

CPAWS YUKON

DEC. 4 PRESENTATION TO THE DRLUPC: SELECTED NOTES AND REFERENCES

Draft Outline of Presentation to the Dawson Land Use Planning Commission

Recommendation 1: Staking/Land Disposition Withdrawal

- Common planning practice to hit the pause button, leaves Commission and FNs/Yukoners with more options and fewer land use conflicts/costs
- My experience with Saskatoon P4G Regional Plan
- Can be phased (e.g. withdrawal area becomes smaller after draft plan)

Recommendation 2: Manage cumulative effects (aka plan for a strong future) through development thresholds and protected areas

- Issues with trying to manage cumulative effects through YESAB
- Benefits of moving from project-specific focus to proactive planning
- Setting thresholds based on valued species (caribou, grizzlies)

Recommendation 3: Ecoregion protection

- Ecoregions are nature's neighbourhoods – they sustain different ecological communities and, just as important, the ways of life that depend on these communities
- Ecoregions map out the diversity of Yukon's landscapes and habitats, and we have an opportunity to protect the distinct ecoregions within the Dawson Region

Slide 4. Maintain a functioning landscape – manage cumulative impacts

Recommended Resources

- For limitations of cumulative effects assessment (ie using YESAB to evaluate projects without land use planning/thresholds on development) see:
 - Kennett, S. A. (1999). Towards a new paradigm for cumulative effects management. Available at <https://prism.ucalgary.ca/handle/1880/47201>
- For a fairly readable/skimmable resource on setting development thresholds, and why that's important for caribou, see:
 - Anderson et al. (2002). Development of a Threshold Approach for Assessing Industrial Impacts on Woodland Caribou in Yukon. Available at <https://alces.ca/references/?show=25&page=4&sort=title&direction=desc>

Slide 5-7. Protect diversity of ecosystems – ecoregion representation

- Ecoregions are large ecosystems (“nature’s neighbourhoods”), each home to a different community of wild species. They are one way to map out the diversity of the Yukon’s ecosystems.
- Ecoregions are mapped across Canada. The Yukon includes 23 and the Dawson Region includes 6. The Slide 6 map shows the current protection of each ecoregion and how much of the ecoregion falls within the Dawson Region.
 - 0% of the Klondike Plateau is protected
 - 3% of the McQuesten Highlands is protected
- Protecting areas within each of Yukon’s ecoregions is one goal of the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*. This goal is reiterated in the *Draft Yukon Parks Strategy* (pg. 25).
- Protected areas within ecoregions can act as “ecological benchmarks” – helps land managers determine if ecological changes are human-caused (key for adaptive management)

Recommended Resources

- For more information on ecological benchmarks and planning for landscape-scale conservation in the Yukon see:
 - Wildlife Conservation Society, Hilary Cooke. 2017. *Securing a Wild Future: Planning for Landscape-Scale Conservation of Yukon’s Boreal Mountains*. Available at <https://www.wcscanada.org/Publications/Conservation-Reports.aspx>

DRLUP References

- *Draft Resource Assessment Report*, section 12.6.1 Ecological Representation
- *Draft Issues and Interests Report*, page 5, Protected and Conserved Areas section