

Dawson Draft Plan Engagement

Meeting with WCS - Wildlife Conservation Society

July 14, 2021 (3pm)

WCS Representatives: Chrystal Mantyka-Pringle, Don Reid

DRPC Staff: Tim Sellars, Charlotte Luscombe, Nicole Percival

Notes

- WCS asked - Who has the power and opportunity to rescind the moratorium? (YG Cabinet)
- Noted that a future decision around the SMA 2s can be made outside the planning process. It is a power that is independent of the plan and therefore they (SMA 2s) are essentially ISAs, given that ongoing development is allowed to continue.
- DRPC noted that SMA2s have access limitations (that may require a plan amendment) and no development in fens. They are intended to be conservation areas with some development.
- WCS comment - Protected areas tend to be inflexible – temporal withdrawal of areas, even multi-zonal LMUs. Search for the temporal flexibility – IPCA is an option for that
- WCS questions to DRPC staff
- What is the best way to give feedback by Nov 1st ?
- What is the best way to incorporate information into the planning process?
- DRPC – provided most up-to-date information on the engagement process and events that WCS could participate.

Cumulative Effects (CE):

- Chrystal is a part of the CE working group (a group that consists of content experts and the Parties)
- WCS an opportunity to present at the CE workshop in the Fall and to the commission in September

Subregional land use planning areas

- WCS inquired as to what happens in the areas that are up for subregional planning in the interim before the sub plans are done? DRPC provided that there will be some measures in place to address the predominant issues until Sub-regional planning is complete
- WCS suggestion – build in strong timelines for the sub regional planning that needs to be taken place in the implementation section.

Climate change adaptation and communication

- Suggestion for a theme-based section on climate change at the next commission meeting.
For example, forest fire suppression zones in wilderness areas

Sustainable development

- WCS – there are certain economic activities in the region are not sustainable. i.e. placer mining and some elements of quartz mining to some extent. The plan needs to address incongruity that placer mining needs to go ahead even though it is not sustainable.
- Suggestion that the plan needs to be more coherent.
- Unsustainable development in the region needs to be mitigated. Restrict/mitigate/remediate.

- Social license is a key consideration.

Wetlands

How many claims are impacted by wetlands recommendations? (Tim to provide)

Are there wetlands buffers being applied? Note that WCS has a research paper with suggested buffers that it can share.

WCS will defer other questions on wetlands for now.

Additional note (received by email)

Yukon's riparian management standards include five reserve zone widths based on stream and wetland size: 40 m (maximum reserve width for small streams < 5 m); 60 m (maximum reserve width for large streams 5 to 20 m and for wetlands >1 ha); 80 m (maximum reserve width for streams > 20 m); 100 m (maximum combined reserve and management zone for streams < 5 m); and 200 m (maximum combined reserve and management zone width for the large streams and rivers and wetlands). Approximately 75% of observations of Lincoln's Sparrow were within the smallest riparian reserve zone of 40 m (Table 2). At least 75% of observations were within 80 m and 100 m for Wilson's Warbler and Hammond's Flycatcher, respectively. The remaining five species had at least 75% of observations between 100 m and 200 m. **This suggests that only the maximum unharvested reserve zone in Yukon's riparian management standards (200 m) may be sufficient for these species.**

Reference for above note

Article:

Cooke, H., and Tauzer, L., 2020. Unique songbird communities in mature riparian spruce forest compared with upland forest in southern Yukon. NRC Research Press. Vol. 50: 473-486.

Can. J. For. Res. 50: 473–486 (2020) [dx.doi.org/10.1139/cjfr-2018-0381](https://doi.org/10.1139/cjfr-2018-0381)

Published at www.nrcresearchpress.com/cjfr on 24 January 2020.