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# INTRODUCTION TO THE PRIORITY PLACE INITIATIVE – YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

Presentation to the DRLUP Commission  
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Canada 

# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Overview

### The Pan-Canadian Approach

Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada

### Priority Places (Canada)

### Yukon South Beringia

- Why Here?
- Goal and Timeline
- Partners and Governance
- Issues
- Projects

### Next Steps/ linkages with DRLUPC



Yukon Podistera, *Podistera yukonensis*

Photo Credit: S. Cannings



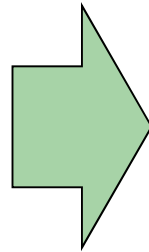
# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Pan-Canadian Approach

A new foundation for action to accelerate progress, align efforts, and guide collaboration

### Status Quo Conservation

Species-based  
Site-based  
Opportunistic, reactive  
Inconsistent frameworks, metrics, terminologies  
Costly, duplicative



### Integrated Conservation

Multiple species  
Ecosystem-based  
Coordinated, strategic  
Common frameworks, metrics, language  
Cost-efficient

### Implementation – Results and Benefits - Investments

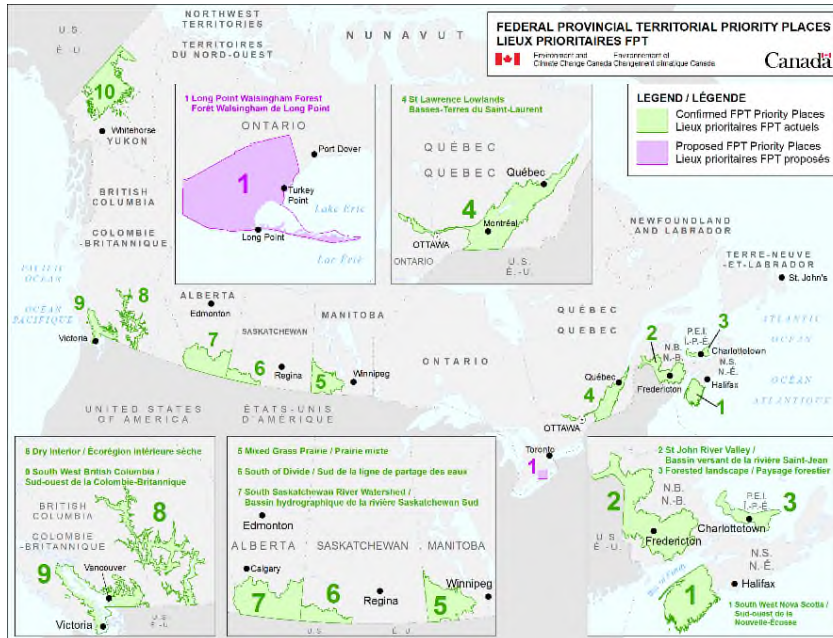


Spiked Saxifrage, *Micranthes spicatus*  
Photo Credit: Syd Cannings



# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Priority Places (Canada)



## Milestones

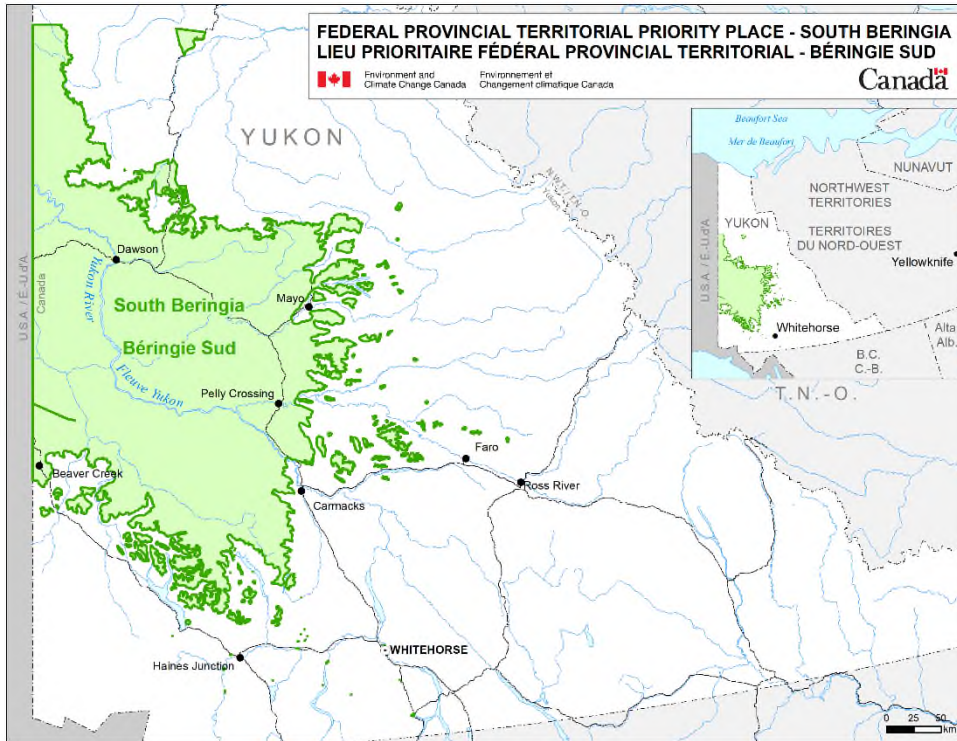
- Governance arrangements
- Engagement
- Collaborative Conservation action planning (targets, strategies and actions) **DRLUP Commission**
- Implementation **DRLUP Commission**
- Tracking and reporting (adaptive management)

*“A **priority place** may be described as a defined geographic area of high biodiversity value with a recognizable ecological theme and social relevance that may be intuitively identified as a distinct “place” by the people that live there and manage its infrastructure and renewable and non-renewable natural resources.”*



# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Why here?



- High biodiversity
- 26 species at risk (8 Beringian)
- Globally unique species
- Overlaps with Dawson Land Use planning
- Active mining and exploration, fishing, hunting and tourism activities

Opportunity to advance conservation efforts by working together (made in the Yukon)



# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Goal and Timeline

To work with a group of partners to develop an Integrated Conservation Action Plan and carry out actions to improve outcomes for Species at Risk and species of interest in Yukon South Beringia

2019: Shared information, built relationships, explored conservation issues and priorities

2020: Verified priorities, developed project proposals, increased understanding of adaptive management frameworks, negotiated funding agreements

2021: Working towards a draft framework for Integrated Conservation Action Plan

- Taking Stock (develop a Situational Analysis)
- Identifying and Verifying - Values and Pressures (aka Targets and Threats)



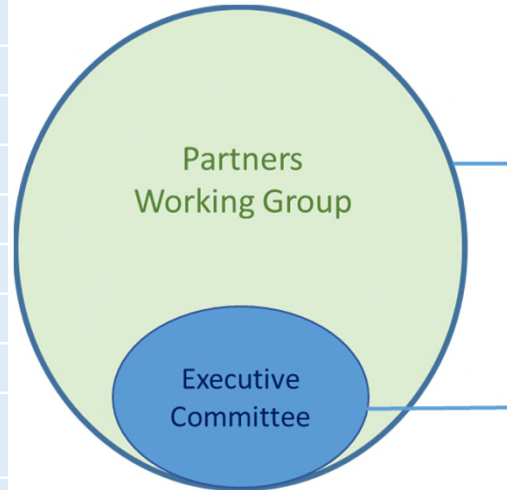


# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Partners and Governance

### List of Active Partners (core team)

Canadian Wildlife Service
Champagne and Aishihik First Nations
First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Natural Resources Canada
Resolve Canada
Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
Yukon Conservation Society
Yukon Government – Environ. Fish & Wildlife Branch, CDC
Yukon Land Use Planning Council



Partners Working Group	
Primary Role	Decision-making role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Day-to-day running of the initiative</li> <li>Engaged in and/ or affected by implementation of strategies</li> <li>Provide expertise to inform integrative conservation planning (e.g., workshops) and implementation of strategies</li> <li>Engage in or lead integrative conservation planning and prioritization of strategies</li> <li>Engage in visioning, planning and implementation and assessment of initiative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authority to manage day to day activities, conduct meetings, prepare all planning and implementation documents.</li> <li>Recommendations to Executive Committee on major guidance for initiative, including funding decisions.</li> </ul>
Executive Committee	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall lead for initiative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision-making authority</li> </ul>

### Other organizations expressing interest:

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (Yukon), Council of Yukon First Nations, *Dän Keyi Renewable Resources Council* \*, *Dawson District Renewable Resources Council* \*, Indigenous Guardians, *Klondike Placer Miners' Association* \*, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board *Yukon Chamber of Mines* \* *Selkirk First Nation* \*, *Carcross /Tagish First Nation* \*, \* *Kluane First Nation* \* *Kwanlin Dün First Nation* \* Various tourism industry organizations, Other Branches of YG

\* denotes no longer active participants



# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Ranked Issues (2020)

People- Land - Wildlife- Species	
Issues	Ranking
Degradation of biodiversity from cumulative effects	HIGH
Habitat loss alteration/change and fragmentation	HIGH
Habitat loss on valley bottoms	HIGH
Habitat loss/ impacts (wetlands) – maintaining processes (ecological function)	HIGH
Climate Change	HIGH
Exploration and Development	HIGH – MEDIUM
More effective management of wide ranging species and species at risk that appear healthy in Yukon	MEDIUM - HIGH
Increase access – creation of roads opening up areas	MEDIUM
Restoration of disturbed areas	LOW-MEDIUM
Disturbance to wildlife and species	LOW
Over harvesting	LOW
Effects of contaminants on species	LOW
Species by species based approach	LOW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Threats to rare and endemic species – data gaps – a solution was developed for this issue and it now shows up under habitat loss and climate change – it was not ranked by group on its own - need to discuss if it is an issue</li> </ul>	





# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Projects (approved in 2020)

Project Title/ Description	Proposed project outcomes	Lead
Priority Places endemic meadow mapping	Creating more accurate maps to understand the distribution of this important habitat known as Beringian meadows - for South Beringian specialist, endemic species to inform conservation planning and mitigate threats	YG
Trondek Hwech'in Participation and Engagement in PPI	Increasing understanding of TH world view, stewardship values, traditional land management concepts, guiding principles, citizen engagement, increased public awareness and understanding of TK, planning approach and research designs	THFN
Nacho Nyak Dun Participation and Engagement in PPI	Sharing and incorporating TK into the project, engaging NND citizens and increasing awareness of SAR	FNNND
Addressing cumulative effects of development and climate change in the Yukon to inform effective land use planning	Baseline bird monitoring and inventory data; understanding of at-risk bird populations; recommendations for habitat conservation and/or special management areas	WCS
A decision-support process for projecting climate change and its impacts on habitat supply for species at risk	Understanding of how climate change is going to impact ecosystems and focal species; A climate adaptation plan that can be implemented through regional land use plans; a web based portal for users to use as a decision-support tool	WCS
Yukon Bioblitz	Improving our understanding of species diversity through collecting data on SAR and endemics, mobilizing citizen science, informing COSEWIC and management plans	YG
Species at Risk Conservation in the Yukon	using data gathered from camera traps to inform understanding of SAR, informing EA process and guidance for LUP	YG



# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Projects (proposed in 2021)

Project Title/ Description	Proposed project outcomes	Lead
Characterizing and mapping of climate-change refugia and enduring features, and co-development of a monitoring framework, to enhance habitat protection and stewardship for priority species and ecosystems in Yukon South Beringia.	Assessment of current potential areas Maps of refugia and enduring landscape features overlay with SAR and species of interest Future opportunities for protection and stewardship	WCS
Amendment - Addressing cumulative effects of development and climate change in the Yukon to inform effective land use planning	Publication and dissemination of results Sharing results with working group partners	WCS
Carnivore species conservation in the Klondike Plateau ecoregion	Population Density for Grizzly Bears and Black Bears Pilot to determine Wolverine Density Data could contribute to conservation planning for these species (future mgmt. decisions - regulation, and mitigation)	YG
The intersection of Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science for Species at Risk and Endemics	Co-development of communications protocols Interviewing elders and youth Producing maps and biocultural indicators to contribute to conservation planning exercises with Indigenous knowledge at the forefront	Univ. of AB
Design and Implementation of a Communication Strategy	Collaborative effort of the YSB working group partners to create awareness of SAR and YSB PPI through education and outreach	YCS



# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

## Next Steps (Potential linkages with DRLUPC)

- ✓ Develop Integrated Conservation Action Plan
- ✓ Share information (DRLUPC)
- ✓ Carry-out conservation projects and share results (DRLUPC)
- ✓ Implement Conservation Action Plan (DRLUPC)



# YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

Màhsi' choo | Màhsi' cho | Sógá sénlá' | Másin cho | Niye, sáw nîdhín | Shàw níthän | Kwànäschis | Gùnèłchîsh | Gunalchîsh | Tsin'ijj choh | Thank you | Merci

## QUESTIONS?



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