

Suggested Edits for Plan Ease of Use

This document suggests a number of edits, additions, or deletions to the Draft Dawson Regional Land Use Plan that would increase the document's clarity and certainty, and increase the ease of use during implementation. These suggestions are detailed below in five categories:

1. Glossary
2. Plan organization and text
3. Maps
4. Tables
5. Figures

1. Glossary: A glossary is required as there are many terms used throughout the plan that would benefit from definition to improve clarity throughout the document. The "track changes" version of the Draft Plan provided with the Government of Yukon's submission to the Dawson Regional Planning Commission ("the Commission") highlights the locations of these terms to aid in the process of glossary creation. Some of these terms require spatial definition and would be well served to be defined on a map (identified below):

- Adequate land base
- Areas of high ecological or socio-cultural value (please identify on a map, as well as in the text)
- Areas with concentrations of wetlands (please identify on a map, as well as in the text)
- Consultation
- Critical
- Cumulative disturbance
- Cumulative effects
- Ecological connectivity
- Ecological integrity
- Ecosystem services
- Engagement
- Field verified
- High concentrations of small-scale disturbance (please identify on a map, as well as in the text)
- High densities of placer mining activity (please identify on a map, as well as in the text)
- High quality habitat (please identify on a map, as well as in the text)
- High standards of restoration
- High traditional use value (please identify on a map, as well as in the text)
- Identified fish migration routes (please identify on a map, as well as in the text)
- Important ecological services

- Industrial land use
- Important mineral dispositions (please identify on a map, as well as in the text)
- Key areas (please identify on a map, as well as in the text)
- Key habitats (please identify on a map, as well as in the text)
- Key use areas (please identify on a map, as well as in the text)
- Key wildlife habitat (please identify on a map, as well as in the text)
- Landscape connectivity
- Large scale advanced exploration and mining
- Large scale project
- Linear density
- Linear disturbance
- Loop road
- Major infrastructure
- Migratory bird high concern (please identify on a map, as well as in the text)
- Northern Mountain Caribou
- Post-rut habitat areas (please identify on a map, as well as in the text)
- Reclamation
- Restoration
- Restricted industrial land use
- Robust reclamation
- Sensitive over-wintering habitat for salmon (please identify on a map, as well as in the text)
- Sensitive sheep habitats (please identify on a map, as well as in the text)
- Significant habitat (please identify on a map, as well as in the text)
- Significant water withdrawal
- Spawning habitat for salmon (please identify on a map, as well as in the text)
- Special management conditions
- Special management directions
- Surface access
- Surface disturbance
- Sustainable economic development
- Sustainable development
- Suitable
- Wetlands
- Woodland Caribou

2. Plan Organization and Text:

- Move “how the plan is organized” section above the “how to use this plan” section.
- Remove repetitive language throughout the document.
- Number general management directions (policy recommendations, research recommendations and recommended actions) and list them together in an appendix.
- Avoid duplication of management practices in land management unit descriptions and body of text.
- The plan, Section 2 in particular, is lacking in references.
- Add the percentage of the region that the area represents to each land management unit description.
- Change “Yukon Government” to Government of Yukon throughout the text.
- Section 6 does not need to re-state information about SMAs/ISAs/etc. but could simply refer to earlier sections.
- Replace the word “consultation” to avoid confusion with the legal use of the term in Final Agreements, legislation and common law (i.e., the Crown’s legal duty to consult). “Engagement” is an effective alternative.
- Confirm that web addresses are up-to-date.

3. Maps:

- In general, maps have very similar colours making them hard to distinguish.
- Map 2: interim and permanent SMA II designations should be coloured differently.
- Map 5: Change the colour of the paleontological sites symbol as it is hard to differentiate between the symbols for Settlement Land.
- The map in Figure 1-1: use a different colour for the roads, add a legend and north arrow, make place name text bigger, show the context with the other planning regions (show other planning regions), don’t replicate in Figure 2-1.
- Identify areas where new road or trail development should be avoided or minimized as part of the Recommended Management Practices for caribou in a map.
- Provide an ecoregions map that highlights which ecoregions are currently protected within Yukon's protected area system and which ecoregions should be protected to meet ecoregion protection goals. The Government of Yukon could provide this if the Commission does not already have a copy.
- Identify on a map where "key caribou pinch point along major routes and ridge" are located.
- If possible make land management unit-specific maps in colour to aid in their interpretation, plus add major creek names to those that don't already have them.

4. Tables:

- ISA table (3-1) should include the number value for each threshold in the description column instead of repeating the text from management intent for clarity and to avoid confusion.
- SMA table (3-1) should explicitly state development thresholds for clarity and to avoid confusion instead of using vague wording. It would work to add a reference to the table and page number where these can be found given that they differ between land management units.
- When a table carries on to an additional page, the title should be repeated on the new page.
- In the table at the start of Section 5 that breaks out the area and percentage of the region that area represents, make community area and Tombstone separate items in the table instead of grouping them together. Add total area to the table.
- Fix Table 6-1 numbering.

5. Figures:

- Figure 4-1 is confusing. Some explanation of what the graph is saying should be given here. Consider revising the x axis label for clarity. It appears biased in focusing on impacts on placer, rather than impacts on wetlands. It would be more informative to the conversation to show the cumulative impact of all wetlands management directions to claims (no mining in bogs, marshes and buffers).