We need to take the people out on the land, so see what is out there, what they can eat, where to find water, where to find what we need.
- Berry picking, the season was late. Berry pick is affected by climate change, not ready when they are supposed to be.
- [I use the land doe cultural uses and harvesting], like picking berries and other cultural uses. I have seen changes from Top of the World to up the Dempster. Climate change means land changes and changes to animal habitat.
- Everything needs to be included - Things are changing. Not the same as the Gold Rush.
- The land will show you that change is going to come.
- Economy and climate change is playing a big role in our landscape changes, almost 100% negative changes endangering animals, plants, fish, medicine, water, air. There is almost nothing we could do about climate change unless the big companies of the world stop pumping pollution made up of chemicals into the air.

## Plan Implementation

### *What Should TH's role be in managing this region?*

- Obligations under the Final Agreements' - Look in there; It's all in there already. We should be following it! 'Our past leaders negotiated our Final Agreement in order to ensure that the health of the land and waters. Our Final Agreement is legally binding under the Canadian Constitution. We expect that to be honoured.' - All our wise old elders, all that they did for us.
- Need F.N. to assist in managing [the region].
- TH should have full ownership of the land, water, and air. We should be saying what can and cannot be done.
- Like the Haida Gwaii, we should have full control from the bottom to the top.
- The orange areas [ISAs], the Government has the say? Will TH still have to be consulted?
- TH should have the right to have a say in what happens on the land.
- TH needs more of a say in the land use, to protect it for future generations to hunt, harvest, do other traditional uses and recreational activities on the land. TH should be partnering with YG on all the lands to govern.
- More protection and more say from TH in Implementation and governing. We need land guardians.
- Maybe this is how "Environmental Monitors" get permanent jobs too, working [in the region]. Because the Conservation Officers have their own areas and if they need that back up because Conservation Officers have the law on their side to give tickets and stuff like that. We'd be the back up for Conservation Officer. We'd be meter maids of the land. Then we'd have the back up of the Conservations Officers to get the real stuff done you know. I could see something like that.
- [TH] has to actually to do the studies on the flora and fauna. You take a one metre by one metre area. It's awesome too because you're on the land. I love it, being on the land. There were some tough days when you're climbing up mountain sides.

- For implementation, citizen consultation or citizen committee sessions, ask environmental monitors, ask the lands officers, people who work out there. Don't make it too technical.
- Our government [TH] needs to take care of our resources.
- I think all resources are good water, caribou, moose, fish, wildlife, mining. Everything in moderation – I think our role of TH Government needs to be fair and balanced as well, instead of one sided.
- I do think Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in needs to be fair and balanced. Everybody, some of us are miner's, some of us are truckers, we all co-exist, we cannot work without each other.
- [we have to] curb the hunting practices. YG don't give a damn. We have to step in there and say 'hey, that's enough, no more tickets, otherwise, we are not sharing or working together as one. If they're going to make all kinds of money off of wildlife like their doing, it's just coming to no good. We all have to learn to do things, we have to get after them. That's what our government has to do.
- I worked the Lands Department for x amount of years and I come across a lot of situations in our traditional territory and on our settlement lands where there's infractions happening all the time. And it's a big area to go through and three people can't do it all, and that's a sad thing. So, as elder REDACTED mention we might have to increase the budget somehow and finds funds to get a couple more land stewards. You know whether you see whose willing go to school and take a little bit of knowledge when they go out to the land.
- We need guardians. Management is there but we need guardians to protect the land and make sure that what is asked for is followed. The rules are enforced by the guardians of our land. They are there to protect land, water, everything. We need to work together with miners.
- We should have more say in [managing] all of the areas. We should have a say and use more to protect the other areas for all of us and future generations.

## 8.7 APPENDIX G: TH CITIZEN LETTER

Re: Recommended Plan for the Dawson Region

Dear 3Pikas,

The Dawson planning region represents 75% of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory, a land that has sustained us since time immemorial. This land is our home, our heritage, and our responsibility. Maintaining Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in culture is the ultimate goal of Chapter 11 of our Final Agreement. This process must recognize and promote our cultural distinctiveness and values, as well as use our collective knowledge and experiences as care takers of this land. These are fundamental objectives as written under Chapter 11 that must be upheld in the land use planning process.

As such, I am providing the following comments on the Recommended Land Use Plan for the Dawson Region that I expect to be addressed prior to finalizing the Plan.

The Recommended Plan must do more to protect important landscapes and wildlife habitat.

I support the conservation priorities identified by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in their submission to the Commission, entitled Ninänkäk hqzq wëkätrënhcha (We Take Good Care of Our Land). This submission was formed by the voices of me and my fellow citizens, and reflects the areas most important to us and our culture. Specifically, I ask that the Plan bolster protection for the Upper Indian River Wetlands, habitat for the Hart River and Clear Creek Caribou herds along the Dempster, and the Fortymile Core Range.

The Recommended Plan must establish the Yukon River Corridor as a Special Management Area.

I support the identification of Major River Corridors as conservation priorities in (We Take Good Care of Our Land). This includes the Yukon, Klondike, and Stewart River Corridors, which currently have not gained any conservation status under the Recommended Plan. Water is the life force of all creation, and our collective survival depends upon it. As such, water bodies and waterways must receive the highest order of protection. I ask that the Plan identify the Yukon River Corridor as a Special Management Area such that its unique and significant ecological and cultural value can be preserved. Now more than ever, we need to take every action we can to save our salmon, and protecting the Yukon River will provide for meaningful action in our collective effort to reduce the impacts on this species.

The Recommended Plan must state that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon Government are to implement the Plan recommendations jointly.

I support the recommendation of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to specify that a Goal of the Plan is to ensure that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens meaningfully participate in the management of public resources throughout the Dawson planning region. This is our responsibility as a Party and as ancestral stewards of this landscape, and will ensure our rights under our Final Agreement are upheld.

Hqzq K'anancha (take good care), [signatory]

## 8.8 APPENDIX H: STAKEHOLDER LIST

Reference #	Name of Group	Submitted Formal Written Response
1	Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve Alaska	No
2	Mayo District Renewable Resource Council	Yes
3	Yukon Geological Survey	No
4	The Yukon First Nation Salmon Stewardship Alliance	No
5	Yukon Conservation Society	Yes
6	Porcupine Caribou Management Board	Yes
7	Yukon Salmon Sub-committee	Yes
8	North Yukon Renewable Resource Council	No
9	Dawson District Renewable Resource Council	Yes
10	Yukon Chamber of Mines	Yes
11	Yukon Outfitters Association	No
12	Pacific Salmon Foundation	No
13	Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust	No
14	Ducks Unlimited Canada	Yes
15	Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council	No
16	Yukon Fish and Game Association	No
17	Klondike Placer Miners Association	Yes
18	Conservation Klondike Society	No
19	Friends of Dempster Country	Yes
20	Klondike Active Transport and Trails Society	Yes
21	Trails Only Yukon Association	No
22	Yukon Trappers Association	No
23	Northern Latitudes Partnerships	No
24	BEACONS Project	No
25	Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board	Yes
26	Northwest Boreal Landscape Conservation Cooperative	No
27	Conservation Klondike Society	No
28	Yukon Outfitters Association	No
29	Yukon Prospectors Association	Yes
30	Tourism Industry Association	No
31	Wilderness Tourism Association of Yukon	No
32	Klondike Visitors Association	No
33	Yukon First Nations Culture & Tourism Association	No
34	Trails Only Yukon Association	No

35	Yukon Wood Products Association	No
36	Yukon Agricultural Association	No
37	Yukon Order of Pioneers	No
38	Dawson Search and Rescue	No
39	Klondike Farmers Forum	No
40	Yukon Fish and Game Association	No
41	Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers	No
42	Dawson City Chamber of Commerce	No
43	Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative	Yes
44	Yukon Land Use Planning Council	Yes
45	Wildlife Conservation Society Canada	Yes
46	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society	Yes
47	City of Dawson	No
48	Village of Mayo	No
49	Parks Canada Klondike National Historical Sites	Yes
50	Council of Yukon First Nations	No
51	Canada Wildlife Service, Northern Region (Yukon)	Yes
52	Yukon Surface Rights Board	No
53	Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission	No
54	Yukon Water Board	No
55	YESAB Head Office	Yes
56	YESAB Dawson Designated Office	No
57	Yukon Heritage Resource Board	No
58	Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Yes
59	TH Elders Council	No
60	Yukon Chamber of Commerce	No
61	Casino Mining Corporation	No
62	Victoria Gold Corp.	No
63	Go Cobalt Mining Corp. (Flow Metals)	No
64	Go Cobalt Mining Corp.	No
65	Kreftco	No
66	ATAC Resources	Yes
67	Yukon Energy	No
68	Newmont Goldcorp	Yes
69	Chief Isaac Inc.	No
70	Metallic Minerals Corp	Yes
71	Metallic Group and True Point Exploration	Yes
72	Granite Creek Copper Corp.	Yes
73	Minto Metals Corp.	Yes
74	Sphinx Exploration Inc.	Yes
75	Spere Exploration Inc.	Yes

76	Fireweed Metals Corp	Yes
77	RST Klondike Discoveries Ltd, Coccinella Mining Corp, Small Hydro Investments Ltd.	Yes
78	Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce (YFNCC)	No
79	Newera Engineering Corp.	Yes