



DRAFT OUTLINE

Government of Yukon – Memorandum on Priority Planning Issues

Dawson Regional Land Use Plan (“the Plan”)

INTRODUCTION

June 2019

- We are pleased to submit our revised Issues & Interests Report (2019) to the Yukon Land Use Planning Council and Dawson Regional Planning Commission.
- Yukon government (YG) has updated the Issues and Interests Report for 2019 to reflect changing circumstances. These include:
 - YG’s regulatory framework and management tools have evolved since 2011;
 - Levels of mineral staking peaked in 2011 and have normalized in recent years;
 - Gaining knowledge of low-level exploration activities as notification is now required prior to conducting Class 1 activities on existing mineral claims in the Dawson area (Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Traditional Territory);
 - YG is working on creating a North Yukon Intergovernmental Oil and Gas Forum with Vuntut Gwitchin Government, Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in and First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun to ensure a joint review and cooperation on oil and gas activities in northern Yukon;
 - YG moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas development;
 - Discovery of the Coffee Mine Project in 2010. The mine development proposal is currently in a YESAB Executive Committee Screening;
 - New strategies and legislation have recently been completed or are under development including Yukon Tourism Development Strategy, Resource Roads Regulation, wetlands policy, parks strategy etc.;
 - Mapping exercises underway including wetland and classification in the Indian River Valley, archaeological inventory in the area including Gold Fields ext.,
 - Approval and implementation of the Dawson Forest Resources Management Plan in 2013;
 - YG has made commitments to mitigate climate change and the potential impacts from these changes; and
 - Updates to baseline data throughout the document.

- Other notable developments include:
 - Agreement on a new northern boundary for the Dawson planning region; and the
 - Restart of the Yukon Forum as a venue for collaborating on shared priorities between YG and Yukon First Nations.

PRIORITY PLANNING ISSUES

- The Issues and Interests Report is technical in nature, and not necessarily exhaustive or reflective of YG priority and policy.
- To supplement the report, YG has produced the following memorandum identifying priority planning issues for the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan for consideration of the Commission.
- YG recognizes that a few priority planning issues may conflict with each other and will require further analysis.
- YG recognizes certain areas will have multiple values that will require additional analysis in the process of creating this plan, such as the Klondike Plateau
- To help identify the areas with multiple values, YG supports identification of high priority conservation and industrial development areas early in the planning process, with the objective of identifying areas of multiple interests and potential land use conflicts.
- YG recognizes that certain key areas may be better served in sub-regional or other forms of plans such as:
 - The Yukon River Corridor
 - Klondike Highway Corridors etc.
- YG is committed to collaborating with TH and the Commission appointed by the Parties in the creation of the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan.

Interest Theme: Sustainable Development (as defined by UFA)
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Priority Planning Issues:

**ECONOMIC DIVERSITY
& RESILIENCE**

BALANCE OF VALUES

Strategic Considerations:

- The Plan should support and promote economic diversity and resilience through renewable and non-renewable resources uses
- The Plan needs to balance multiple land use values and interests in the Dawson region to foster sustainable development.
- Maximize the land base available for resource exploration, especially in areas of high activity or unexplored prospects.

REGULATORY CONSISTENCY

- Balance competing demands on land for food, wood and energy production with other uses while ensuring provision of ecosystem services.
- Use existing regulatory measures and integrated management tools to address impacts on specific values.
- Establish a regional land use planning regime that promotes territory-wide consistency including compatibility with adjacent land use designations in the North Yukon and Peel Watershed regional plans.
- Maintain consistency between all scales of plans (Forest Resource Management Plan, Wildlife Management Plans, etc.)
- Consider land management units identified by the previous Commission; land use designation (zoning) systems developed in the North Yukon and Peel Watershed; and management of cumulative disturbance using surface/linear disturbance model developed for the North Yukon regional plan.
- Consider international transboundary management direction (i.e., Alaska– Yukon Plateau).

ACCESS MANAGEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING

- Economic development and community opportunities in the Dawson region are constrained by inadequate transportation and energy infrastructure.
- Consideration of new transportation corridors in the region that provide access to resources to support economic activity.

COMMUNITY GROWTH

- Future community growth areas outside municipal and local area plan boundaries may need to be identified in the Plan, along with a recommendation for more detailed district or local area planning in such areas.
- Consideration should be given for infrastructure opportunities in the region that serve both Dawson and outlying rural communities.

Interest Theme: ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

Priority Planning Issues:

FISH & WILDLIFE

ECOLOGICAL REPRESENTATION & CONNECTIVITY

CLIMATE CHANGE

Strategic Considerations:

- Maintenance of healthy terrestrial (i.e. boreal forest and taiga) and aquatic (i.e. rivers and wetlands) ecosystems that support sustainable fish and wildlife populations.
- Cumulative effects on fish and wildlife values need to be addressed in the Plan.
- Salmon and caribou are migratory species that require broader regional and transboundary perspectives in habitat management.
- Species at risk in the region will require special consideration.
- YG has a goal to establish an ecologically representative system of protected areas within each of the territory's ecoregions. The majority of ecoregions within the planning area are currently not represented or are underrepresented in the territory's protected areas network.
- YG supports establishment of a connected system of conservation areas to ensure wildlife population viability, ecosystem health and climate change adaptation.
- Climate change introduces uncertainty and risks into the outcomes of land uses and resource management policies. Climate adaptation measures and adaptive management policies will be required to respond to changing conditions, including potential triggers for plan review.
- The Plan should align with YG's commitment to increasing the availability of renewable energy sources.
- YG has committed to reducing its own greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating potential impacts from climate change.
- Thawing permafrost impacts land uses and water quality and quantity.
- Impacts of wild fire will need to be considered and managed throughout the region.

Interest Theme: CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Priority Planning Issue:

PROTECT AND PROMOTE

Strategic Considerations:

- Recognition of the *First Nation Heritage Act* and a move towards a more collaborative approach to stewardship of cultural and heritage resources.
- Cultural and heritage resources is essential to maintain sense of place and an understanding of our past.
- Cultural and heritage values should be reflective of all Yukoners. In the planning region, this includes Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in culture, significant historical events such as the Klondike Gold Rush and the Umbrella Final Agreement, and contemporary "Dawson" culture (miners, farmers, wood cutters, artists, etc.).
- Historic sites and travel routes play a key role in supporting the region's tourism sector as attractions are the basis for interpretation of the region's history and prehistory.
- Detailed planning may be required along the Yukon River Corridor and throughout the Klondike Valley to manage multiple interests and values.