

We believe strongly that we need to adhere to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement and “protect a way of life that is based on an economic and spiritual relationship between Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the land.” Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's conservation priorities call for 60% protection of the Dawson region, 3.5 % is not enough! We need to protect these precious lands and ecosystems while we have the opportunity at hand. Climate Change is real and happening and we need to protect what we can now for our future generations and put the health of the lands, waters, wildlife and people at the heart of the Dawson Region Plan.

We need to upgrade conservation areas with weak protection to Type 1 special management areas. Allowing for maximum protection.

We need to protect wetlands that are crucial to sustaining our environments as well as river corridors, and animal corridors like the forty mile and porcupine caribou herds ranging areas. We need to protect mountain tops for mining and deforestation as these are major causes in soil erosion and river siltation.

We need to consider food security moving forward into the future. This includes both traditional foods and sustainable agriculture. We need to focus on a new system of agriculture that works with the land and not against it. Mass clearing are not the way forward and we should be looking into areas that will have the least environmental impacts.

Areas that will remain open to developments like mining need to have limits on development as well and not be concentrated within such environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands and river valleys. All aspects of the plan need to prioritize the health of lands, waters and wildlife. The Commission should use traditional knowledge and conservation science to set limits that ecosystems can tolerate.

We need bolder action than what is currently in the draft land use plan!

Sincerely,

The Conservation Klondike Society