

Arlington Creek THP

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Executive Summary

The objective of the Arlington Creek Timber Harvest Plan (THP) is to provide Dawson City and the surrounding area with a sustainable supply of economical fuel wood and sawlogs in an integrated and balanced approach to forest management. Under the new *Forest Resources Act*, all commercial harvesting must be conducted under an approved THP. Arlington Creek has been a harvest area for Dawson's wood cutters with permits being issued there over the last couple of years. This THP proposes the harvesting across 29ha for a maximum of 1000m³. This THP is consistent with both the draft Dawson Forest Resources Management Plan¹ (October, 2009) and direction provided in the draft Planning Regulation of the *Forest Resources Act*.

¹ The Draft Dawson FRMP was released in the summer of 2010 and is subject to final review and approval.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Arlington Creek THP is located 11.6 km southeast of Dawson on the Klondike Highway. The THP is in the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional territory. The area is primarily a spruce stand with some aspen mixed in. There is scattered deadwood throughout the block but the majority of the timber is alive. The estimated volume of the area is 75m³/ha.

1.2 Eco-region and Drainages

This THP is located within the Boreal Cordillera Eco-zone, Klondike Plateau Eco-region and Klondike River Landscape Unit. Characteristic terrain features include smooth, unglaciated, rolling plateau topography with moderate to deeply incised valleys and large structural basins composed of level to undulating glaciated terrain. The area is relatively flat with most grades at less than 10%. The forest is made up primarily of spruce.

1.3 Socio-economic Values

Dawson City is home to approximately 1,300 people. The major economic drivers in the region are tourism and gold mining. The current annual demand in Dawson is approximately 3500m³ for sawlog and 1500m³ for fuel wood. The industry consists primarily of one sawmill and numerous fuel wood operators. The forests in the Dawson region provide significant ecological and aesthetic values, cultural and heritage values, recreational values, and other non-timber values. Dawson's forests can sustain a vibrant, small-scale forest industry that provides timber for local markets, energy, economic opportunity, and employment for the region's residents (Draft SFMP 2009). Many of the residents of Dawson rely on fuel wood harvesting as an economical heating alternative throughout the winter.

2.0 Planning Area Identification

The total identified is 29ha with a maximum harvest volume of 1000³ (see Table 1).

TABLE 1: Area and Volume Summary

Proposed Blocks	Estimated Volume/ Hectare (m ³ /ha)	Slope (%)	Aspect	Block Size (ha)	Total Volume Available for Harvest(m ³)	Species Composition	Average Stem Height (m)
Arlington Creek	75	4	West	29	1000	95% Spruce 5% Aspen	15

2.1 Wildlife

All site plans and operational development must be consistent with current wildlife standards² available from Forest Management Branch (FMB). These standards have been developed to ensure well thought-out and balanced planning occurs with respect to wildlife and forest resources.

2.2 Riparian and Water Resources

All riparian management must follow the most current FMB riparian management standards². The closest stream is Arlington Creek located 200m to the North East. The Yukon River is located across the Klondike Highway and approximately 400m from the cut blocks.

2.3 Heritage and Archaeological Sites

Yukon Heritage Unit and the Yukon Historic Sites Unit did not identify any known historic or archaeological sites within the Arlington Creek THP. The area within the THP had low potential for archaeological sites and has been inventoried for historic site and none were found (Heritage Resources Overview February 2011).

2.4 Soils Conservation

All harvesting operations must follow current FMB soil conservation standards². These standards will ensure that the integrity of soils is maintained across all sites. Harvesting will only be permitted during frozen ground conditions in order to mitigate any risks to soil. Due to a fluctuating water table and diverse conditions within the

² The FMB standards are located in the Timber Harvesting Planning and Operating Guidebook 1999 with new standards being developed and expected to be completed by the winter of 2011.

block this will need to be closely monitored by operators to ensure that they are within the soil conservation standards set by the FMB. The currently has several trails across it, utilizing existing access in the area will help minimize any soil compaction.

2.5 Traditional Land Users

Placer mining plays an important role in this area with the northwest block being directly east of a historic dredge field. This area is also known as a traditional hunting and berry picking area, but of minor significance due to it's proximity to the highway. There is no known trapping in this area. These activities have been considered throughout the planning process and are considered compatible with the THP.

3.0 Harvesting Section

3.1 Harvesting

There will be 25% dispersed in-block retention required across the cutblocks, of green trees, and a maximum of 1000m³ may be removed from the THP. The retention will provide structure now and provide coarse woody debris in the future. Also it will provide a long term spruce seed source. Harvesting operations shall minimize unnecessary damage to any regeneration.

Harvesting methods include both hand and mechanical falling. Harvesting activities may be extended if harvesting opportunities still exist.

The volume limit for the area was set based on expected demand for that area and is not necessarily an environmental threshold. Thus, if 1000m³ is harvested it may be appropriate to reassess the area to determine if harvesting opportunities still exist within the same area.

3.2 Reforestation

The schedule for a post-harvest establishment survey(s) will be outlined as part of the site plan for each harvest block. The results of this survey(s), the Silviculture Regulation and the silviculture standards² will guide decision-making with respect to regenerating these harvest blocks. Natural regeneration is the preferred option with artificial regeneration being used to supplement natural regeneration when necessary. It is expected that due to the 25% retention on site, natural regeneration will likely regenerate to a fully stocked condition. Dry season operations will encourage aspen sucking and also create a more receptive seed bed for the germination of spruce seed.

4.0 Access Management Considerations

The primary objective of access management for the area is to minimize the creation of long-term access. Inline with the current operations in the area small skid trails will be used to access the timber. Harvesting will occur in winter only however the existing roads may be driven on during dry ground or frozen conditions. No new roads will need to be developed as past activities have put enough roads and trails in the area that can be used.

5.0 References

Dawson Forest Management Planning Team "Dawson Forest Resources Draft Management Plan." October, 2009.

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Arlington Creek Fuelwood Area

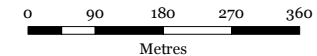
Appendix 2: Arlington Creek Overview Map

Arlington Creek Draft Timber Harvest Plan Area

Klondike/Dawson District Dawson AAC Region

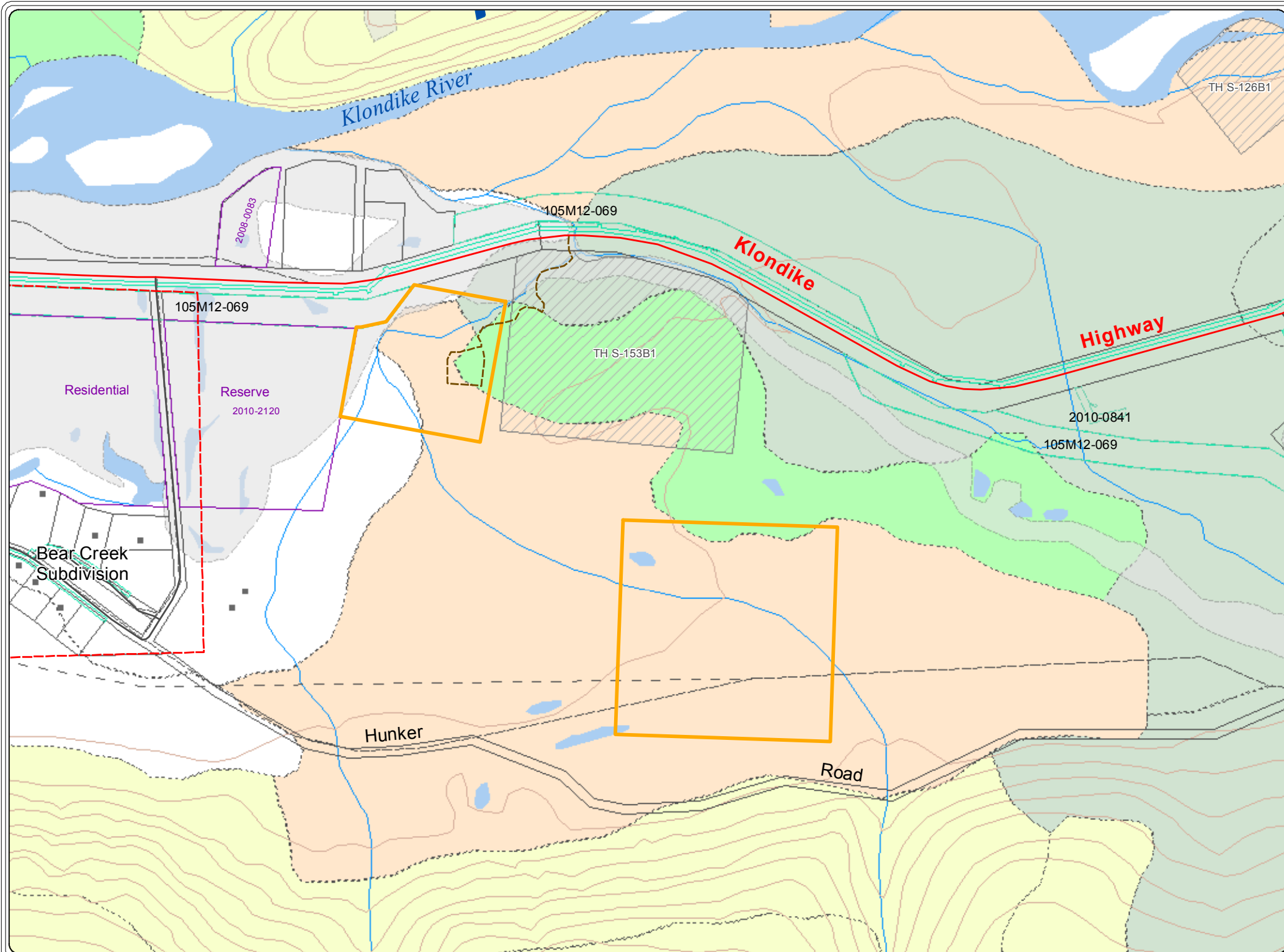
For more timber harvest information
Web: www.emr.gov.yk.ca/forestry
Phone: 1.867.456.3999

Date: August 10, 2011

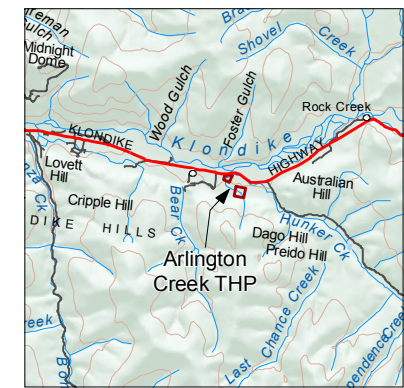


1:10,000 UTM Zone 7N
NAD 83

Forestry spatial data managed and maintained by the Forest Management Branch, Yukon Government. All other spatial data provided by Geomatics Yukon.



- | Project Specific Features | Land Administration |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| × Permanent Sample Plot | □ Agricultural Land Applications |
| — Proposed Access | □ Agricultural Land Dispositions |
| □ Timber Harvest Area | □ Land Applications - Active |
| | □ Land Dispositions |
| | □ Land Licenses |
| | □ Notations |
| | □ Development Hold Areas |
| | □ Surveyed Easements |
| | □ Surveyed Land Parcels |
| | □ Municipal/Community Bdry |
| | □ YESAA Community Bdry |
| Forest Cover | First Nation Administration |
| □ Non Forested Polygons | □ A: Surface & Subsurface Rights |
| ■ White Spruce | □ B: Surface Rights |
| ■ Lodgepole Pine | □ FS: Fee Simple |
| ■ Alpine Fir | □ Unsurveyed Interim Protected |
| ■ Black Spruce | |
| ■ Balsam Poplar | |
| ■ Trembling Aspen | |
| ■ White Birch | |
| ■ Larch | |

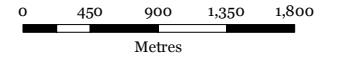


Arlington Creek Draft Timber Harvest Plan Area

**Klondike/Dawson District
Dawson AAC Region**

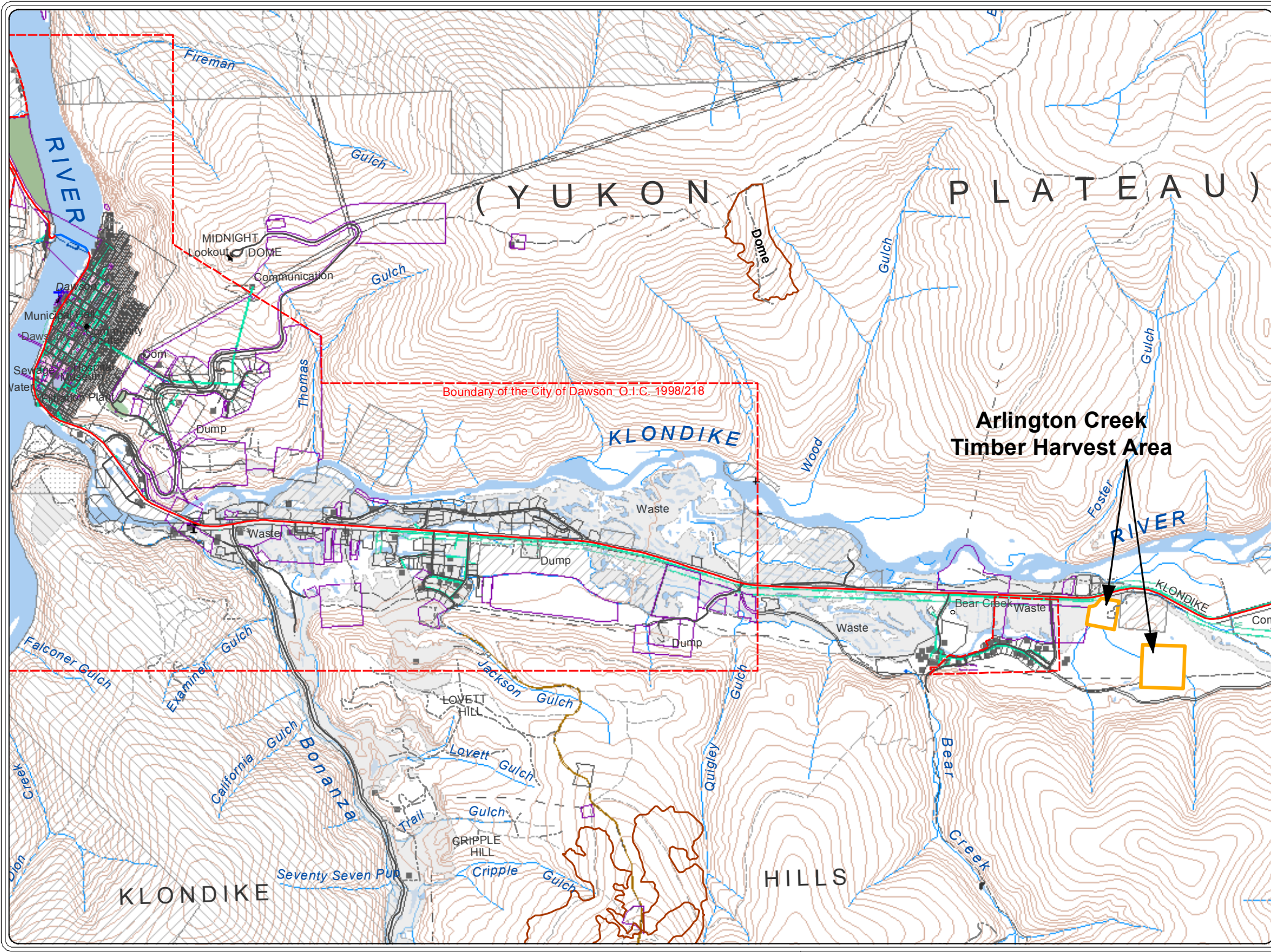
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1:50,000 UTM Zone 7N
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- × Permanent Sample Plot
- Forest Resource Roads
- Harvest Blocks
- Operating Units
- Timber Harvest Area
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- Agricultural Land Dispositions
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