



Energy, Mines and Resources
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6



June 22, 2017

Honourable Ránj Pillai
Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources
Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Chief Bruce Charlie
Vuntut Gwitchin Government
Box 94
Old Crow, YT Y0B 1N0

Dear Minister Pillai and Chief Charlie:

Re: North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan Annual Implementation Report 2016

We are pleased to provide you with this annual update on implementation activities for the North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan (NYRLUP). The related annual meeting between our two governments to review implementation activities took place on March 22, 2017. The NYRLUP Annual Implementation Report 2016 is enclosed for your information.

Implementation highlights for 2016 include:

- Progress toward Sustainable Development Objectives 1.1 and 1.3 with continuing research of vegetation recovery rates, and an accurate measurement of the current surface and linear disturbance levels in the Eagle Plains area;
- Protected Area planning with a focus on the development of a draft management plan for the Ch'ihilii Chik Habitat Protection Area (Whitefish Wetlands, Recommendation 4.2.1), and draft vision statement and guiding principles for Dàadzàii Vàn Territorial Park (Summit Lake Bell River, Recommendation 4.2.2);
- Access management planning for the Eagle Plain oil and gas basin, and the development of a joint Memorandum of Understanding to guide the project (Recommendation 6.3); and,

Honourable Ranj Pillai
Chief Bruce Charlie
Page 2
June 22, 2017

- Collaborative work toward Best Practices for oil and gas activity in the range of the Porcupine Caribou herd with the compilation of Traditional Knowledge and western science data to inform our understanding of caribou response to disturbance.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding for the Implementation of the NYRLUP, the Parties agreed to assess the need for a plan review no later than seven years after the initial approval of the plan (2009). At the June, 2016 meeting, the Parties agreed a plan review is not necessary at this time, and that the need for a plan review will be assessed on an annual basis. The Parties further agreed to seek the guidance of the Yukon Land Use Planning Council on options for conducting a plan review.

We look forward to our continuing work together to implement the NYRLUP under the *Memorandum of Understanding for the Implementation of the North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan*.

Sincerely,



Acting for
Manon Moreau
Assistant Deputy Minister
Energy, Mines and Resources
Yukon Government



Kris Statnyk
Intergovernmental and
Implementation Coordinator
Vuntut Gwitchin Government

Enclosure: NYRLUP Annual Implementation Report 2016

North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan

Annual Implementation Report
2016

Yukon Government and
Vuntut Gwitchin Government

Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| Background | 3 |
| Report | 3 |
| 1) 2016 Implementation Activities and Issues: | 3 |
| 2) Parties' Priorities for 2017: | 3 |
| 3) Plan amendment and Plan review procedures and outcomes: | 4 |
| 4) Cumulative Effects Reporting: | 4 |
| a. Field research projects: | 5 |
| b. Historical disturbance data update project: | 5 |
| c. Recovered disturbance levels project: | 5 |
| Appendices: | 5 |
| 1. Implementation Framework 2016 | 5 |
| 2. Conformity Check Summary – 2016..... | 5 |
| 3. Disturbances Report – 2009-2016..... | 5 |
| 4. Annual North Yukon Director's Implementation Meeting Notes | 5 |

Background

The North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan was approved by the Yukon and Vuntut Gwitchin governments in 2009. In 2010, the parties entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to implement the plan and developed an implementation table to guide their activities.

Report

This report on the progress of implementation activities during 2016 includes:

1. The year's implementation activities and issues;
 2. The Parties' priorities for the subsequent year;
 3. Plan amendment or review procedures and outcomes; and
 4. Cumulative effects reporting results.
- 1) **2016 Implementation Activities and Issues:** The activities and issues discussed during the quarterly reviews by Yukon and Vuntut Gwitchin governments are summarized in the Intergovernmental Implementation Framework table, which is included as Appendix 2. This table represents the current implementation work plan. It lists the specific activities agreed to by the parties to address the goals and recommendations of the North Yukon plan. In general, steady progress continues to be made on plan recommendations and their related action items. There were no significant issues with plan implementation during 2016 and the major project activities were:
- Progress toward Sustainable Development Objectives 1.1 and 1.3 with continuing research of vegetation recovery rates, and an accurate measurement of the current surface and linear disturbance levels in the Eagle Plains area;
 - Protected Area planning with a focus on the development of a draft management plan for the Ch'ihilii Chik Habitat Protection Area (Whitefish Wetlands, Recommendation 4.2.1), and draft vision statement and guiding principles for Dàadzàii Vàn Territorial Park (Summit Lake Bell River, Recommendation 4.2.2);
 - Access management planning for the Eagle Plain oil and gas basin, and the development of a joint Memorandum of Understanding to guide the project (Recommendation 6.3); and,
 - Collaborative work toward Best Practices for oil and gas activity in the range of the Porcupine Caribou herd with the compilation of Traditional Knowledge and western science data to inform our understanding of caribou response to disturbance.
- 2) **Parties' Priorities for 2017:** YG and VGG have determined that the priorities for 2017 are as listed below:
- Continue to work with the Yukon Land Use Planning Council to determine historic surface disturbance levels in North Yukon Land Management Unit 9 (Eagle Plains) and to agree to a methodology to track linear and surface disturbance that could be used for other Land Management Units designated as Integrated Management Areas in the North Yukon Region (Recommendations 1.1 and 1.3);

- Continue field research and analysis related to linear disturbance recovery and wildlife occupancy during 2016 (Recommendations 1.1 and 1.3);
- Continue Whitefish wetlands management planning (Recommendation 4.2.1);
- Continue work towards the designation of a Summit Lake – Bell River protected area within the proposed refined boundaries (Recommendation 4.2.2);
- Work towards developing an access management planning in the Eagle Plain oil and gas basin (Recommendation 6.3); and
- Continue to research caribou related issues, addressing concerns related to exploration activities in the Eagle Plain basin including the development of Best Management Practices as guidance to oil and gas activities and a process to establish safe operating distances and critical numbers for the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

Two additional areas previously acknowledged as ongoing priorities to address at a future date include:

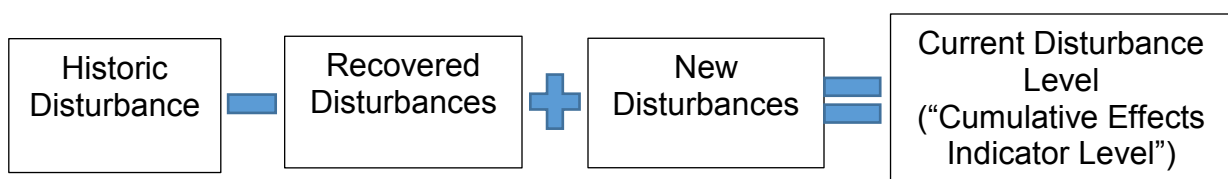
- Hydrological studies (Recommendation: 4.1 and Suggested Research Priority);
- Future aggregate source identification (Recommendation 6.5).

3) **Plan amendment and Plan review procedures and outcomes:** There were no plan amendments for 2016. The Directors plan to revisit the discussion of issues related to the need for a Plan revision or review, on annual basis (Plan section 7.2). Section 6.5 of the MOU between the Parties states that “No later than seven years after the initial approval of the Plan, the Parties shall determine whether they wish to undertake a plan review”.

4) **Cumulative Effects Reporting:** This component of the annual report is an important tool for monitoring the functional disturbances and potential impacts of activities within the planning area at the Landscape Management Unit level.

There are two metrics utilized to report on functional disturbance: surface area and linear density. Both of these cumulative effects indicators are defined and discussed in greater detail in Section 3.3.1.1 of the Plan.

The annual current disturbance level reflects the historic disturbance values, less updated recovered disturbances, plus new disturbances.



The following is an overview of cumulative effects indicator related activities that took place during 2016:

- **Field research projects:** The 2016 field season consisted of maintaining the wildlife cameras and collecting memory cards. Analysis of the 2014 and 2015 field seasons was the priority in 2016. The results of this work will be used to inform the other components of the larger project.
- **Historical disturbance data update project:** During 2016 YG and VGG technical staff, led by the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, undertook a pilot project to determine the most appropriate resolution of digital imagery and the best methodology to accurately measure existing disturbances in LMU 9 (Eagle Plain Basin). In 2017, the group will undertake a larger project to acquire any necessary imagery for the balance of LMU 9 and perform the analysis applicable to the entire unit.
- **Recovered disturbance levels project:** Once the existing disturbance project has been completed, the technical working group will continue its work to determine and integrate processes to monitor, measure and record ongoing disturbance levels.

The following summary provides an overview of cumulative effects and functional disturbances being tracked and monitored within the North Yukon planning region:

Projects assessed under YESAA within the North Yukon planning region are reviewed by the Yukon Land Use Planning Council for plan conformity. One new project underwent assessment in North Yukon during 2016. The project was within the Community Area, conformed to the Plan and is detailed in Appendix 2.

New disturbances occurring since the approval of the North Yukon Plan in 2009 until the end of 2016 have been summarized in the table included as Appendix 3. Note that this table does not list the historical disturbances from before 2009. Those values are currently being reviewed and updated as discussed above, and once finalized (see projects above) will need to be approved by the parties before becoming official.

Since Plan approval in 2009, there has been an estimated total of 637 hectares of new surface disturbance in the North Yukon planning region. There were no new disturbances reported in 2016.

Cumulative Effects Summary: There were no new disturbances in 2016.

Appendices:

1. [Implementation Framework](#)
2. [Conformity Check Summary – 2016](#)
3. [Disturbances Report – 2009-2016](#)
4. [Annual North Yukon Implementation Meeting Notes](#)

| YG-VGG INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION TABLE: North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan - 2016 Update | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| Goal | Recommendations | Action Steps and Updates | Results Expected / Status |
| <p>GOAL 1: Sustainable Development</p> <p>Promote Sustainable Development by ensuring that social, cultural, economic and environmental policies are applied to the management protection and use of land, water and resources in an integrated and coordinated manner</p> | <p>1.1 As a general guideline for decision makers and land users, in the Integrated Management Area the amount of surface disturbance in a landscape management unit should be maintained below the cumulative effects indicator levels indicated in the plan (5.1.1)</p> | <p>1.1.1 <u>Surface and Linear Disturbance Tracking and Reporting</u></p> <p>a) YG will track new surface and linear disturbance on public land designated as Integrated Management Areas pursuant to the Plan. Specifically, YG will track existing, new, and recovered disturbance levels in these areas.</p> <p>b) Initial research efforts to determine existing and recovered disturbance levels is focused on identified areas off the Dempster Highway, as well as the Eagle Plains, Whitefish River-Cathedral Rocks, and Richardson Foothills eco-regions (see also item 1.3.1).</p> <p><i>Updates: Contract work undertaken to show estimated surface disturbance using existing information. Analysis of data began Nov 2011 to review & determine if gaps exist in data (mostly LMU 9). Work continued into 2012. Presentation on research to-date given to VGG in Old Crow in November 2012. 2013 included further field work in preparation for the 2014 field season, and refined research findings. The 2014 field season consisted of seismic line recovery research and placing wildlife cameras in representative areas. 2015 work continued the trail camera work. Analysis of field and camera data is ongoing.</i></p> <p>2016 Update: YLUPC undertook a project to determine the best methodology to measure current surface disturbance, resulting in a recommendation to use digital imagery and hire a contractor to interpret it, measuring width and length of existing disturbance as well as estimating regrowth based on observed vegetation. The project will use a combination of higher imagery and georeferenced photographs to verify the accuracy of the both the disturbance and recovery findings. YLUPC anticipates having the pilot project, LMU9, completed in 2017.</p> <p>c) VGG will track new surface and linear disturbance on Settlement Lands designated as Integrated Management Areas pursuant to the Plan.</p> <p>d) The parties will provide the cumulative effects reporting results to the Yukon Land Use Planning Council (YLUPC) on an annual basis.</p> | <p>Annual reports with cumulative effects reporting: completed annually.</p> <p>Refined current surface disturbance estimates (i.e. Gap identification in current data, refine current recovery rate estimates, and fill in gaps & set bench marks): In Progress</p> <p>Ongoing as a part of annual reporting.</p> <p>Ongoing and part of annual reporting</p> |
| | | <p><u>1.1.2 Joint Technical Meetings</u></p> <p>The parties will meet if a proposed cautionary indicator level is reached. These meetings serve as a forum for sharing information and formulating recommendations to assist respective governments' management of public and Settlement Lands in compliance with the approved Plan. The parties may, in consultation, adopt management actions to minimize and mitigate impacts on key ecological values within the target Land Management Unit (LMU).</p> | <p>Information and recommendations to decision bodies.</p> <p>As triggered</p> |
| | | <p><u>1.1.3 Memorandum of Understanding</u></p> <p>YG and VGG will develop a Memorandum of Understanding governing the joint technical meetings referred to in 1.1.2. The MOU will define clear guidelines and process links to the Yukon Environmental Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB) and the YLUPC in respect of the cumulative effects framework.</p> | <p>MOU: COMPLETED January 2010</p> |

YG-VGG INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION TABLE: North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan - 2016 Update

| Goal | Recommendations | Action Steps and Updates | Results Expected / Status |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>GOAL 1: Sustainable Development (Continued)</p> <p>Promote Sustainable Development by ensuring that social, cultural, economic and environmental policies are applied to the management protection and use of land, water and resources in an integrated and coordinated manner</p> | <p>1.2 Site closure/remediation plans should be developed, implemented and monitored for large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure projects that create significant surface disturbance (5.1.2.1)</p> | <p><u>1.2.1 Site Closure/Remediation Plans</u></p> <p>In consultation with VGG, YG will implement site closure and remediation plans as per standard practices for review and permitting of resource extraction and infrastructure projects requiring such site closure and remediation plans. YG to monitor the applicable site closure/remediation plans on public lands, VGG to monitor on Settlement Lands.</p> | <p>Site closure and remediation plans as standard practices for project assessments and decision documents.</p> <p>As required, on a project by project basis.</p> |
| | <p>1.3 To provide a benchmark for the monitoring of cumulative effects indicator levels, the status of existing surface disturbances should be documented (5.1.2.1)</p> | <p><u>1.3.1 Benchmark Cumulative Effects Disturbance Levels</u></p> <p>The parties will quantify existing linear and surface disturbance throughout the region. Initial research efforts to this end will be focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • areas that have the highest possibility of experiencing future disturbance. • areas where existing disturbances are providing winter access for hunters off the Dempster Highway. Specifically, the parties will conduct fieldwork to document disturbance levels in this area, excluding the 2km Dempster Corridor established by the Plan. • the Eagle Plains, Whitefish River-Cathedral Rocks, and Richardson Foothills eco-regions. Specifically, in consultation with VGG and YG, (with assistance from YLUPC) will use satellite imagery and ground-truthed modelling to derive benchmark disturbance levels for these regions, starting with LMU 9 (Eagle Plain Basin). • Prior to deriving benchmark disturbance levels, the parties will utilize existing and available data regarding historical surface disturbance and linear density throughout the region. | <p>Historical surface disturbance and linear density data: In Progress</p> <p>Satellite Imagery Capture/Interpretation: Completed Spring 2011&2015, 2016 for most of LMU9</p> <p>Dempster Highway project (future): TBD</p> <p>Ground-truthed information for parts of Eagle Plains Basin: Collected Summer 2011-2016</p> |
| | <p>1.4 In the North Yukon Planning Region, potential climate change impacts should be considered in all land management decisions (5.1.3)</p> | <p><u>1.4.1 Main-streaming climate change</u></p> <p>YG will implement this recommendation by fulfilling its obligation under the YG Climate Change Action Plan. The parties may work in partnership with the Climate Change Secretariat and Northern Climate ExChange to fulfill this recommendation, and will apply best scientific knowledge and adaptive management tools to incorporate climate change considerations into land management decisions in the region.</p> | <p>Climate Change is considered in all project evaluation and planning exercises.</p> <p>Implemented as on-going practice of government.</p> |
| | <p>1.5 Due to the potential cumulative effects of climate change and land use impacts, sensitive wetland habitats and Porcupine Caribou Herd habitats at risk of significant change should be managed more cautiously, and with a high level of conservation focus (5.1.3)</p> | <p><u>1.5.1 Approve Plan</u></p> <p>By approving the Plan, sensitive wetlands and critical Porcupine Caribou Herd habitat, included in zone I and II, will be managed with a high level of conservation focus. <i>The Porcupine Caribou Herd Management Plan was signed in 2010 by all eight parties.</i></p> | <p>Approved Porcupine Caribou Herd Management Plan:</p> <p>Completed - Plan Approved July 2010</p> |
| | | <p><u>1.5.2 Manage Herd</u></p> <p>Ongoing implementation of the Harvest Management Plan for the Porcupine Caribou Herd. <i>YG lead: all departments that manage land or review projects.</i></p> | <p>Implementation of the management plan:</p> <p>On-going</p> |

YG-VGG INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION TABLE: North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan - 2016 Update

| Goal | Recommendations | Action Steps and Updates | Results Expected / Status |
|---|--|---|---|
| GOAL 2: Wildlife Maintain terrestrial habitat in a condition required to sustain regional wildlife populations | The plan does not contain any recommendations in respect of this goal. It does, however, include a number of best practices. | <u>2.1 BMP Use and Development</u> Government agencies and project review panels are continually developing and updating BMPs. The parties acknowledge that consideration is given to the BMPs identified in the Plan, noting that some practices may be surpassed in future, but will not require plan revision. <i>YG lead: all departments which manage land or review projects.</i> | On-going |
| GOAL 3: Fish Maintain aquatic habitat in a condition required to sustain regional fish populations | 3.1 To minimize potential impacts to regional fish populations, in-stream and lake over-wintering habitat should be identified in advance of the assessment process for large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure projects (5.2.4) | <u>3.1.1 Over-wintering Research</u> YG will complete identification of in-stream and lake over-wintering habitat throughout the planning region. | Prior over-wintering projects summarized: Completed. |
| | | <u>3.1.2 Permitting - Fish Habitat</u> YG will implement as per current practices for review and permitting of resource extraction and infrastructure projects. Impact on fish is a consideration in project assessment conducted by the responsible agencies (i.e. DFO, Water Board and YESAA). <i>YG lead: all departments which manage land or review projects.</i> | As required (No change). On-going |
| | 3.2 Water withdrawals in sensitive fish over-wintering areas should be prohibited (5.2.4) | <u>3.2.1 Water Withdrawal Prohibitions</u> This is a consideration in existing project assessment and is to be considered collaboratively by all orders of government with jurisdiction in the North Yukon region. The parties will implement as a matter of practice noting that compliance to this recommendation may not always be practical. (Note: <i>No prohibitions have been found issued in the North Yukon Region to date.</i>) | As required (No change). On-going |
| GOAL 4: Wetlands, Lakes and Rivers Maintain the integrity of wetlands, lakes, rivers and sensitive permafrost areas | 4.1 To minimize potential impacts to regional wetlands, an assessment of wetland hydrology and connectivity should be conducted in advance of the assessment process for large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure projects (5.2.5) | <u>4.1.1 Wetland Hydrology Research</u> YG will apply the Canadian Wetland Classification System to assess hydrology and connectivity of wetland systems within the planning region. This research will inform future YG work to develop BMPs for each wetland type, in consultation with VGG. <i>Updates: The wetland classification web page was posted on YG Environment's web site in 2012 (http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/animals-habitat/wetland_classification.php).</i> | Wetland inventory, classification and assessment. Started: April 1, 2011 |
| | | <u>4.1.2 Permitting – Wetland Hydrology</u> YG will fully consider wetland hydrology in the review and permitting of resource extraction and infrastructure projects. <i>YG lead: all departments which manage land or review projects.</i> | As required (No change). On-going |
| | 4.2 Water withdrawals in ecologically sensitive wetland areas should be prohibited (5.2.5) | <u>4.2.1 Withdrawal Prohibitions</u> The recommendation is a guiding principle to be evaluated under specific circumstances by the parties. <i>Updates: No withdrawal prohibitions have been identified in the region to date.</i> | As required (No change). When Triggered |

YG-VGG INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION TABLE: North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan - 2016 Update

| Goal | Recommendations | Action Steps and Updates | Results Expected / Status |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p>GOAL 5: Heritage and Culture</p> <p>Recognize, conserve and promote the heritage and cultural resources and values of the Vuntut Gwitchin, other affected First Nations, and the Yukon</p> | <p>5.1 Management guidelines for identified routes and sites within the Integrated Management area should be developed jointly by the Vuntut Gwitchin and Yukon governments (5.3.1.1)</p> | <p><u>5.1.1 Management Guidelines</u></p> <p>Most existing routes have been identified and management guidelines or BMPs are/will be jointly developed by the parties as circumstances require.</p> <p><i>Update: Heritage resource BMPs were developed for mineral exploration, placer mining and wilderness tourism (See http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/bmp.html).</i></p> <p><i>Update: The heritage management guidelines product “Best Management Practices – Found Human Remains and Burial Sites” was completed & posted online at : http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/pdf/BurialSites_BMP_2014.pdf</i></p> <p>2016 Update: The Heritage Stewardship Guide was developed by VGG and other YFNs.</p> <p>2016 Update: The Vuntut Gwitchin Heritage Act was passed.</p> | <p>Management guidelines or BMPs.</p> <p>On-going</p> |
| | <p>5.2 Known historic camps/cabins, historical fish trap locations, archaeological sites and other heritage resources should be identified prior to exploration and development activities, and protected from disturbance (5.3.1.2)</p> | <p><u>5.2.1 Permitting – Historic Sites and Resources</u></p> <p>YG will implement as per current practices for review and permitting of projects which address known historic sites and resources. This item to be reassessed at the first plan review.</p> <p><i>Updates: VGG is involved in heritage research and identification of heritage sites on an ongoing basis. VGG Heritage Department maintains and populates databases to track place names, cultural sites and areas, navigation systems and oral history.</i></p> | <p>Management Guidelines development as required.</p> <p>Permitting of projects: On-going</p> |
| <p>GOAL 6: Economic</p> <p>Facilitate economic development opportunities and activities that results in socio-economic benefits to the community of Old Crow, other affected First Nations and Yukon as a whole, and that meet the sustainable development</p> | <p>6.1 In recognition of the strategic importance of the Dempster Highway and its designation as a Northern and Remote route under the National Highway System, surface disturbance and linear density indicator reporting and evaluation are exempt within a distance of 1 km on each side of the highway centre line (2-km total corridor width) (5.4.1.1)</p> | <p>To be re-evaluated at first plan review.</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| | <p>6.2 An all-season access road to Old Crow is not required at this time (5.4.1.2)</p> | <p>To be re-evaluated at first plan review. (Note: the Old Crow Winter Road currently operates under a 30-year license which allows for the road to be constructed up to 10 times during that period. The project was reviewed under YESAA (2013-0091) as a 260 kilometre x 5 metre route within a defined 300-metre corridor.</p> | <p>N/A</p> |

YG-VGG INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION TABLE: North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan - 2016 Update

| Goal | Recommendations | Action Steps and Updates | Results Expected / Status |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| criteria established by this Plan | 6.3 In advance of significant levels of energy sector activity, an access management plan should be developed for the Eagle Plain oil and gas basin (5.4.1.3) | <p><u>6.3.1 Access Management Plan</u></p> <p>YG and VGG will jointly develop an access management plan for the Eagle Plain oil and gas basin. Within two years of the Plan being approved, the parties will draft the terms of reference establishing the factors to be considered in developing the access management plan for this area.</p> <p>2016 Update: Memorandum of Understanding to proceed & terms of reference agreed to in principle</p> | Terms of Reference: Draft under review. |
| | 6.4 To support maintenance and growth of Old Crow, the Community Area (CA) should be exempt from surface disturbance and linear density indicator monitoring (5.4.2) | <p><u>6.4.1 CA Location</u></p> <p>VGG, in consultation with YG, will determine exact location of the CA. Until such time that the parties finalize the CA location, the CA shall be defined as a 5-km radius from the centre of Old Crow. The area is not expected to include lands across the Porcupine River from Old Crow.</p> <p><i>Update: VGG indicated during 2012 that the 5 km radius is adequate for now. This area should be included in any mapping updates.</i></p> | CA boundary delineation centered on the VGG admin building: |
| | 6.5 To mitigate potential impacts to significant and/or sensitive ecological or cultural resources and values, the identification and mapping of potential sources of aggregate should be undertaken in advance of the assessment process for large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure projects (5.4.7) | <p><u>6.5.1 Aggregate Mapping</u></p> <p>YG will continue to map potential aggregate resources in the North Yukon region in consultation with VGG.</p> | Aggregate maps: On-going |
| | 6.6 A future Old Crow Forest Management Plan should maintain community fuelwood and forest harvesting opportunities within the identified fuelwood and forest harvesting area shown in Map 3, Appendix 1 (5.4.8) | <p><u>6.6.1 Community Forest Management Plan</u></p> <p>VGG and YG will develop a Community Forest Management Plan for Old Crow as provided for in s.30 of the <i>Forest Resources Act</i>, to provide accessible forest use for local residents.</p> | Community Forest Management Plan: When capacity and resources permit |
| | 6.7 Renewable energy options and solutions for the community of Old Crow should continue to be researched and promoted (5.4.9) | <p><u>6.7.1 Energy Option Research and Promotion</u></p> <p>VGG will lead the energy options research initiative, with initial focus on improving the energy efficiency of existing and new houses and government buildings in Old Crow and the use of heat energy from Yukon Electrical Company's power generators to support other community infrastructure. In consultation with VGG, YG will conclude a technical analysis of renewable energy options for Old Crow.</p> <p>2016 Update: VGG and YG Energy Branch have prepared a draft Energy Plan for Old Crow.</p> | Energy options research report: When capacity and resources permit |

YG-VGG INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION TABLE: North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan - 2016 Update

| Goal | Recommendations | Action Steps and Updates | Results Expected / Status |
|------|--|--|--|
| | | <p>2016 Update: VGG is developing a high penetration solar PV project for Old Crow. The project has advanced through the concept development, pre-feasibility and feasibility stages.</p> | |
| | Stand-Alone Item | Action Steps and Updates | Results Expected / Status |
| 1 | <p>Land Use Designation Recommendation 4.2.1 Whitefish – Porcupine Lakes (Ch’ihilii Chik):</p> <p>LMU 8 Whitefish Wetlands – Sub-unit 8A Whitefish - Porcupine Lakes should be designated as a Protected Area category.</p> | <p><u>i. Designations and Withdrawals</u></p> <p>YG will withdraw (via OIC for 5 year term) the public land portion of LMU 8A and manage the land in accordance with the Plan until a more detailed management plan for the Whitefish wetlands is undertaken and adopted within the term of the OIC.</p> <p>VGG will designate the Settlement Land portion of 8A as a protected area</p> <hr/> <p><u>ii. Management Planning</u></p> <p>VGG will lead the development of detailed management plan for the Whitefish – Porcupine Lakes with YG involvement.</p> <p><i>Terms of reference for the HPA management planning were drafted in 2013 and planning was commenced by the working group and continued through 2016. The parties formally adopted the name Ch’ihilii Chik HPA</i></p> <p>2016 Update: The Ch’ihilii Chik HPA Management Plan is at the final draft stage. It has been reviewed by the parties and is slated for presentation to the community of Old Crow.</p> | <p>OIC withdrawal and VGG designation: Completed</p> <hr/> <p>Protected area management plan: Started: April 1, 2011 Underway</p> |
| 2 | <p>Land Use Designation Recommendation 4.2.2 Summit Lake:</p> <p>LMU 4C, Summit Lake-Bell River, a sub-unit of the Northern Richardson Mountains and Foothills, should be designated as a Protected Area category.</p> | <p><u>i. Withdrawal</u></p> <p>YG will withdraw (via OIC for 5 year term) the proposed study area until final boundaries are defined and management plan is completed. After the management plan is complete, area within redefined Protected Area will be permanently withdrawn.</p> <hr/> <p><u>ii. Resource Assessment</u></p> <p>YG will complete the resource assessments for the identified Summit Lake area.</p> <hr/> <p><u>iii. Boundary Delineation</u></p> <p>The parties in consultation will delineate the finalized boundaries of the Summit Lake Area.</p> <p><i>Consolidated Updates 2011 – 2014: Work to finalize a planning boundary was completed over this period culminating in a letter from Chief Linklater agreeing to the boundary and to determining the type of designation at a future date (For complete 2011-2014 updates see 2015 Annual Implementation Report).</i></p> <p>2016 update: Preliminary boundary delineation has been completed and work between YG and VGG is ongoing.</p> | <p>OIC withdrawal: Completed</p> <hr/> <p>Resource Assessment Reports: Completed Summer 2010 & 2011</p> <hr/> <p>Boundary related research: During 2012 – 2013</p> <p>Boundary discussions and agreement :</p> |

YG-VGG INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION TABLE: North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan - 2016 Update

| Goal | Recommendations | Action Steps and Updates | Results Expected / Status |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| <p>2 (Cont.)</p> | <p>Land Use Designation Recommendation 4.2.2 Summit Lake (Continued):</p> <p>LMU 4C, Summit Lake-Bell River, a sub-unit of the Northern Richardson Mountains and Foothills, should be designated as a Protected Area category.</p> | <p><u>iv. Memorandum of Understanding</u></p> <p>The parties will conclude an MOU regarding the legal designation of the finalized Summit Lake Area.</p> | <p>MOU: begin once boundaries are designated and finalized</p> |
| | | <p><u>v. Protected Area Planning</u></p> <p>The parties will undertake protected area planning within the term of the OIC. Protected area planning to include options for an access corridor to the North Slope. During the interim period, management direction will rely on the Regional Land Use Plan.</p> <p><i>Consolidated Updates: 2011-2015: YG Environment and VGG worked to develop and finalize a park boundary. A report was completed in 2012 identifying Cultural and Heritage values within the study area. The Placer/Quartz and Oil & Gas withdrawal orders were renewed for the period 2014 – 2018. A working group representing VGG and YG was formed to draft the Terms of Reference for the planning process and to lead the planning process.</i></p> <p>2016 Update: Terms of Reference for the working group were completed in March 2016. The parties formally adopted the name Dâadzâii Vàn Territorial Park and agreed on the designation of natural environment park. The working group met with a target group of local knowledge holders to inform a draft Vision Statement and Guiding Principles.</p> | <p>Protected area management plan: 2016; Planning underway.</p> |
| <p>3</p> | <p>Land Use Designation Recommendation 4.4 North Yukon Withdrawal:</p> <p>Should the applicable authorities decide to lift the North Yukon Land Withdrawal at a future date, LMU 2A and LMU 4A should be considered for Integrated Management Area Zone III designation.</p> | <p>The parties will develop a consultation plan in respect of the North Yukon Land Withdrawal. Pursuant to the consultation plan, YG will amend the existing withdrawal order so as to remove LMUs 2A, 3, and 4A from the order, and extend the order to apply to the study area for the proposed protected areas (Summit lake – Bell River and Whitefish wetlands). The land use designation IMA Zone II will be applied to LMUs 2A, 3 and 4A.</p> | <p>Consultation plan and withdrawal orders: Completed</p> |
| <p>4</p> | <p>Landscape Management Unit #12B Fishing Branch HPA</p> <p>a. The Fishing Branch Committee of Managing Agencies should consider applying the land use designation concepts and criteria used in this Plan to the Fishing Branch HPA at the next HPA management plan review</p> <p>b. Further delineation of the Fishing Branch HPA southern boundary should also be considered during the next HPA management plan review.</p> | <p>The Committee of Managing Agencies conducted a review of the HPA management plan in 2009. This recommendation was tabled and discussed. It was determined that the Landscape Management Unit (LMU) will not be classified as a zone I, II, or III similar to other LMU's in the planning region. Rather, the management plan will take precedence regarding activities and land use options contained within since it provides a much more focused description and explanation of land use parameters. The acceptance and use of Cumulative Effects Indicators was not discussed but will be tabled at a future meeting of the Committee of Managing Agencies.</p> | <p>Completed</p> |
| | | <p>Once the VG/TH Traditional Territory overlap is resolved, the Fishing Branch Committee of Managing Agencies will work to establish a watershed-based boundary for the southern part of the HPA.</p> <p><i>Consolidated Updates 2012 – 2015: The Dawson Regional Planning Commission was made aware of the watershed based HPA boundary proposal and was expected to incorporate it. However, the planning process and boundary proposal have been suspended.</i></p> | <p>HPA boundary: Once overlap issue is resolved</p> |

YG-VGG INTERGOVERNMENTAL IMPLEMENTATION TABLE: North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan - 2016 Update

| Goal | Recommendations | Action Steps and Updates | Results Expected / Status |
|------|--|--|--|
| 5 | <p>Suggested Research Priorities, Appendix 4</p> | <p>Appendix 4 of the Plan provides a summary of various research suggestions made throughout the Plan. The parties will review, agree to, and develop a timeline for undertaking research priorities commensurate with available resources.</p> <p><i>Updates: the main research focus has been bench marking and baseline research during 2011 and 2012. See further details under Goal 1, recommendations 1.1 and 1.3)</i></p> <p><i>Consolidated Updates 2012 – 2015: The Suggested Research Priorities listed under part A4-1 of the Plan were discussed at the annual meeting held in 2012 through 2015. It was confirmed that priorities remain current and adequate for the near future.</i></p> <p>2016 update: Suggested research priorities were confirmed. A study to explore the cause and effect of land use activities and cumulative effects indicators on barren grounds caribou is underway.</p> | <p>Research timeline and products: June 2011-2016</p> |
| 6 | <p>Plan Implementation, section 7.1</p> <p>The parties will develop a detailed Plan implementation strategy concurrently with, or subsequent to, the approval of a Final Land Use Plan.</p> | <p>The YG and VGG will update the Intergovernmental Implementation Framework table annually.</p> <p><i>Annual reports are maintained on YG's Regional Land Use Planning web page for public access at the following link: http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/lands/nyrlup.html .</i></p> | <p>Updated Intergovernmental Implementation Framework: On-going with annual updates.</p> |
| 7 | <p>Plan Revision, section 7.2</p> <p>Plan Reviews will occur on an agreed-upon schedule, or whenever the Yukon and Vuntut Gwitchin governments agree it is required. Methods and timelines for changing the Plan will be developed as part of the detailed implementation strategy.</p> | <p>VGG and YG will jointly develop a Memorandum of Understanding detailing the plan revision schedule and triggers thereof. The Memorandum of Understanding will address whether such reviews are mandatory or discretionary, and shall clarify any applicable public review processes.</p> <p>The MOU requires a decision by the parties under section 6.7 to “determine whether they wish to undertake a plan review” within 7 years of the initial plan approval. A decision by the parties is required by June 2016.</p> <p>2016 Update: After reviewing the plan review indicators in the Final Plan, the parties agreed that a plan review was not warranted at this time.</p> | <p>MOU: Completed On-going consideration.</p> |
| 8 | <p>Best Management Practices</p> | <p>Government agencies and project review panels are continually developing and updating BMPs. The parties acknowledge that consideration is given to the BMPs identified by the Plan, noting that some practises may be surpassed in future, but will not require plan revision.</p> <p>2016 Update: The parties are working to develop guidelines or BMPs for industrial activity (oil and gas) in the winter range of the Porcupine Caribou Herd. This work includes a literature review and recommendations based on western science and traditional knowledge.</p> | <p>BMP's being developed on an ongoing basis. On-going</p> |

Appendix 2

| YESAB Assessed Projects 2016 | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------|--|---|
| | YES AA # | Project Proponent | Project Description | Landscape Management Unit | Zoning | Conformity & Approval Date | Comments |
| 1 | 2016-0062 | Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation | Old Crow Solar Project | LMU 2A (Old Crow-Rampart House) | CA | Conformity check issued July 11, 2016. Decision Document issued December 14, 2016. | Project conforms to Regional Land Use Plan. This proposal raises no concerns at a regional scale, and directly supports a plan recommendation. |

(Abbreviations: CA = Community Area, IMA = Integrated Management Area, PA = Protected Area)

Appendix 3

| New Disturbances from June 2009 – December 31, 2016 | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|--|--|
| LMU | LMU sub-unit | Area (km ²) ¹ | Land Use Category ² | IMA Zone † | New Surface Disturbance (km ²) since 2009 †† | New Linear Density (km/km ²) since 2009 †† |
| 1. Old Crow Flats SMA | 1A. Vuntut National Park | 4,374 (8%) | PA | N/A | 0 | 0 |
| | 1B. Old Crow Flats Core Wetlands | 4,504 (8%) | PA | N/A | 0 | 0 |
| | 1C. Old Crow Flats West | 726 (1%) | PA | N/A | 0 | 0 |
| | 1D. Old Crow Flats East | 2,518 (5%) | PA | N/A | 0 | 0 |
| | LMU total | 12,122 (22%) | | | 0 | 0 |
| 2. Lower Porcupine River | 2A. Old Crow – Rampart House | 1,525 (3%) | IMA** | Zone II | 0 | 0 |
| | 2B. Bluefish River – David Lord Creek | 3,083 (6%) | IMA | Zone III | 0 | 0 |
| | 2C. Bluefish – Cadzow Lake Wetlands | 980 (2%) | IMA | Zone I | 0 | 0 |
| | LMU total | 5,588 (11%) | | | 0 | 0 |
| 3. Driftwood River – Salmon Cache | none | 2,876 (5%) | IMA** | Zone II | 0 | 0 |
| 4. North Richardson Mountains and Foothills | 4A. Bell – Waters River | 2,126 (4%) | IMA** | Zone II | 0 | 0 |
| | 4B. LaChute River | 1,331 (2%) | IMA | Zone II | 0 | 0 |
| | 4C. Summit Lake – Bell River | 1,525 (3%) | PA | N/A | 0 | 0 |
| | LMU total | 4,982 (9%) | | | 0 | 0 |
| 5. Bluefish Lake – Keele Range | none | 2,066 (3%) | IMA | Zone III | 0 | 0 |
| 6. Ahvee and Sharp Mountains | none | 2,714 (5%) | IMA | Zone III | 0 | 0 |

¹ Percentage of total plan area occupied by each LMU or sub-unit is shown in brackets

² Land Use Category: PA=Protected Area (existing or proposed), IMA=Integrated Management Area, ** = under North Yukon Land Withdrawal, *** = Fishing Branch HPA Land Use Category for LMU 12B to be determined.

† Cumulative effects indicators (cautionary level % of LMU) for the four IMA zones are: Zone I = 0.075%, Zone II = 0.15%, Zone III = 0.375%, Zone IV = 0.75%

†† Surface Disturbance and Linear Density values: Most project related disturbances during the defined time period occurred in either LMU 2A (Old Crow community area) or in LMU 9 (Eagle Plains). The 2014 Old Crow winter road project utilized the pre-existing licensed route through LMU 2A, 2B, 2C, 6, 7, 8C and 9 and therefore is not considered a new disturbance by the Plan. Historic disturbances from before 2009 have not been included in the reported values. Note that the new disturbance values listed are the raw values which do not yet reflect any deductions based upon the definition of functional disturbance and exempt activities as described by the Plan (See definition of Functional Disturbance, pg.3-2, North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan, June 2009). There was no new disturbance in 2016.

New Disturbances from June 2009 – December 31, 2016

| LMU | LMU sub-unit | Area (km ²) ¹ | Land Use Category ² | IMA Zone † | New Surface Disturbance (km ²) since 2009 †† | New Linear Density (km/km ²) since 2009 †† |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|--|--|
| 7. Johnson Creek | none | 3,230 (6%) | IMA | Zone IV | 0 | 0 |
| 8. Whitefish Wetlands | 8A. Whitefish – Porcupine Lakes | 468 (1%) | PA | N/A | 0 | 0 |
| | 8B. Eagle – Bell River | 1,124 (2%) | IMA | Zone I | 0 | 0 |
| | 8C. Porcupine River | 302 (1%) | IMA | Zone I | 0 | 0 |
| | LMU total | 1,894 (4%) | | | 0 | 0 |
| 9. Eagle Plains | none | 6,415 (11%) | IMA | Zone IV | 3.17 km ² | 0.181 km/km ² (= 1161.2 km) |
| 10. South Richardson Mountains and Foothills | 10A. South Richardson Mountains | 780 (1%) | IMA | Zone II | 0 | 0 |
| | 10B. Rock River – Mount Joyal | 2,374 (4%) | IMA | Zone II | 0 | 0 |
| | LMU total | 3,154 (5%) | | | 0 | 0 |
| 11. Whitestone River | none | 1,740 (3%) | IMA | Zone III | 0 | 0 |
| 12. Ni'iinlii'njik (Fishing Branch) SMA | 12A. Ni'iinlii'njik Protected Area | 5,524 (10%) | PA | N/A | 0 | 0 |
| | 12B. Fishing Branch Habitat Protection Area | 980 (2%) | *** | N/A | 0 | 0 |
| | LMU total | 6,504 (12%) | | | 0 | 0 |
| 13. Kandik River | none | 2,266 (4%) | IMA | Zone IV | 0 | 0 |
| TOTALS | | 55,548 (100 %) | | | | |

APPENDIX 4:

NORTH YUKON RLUP IMPLEMENTATION DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 23, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Room 2C, Elijah Smith Building, 300 Main Street,

Whitehorse, YT

Present:

Vuntut Gwitchin Government:

William Josie, Director, Natural Resources and Heritage (by conference call)
Rosa Brown, Lands Manager

Yukon Government:

Jim Bell, Manager, A/Director Land Planning Branch
George Stetkiewicz, Senior Land Use Planner

Guests:

Sam Skinner, Senior Planner, YLUPC
Joe "Copper" Jack, First Nations Liaison, YLUPC

Meeting Chair: Jim Bell, A/Director Land Planning Branch

1. Agenda

Accepted as presented

2. Meeting Notes – July, 2016

Accepted as presented with provision that Options paper referred to in 6. *Surface Disturbance / Disturbance Definitions, Decision* be appended to meeting notes.

3. Action Items:

All action items were reviewed and the status adjusted to reflect current circumstances. In particular the following were modified as follows:

Action Item 2016-12-01: Add: There was general discussion regarding the YLUPC becoming a standing member of the Annual & Quarterly Directors' meetings. Methods for formalizing YLUPCs attendance will be researched and discussed at the next Director's meeting.

It was noted that action item 2016-07-01 could be deleted as its' substantive content has been transferred to 2016-12-01, which addresses the plan review process. In addition 2016-07-02 dealing with plan amendment processes has had its substantive content transferred to 2016-12-01 and updated to reflect the change.

Action Item 2016-12-01: This item was consolidated with 2016-07-01 and 2016-07-02 and modified to reflect so. In addition wording was added to the outcome indicating that YLUPC has undertaken a Common Land Use Planning Process (CLUPP) review which could inform the plan review and amendment process. YG

APPENDIX 4:

NORTH YUKON RLUP IMPLEMENTATION DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 23, 2017

agreed to provide additional background information on other YG land planning reviews and amendments e.g. Official Community Plans as per Yukon Municipal Act, as part of the CLUPP review.

4. Project Updates

a. Surface Disturbance

YLUPC presented the 2016 summary update for this project which takes direction from the 2016 Directors' meeting when it was decided to make a more accurate assessment of and clarify the existing surface and linear disturbance definitions using the North Yukon RLUP Land Management Unit 9 as a trial. A working group was formed and met throughout the year, to explore, test and cost image sources, collection/interpretation needs and data modeling. YLUPC contracted the former NYRLUP Senior Planner to clarify the objectives of the plan to assist in the definitions work. In addition, YLUPC used disturbance and recovery field work data collected by EMR to further assist in linking defined disturbance features from the imagery to disturbance features on the ground. The work on definitions is ongoing.

b. Caribou Guidelines

Work continued on this project with YG Oil and Gas Branch contracting a scientific paper which will form the basis of the western science contribution to the guidelines. The document was reviewed by YG and VGG, and the consultant is preparing a follow up draft. VGG has produced a traditional knowledge, community based paper on the topic. Both papers will contribute to the production of best practices guidelines for oil and gas activity in the range of the Porcupine Caribou herd.

Action Item 2017-03-01: This project, including a work plan with a consultation strategy leading to completion, will become a standing item on the agenda for future quarterly meetings until completion.

c. Eagle Plains Access Management

A MOU outlining an intergovernmental process for developing an access management plan was produced and reviewed, agreed to in principle and prepared for signature by both parties in 2016.

5. Annual Reporting

a. Implementation Plan

The implementation plan table was deferred to the following week where VGG and YG staff would finalize the table and add it to the final annual report.

b. Draft Annual Report

APPENDIX 4:

NORTH YUKON RLUP IMPLEMENTATION DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 23, 2017

The draft annual report was reviewed. Information regarding 2016 Field Projects was outstanding at the time of the meeting and would be added for the final review of the report.

c. Shared Priorities

• Surface Disturbance Project

A Yukon Land Use Planning Council representative presented three options for the next stage of the surface disturbance project. Following discussions about the pros, cons and suitability of differing imagery options, the Directors agreed with the YLUPC's recommendation to use existing high resolution imagery and fill in any gaps with medium high imagery.

Action Item 2017-03-02; YLUPC to draft request for proposals and use a portion of field data to ground truth the interpretations.

• Eagle Plain Basin Access Management Planning

There was discussion about the start-up of the planning process, the work that has been done in Alberta and British Columbia and the recent development proposals that were reviewed at YESAB. It was agreed the technical working group consisting of YG, VGG and YLUPC would meet within a week to commence work on the plan.

• Porcupine Caribou BMP's

YG and VGG are working with a consultant to finalize a background research/literature review paper that will form the basis of the "western" portion of the best management practices document. VGG has prepared a traditional knowledge community based document. The two components will be joined together to form the final set of best practices guidelines.

• Other

There was agreement to work towards increasing public outreach opportunities and the involvement of Old Crow residents and Vuntut Gwitchin citizens in the implementation of the NYRLUP.

6. Roundtable

Since the meeting was running behind, a roundtable was not held.

7. Next Quarterly Meeting

The next quarterly implementation meeting will take place the end of June, 2017, in Old Crow.

The meeting ended at 3:00 p.m.