

Appendix 5. Glossary of Terms

The following definitions pertain to terminology used in this Plan:

Adaptive Management: A systematic approach to resource management that uses structured, collaborative research and monitoring with the goal of improving land and resource management policies, objectives and practices over time.

Aggregate Resources: Any combination of sand, gravel, or crushed stone in a natural or processed state. Aggregates are used in the construction of highways, dams and airports, as well as residential, industrial and institutional buildings. Also known as granular resources.

Beringia: An ancient landscape of northwestern North America and eastern Siberia that remained unglaciated during the last Ice Ages (3 million to 10,000 years ago).

Best Management Practices: A range of practices that can reduce the time, intensity or duration of industrial activities (i.e. footprints) on the land base.

Bioclimate Zone: An ecological zone, observable at broad spatial scales that represents a relatively stable, observable vegetation type or environment. Four bioclimate zones, organized by elevation and latitude, are recognized in the planning region: Taiga Wooded, Taiga Shrub, Alpine and Tundra.

Category A: Settlement land owned fully by a Yukon First Nation, including both surface and sub-surface (mines, minerals and hydrocarbon) rights.

Category B: Settlement land owned fully by a Yukon First Nation, not including sub-surface (mines, minerals and hydrocarbon) rights.

Community Area: A land use category in the Plans' land use designation system. Community Areas are located around communities or municipalities, such as Old Crow, where local planning is undertaken.

Concentrated Use Area: A geographic area or habitat that is occupied at a higher density of animals (e.g., area where animals are congregated) compared to other areas within the animals range. This term is specifically used in the plan to describe areas where satellite-collared Porcupine Caribou Herd cows congregate, for various seasons. Concentrated use areas are often referred to as core areas.

Conservation (principle of): "...the management of Fish and Wildlife populations and habitats and the regulation of users to ensure the quality, diversity and Long Term Optimum Productivity of Fish and Wildlife populations, with the primary goal of ensuring a sustainable harvest and its proper utilization" (Chapter 1, VGFN Final Agreement).

Contaminated Site: An area of land in which the soil, including groundwater lying beneath it, or the water, including the sediment and bed below it, contain a contaminant in an amount, concentration or level which is equal to or greater than that prescribed by the *Contaminated Sites Regulations*, Yukon O.I.C. 2002/171 (YESAA).

Critical Indicator Level: The point where an indicator has reached or surpassed an acceptable level of change.

Cultural Resources: Places and locations associated with events, stories and legends. Cultural resources can include such things as the Porcupine caribou herd, moose, marten, wetlands, lakes and rivers, and locations associated with legends, traditional economic activities and cultural activities.

Cumulative Effects: Changes to the environment and/or society that result from a land use activity in combination with other past, present and future activities. The changes can be positive or negative.

Cumulative Impacts: Negative consequences of cumulative effects; may involve both direct and indirect impacts.

Direct Impacts: Impacts that result directly from a land use activity. Physical development footprints create direct habitat impacts.

Direct Surface Disturbance: Visible, human-caused disturbances that result in the physical disruption of soil or hydrology, or the clearing of trees and woody vegetation.

Disposition Process: a legal instrument (such as a sale, lease, license or permit) that allows a government to give a benefit from public land to any person or company.

Ecodistrict: Part of an Ecoregion characterized by a distinct assemblage of relief, geology, landforms, soils and vegetation. Ecodistricts are sub-units of Ecoregions and part of the National Ecological Framework.

Ecological Integrity: The degree to which the physical, chemical and biological components, including composition, structure and function, of an ecosystem and their relationships are present, functioning and capable of self-renewal.

Ecological Reserve: A park established to protect an area of unique natural significance, unique ecological characteristics or importance for a population of rare or endangered flora or fauna which is intended to remain in its natural state (*Parks and Land Certainty Act*).

Ecoregion: An area of the earth surface characterized by distinctive physiography (geology and surface features) and ecological responses to climate as expressed by the development of vegetation, soil, water, fauna, etc. Under the National Ecological Framework, the planning region contains portions of six Ecoregions.

Ecosystem: A community of organisms and their physical environment interacting as a distinct ecological unit at a range of spatial scales.

Ecozone: Very large areas of the earth's surface representative of broad-scale and generalized ecological conditions. Major physiographic conditions (e.g. mountains versus plains) and climate are the primary basis for determining terrestrial Ecozones. The planning region is entirely within the Taiga Cordillera Ecozone.

Endangered Species: Those species listed in Part 2 of Schedule 1 to the *Species at Risk Act*. (YESAA).

Endemic: A species or organism that is only found in a particular region and that has a relatively restricted distribution, due to factors such as isolation or response to soil or climatic conditions.

Fish Habitat: Spawning grounds and nursery, rearing, food supply and migration areas on which fish depend directly or indirectly in order to carry out their life processes (YESAA).

Focal species: The species of most value and interest, either socially or economically, to residents of a region. The focal species in this Plan (Porcupine caribou, moose, and marten) were determined by Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and other Plan Partners.

Footprint: The area directly disturbed by a road, gravel pit, seismic line or any other feature is considered the physical ‘footprint’ of that feature.

Fragmentation: The disruption of large continuous areas of habitat into smaller, less continuous areas of habitat.

Functional Disturbance(s): Physical land use disturbance that results in disruption of soil or hydrology, or that requires the cutting of trees. Activities considered exempt from functional disturbance creation are: 1) new linear features less than 1.5 m in width; 2) land use activities that occur on frozen water-bodies; 3) winter work with no required clearing of trees; 4) winter work that utilizes existing disturbances and linear features.

Functional Integrity: Maintaining the functional capacity of an area or value in an adequate state to maintain ecological integrity and ecosystem function, even though the area or value may be altered from its pristine state.

General Management Direction: In this Plan, prescriptive resource management recommendations and approaches that address region-wide issues (e.g. caribou habitat or Major River Corridors).

Habitat: The particular kind of environment in which a plant or animal lives.

Habitat Integrity: The ability or capacity of habitat to support wildlife or plant populations. For wildlife, a landscape with high habitat integrity contains habitat of adequate amount, composition, structure and function to support the long-term persistence of healthy wildlife populations.

Habitat Protection Area (HPA): An area identified as requiring special protection under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*. The level of protection varies depending on the management plan developed for each particular HPA.

Heritage Resources: Sites and objects that are 45 years old or older and relate to human history, including archaeological and historic sites and artefacts. This definition also includes palaeontological resources.

Historic Site: A location at which is found a work or assembly of works of human endeavour or of nature that is of value for its archaeological, palaeontological, prehistoric, historic, scientific or aesthetic features. Yukon historic sites are designated under the *Yukon Historic Resources Act* and Chapter 10 of the Umbrella Final Agreement. National Historic Sites are designated under the federal *Historic Sites and Monuments Act*.

Hydric (soil): Soils with a high water content and poor drainage capacity (i.e. wet soils).

Hydrologic system: The interconnected water system, including soil, surface water, groundwater and atmosphere.

Indicator: A signal, typically measurable, that can be used to assess performance of a system.

Indirect Impacts: Impacts that result indirectly from a land use activity. Habitat avoidance around land use features or increased hunting mortality around roads are examples of indirect impacts.

Industrial Development: (YESAA)

- a) mining and the development of an energy resource or of agricultural land;
- b) for commercial purposes, cutting standing or fallen trees or removing fallen or cut trees;
- c) the development of a townsite; and
- d) any land use or the construction, operation, modification, decommissioning or abandonment of a structure, facility or installation associated with any activity referred to in the paragraphs (a) to (c), above.

Impact(s): When a land use activity or activities have a negative effect or influence on a value(s) and/or resource(s). Impacts may be direct or indirect.

Integrated Management Area: A land use category in the Plans' land use designation system. These are areas where mineral and oil and gas disposition processes, other industrial activities, and other land uses are allowed, subject to Plan recommendations and regulatory processes. The Integrated Management Area is further divided into four Zones. This land category is also referred to as the working landscape.

Integrated Resource Management: A land management approach that uses and manages the environment and natural resources to achieve Sustainable Development. An integrated resource management approach considers environmental, social and economic issues, and attempts to accommodate all uses with minimal conflict and impact.

Landscape: A large, observable land unit that has identifiable and repeating patterns of landforms and vegetation. Landscapes may also have characteristic natural disturbance regimes and hydrologic patterns. Landscapes with similar properties are assumed to respond in a consistent manner to management prescriptions.

Landscape Management Unit (LMU): An observable land unit that has identifiable and repeating patterns of landforms and vegetation (i.e., a landscape) and that forms a logical land management unit for regional planning. Some LMUs may contain sub-units that require special consideration. In this Plan, LMUs form the primary land management units to which land use designation categories or zones are applied. LMU borders are usually formed by rivers, roads, existing SMAs or other identifiable features.

Landscape Type: A generalized vegetation-terrain association or land cover class that is readily observable and has definable characteristics. Landscape types are the biophysical 'building blocks' of landscapes. The February 2006 version of the North Yukon biophysical map recognizes 28 distinct landscape types.

Land Use Designation System: A land use designation system consists of different land categories that describe either the type or intensity of land uses that are allowed or recommended for each specific landscape management unit or sub-unit. A land use designation system may also be referred to as ‘land use zoning’ or ‘resource management zoning’.

Land Withdrawal: A land area that is not available, either permanently or temporarily, for land disposition and oil and gas or mineral exploration activities. Land withdrawals are enacted or terminated by government Orders in Council.

Large Scale (Industrial) Project: A project that is submitted to the Executive Committee of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) as further defined in Schedule 3 of the 2005 regulations under the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA). See also: “Industrial Development” in this Glossary.

Limits of Acceptable Change (or levels of acceptable change): A planning approach that establishes an acceptable limit or level of change for a specific value or resource. Under a results-based management system, limits of acceptable change for indicators are required to differentiate between ‘acceptable’ and ‘unacceptable’ conditions. The limits are based on a combination of science and social choice. *See* Critical Indicator Level.

Linear Density: The total length of all human-created linear features (measured in kilometres), within a landscape management unit or sub-unit (measured in square kilometres). Linear density is expressed as km/km². Linear density provides a measure of landscape fragmentation and habitat integrity.

Linear Feature: A type of human-caused surface disturbance, including trails, survey lines, seismic lines, roads, power transmission lines, and any similar feature.

Major River Corridor: The large rivers in the region, with the greatest ecological and cultural significance. In this Plan, Major River Corridors are the Porcupine, Eagle, Bell, Fishing Branch, Old Crow, Whitestone, and Miner rivers.

Mesic (soils): Soils of moderate moisture content and drainage capacity.

Mitigate: Decrease the impact or effect of an action or land use activity.

Mixed-Economy: An economy where both traditional subsistence harvesting and wage-based (or market-based) activities co-exist.

Mixed-wood: Forests composed of a mixture of deciduous (trees with leaves) and coniferous (trees with needles) species.

Non-settlement Land: All public land in Yukon not affected by First Nation settlement lands. *See* Settlement Land.

Palaeontological Resources: Animal and plant remains from long ago.

Pediment: Broad, gently sloping land surfaces with low relief at the base of a steeper slope. Pediments are usually covered with unconsolidated sediments resulting from the transport and

deposition of materials by gravity over very long time periods. Old Crow Basin Ecoregion contains extensive pediments.

Permafrost: Ground in which a temperature below 0°C has existed continuously for two or more years. Permafrost is defined exclusively on the basis of temperature; ground ice does not need to be present.

Porcupine Caribou Herd: A tundra (barren-ground) herd of Grant's caribou that ranges from Northeastern Alaska to the Yukon/Northwest Territories border (west to east), and from the Beaufort Sea to the Ogilvie Mountains (north to south).

Precautionary Principle: A lack of conclusive scientific evidence does not justify inaction on managing the environment, particularly when the consequences of inaction may be undesirable or when the costs of action are negligible.

Prescriptive: Stipulation(s) applied to a land use activity, with specific requirements as to how that activity should proceed or be conducted.

Protected Area: A land use category in the Plans' land use designation system. Protected Areas remove an area from oil and gas and mineral disposition, and prohibit exploration activities. Protection of ecological and cultural resources is the management goal. In this Plan, Protected Areas meet the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Protected Area Categories I, II or III conservation criteria for 'full protection'. *See* Special Management Areas.

Reclamation: Focused and deliberate actions that attempt to restore or return disturbed lands to a pre-disturbed state, or to a former productive capacity.

Regional Land Use Plan: A collective statement about how to use and manage land and resources within a geographic area.

Regional Sustainable Development Indicators: General signals or information about the status and health of the region's economy, society and environment.

Renewable Energy: The generation of heat or electricity from natural resources that are not depleted over time.

Results-Based Management Framework: A structured process to link a plan's goals and objectives, tools, approaches, and monitoring needs into one cohesive strategy. Monitoring and tracking progress toward meeting various plan goals and objectives is an important outcome in the delivery of results-based management.

Riparian Zone (or area): Flowing water (lotic) environments and their adjacent terrestrial surroundings influenced by the moving water (fluvial) processes of erosion and deposition, commonly referred to as river or stream valleys. In northern Yukon, riparian zones typically support the most productive vegetation and tree growth due to warmer and better drained soil conditions.

S-Sites: Site-specific Yukon First Nation settlement lands. Generally, these are parcels of land smaller than Category A and B land selections, and are of heritage, cultural or traditional economic significance to the First Nation.

Scenarios (land use scenarios): In land use planning, the development of an outline or model of plausible land uses that may occur, including possible time-lines, benefits, and impacts of those land uses. The development of land use scenarios differs from discrete options. Scenarios are used to explore potential alternative futures.

Secondary Use Area: A large area of land in the Richardson Mountains and foothills where the Tetlit Gwich'in of NWT have the right to subsistence harvesting and trapping, use of water, and forest harvesting in relation to subsistence harvesting, under the terms of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

Settlement Land: All land in Yukon owned by a Yukon First Nation with a Final Agreement. Settlement land may be Category A or B (see above).

Special Management Area (SMA): A conservation area identified and established within a Traditional Territory of a Yukon First Nation under a Final Agreement. SMAs can be Yukon Parks, Habitat Protection Areas, National Parks or Wildlife Areas, or other types. The level of protection is defined in a management plan developed for each particular area, with management shared between the Yukon government, First Nation governments, and Renewable Resource Councils, depending on the area and jurisdiction (Chapter 10, VGFNFA).

Subsistence Harvesting (for VGFN): (a) the use of Edible Fish or Wildlife Products, or edible Plant products, by Vuntut Gwitchin for sustenance and for food for traditional ceremonial purposes including potlatches; and (b) the use by Vuntut Gwitchin of Non-Edible By-Products of harvests of Fish or Wildlife under (a) for such domestic purposes as clothing, shelter or medicine, and for domestic, spiritual and cultural purposes; but (c) except for traditional production of handicrafts and implements by Vuntut Gwitchin, does not include commercial uses of: (i) Edible Fish or Wildlife Products; (ii) Non-Edible By-Products; or (iii) edible Plant products. (Chapter 10, VGFN Final Agreement)

Surface Disturbance(s): The amount of area physically disturbed by human activities. Human structures, roads, gravel quarries, seismic lines, access trails and similar features all create physical *footprints* on the land, resulting in direct habitat impacts. Surface disturbances create functional disturbances of varying size, intensity and duration. *See* Functional Disturbance.

Sustainable Development: "...beneficial socio-economic change that does not undermine the ecological and social systems upon which communities and societies are dependent." (Chapter 1, VGFN Final Agreement)

Target: A point where an indicator is reaching, or has reached, a desired level or condition. The target is a pre-determined condition related to a specific management goal or objective.

Threatened Species: Those species listed in Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the *Species at Risk Act*. (YESAA)

Timing windows: The practice of conducting land use activities during specific time periods with the purpose of minimizing potential impacts on a valued ecological or cultural resource.

Traditional Economy: An economy based on hunting, trapping, gathering and fishing activities, for household use or barter; also called a subsistence or land-based economy.

Ungulate: A four-legged, plant eating mammal with hoofs. Caribou, moose, deer and musk-oxen are ungulates.

Wage-Based Economy: An economic system in which goods and services are produced and exchanged for money.

Water Body: An inland water feature, up to its ordinary high-water mark, in a liquid or frozen state, including a swamp, marsh, bog, fen, reservoir and any other land that is covered by water during at least three consecutive months of the year, but does not include a sewage or waste treatment lagoon, a dugout to hold water for livestock and a mine tailings pond (YESAA).

Watercourse: A natural water-way, water body or water supply, including one that contains water intermittently, and includes groundwater, springs, swamps and gulches (YESAA).

Watershed: The region or area drained by a river or stream system, divided from adjacent drainage basins by a height of land.

Wetland: For this Plan, wetlands are defined as all open water aquatic environments, both still water (lentic) and moving water (lotic) features, or concentrations of those features, and their adjacent environments.

Wetland Complex: A concentrated geographic grouping of individual wetlands. Wetland complexes may include both wetland and non-wetland biophysical landscape types. Wetland complexes function as an integrated hydrologic system.

Wilderness Preserve: A park established with a view to protecting an ecological unit or representative core area by conserving biodiversity and ecological viability (*Parks and Land Certainty Act*).

Wildlife Key Areas: Locations used by wildlife for critical, seasonal life functions.

Winter Road: A temporary road constructed during the winter period without the use of gravel or other soil materials. Packed snow typically forms the roadbed.

Working Landscape: See Integrated Management Area.

Yukon First Nations: As stated in the Yukon Umbrella Final Agreement, any one of the following: Carcross/Tagish First Nation; Champagne and Aishihik First Nations; Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation; Kluane First Nation; Kwanlin Dun First Nation; Liard First Nation; Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation; First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun; Ross River Dena Council; Selkirk First Nation; Ta'an Kwach'an Council; Teslin Tlingit Council; Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation; or White River First Nation.

Yukon Indian People: A term used in the Yukon First Nations Final Agreements referring to people of aboriginal ancestry. A person enrolled under one of the Yukon First Nation Final Agreements in accordance with criteria established in Chapter 3, Eligibility and Enrolment.