

Oct. 26, 2021 Presentation Outline

CPAWS Yukon's Conservation Manager Randi Newton is finalizing her Oct. 26th, 2021 presentation to the Dawson Region Planning Commission. She will provide a copy of the finalized presentation to the Commission and planning team prior to the presentation. The presentation will generally follow these outlined topics:

Introduction and foundation of our comments

- CPAWS Yukon is a voice for wild spaces, wildlife, and the ways of life that depend on both. As an organization, our actions are grounded in a commitment to reconciliation and honouring the final agreements and Aboriginal rights. This is a key frame for the comments we are providing today.

General thoughts on the plan

- It's a strong foundation to build from, and the thought and care that went into it is evident.
- To achieve the objective of sustainable development and fully align the plan with its vision statement, we see some areas to change or build on.

Our top recommendations to achieve sustainable development

1. Link the cumulative effects framework to meaningful ecological and cultural indicators
 - For example, go beyond surface disturbance and measure habitat disturbance.
 - Set thresholds based on traditional knowledge and conservation science, designed to avoid ecosystem or cultural tipping points.
2. Ensure enduring protections and establish a framework for continued co-management
 - Upgrade Special Management Area IIs to Special Management Area Is.
3. Secure additional needed protections for ecological and cultural values
 - CPAWS Yukon supports the comprehensive conservation vision and priorities put forward by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.
 - See particular need to protect more of the Fortymile caribou herd range.
4. Provide strong protections for wetlands
 - Commend Commission for marsh and bog protections
 - Protect at least 75% of fens
 - Given irreplaceability and sensitivity to disturbance, lingering research questions, role in carbon storage, and cultural importance