



Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
Recommended Plan for the Dawson Region
Citizen Consultation Report

December 20, 2022

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Introduction

The following report includes verbatim comments provided by various Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens on the Recommended Plan for the Dawson Region (Recommended Plan). Collecting this feedback was facilitated by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Implementation staff Katie Fraser and Donna Michon, who strived to ensure citizen voices were accurately and respectfully captured in the broader public engagement phase of this process.

As per the objectives under Chapter 11 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement, it is imperative that the development of a regional land use plan uses the knowledge and traditional experience of Yukon First Nations, as well as promotes our overall well-being. Specifically, for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, this process must recognize and protect Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's distinct way of life that is based on an economic and spiritual relationship between us and the land.

Between September 7th and December 20th, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in staff conducted several in person consultation events with citizens, including:

- Consultation Lunch: September 20, 12 pm – 2 pm
- Consultation Lunch: October 18, 2022 12 pm – 2 pm
- Consultation Lunch: October 25, 2022, 12 pm – 2 pm
- Consultation Dinner: November 10 2022, 5 pm – 8 pm

In between in person events, staff met with citizens one on one to talk about the Recommended Plan and seek feedback. In total, roughly 30 citizens have lent their voice and have contributed to the feedback included in this report, however many other citizens have also directly contributed in other ways. The format of each meeting or one on one interview was different depending on the interest of the group or individual. Generally, staff sought responses related to the questions listed in this report, however the questions often varied and for the purposes of this report, they have been simplified. All consultation activities were recorded and transcribed such that the words contained in this report remain true and unaltered.

Citizen feedback has come from a broad demographic (Elders to youth) as well as from a broad range of perspectives on land use. We have not attributed names to each comment in this report, but many have also filled out the online survey or have provided additional letters of support.

Please note that the contents of this package are the words of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens as shared with staff during the consultation events. While citizen's words have not been altered or interpreted by staff, spelling mistakes or incomplete sentences have been fixed when necessary. In these rare instances, parenthesis [] have been added to the words for clarity.

In closing, it is important to remember that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens are the original and longstanding caretakers of this land. The words of this report are from the voices of those who have lived in, and cared for, this region on a permanent and fulltime basis. Without proper and heightened consideration of this feedback, the regional land use plan will not meet the objectives of Chapter 11 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement.

Summary

While this report is broken down into discrete themes, it is important to acknowledge that several overarching common sentiments have emerged from the feedback. To support the interpretation of the data and analysis, we have provided several cross-cutting observations below.

1. The vast majority of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens who participated in this consultation support the identification of additional protected areas in the Dawson planning region. Many identified specific areas that require further protection and preservation, including those LMUs along the Dempster (6, 7, and 8), all portions of key caribou habitat, including the Fortymile Caribou Corridor [LMU 21], and major river systems.

“More protection, more land. There needs to be more caribou herd migration areas. Waterways should be protected. People and animals should not have to change their ways for industry (mining activity).”

2. Wetlands hold strong intrinsic value and are necessary habitats for wildlife. Many citizens spoke to the value of wetlands throughout the region and how we must protect all types of wetlands given their overall importance on the landscape.

“Wetlands, from way back, left for thousands of years for ducks, beaver, muskrats, that kind of wildlife. We left it for them, we didn't mine it. The land is for the beaver, birds and muskrats, the land is going for them, it's gone for them. Whatever wetlands we have left, we should leave for them.”

3. It is critical that we protect our water resources and our waterways. Many citizens expressed concern for drinking water sources along the Klondike and Yukon rivers, and urged greater protections of these important river systems. Water is life and our collective survival depends on it.

“Water is very important to everybody. We need water to survive.”

“I think it's important to have rivers protected.”

4. Whether or not the salmon return depends on the habitats they have waiting for them. Many citizens expressed distress over the state of salmon stocks and the impact this has on our culture. They indicate strong connections and parallels between clean water, protecting salmon habitat, and preserving their culture for future generations.

“And I'm thinking back a few years ago when the young ones were down at first fish. They see how the salmon are caught, how to pull the nets, what to do with them, how to filet, how to smoke, how to dry, then they take the fry, the little fries and they take them up Moosehide Creek and they let them go. So they think they'll come back in seven years and same with the children from daycare taking the fry's and putting them in the Klondike River by the farm. Hoping they come back in seven years. That's why we have to protect our water. If we don't have water, we don't have life.”

5. The land has changed dramatically, and it is continuing to change. Many citizens talked about places where we no longer hunt or harvest, or places that we no longer visit as it is too upsetting to do so. Some spoke about the impact a changing landscape has had on our culture, and the inability to transfer skills to our children, such as with the Fortymile caribou herd.

*Growing up and not seeing the 40 Mile herd and now being able to see the full herd
and for my son to be able to see that now, we need to protect it.*

6. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens are key caretakers of this land and must be treated as equal decision makers for this region. Many citizens spoke about the need for more guardianship programs and opportunities for citizens to directly participate in the management of resources. Similarly, citizens spoke about the need for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government to see the value in all resources, including minerals, and the need to take a balanced approach to planning for the future of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in economic opportunities.

*TH needs more of a say in the land use, to protect it for future generations to hunt,
harvest, do other traditional uses and recreational activities on the land. TH should be
partnering with YG on all the lands to govern.*

It is clear from the feedback that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens see themselves as ultimately responsible for caring for the land in a way that respects other animals, like caribou, moose, and salmon. Many shared views that reflected a different way to viewing the world, one in which humans are part of the environment rather than separate from it.

Protection and Preservation

Do you support the SMAs identified in the Recommended Plan?

- 34% [SMA] is not enough.
- We need more [protection]. At least 75%.
- At least 75% to be protected, at least. We've given up enough. Give us something back. We gave you something, now give us something. Maybe our animals and fish might come back?
- More protection, more land. There needs to be more caribou herd migration areas. Waterways should be protected. People and animals should not have to change their ways for industry (mining activity).
- We need more land for traditional uses to see and use without industry, to also protect the animals and waters. We need to protect the boreal forests because with mining, spruce trees don't get a chance to grow because the other trees take over quickly. The mining is disturbing the lands to grow naturally.
- We need to protect more of our land.
- Protecting our ecological values and making sure we are all on the same page. Our land, our animals. It's all the same.
- What about the other land that is not protected? How much will we let go - when there is no more land to protect?
- We need laws in place to protect these lands, and [Plans] that cannot be changed easily, for fish and wildlife. These districts need to stay forever. If we get rid of everything, we'll be in a sorry mess.
- This land was here before any of this. We need to make sure that the percentage 34% is [actually] protected and [we need to add] wetlands and areas impacted by climate change. We have to be stewards and protect it more.
- Water needs to be majorly protected. Invasive species, more needs to be done on the invasive species, they're going up the Dempster. We have to get it right away. It's coming into my mom's backyard.

Are there other areas that should be designated as SMAs?

- 60 Mile, Indian River, 40 Mile, Yukon River: all need more protection.
- Temporary withdrawal areas [LMUs 7, 3, 21, 17] should be fully protected.
- Don't touch the Dempster and 40 Mile, they can have the goldfields.
- The current map should be more protected, it should include the 40 Mile Caribou corridor [LMU 21], Matson Creek – uplands undisturbed, 60 Mile and Indian River [LMU 17].
- LMU 21 [Fortymile Caribou Corridor]- Why is it not protected? It should be green.
- I noticed you had protected areas, and this white area of the goldfields [LMU 11]. Well, the Forty-mile herd comes all the way across, this is a big area, they consume, so why is there no protection in the goldfields? That's real important for the Forty-mile herd. You have to redesign the map, because it doesn't make sense to me. You know you have thousands of animals coming over and crossing the Yukon and they head back in February but there is no protection in there.
- Horseshoe [LMU 2]. That should be protected.

- On the map, number 21 where it says Fortymile Caribou Corridor; why is that not protected by the green as well if that's where the caribou are going? I think that should be green.
- We want to protect those caribou areas [LMU 15, 21, 19]. It's very important. They need to be connected together.
- Historical trails through unprotect areas, we had trails that went from Moosehide, to Dawson to Tetlin and Northway. If there is a route overgrown, have them protected as historical values for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people.

Protection in the Dempster Region [LMUs: 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10]

- I know that Cache Creek there, east of Cache Creek that there is a mine exploration project going on right now. It's not very far from Cache Creek too. And from my understanding it's a five-year exploration program. And if that develops into a mine project there, they're going to want to do a proposed road right to the Dempster Highway. Which is slightly north of Cache Creek. And once you allow the mining project to happen like that, people are going to move up the highway. And its also going to move way up into the Ogilvie River area, north of the Tombstone. So, if that Silver47 goes ahead, wide open country. And there's not much can happen, not much we can say to halt that exploration program. My concern is they want to build an eighteen-kilometre access road to the Dempster and cross the Klondike River. Now are they going to have a bridge there or? And how will they get their fuel into the camp, will they fly it in or a winter road that brings fuel in. I don't think it should be recommended if it's carrying fuel in. At least there is some protection for the park.
- I think strongly that this Dawson Planning Commission should really work at saying let's keep fifty kilometres on either side of Dempster Highway clear of mining, mining of any sort, mineral development of any sort. Is the horseshoe [LMU 2] TH lands? That should be green and protected. Because north of there is there's that oil and gas rig up there, they're going to fire up this winter for seismic. And I'm pretty sure they're going to get close to that number, number two there. The horseshoe parcel there.
- Ogilvie is another one too, the Ogilvie headwaters and below that Cache Creek area should be protected too.
- They should extend the protection from the Peel to the east and all the way down to the park boundary. Lots of good country there.
- If they choose more development to occur in these areas [the Dempster region], the animals will be pushed in different directions and there will be different migrating. It's untouched, it's their natural land.
- East of Dempster, from what I saw on the on that YESAB website, was there was exploration there too [referring to Antimony Cr. claim block] [LMU 7]. I don't know if that's still going on or not. See, now you got two potential projects [Silver47 and Antimony] and that might develop into a mining project. Now they want roads that come in there and that area is pretty rugged. That area, well, I don't see why they don't stay in number eleven goldfields. Why go up north? Just spoil our country.
- Right from the top of the Dempster highway should be protected and all the way down.
- Most of that [the Dempster region] should be green and protected. Especially by the waterways.

- The Dempster Highway is homeland to Gwich'in people, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and other First Nations. They hunted and traveled there long before miners came, long before. So those land should be protected 50 km or more on each side of the Dempster highway.
- For the caribou and the animals that live up the Dempster - One gallon of gas is equal to twenty-two pounds of pollution. So, just imagine all the traffic that is going on the Dempster Highway alone, the amount of traffic back and forth and the amount of pollution, that's keeping the caribou away for one thing. I remember one of our old chiefs saying that if that highway comes through, we're not going to see the caribou anymore. And it's true. There is caribou there, but we don't see it in the thousands and thousands of caribou like we used to.
- [The land use plan for LMUs 6, 7, and 8] makes me really, really angry. How much land did we give up in land claims? And now they want to take away more? How much more do they want? You know that makes me really mad. Enough is enough. How much more do you want? They want more and more and more. They want to destroy more and more and more. Enough is enough. Start listening to us.
- So, protect as much land as possible, going way up the Dempster and all the way down into the map, whatever can be protected. Enough is enough.
- We used to spend a lot of time on the Dempster, going back and forth, when my mother was still here. Quite a few years now, we don't travel as much, not because we don't like it but because of winter storms. That's the only thing. We don't mind the long drive; it doesn't bother us. I can say where did that mountain come up from or where did that lake appear from. We can go up and back a million times. Different landscape, I never get tired of it.
- There is no protection North from Dempster corner. Should be absolutely no mining!
- None for areas North of Tombstone Park should be developed. There should be a recommended 50 km protective corridor either side of the highway – no mining, no oil/gas.
- Antimony: there is economic value in mining there, not against miners (there are good and bad miners) but they need to do the reclamation work and we may need to make compromises.
- I don't want the Dempster touched, needs to be protected.
- I know many tourists have said keep the Dempster Highway as is. Do not let any development happen. These lands are one of the most pristine we have seen in the world. Many of these tourists come back year after year to enjoy the clean air, water and land and to enjoy the beauty and quiet. I agree with the tourists.
- Horseshoe [LMU 2] should be conservation zone for the caribou in winter. Two hundred caribou winter here, and it goes down to fifty by April. Mountain tops is where they feed. Trucks on the highway scare the caribou down into the deep snow, so the caribou are not getting enough sustenance. Should be a conservation area for the caribou. Also, limit the caribou hunt.

Economic Development

What are your thoughts on mining and other economic interests in the region?

- I think all resources are good water, caribou, moose, fish, wildlife, mining. Everything in moderation – I think our role of TH Government needs to be fair and balanced as well, instead of one sided.
- It seems like The Commission is valuing the claims over all the rest. Whether I go out or not on the lands, my rights are the same.

- To protect all these areas is good but we all have to co-exist together. We need to find how many resources are we giving up. Our government [TH] needs to take care of our resources. In these designated protected areas – how much are we losing? These resources need to last forever, if we are shelving all the resources now and they can't be touched in the future, what will we do? These resources need to support our government infrastructure.
- We need to look after the land and have proper stewardship and guidelines, we can take care of it all. Subject to review, how much are we willing to give away, we need the resources.
- We have to be careful of [locking up] important resources. We need them. We don't want to sacrifice future generation's needs; we have to co-exist together.
- People have to jump through hoops to get through YESAB, and it doesn't get approved anyway or it takes the government forever to approve anything. If YESAB is doing its job, then everything should be covered for protections. I think everyone should be satisfied with the process as it's pretty tight already.
- [Miners] got to start thinking: thinking about mining. Everything was put here by Mother Earth. Everything was made by Mother Earth. Plants, you name it, water, you name it. Whatever we have here, what we supposed to do with it, look at it, how nice it grows, nice flowers, nice berries, nice moose, nice animals. Now, it's not the same no more.
- While I don't know the exact numbers of active mining in the Yukon, I would say mining activities are also contributing to pollution and the number of mines is growing. I wish I could be given certainty that mines would be environmentally friendly and keep the lands clean including water and air but the certainty will never be there as some things are just out of our control and sometimes mistakes are made that do not adhere to safety or danger, in this case to the land as has been seen in BC some years ago. There was huge destruction to the lands and water of BC First Nations.
- On another note, we should protect [land]. I worked in a mine last year and I went for walks, and I can't believe the resources, it was so beautiful out there. I'm looking at the natural plants out there and a person could actually live out here, just on what's there as it is. I thought it was amazing, what we have, in the Yukon. I wouldn't have known that if I was never out there.

Do you have any comments on the Integrated Stewardship Areas (ISAs)?

- The green [SMAs] are protected but what about the other ones [ISAs]? We need to know more about the other sections and how much each are different. [We need] more conversations on protected areas, but also more conversations on the [ISAs]. Don't forget those areas.
- There should be clarity of how much is high and low [in the ISAs]. How much land is disturbed and how many roads are allowed?

The Importance of Reclamation

- Everything that has been mined, has to be able to grow again.
- Can we grow food in the [mine] reclamation areas? Test out rice, get cattle - we need to be able to feed people. We rely so heavily on the highway. We must think about it in the future. There is going to be instant conflict over our food resources.
- We need more protection. If there's a way that...you know they move from one area to the next. While they're opening a new area can they use, because you know they have to take off

the overburden right, can they backtrack it and then start their reclamation behind themselves? So, there is something for them to move through. Can it be something like that?

- Mining, some miners are very bad, I have nothing against mining but there are some bad miner's who leave junk behind. Too much action in one section, they need to cleanup after themselves.

Water

What are your thoughts on water in the region?

- We don't get any salmon anymore. How much mining activity do we have in the Yukon? This is destroying the water. The water is just murky and muddy, we used to drink out of the river. We never distilled it, nor did we boil it, and I'm still sitting here talking to you. It didn't kill me then when I drank out of the water, out of the river. So now, I wouldn't even wash my clothes in the river. And why is the river all muddy and dirty? I'm thinking it's from all the mining that's going on in the Yukon. All the sediments and all the oil and gas going into the river.
- Water is very important to everybody. We need water to survive.
- What's going on right now [with our water]? What kind of water are we drinking? Where is our water intake, below or above the dump. All that stuff is leaching into our water. What about our grayling? That's why wetlands are important. There's a little bit of wetlands they pass through to get to the river but the tailing piles, it just sieves right through. There are not enough wetlands to filter it before it gets to the river. Do they test it? How often do they test it?
- We don't drink that tap water. People get water from Wolf Creek, it's good water but I wonder what's in the back of it, you know what I mean, it could be mining. Someone should take a plane or helicopter and see if anything in that creek. It draws from different area. Moosehide the same thing, look at Moosehide Creek, people could mine it but our membership could mine with shovel, they can't take big machine in there. That's for protection of the watershed, but you have how many little draw come in. You have to look at the draw, what I mean is, okay maybe another area come in with water, where does it come from? That spring water, where does it come from? Head waters, or out of the rock or the ground, that's what they call spring water. And it's really important now today.
- I think it's important to have rivers protected.
- We are losing our waterways - everything is going [to be] different now. We need to have a sit around the campfire, we need to hear from everybody what's happening with their lifestyle. A big circle table and feast to talk about everything. That's how we are going to understand each other. Just hearing people talk, that helps.

The Yukon, Klondike, and Stewart River Corridors (LMU 3, 14, 11, 6)

- We are losing water. Water levels are going down in some areas. [Elders] say that some lakes are drying up. Around the Yukon and more around Old Crow. So, why not save the Yukon River before it dries up, before there is nothing left to save? It might happen in our lifetime if we continue to do what we are doing today, [like] mining and what not. We may some day lose it.
- Yukon River needs more protection, water and creek overflow is getting bad. In the springtime there will be land changes.
- [The Yukon River] is important too. In the olden days they used to throw everything on the ice, everything. And when they had that old dump down there in the corner (north end), down

there. The hospital supply, everything, needles, everything from that hospital they dump it in that old dump site. Where does it go? In the river. The Chief told us in Moosehide, “don’t drink that Yukon water, you drink that Moosehide Creek water”. That was long time ago, I was only 13, 14 year old.

- Fortymile River, that’s where people fish for white fish, and grayling. But they don’t go all the way up cause vicious water, strong water, your boat could tip over, you have to go up river. Us, we just go a little ways and just get one or two.
- Klondike water used to be clean and drinkable. Water is very important; we need it to survive.
- They should protect [the water] from day one. Look at the Klondike. How many houses do we have from Henderson Corner to Rock Creek to C4 land and in between. In the summertime if you come down that Klondike River, you’re going to see little tent here, little tent there where people camp, you don’t even know they are there. That’s in the summer and then you get these tourist people come down the river in rubber raft and they float down in our drinking water. And then there is septic tanks, how many of them got that. That’s why I hardly drink the town water, especially in the springtime. You get all the water off the ground, different pond area, the dump. That dump, the seepage it goes down, what’s going to protect us, all it’s got is ground gravel and rocks. The Klondike used to run [before dredges] on the other side, not this side.

Salmon

What does salmon mean to you?

- We used to get a lot of salmon way back when I was a little kid across [the river] over at Tr’ochëk, we used to stay there. A lot of salmon, my dad made a fish wheel, and we got a lot of salmon. As we grew older, we went down there and cut the fish open and gut ‘em out and all that. We learned all that stuff, we learned it all, we could still do it, some things but we were learning 5 or 6 years old, and then they take us away. Our language and all that stuff, So, yeah, I seen all of it happen, when you’re a little kid you watch first and you start learning. Then they tell you do not do that stuff, yeah, but I still got it in my head. I guess a person can always relearn stuff, it’s up to the person.

How can this Land Use Plan better serve our salmon?

- The Yukon River needs protection. Give it protection.
- Spawning grounds for the fish - that’s an area you really have to protect, the Klondike, because those fish come all the way from Beaufort Sea and have to fight their way up just to lay their eggs. I’ve brought it up before, something really needs to be done such as putting signs up in the area. Any area, there is a lot of changes. Klondike, we need to keep the boats off there when the fish are spawning.
- The fish started coming back at Haines Junction way or Klukshu River last year, and they were not sure how it happened, or why it’s happening. It’ takes years for them to grow and go out to sea. What happened to them out there? Is it the big trawlers or disease?
- I have a concern about the Yukon River, Klondike River, and Stewart River corridors, and I believe they need to be protected from large ocean-going vehicles such as the Yukon Queen, which ran a successful business that was American owned, and they ran on our river system, and they didn’t have to abide by the inland water act or the rules or the regulations. And we lost a lot of salmon, we’d see them all washed up on the beach and 8 ft tidal wave every time that

boat came by or went down the river, who knows how fast they would be going. Because they didn't have to abide by our laws, and it took us a long time to shut that down. I feel that when you really want to talk about protecting the rivers that should be taken into consideration that no large boats, tour operations should not be able to operate in such a fashion where it causes corrosion on our riverbanks and death to our small salmon.

- On water protection on Fifteen Mile, Twelve Mile, Forty Mile, Klondike, Indian, those rivers are salmon bearing rivers and we made an effort to see if we could put a stop to the jetboats from going up the Klondike when salmon spawning is happening but apparently, through the waters act and fisheries and federal government say nothing can be done about that. I don't believe that. Once this plan goes through, we have jurisdiction over how we navigate certain rivers that are salmon bearing so maybe we have to investigate or put a little pressure on the feds to have this plan within reason that during spawning on these rivers to have no jet boat on the Klondike, or 15-mile, 12 mile 40 mile. Jet boats cruise on very low water and disturb the eggs, they run over them, and the eggs get washed away. That's something to think about. That's one of my concerns.
- Salmon needs to be protected, still see fishing down river, it's sad. Fish are important to our family, grew up on the river, and fished lots and made dry salmon.
- One of the things we have the biggest problem with the salmon on the Yukon River is at the delta where it meets the ocean and forever and ever the American's have just been overfishing this area and just having their way with the salmon and it doesn't seem like anything we do in Washington and lobbying against it has any means to us. They don't hear our voice. I don't think they ever will hear our voice and if they do they won't ever act on what we ask for because today we've suffered such astronomical numbers of lost salmon and about 80% of that is from the Americans and we need a stronger voice in Washington.

Wetlands

What do wetlands mean to you?

- Wetlands, from way back, left for thousands of years for ducks, beaver, muskrats, that kind of wildlife. We left it for them, we didn't mine it. The land is for the beaver, birds and muskrats, the land is going for them, it's gone for them. Whatever wetlands we have left, we should leave for them.
- The wetlands are becoming filthy. When you drive along and see some of those wetlands look oily and dirty looking wetlands. I feel sorry for the ducks and cranes landing there. What are they eating?
- Wetlands are there for the animals.
- Wetlands are there for the animals, food for the caribou, moose, beaver, muskrat. There is a reason the wetlands are there.
- What's going on right now? What kind of water are we drinking? Where is our water intake, below or above the dump. All that stuff is leaching into our water. What about our grayling? That's why wetlands are important. There's a little bit of wetlands they pass through to get to the river but the tailing piles, it just sieves right through. There are not enough wetlands to filter it before it gets to the river. Do they test it? How often do they test it?

- Some year back there was a plan from the Alaskans that wanted to build a railway [through LMUs 18 and 19]. It was right through wetlands. This area North Ladue is full of undisturbed wetlands.
- Up the Dempster there used to be wetland, it dry out in certain spots. You can tell when they dry out, the wetland. You can tell when it dried out. It's really important right now, I don't care what the miners say, if you go over to Sixtymile. These old timers used to use shovel, not loader not grader. They had good life. They don't damage the earth. Now you go over there, it's not the same. Big piles of rock looks like a mountain. You go up those different draws.
- [Wetlands] are really important for any animal. They come they drink that water. Bird, they come drink that water. Beaver, the most important animal.
- I used to trap on the Indian River with my husband. Beautiful, beautiful country. Used to hunt for beaver. Now I go back, I get lost. Where's the road? So many roads this way, that way, they go around in a circle. They just damage the ground; all they do is look for that yellow thing. Sometimes I get mad when I go over there.

How can this Land Use Plan better serve wetlands?

- All wetlands should be protected in the region. There is a lot of animals in there that are affected by activity. The animals are in the wetlands all the time and birds always flying in. I don't know much about it, but I know it's good.
- There should be no mining in wetlands.
- The Indian River should be protected.
- I want to see waterways + wetlands protected - We need to protect our water. I want to protect 100% of fens! Fens matter. We should have had our heritage areas in Indian River protected. Don't break up the wetlands into bogs and swamps. It's all wetlands.
- Protect the wetlands. Water is life. It gives life to the animals, the plants, to our citizens, everybody. I want to make sure the all the wetlands are protected. The rivers, Yukon, Klondike, gives us fish, our food sources is there. I want to make sure it's protected for future generations.

Wildlife

- Once you deplete the area of all your wildlife, it's just like if you over trap and area. If you trap and area for 2 to 3 years straight and take 400 or 500 animals of course that areas going to be dead for a while. Sometimes, you know when things get hard we depend on those animals to be there. So, we have to take that into consideration and curbing the hunting aspect of our animals in our traditional territory.
- There are a bunch of butterfly species in the Tombstone Park. We have guest speakers that come all the time and one speaker talked about all the butterflies in that area. Butterflies will only go to certain flowers and those flowers have to be there for the butterflies to be there. So, they have ecological value.
- Beaver, the most important animal. It's really important, you don't shoot them all. You try not to shoot the female. You take one out of each pond, like miner's close by around here, maybe Bonanza or Hunker.
- Angelcomb Mountain, Sheep Mount [in Tombstone Park], there is sheep there that are protected, [but] there are other user groups that take groups up there [during] certain times of the year when the sheep have babies. [This] puts the herd at risk. If the sheep get scared and

run and the babies get scared, they could fall. I wanted to do something about it and I basically had three supervisors and if I wanted to do something, I would ask one and there always seemed to be a barrier from the YG. Elders went up there to block access [to protect the sheep].

- We should make sure salt licks are protected for the animals.

How can this Land Use Plan better serve caribou?

- We want to protect those caribou areas [LMU 15, 21, 19]. It's very important. They need to be connected together.
- We should find out where the herds migrate and what roads they cross and how many are in the herds. How many times they go through the area. This is what we need to know in order to protect caribou.
- Mining will disturb the caribou herds. Too much mining and ruining the land.
- The Dempster herds need more protection. People killing off the [caribou] bulls. Leaders killed and hunted, and they need to let the bulls pass and teach the future bull to migrate further north.
- If ground is moved, mining or anything, grazing areas of caribou is affected by mining, they will move on and not stay. They'll move on to Alaska.
- Animals should be where they are supposed to be. All caribou land should be protected with corridors. Migration of animals can change direction and interaction of other animals when human activity such as mining and exploration changes the lands and the water ways.
- Human activity effects migration patterns of animals and caribou. These areas need to protect the wildlife and herds in these areas for future generations.
- LMU 21 [Fortymile Caribou Corridor] - Why is not protected? It should be green.
- I noticed you had protected areas, and this white area of the goldfields. Well, the Forty-mile herd comes all the way across, this is a big area, they consume, so why is there no protected in the goldfields. That's real important for the Forty-mile herd. You have to redesign the map, because it doesn't make sense to me. You know you have thousands of animals coming over and crossing the Yukon and they head back in February but there is no protection in there.
- On the map, number 21 where it says Fortymile Caribou Corridor; why is that not protected by the green as well if that's where the caribou are going? I think that should be green.
- I notice in the last few years and I'm talking 20 years, I've hunted on the top of mountains of the 60 Mile area, the borders, and all through the Clinton Creek area. Once YG opened up the [40 Mile] caribou hunt, there's a lot of people from Alberta, and Alaska, and we're going to have to put a curb on that somehow.
- In 2017 went to Fairbanks and it really opened my eyes. When it was time for the migration towards this area and the caribou going towards Eagle, Alaska. It was eye opening with the Feds telling them how to hunt. When they are coming towards the border, within 2 km, the caribou are getting slaughtered just like when you see it up the Dempster, so many people come up from different areas. Where are our traditional lands and who's allowed to hunt in our traditional territories? I just didn't like the way they slaughtered them, and I mentioned it with the Feds in Fairbank. These trigger-happy people and they got to cross the Taylor Highway to make their way and they try to tell people to not shoot them.

Knowledge Transmission and Cultural Continuity

- We don't get any salmon anymore. How much mining activity do we have in the Yukon? This is destroying the water. The water is just murky and muddy, we used to drink out of the river. We never distilled it, nor did we boil it, and I'm still sitting here talking to you. It didn't kill me then when I drank out of the water, out of the river. So now, I wouldn't even wash my clothes in the river. And why is the river all muddy and dirty? I'm thinking it's from all the mining that's going on in the Yukon. All the sediments and all the oil and gas going into the river.
- Somewhere in the [Plan] I read something about trails, "Protect our language and the trails". That's really important, I was really happy to see that. [There are] trails from Eagle, Alaska, through the Dempster and goes up to Old Crow and Fort McPherson. [Elders] talk about trails, how they walk, they didn't have ATV's, 4 wheelers, skidoos and trucks. They walked on foot and later they traveled by dog team. Big, big country. So those trails are really really important. We should be bringing those trails and roads back to surface and making all that land green rather than destroying with mining.
- I would rather see [the Region] for use by Non-Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens for their own healing ways, cultural camps, harvesting, programming, research, education, archeology/anthropology digs and finds and so on.
- [We need] more opportunity for culture camps.
- I think all Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in lands is important to preserve for the benefit of everyone which includes Non-Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens. We have been known to share and to help one another. By sharing our First Nations culture from yesterday, today and tomorrow, we are saying how important these lands mean to our way of life in surviving before settlers came and how it still provides for us.
- I just wanted to make a comment again about the water, like I said water is life. And I'm thinking back a few years ago when the young ones were down at first fish. They see how the salmon are caught, how to pull the nets, what to do with them, how to filet, how to smoke, how to dry, then they take the fry, the little frys and they take them up Moosehide Creek and they let them go. So they think they'll come back in seven years and same with the children from daycare taking the fry's and putting them in the Klondike River by the farm. Hoping they come back in seven years. That's why we have to protect our water. If we don't have water, we don't have life.
- We need to teach the children how to survive, to collect and harvest food to survive. Those with skills to teach.
- Where's all our berry patches and where do we hunt the caribou and moose? We don't talk about our berry patches. If we do, then people will go to our berry patches. If we use the land those kinds of things show that if our families and our ancestors used that land, then it shows we belong to the land and land belongs to us.
- Growing up and not seeing the 40 Mile herd and now being able to see the full herd and for my son to be able to see that now, we need to protect it. It shows that there was good conservation done and we need proper stewardship.
- Many traditional areas of hunter are overhunted by out of towners and the locals get no harvest. Plus, we must travel through lots of developed areas to hunt in places with minimal impact and have to go farther and farther out.

- I lived on the land with my parents before taken away to residential school. The foods from the land were very tasty and in abundance. Now today because of pollution, these foods do not taste the same anymore. Foods are almost tasteless. You will only know this if you lived on the land when the land and air and waters were clean, free of contaminants. As some elders in Environmental meetings some years ago in Whitehorse, lakes and rivers are drying up
- We want to protect some land. Not only for animals but for our own enjoyment too. We may not go out hunting but still that is our well-being. Land is our health. Like my mother said the land is my grocery store and Percy Henry said that the land is my university, that's where he learns. That's where we heal. What in those statements do they not understand? I'm sure they heard them before.
- Tr'ochëk is important for our family. We grew up there and fished there. We collected berries and grew gardens. Then we were moved off the land and into a small house for our big family.

What changes have you seen on the Landscape?

- We get a lot of snow here, so we get a lot of chemicals and pollutants falling down. Which goes into the ground and comes up from the ground in the springtime and we eat, the animals eat, and we eat the animals and now today the caribou, moose, berries taste different for me. It does not taste the same as when I was a kid growing up on the land. Back then foods were delicious and now there is no taste to it. Thanks to economy and greed our food is no longer the same. Berries taste way different.
- Too many changes to the landscape, drought, no wildlife.
- I never see any animals lately, except the odd squirrel.
- [Have seen] harvesting changes on the Indian River and Chandindu – no fishing – no salmon (12 Mile).
- Used to hunt in the goldfields but now no animals out there or if they are, the miners get them.
- Moving roads for miners is a big thing. I've seen miner roads moved and this effects animal activity. The human activity is scaring away wildlife. The Yukon River has changed a lot over my short life, and I've seen years when it dried way too much and years when there is too much water. This is due to climate change, but we are huge contributors to climate change. Mining also effects water ways, disturbing creeks and moving them and this effects the ecological systems.
- When you fly out of Dawson, and you look at the creeks where they mine and it looks like a city. That's how it's starting to look over by the Sixty Mile. Reclamation is very important after mining.
- You used to be able to use the goldfields for traditional uses and hunting and now there is so much activity and land disturbance that the animals are sparse and the berries with gone or over picked.
- About three years ago, I went up to California Creek with my brother. Up the creek they put a road in. They started a mining company, and they were up the creek from us. This was Discovery Day weekend, so they shut that camp down on the Friday and the creek where we are, where our camp is, that creek was muddy, it was silty and this creek where we fish for grayling. It was muddy and silty, it was thick. And then by Sunday when we were ready to go that creek was almost clear, but they were coming back to start up their mining activities again.

- I notice in the last few years and I'm talking 20 years, I've hunted on the top of mountains of the 60 Mile area, the borders, and all through the Clinton Creek area. Once YG opened up the [40 Mile] caribou hunt, there's a lot of people from Alberta, and Alaska, and we're going to have to put a curb on that somehow. If you get four or five hunters at one time. Animals can't sustain that you know. We won't have any animals left. Once you shoot out an area, say hypothetically you shoot 400 moose, it takes years and years for that ground to recover, for the moose to recover.
- Up the Dempster, I've seen a lot of change working up the Dempster with Highways.
- Born and raised in Dawson City, I've seen the climate changed, the weather has changed in the past two years, 2020-2022. The weather has changed. Now we have landslides, water changes, the river, people having to cross the river. The mining. I'd say more the animals. Migrating animals from the north flying over. I feel sorry for them because the weather blows them off patterns. So used to flying home and now they get confused. Everything has change. Moose populations have gone down. People take the bulls. Dempster there is a lot of change.
- Where people used to hunt, last year, for two years now I count how many boat with moose, last summer there was 14. I got people different places, I have people on the Sixty Mile, Indian River, up the Dempster, Fortymile, not too much around Dawson or Moosehide. I have friends that look out. You could see the horns in the boat and truck back up, they throw moose in and away they go. This year another one, that's fourteen. We got to do something about that too.
- I liked the [trapping] life. Get everything ready and go early the next morning and come back about 3 or 4. Bring everything in, thaw it out, next day we flesh it all out. It makes lots of work but that's kind of life you like. At that time fur was a good price but now, they want ten dollar for marten! All that work you have to do, take that paws out and everything. You gotta make sure you do it the right way. And they want ten dollars for it? It's too cheap, for the gas and oil, you name it, for skidoo.
- Sometimes you see moose, sometime you don't, lately, down [river towards Fortymile]. Before they used to cross back and forth at Twelvemile or Fifteenmile.
- [Speaking about travelling on the river] What a change, what a change though through my lifetime to now. How people do different things, how they talk.
- Mining is getting so bad out [in the Goldfields, LMU 11]. There are hardly any animals out there. Well, the odd moose may travel through there but will get caught by miners.
- If you get four or five hunters at one time. Animals can't sustain that you know. We won't have any animals left. Once you shoot out an area, say hypothetically you shoot 400 moose, it takes years and years for that ground to recover, for the moose to recover.
- I used to trap on the Indian River with my husband. Beautiful, beautiful country. Used to hunt for beaver. Now I go back, I get lost. Where's the road? So many roads this way, that way, they go around in a circle. They just damage the ground; all they do is look for that yellow thing. Sometimes I get mad when I go over there.

Stewardship and Education

- There's a lot happening in the world today. A lot of famine, different changes and I strongly believe it's because of us. We're not looking after the land; the land is dirty. Not only us, but around the world, it's because of greed and economy.

- I know it's not talking about Land Use but it is talking about Land Use, how we used the land, how we enjoy it.
- We consider all our land [to be] everything: the land, water, air, it's all part of us.
- We need to plant more trees in the goldfields.
- We all need to work together. Not just governments but communities. We need education and more interaction from the Elder's and youth.
- We need to look after the land and have proper stewardship and guidelines, we can take care of it all. Subject to review, how much are we willing to give away, we need the resources.
- Once you deplete the area of all your wildlife, it's just like if you over trap and area. If you trap and area for 2 to 3 years straight and take 400 or 500 animals of course that areas going to be dead for a while. Sometimes, you know when things get hard we depend on those animals to be there. So, we have to take that into consideration and curbing the hunting aspect of our animals in our traditional territory.
- There is so much struggle between governments on lands, water and resources. Rather than fighting on how much lands go to who, I think all governments should start thinking of ways of keeping the lands, water, air clean and doing your part in combatting climate change and making huge changes on how mines will operate to seriously mitigate damages. I am not interested in hearing "Yes, we will keep your lands clean" and "Yes, we will hire First Nations". Many times this has not happened. How will we know if they will keep the lands clean if we allow mining especially in sensitive areas where there are still some habitats and animals.
- What I've always asked for it and talked about, is that we need more stewardship on the land. We have hands on the ground, boots on the ground so to speak right now but for the amount of area, amount of work, and scope of projects that you can get involved in, it takes a lot of personnel. It takes a pretty big department which would mean you'd have to a bigger budget. Maybe this is the reason why we don't have lots of stewardship or maybe, I know it's not a lack of people interested in being land stewards. There's a lot of people that are interested in it. I think it just that we don't have funding or we haven't tried to pursue it anymore or looked at it but that's one of the things we need most of out on the land, is more feet on the ground paying attention to what's happening, walking around with their ticket book and handing out infractions. Don't be scared of giving somebody a ticket, right them up, or give them a warning. But right now, there is a lot of wild west actions going on out there that we don't see, so I think we need more people involved.

Climate Change

- Climate change is playing a big part in [salmon impacts] too. We traveled up the Dempster and I was looking around and there was a lot of ground water coming up. A lot more than I've ever seen. There is going to be a lot of ground slumping, so if they do any mining up there, it doesn't matter where - There is going to be more damage. There's already a lot of land slumping out there.
- Climate change has changed animal behaviour and they don't go where they used to.
- Not much we can do about climate change, but we must be able to survive and learn things to survive and teach our children. We need to take the people out on the land, so see what is out there, what they can eat, where to find water, where to find what we need.

- Berry picking, the season was late. Berry pick is affected by climate change, not ready when they are supposed to be.
- [I use the land for cultural uses and harvesting], like picking berries and other cultural uses. I have seen changes from Top of the World to up the Dempster. Climate change means land changes and changes to animal habitat.
- Everything needs to be included - Things are changing. Not the same as the Gold Rush.
- The land will show you that change is going to come.
- Economy and climate change is playing a big role in our landscape changes, almost 100% negative changes endangering animals, plants, fish, medicine, water, air. There is almost nothing we could do about climate change unless the big companies of the world stop pumping pollution made up of chemicals into the air.

Plan Implementation

What Should TH's role be in managing this region?

- Obligations under the Final Agreements' - Look in there; It's all in there already. We should be following it! 'Our past leaders negotiated our Final Agreement in order to ensure that the health of the land and waters. Our Final Agreement is legally binding under the Canadian Constitution. We expect that to be honoured.' - All our wise old elders, all that they did for us.
- Need F.N. to assist in managing [the region].
- TH should have full ownership of the land, water, and air. We should be saying what can and cannot be done.
- Like the Haida Gwaii, we should have full control from the bottom to the top.
- The orange areas [ISAs], the Government has the say? Will TH still have to be consulted?
- TH should have the right to have a say in what happens on the land.
- TH needs more of a say in the land use, to protect it for future generations to hunt, harvest, do other traditional uses and recreational activities on the land. TH should be partnering with YG on all the lands to govern.
- More protection and more say from TH in Implementation and governing. We need land guardians.
- Maybe this is how "Environmental Monitors" get permanent jobs too, working [in the region]. Because the Conservation Officers have their own areas and if they need that back up because Conservation Officers have the law on their side to give tickets and stuff like that. We'd be the back up for Conservation Officer. We'd be meter maids of the land. Then we'd have the back up of the Conservation Officers to get the real stuff done you know. I could see something like that.
- [TH] has to actually do the studies on the flora and fauna. You take a one metre by one metre area. It's awesome too because you're on the land. I love it, being on the land. There were some tough days when you're climbing up mountain sides.
- For implementation, citizen consultation or citizen committee sessions, ask environmental monitors, ask the lands officers, people who work out there. Don't make it too technical.
- Our government [TH] needs to take care of our resources.

- I think all resources are good water, caribou, moose, fish, wildlife, mining. Everything in moderation – I think our role of TH Government needs to be fair and balanced as well, instead of one sided.
- I do think Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in needs to be fair and balanced. Everybody, some of us are miner's, some of us are truckers, we all co-exist, we cannot work without each other.
- [we have to] curb the hunting practices. YG don't give a damn. We have to step in there and say 'hey, that's enough, no more tickets, otherwise, we are not sharing or working together as one. If they're going to make all kinds of money off of wildlife like their doing, it's just coming to no good. We all have to learn to do things, we have to get after them. That's what our government has to do.
- I worked the Lands Department for x amount of years and I come across a lot of situations in our traditional territory and on our settlement lands where there's infractions happening all the time. And it's a big area to go through and three people can't do it all, and that's a sad thing. So, as elder REDACTED mention we might have to increase the budget somehow and finds funds to get a couple more land stewards. You know whether you see whose willing go to school and take a little bit of knowledge when they go out to the land.
- We need guardians. Management is there but we need guardians to protect the land and make sure that what is asked for is followed. The rules are enforced by the guardians of our land. They are there to protect land, water, everything. We need to work together with miners.
- We should have more say in [managing] all of the areas. We should have a say and use more to protect the other areas for all of us and future generations.