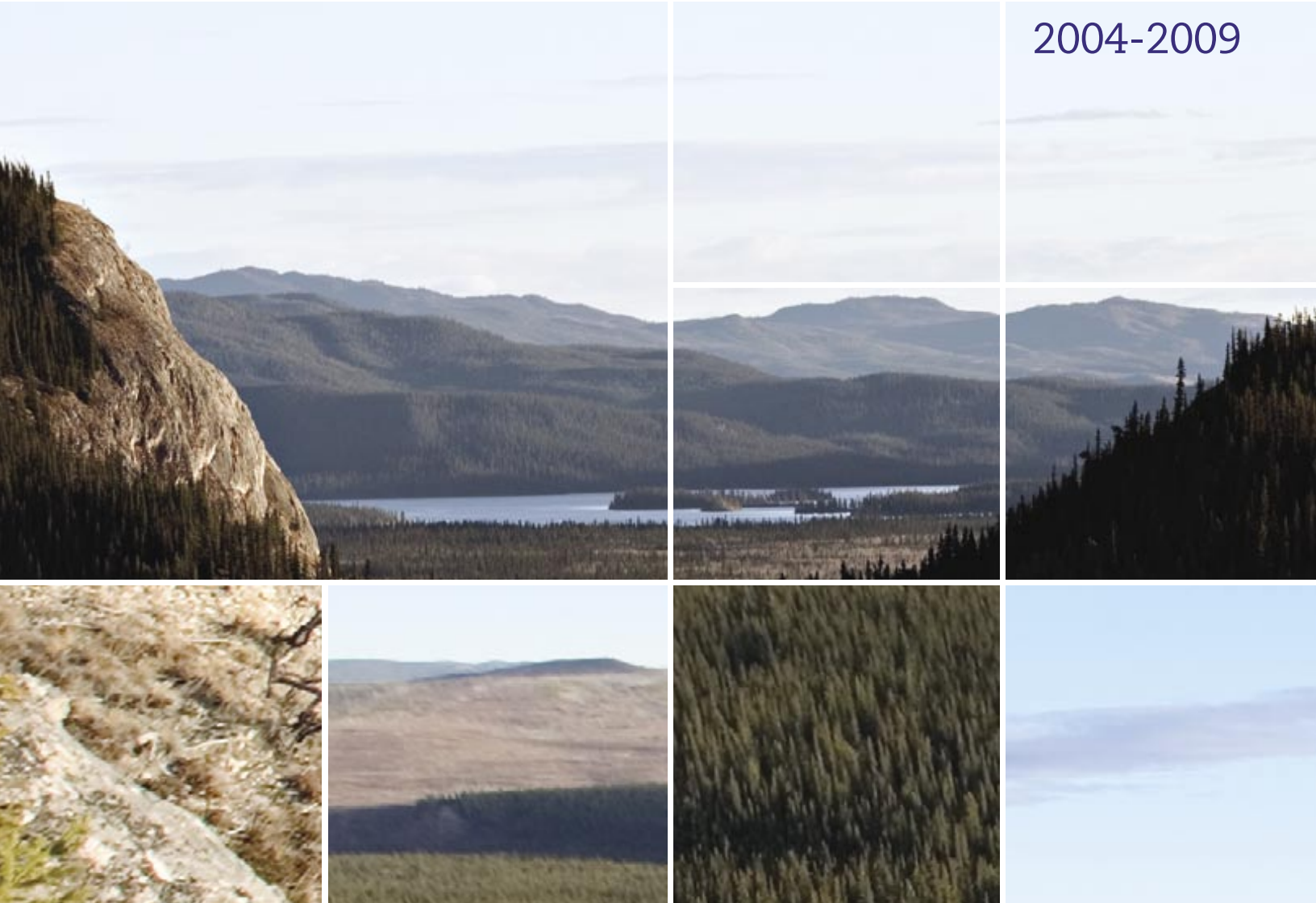


COMMUNITY-BASED
Fish and Wildlife Management Plan
Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation Traditional Territory

2004-2009



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Eagle Rock

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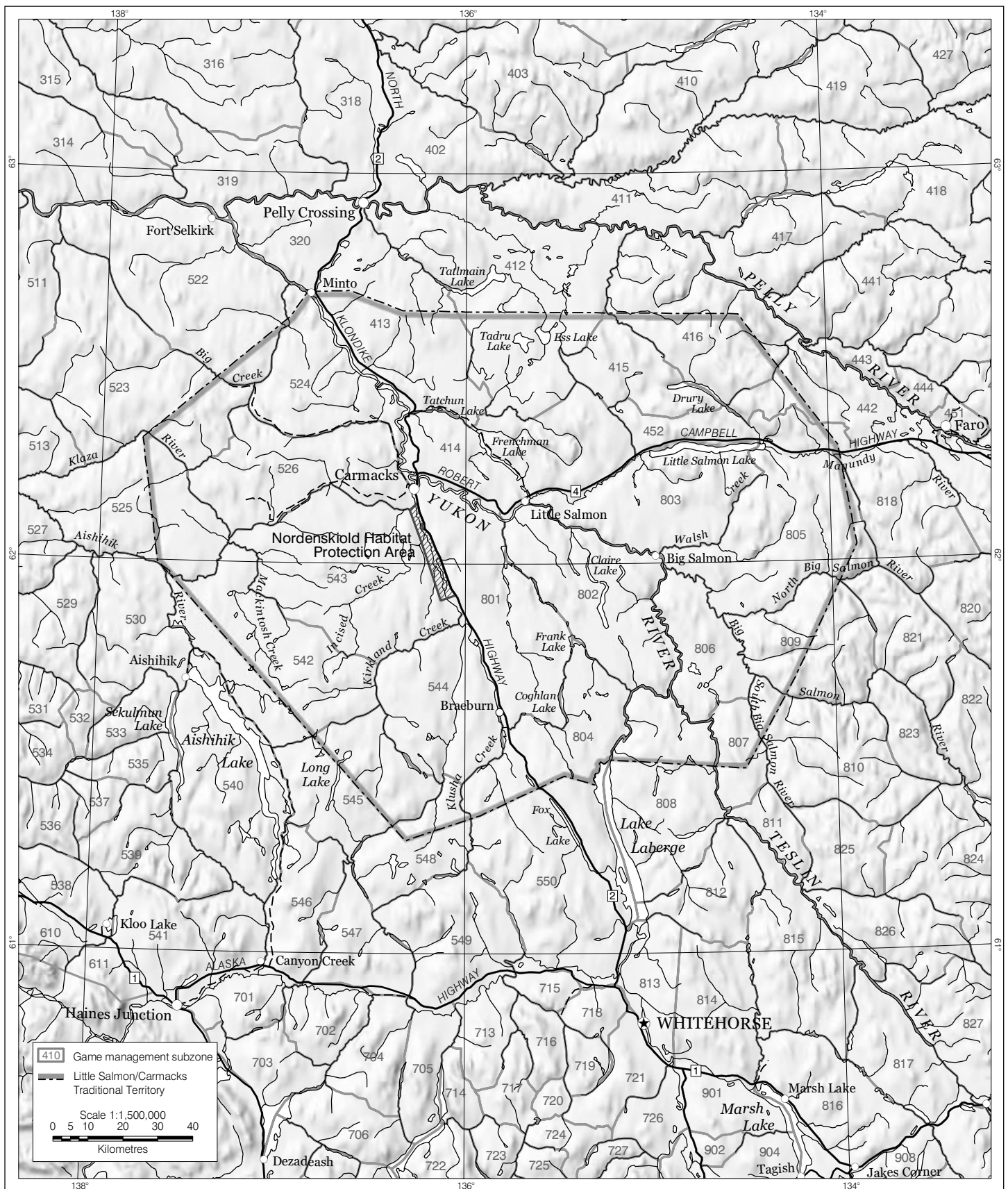


Figure 1. Traditional territory of the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation.

INTRODUCTION

What this plan is about

The Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation (LSCFN) Final Agreement requires a cooperative approach to fish and wildlife management involving the First Nation, the Carmacks Renewable Resources Council (CRRC) and Yukon Government (YTG). This community-based fish and wildlife plan reflects this new relationship by involving the LSCFN, CRRC, YTG and the community in the development of a five-year work plan to address local concerns about fish and wildlife. The plan coordinates the management of fish and wildlife from 2004-2009 in the LSCFN traditional territory.

How this plan was developed

The planning followed five steps:

1. Introduction to the community about how the planning would be done;
2. Identification of community issues and concerns;
3. Review of the issues and concerns;
4. A community planning workshop to help develop the plan; and
5. Plan writing, review by the plan partners, and final production.

At the request of the LSCFN and the CRRC, planning began in 2001 and, in October 2002, a public open house was held at the LSCFN Heritage Hall. At this meeting, the CRRC, LSCFN and YTG introduced how the plan would be developed, and we provided the opportunity for the community to ask questions.

In January 2003, the LSCFN conducted a door-to-door survey of 63 Carmacks households asking for concerns about fish and wildlife management in the traditional territory. We collected most of the community concerns in April and May 2003 with small interview groups at the CRRC office. We divided the traditional territory into six areas: Mount Nansen, Braeburn, Big Salmon, Claire Lake, Minto and Little Salmon Lake. People who were knowledgeable about these areas participated in small group meetings to discuss their concerns about fish and wildlife. We combined the concerns collected in the door-to-door survey and small group meetings, and presented them at an evening open house and community feast on November 26th, 2003 at the Carmacks Recreation Centre.

In December 2003, the LSCFN, CRRC, and YTG (the plan partners) met to review the issues and decide which ones were important to include in a planning workshop. The planning workshop was held March 23rd and 24th 2004 at the LSCFN Heritage Hall. The workshop provided the opportunity for community members, stakeholders, and the partners to review each issue, identify any solutions and develop appropriate actions, including who would do the work, and when, during the five years of the plan.

LSCFN
Little Salmon/Carmacks
First Nation

CRRC
Carmacks Renewable
Resources Council

YTG
Yukon Territorial
Government (specifically,
the Department of
Environment)

YWBTT
Yukon Wood Bison
Technical Team

CAFN
Champagne and Aishihik
First Nations

Structure of the plan

This plan lists topics alphabetically. For example, all community concerns relating to fish management are grouped under the heading “Fish.” Each important issue or concern is listed along with a brief explanation. Solutions, or ways to solve each issue, were developed at the March 23rd and 24th planning workshop by consensus of the three partners. Commitments describe how the solution will be achieved, by whom and when.

We have included target timelines for completion of each commitment, which are guides to help schedule work during the five-year plan. Years relate to government fiscal years because this is how the funds are allocated. For example, a commitment identified for “2004” should be completed between April 1, 2004 and March 31, 2005. Sometimes timelines are for more than one year. For example, “2004-2009” means the action will be carried out during each year of the plan. Other actions could be included in some years during the plan such as “2004, 2005,” meaning the action will be carried out in these years only.

The plan assigns commitments to one or more of the plan partners. If more than one plan partner is responsible for the commitment, the order of the agencies listed generally indicates which agency will take the lead completing the commitment. Where the plan lists only two agencies for a commitment, it will usually be a joint responsibility.

Sometimes a community concern fell outside of the authority of the plan partners, meaning that the LSCFN, CRRC or YTG are not the right groups to address the concern. This happened when we discussed bison and elk, which have management teams that include other traditional territories, governments and Renewable Resources Councils. Issues about bison and elk are stated as community recommendations for these broader teams to consider in their plans. In addition, recommendations in our plan that require Yukon-wide consideration are directed to the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board.

Ted Fairclough as river ranger



Key issues by area

There were a number of key issues that came out of the six small group meetings in April and May 2003.

Mount Nansen area

The Mount Nansen road has provided year-round access to the western part of the traditional territory since its opening in the early 1970s. Because the road is open in winter, disturbance to wildlife is believed to be highest in this part of the traditional territory. Winter traffic has increased sharply with the winter harvest of the wood bison herd that ranges in this area. Moose harvest in the area has been closed to licensed hunters since 1988 but populations are considered low. The Klaza caribou herd ranges in the area year-round, and the herd is increasing. Bison herd management, disturbance to caribou and moose, moose harvest, and winter road access issues dominated the community concerns about this area.

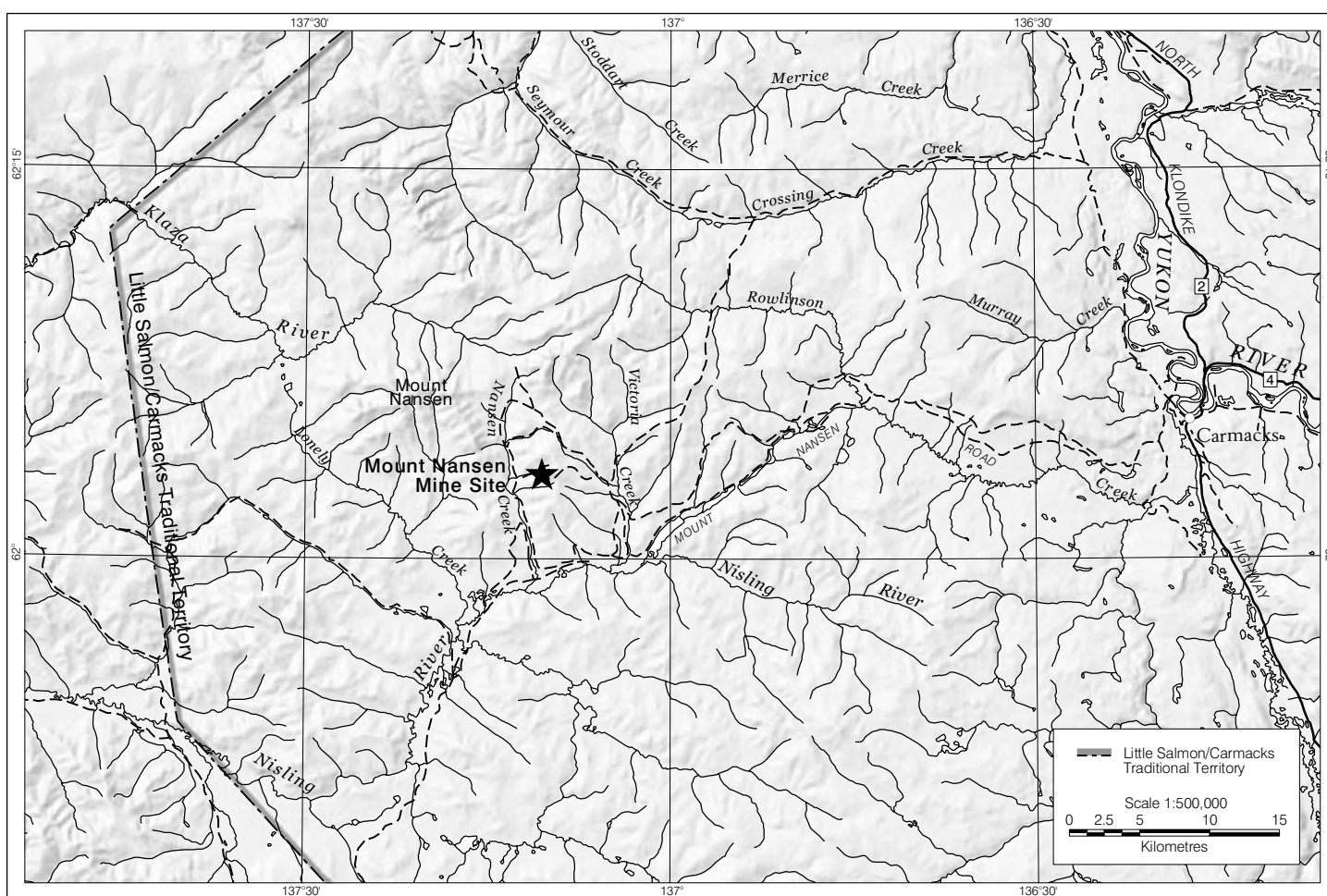


Figure 2. Mount Nansen area.

Braeburn area

Elk were the focus of residents' concerns in the Braeburn area. Key elk concerns include habitat use and range expansion, disturbance of moose by elk, elk as a road hazard and feeding on agricultural crops, and the need for some harvest to control elk herd size. Similar management concerns arose with the Aishihik wood bison herd.

Other important concerns of Braeburn residents were low moose numbers, and high pressure on freshwater fish in easily accessible lakes in the area, particularly Ten-Mile Lake and Braeburn Lake.

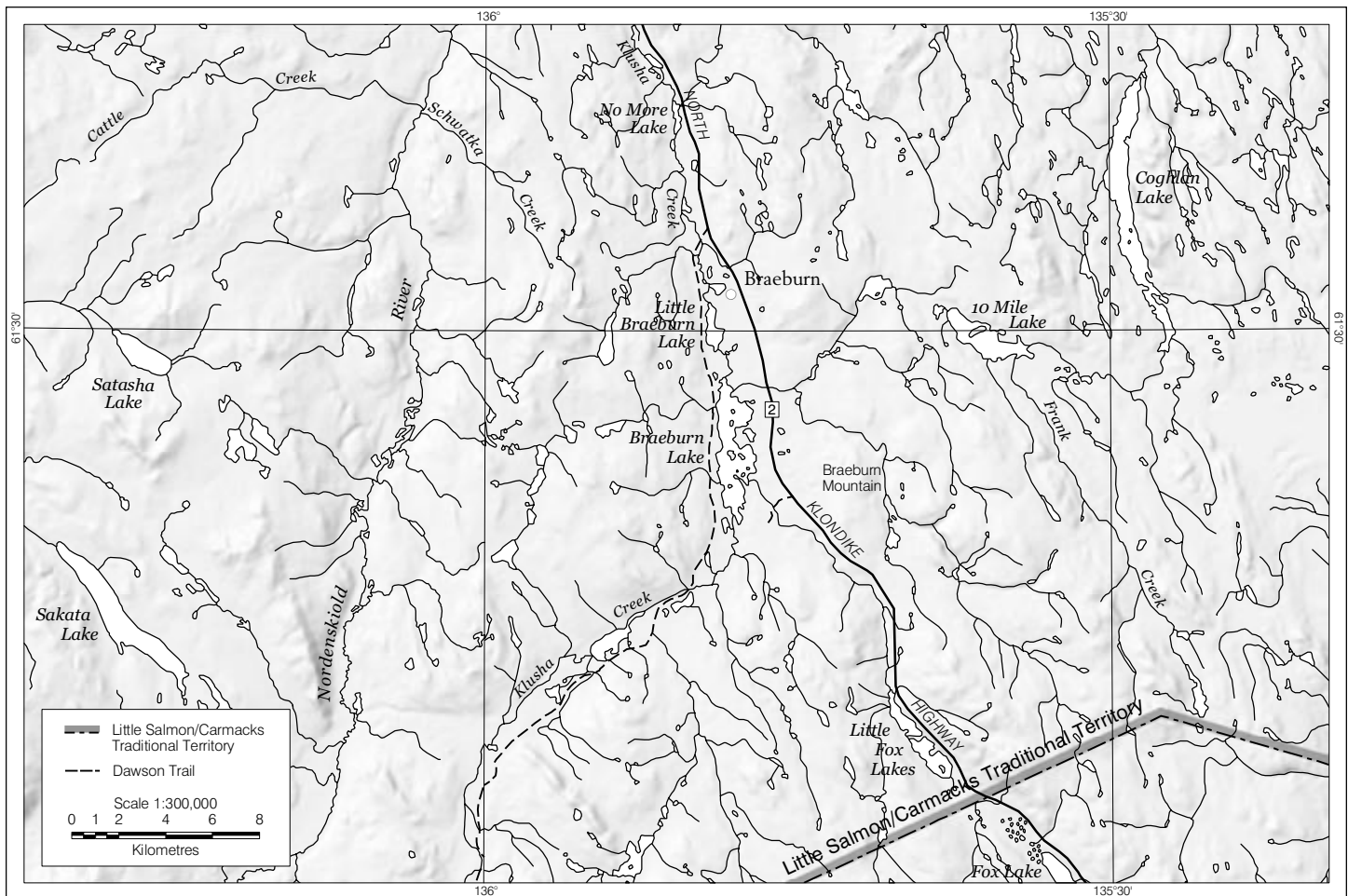


Figure 3. Braeburn area.

Big Salmon area

The most important issue identified in the Big Salmon area was the negative impact of river travellers on wildlife and habitat along the Yukon River. Residents believe there is a lot of disturbance to important moose summer areas from unmanaged campsites. Moose numbers have dropped in this once important hunting area upstream from Carmacks. Forest fires in this area in the last ten years have changed wildlife habitat.

Claire Lake area

Access to this relatively remote area for fishing and hunting is only by a series of trails. A fly-in fishing camp operates on local lakes (Claire, Frank, Coghlan, Mandanna, and Chain Lakes) and was recently purchased by a new owner. People said they were concerned about low numbers of lake trout in most of these lakes.

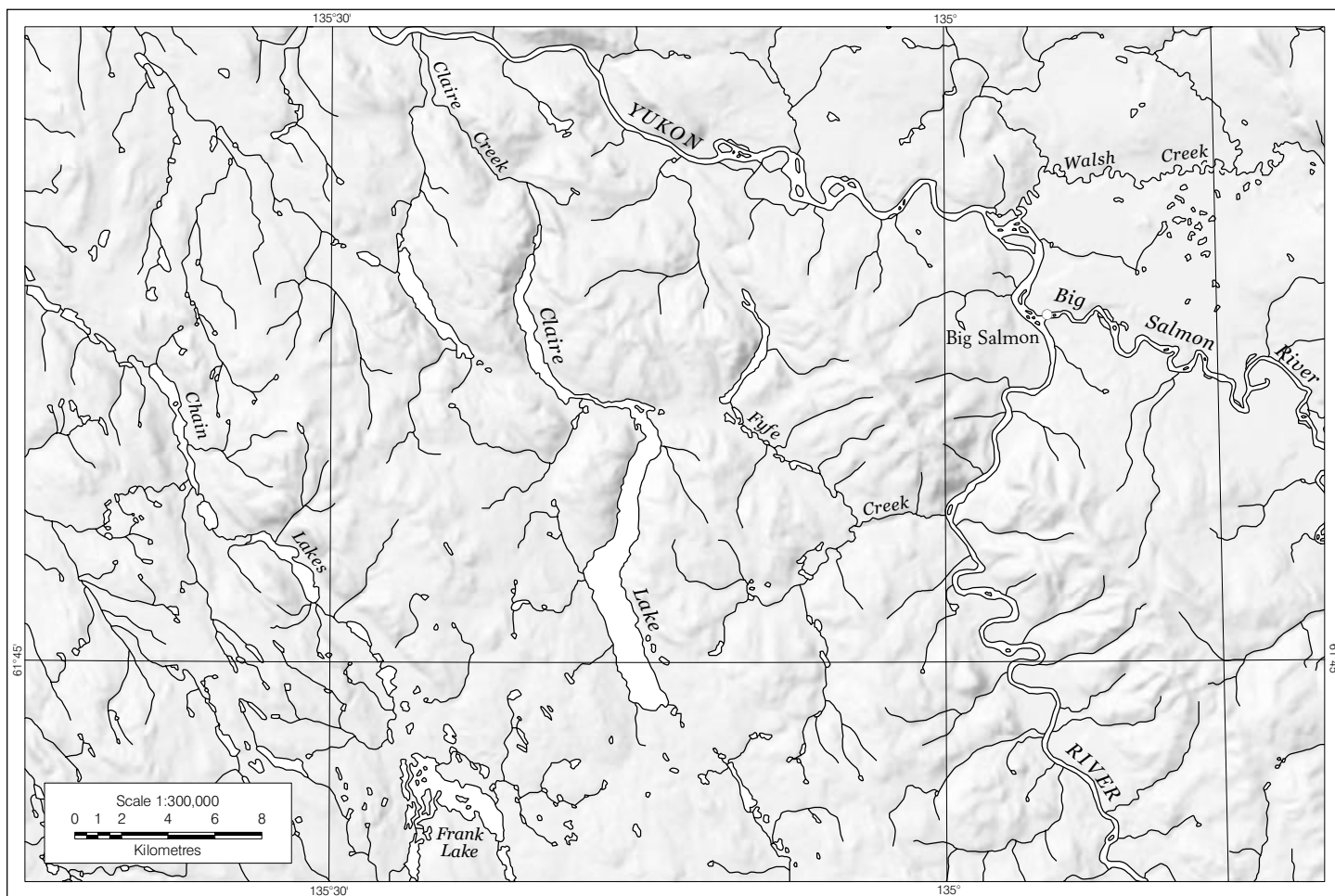


Figure 4. Big Salmon and Claire Lake areas.

Minto area

Like the Big Salmon area, the main issue in the Minto area was managing critical moose habitat and wetlands along the Yukon River downstream from Carmacks to Minto, at the northern edge of the traditional territory. Unmanaged river traffic is the main disturbance to habitat, camps and fishing nets. Moose numbers are thought to be low here, while both grizzly and black bears populations are thought to be high. Wolf management around communities is an ongoing issue. The Tatchun caribou herd ranges in this area, and while the herd size appears stable, people are worried about the small size of the herd (about 500). The key caribou issue is the loss of most of the winter range due to wildfires in 1969, 1995 and 1998.

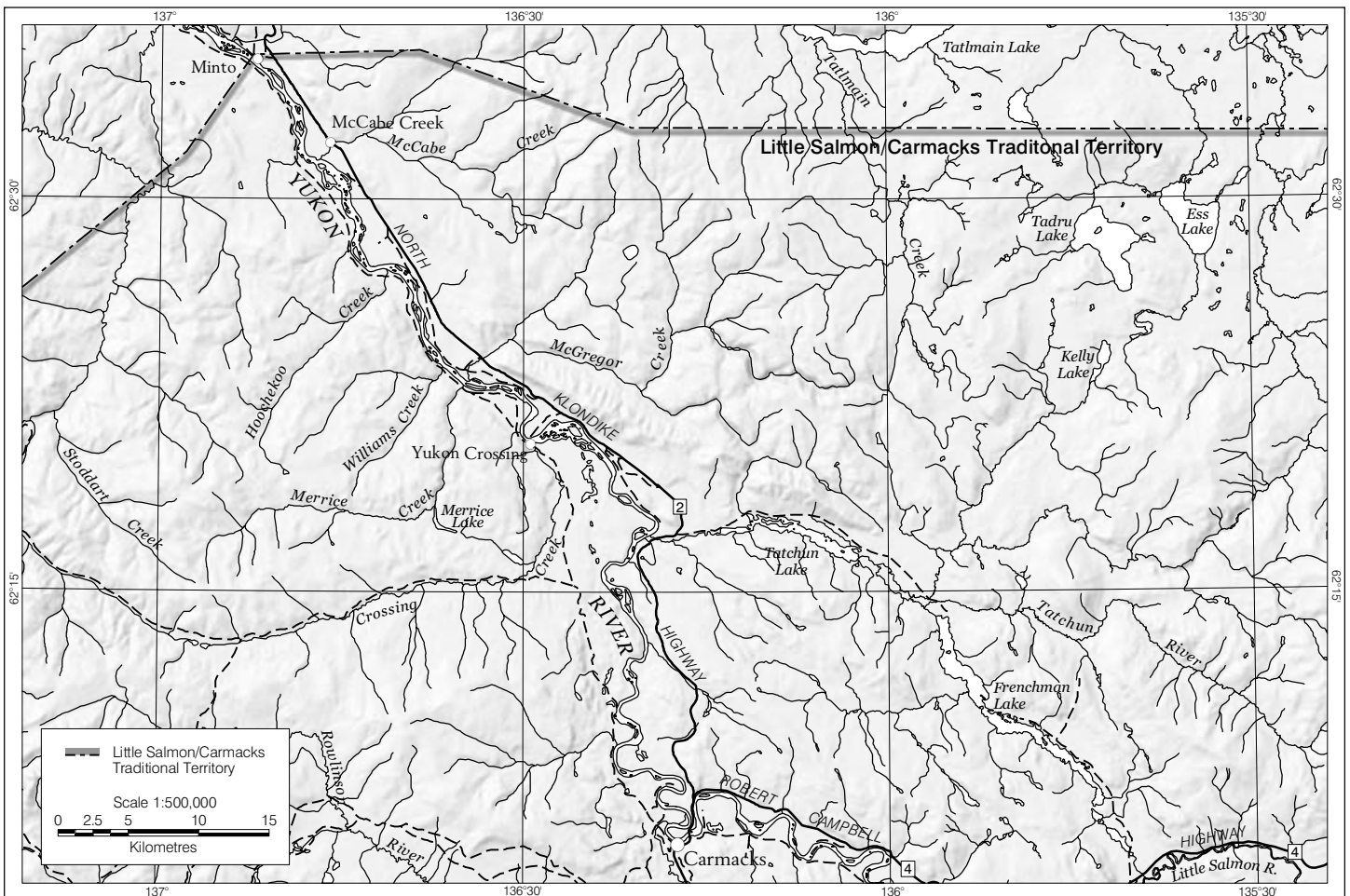


Figure 5. Minto area.

Little Salmon Lake area

A key issue identified at the Little Salmon Lake group meeting was the extended impact of the Robert Campbell Highway on fish and wildlife populations, their movements, and access to important habitats. Concerns about this area also focused on the cottage lot development along the shore of Little Salmon Lake, and along the lower Magundy River. The area has no plan for development, and the plan partners all expressed the need to come up with a better way to address spot applications for agriculture and recreation land. There is a need to map important wildlife habitats to help manage development applications (including forestry) in a coordinated manner.

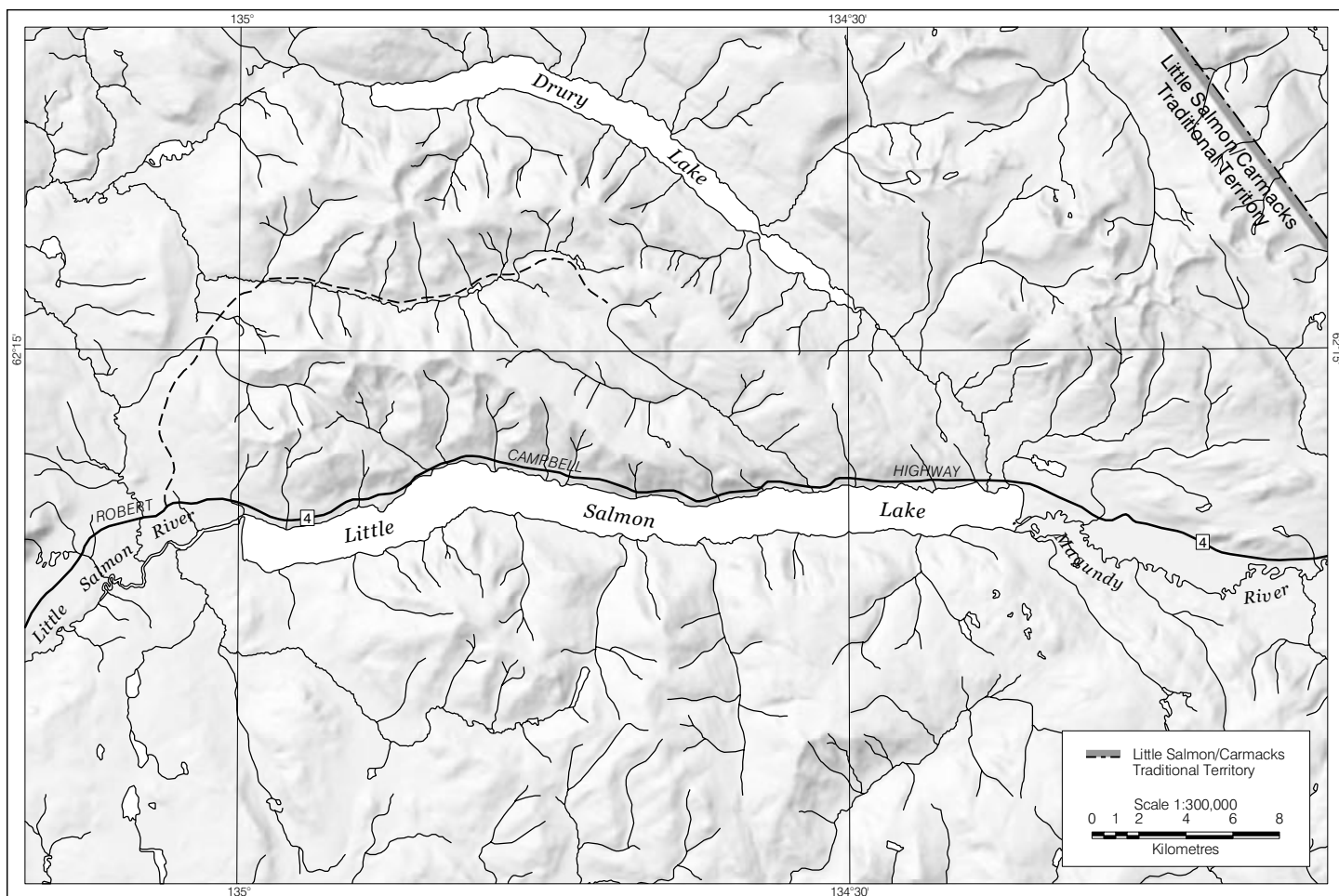


Figure 6. Little Salmon Lake area.

CONCERNS, SOLUTIONS AND COMMITMENTS

ACCESS

Year-round access provided by the Mount Nansen road contributes to increased hunting of moose and caribou, as well as increased disturbance of wildlife.

The Mount Nansen road is a secondary access road to the BYG mine site and is maintained by the Yukon Government's Department of Highways and Public Works. The road provides access to the BYG mine site, enabling ongoing water quality monitoring at the site, as well as access to other mining claims in the area (Figure 2). The year-round access (suitable for all vehicles) results in a lot of summer traffic that peaks in late August and early September, probably relating to hunting activities. Winter snow machine traffic is also high, particularly in March of each year during a permitted harvest of the Aishihik wood bison herd.

With no regular monitoring of the area, there are many questions in the community about the actual levels of traffic and how activities in the area are affecting wildlife. The LSCFN has in the past monitored traffic and activities along the road, and are currently considering how a Game Guardian program could improve monitoring of hunting activities, and provide reports to the community about people's activities in the area. Once there is better information, people would like to consider ways to minimize impacts on wildlife.

Elders' river trip



Solution Gather more information about traffic and activities in the area, make people aware of how they can reduce the impact of their activities in this area, and consider ways to manage access.

Commitment

By who? By when?

LSCFN
EARLY IN PLAN

Consider hiring a LSCFN Game Guardian to provide information about what is happening along the Mount Nansen road. [1]

There is currently no Game Guardian program in this area and the LSCFN is looking at how to create an effective, long-term program. This program would provide a valuable opportunity to provide information about the activities in the area of the Mount Nansen road back to the community. In the meantime, the LSCFN is encouraging people on the land to report what they are seeing.

CRRC, LSCFN
2004-2009

Use education and awareness to reduce impacts of activities on the Mount Nansen road. [2]

The community and LSCFN newsletters should provide information in the spring and fall about ways to reduce disturbance in the Mount Nansen area. Developing an education program for young people is also recommended. A map showing areas of high seasonal use may be a good way to show where heavy use occurs.

CRRC
EARLY IN PLAN

Present Mount Nansen issues to the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board Access Working Group. [3]

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board's "Access Working Group" considers territory-wide access issues. The CRRC will contact the working group and ask for a presentation at one of their meetings to highlight the community's concerns about the Mount Nansen road.

YTG, LSCFN, CRRC
EARLY IN PLAN

Hold a meeting of plan partners and stakeholders to examine feasibility of not plowing the Mount Nansen road until late winter. [4]

This suggestion reflects the idea stated at the planning workshop that anything to reduce traffic would benefit the wildlife in the area. Since a total closure of the road would not likely be supported, this is an alternative the plan partners wanted to consider. The proposed meeting would have to consider the environmental monitoring requirements at the BYG mine site. Representatives from Yukon Government's Departments of Highways and Public Works and Energy, Mines and Resources would need to attend this meeting.

BEARS

Concern

There are lots of bears at the rivers, causing problems at fish camps.

In recent years, people have noticed that numbers of both grizzly and black bears have been high, especially by the rivers. Bears may be using these areas to find moose calves. It is not known why there seems to be more bears, but people's values about bears have changed over the past 30-40 years, bear harvest numbers in the area are low, and there are fewer people out in the bush these days. All of these factors may be contributing to higher bear numbers. Another suggestion was that spring bear hunts of bigger, older bears may result in younger bears moving into these areas when the older individuals are removed.

Solution

Get more information about bears and try new ways to reduce problems with bears at fish camps.

Since the factors influencing bear numbers and activities in the area are currently not well understood, more information about bears is needed, both for wildlife managers and for the public. Encouraging more hunting of bears was ruled out as a solution at this time until there is a better understanding by managers and in the community about what factors are influencing bear numbers, behaviour and habitat use.

Commitment

By who? By when?

YTG, CRRC, LSCFN
2004 - 2009

Increase bear awareness. [5]

Talks in the community about bear species and their behaviour may help to minimize conflicts between bears and people. The YTG Conservation Officer will work with the CRRC and LSCFN to identify appropriate times and places to hold these talks.

YTG, LSCFN
2004, 2005

Develop pilot program to install portable electric fences at fish camps. [6]

Electric fencing has been a very useful tool for deterring bears from garbage dumps throughout the Yukon. Smaller, portable fencing units costing between \$2,000 and \$3,000 present the opportunity to fence fish camps along the river, with the intent to minimize conflicts between bears and people. Implementing this idea as a pilot program for two years with people who have river camps would determine if this is an alternative. Funding to cover the cost of one or two fences would need to be identified. Set-up of a fence should occur in summer before fish camps are operational and should involve youth when possible.

LSCFN, YTG
EARLY TO MIDWAY
IN PLAN

Talk with long-term fish camp owners to investigate why there are more bears. [7]

People who have been on the land in the last 30 years have noticed the increase in bear numbers. These people have the best information about changes in bear ages, behaviour, and when these changes have occurred. Documenting local information about people's activities (e.g., fishing camps, hunting) or landscape changes (e.g., availability of berries) may provide a better understanding of why there are increased bear numbers. The YTG carnivore biologist would need to work with the regional biologist and LSCFN to conduct these interviews.

YTG, CRRC, LSCFN
EARLY IN PLAN

YTG carnivore biologist will meet with the CRRC about local bear management and federal *Species at Risk Act*. [8]

New federal legislation for the management of "species at risk" applies to grizzly bear management in the Yukon. Meetings between the YTG carnivore biologist, the CRRC and the LSCFN will enable an information exchange about what this legislation prescribes for bear management and a hearing of local concerns about bear management.

BISON

Concern

Range expansion of bison into the Braeburn and Mount Nansen area concerns local residents because of potential damage to vegetation, increased hunter traffic, and impacts of bison and hunter disturbance on other wildlife.

With a potentially growing bison herd (Figure 7), people are concerned that herd size will be managed by increasing permits for bison hunters, leading to increased disturbance of wildlife in the bison herd range — both direct, and indirect because of increased trails and traffic. An increase in the number of packed trails may provide better access for wolves. Trapping in the area has already been affected by snowmobiles used for bison hunting during winter, and more hunter traffic would only make the situation worse. The combination of bison hunting and other hunting has resulted in increased disturbance in the area.

Social interactions between bison, caribou and moose are not well understood, and it is not known if bison “push” caribou and moose out of areas. Residents have noted that there are some benefits of the bison harvest (economic, and the value of meat from a harvested bison).

Solution **Recommend ways to reduce impacts of bison to the Yukon Wood Bison Technical Team.**

The Yukon Wood Bison Technical Team (YWBTT) includes members from LSCFN and CRRC and makes recommendations to YTG, LSCFN and Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN) about the management of the Aishihik bison herd. At the time of this plan, the bison team is drafting a new bison management plan for 2004-2009. The draft is not yet completed, and through the participation of the LSCFN and CRRC, community concerns and suggested solutions in this plan can be recommended in the bison plan.

Commitment

By who? By when?

CRRC, LSCFN
2004

Recommend more active Game Guardians and YTG Conservation Officer participation during the harvest to help manage harvest activity. [9]

For hunters accessing the bison herd from the Aishihik area, the local Game Guardian and YTG Conservation Officers assist hunters to locate groups of bison during the hunt. This helps to minimize the impact of concentrated numbers of people hunting the herd. Doing so in the Mount Nansen area may similarly help to manage negative impacts of the hunt.

CRRC, LSCFN
2004

Recommend support for a local knowledge study about bison interactions with wildlife. [10]

Through the YWBTT and bison plan development, CAFN has raised similar concerns about the social impacts of bison on people and other wildlife. Through participation on the YWBTT, the LSCFN can recommend support for this study and request participation in the development of the methodology. The proposed study relates to work already underway by LSCFN to document traditional land use and identify important places on the land.

CRRC, LSCFN
2004

Recommend that bison hunters continue to be educated about the importance of respect for the land and other wildlife when out on the land. [11]

Annual hunter workshops provide the opportunity to remind hunters about the need to respect the land and wildlife.

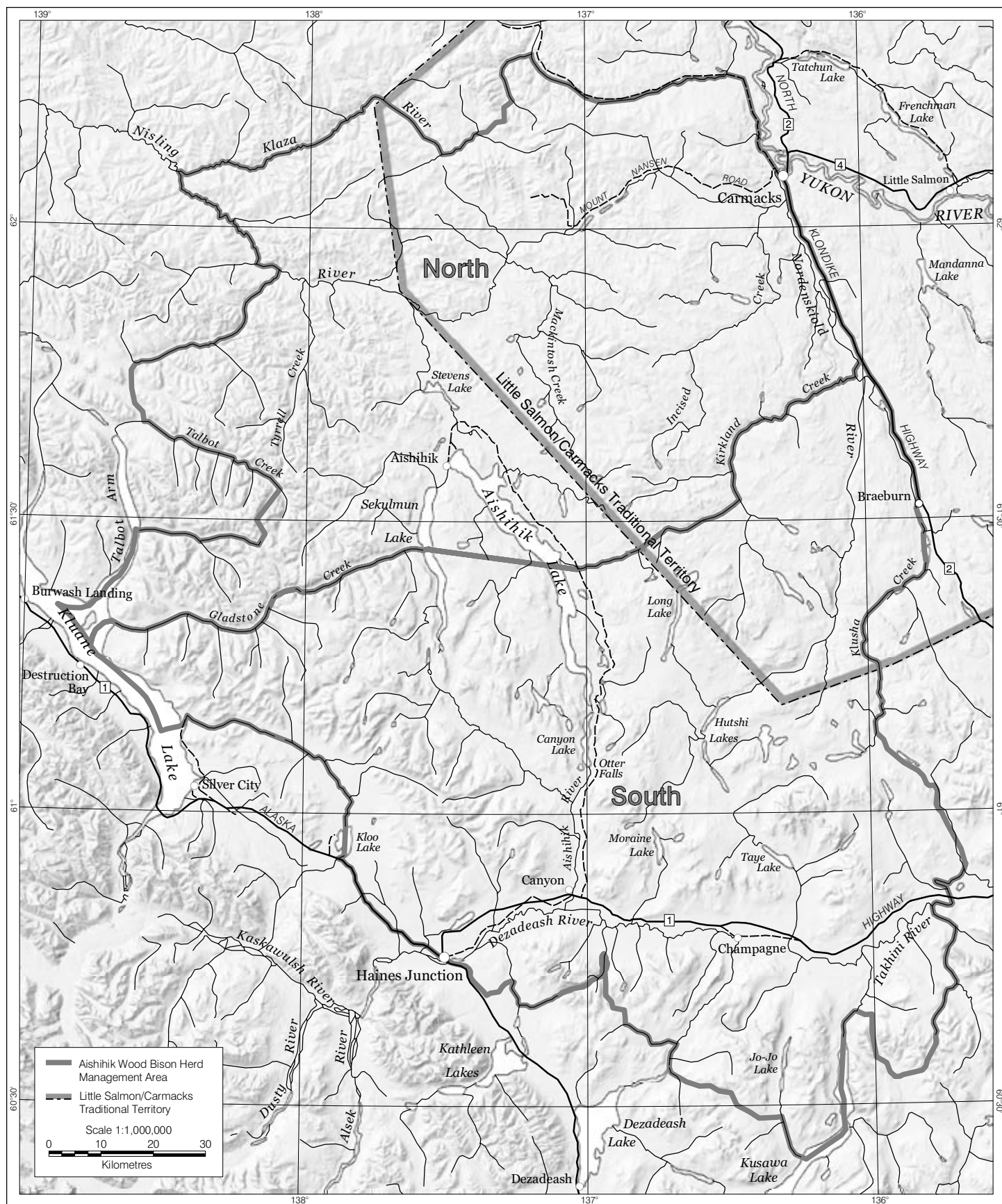


Figure 7. Aishihik Wood Bison Herd management area. Management area includes the current range of the bison herd.

Concern**The community needs information about bison management to be better explained and made more accessible.**

A bison management plan has been in place for the Aishihik wood bison herd since it was introduced in 1987. This plan sets out how the herd will be managed for five-year terms. The 1998-2003 plan is currently under review, guided by the YWBTT. With range expansion of the herd towards the Carmacks area, the potential for increased herd harvesting, and increased impacts seen by area residents from hunting, Carmacks area residents want more information on how this herd will be managed.

Solution Make bison management information more accessible to the community.

There are a number of ways to get information to the community about bison management. These include a bison newsletter, periodic columns in the local newspaper, holding YWBTT meetings in Carmacks enabling community attendance at the meetings, and installing wildlife viewing panels at a highway pull-off to provide information about bison.

Commitment

By who? By when?

CRRC, LSCFN
2004

Recommend to the YWBTT ways to improve communication with the community. [12] Through their participation on the YWBTT, the LSCFN and CRRC can recommend how the YWBTT can best convey information about bison management to the community.

Concern**Local trappers/traplines are being disturbed by bison hunters.**

Some trappers have noticed impacts on their traplines from snowmobile trails and activities associated with bison hunting in the late winter.

Solution Better information identifying active traplines and addressing concerns should be highlighted for bison hunters.

All bison permit holders are required to take an annual workshop. This provides the opportunity to share information with hunters about how to avoid trapline trails and disturbing traps. Signs posted on trapline trails would also help identify active traplines for people travelling on the land.

Commitment

By who? By when?

YTG, LSCFN
2004-2009

Provide clearer information to bison hunters about how to avoid conflicts with trapping activities. [13]

This can be provided at the compulsory annual workshop for bison permit holders.

CRRC
2004-2009

Provide signs for trappers that are concerned. [14]

To encourage people on the land to travel through the area with care, trappers can post signs identifying that their traplines are active, and that traps are set along trails.

CARIBOU

Concern

The Tatchun caribou herd is small, heavily harvested, and should be managed carefully.

This caribou herd is about 500 animals and ranges to the north of Carmacks (Figure 8). An outfitter harvests animals from this herd based on a negotiated quota, and resident hunters harvest an average of 3 each year. Given the small size of the herd, it is important to monitor any changes in the size and range use of the herd. Recruitment of young animals into the herd has generally been good during the past 10 years, but the sex ratio (number of bulls compared to the number of cows) is fairly low, suggesting that harvest levels are high. Winter range has been greatly reduced with wildfires in 1969, 1995, and 1998, but the animals are still in good physical condition and show no signs of stress from the effect of fires on their range.

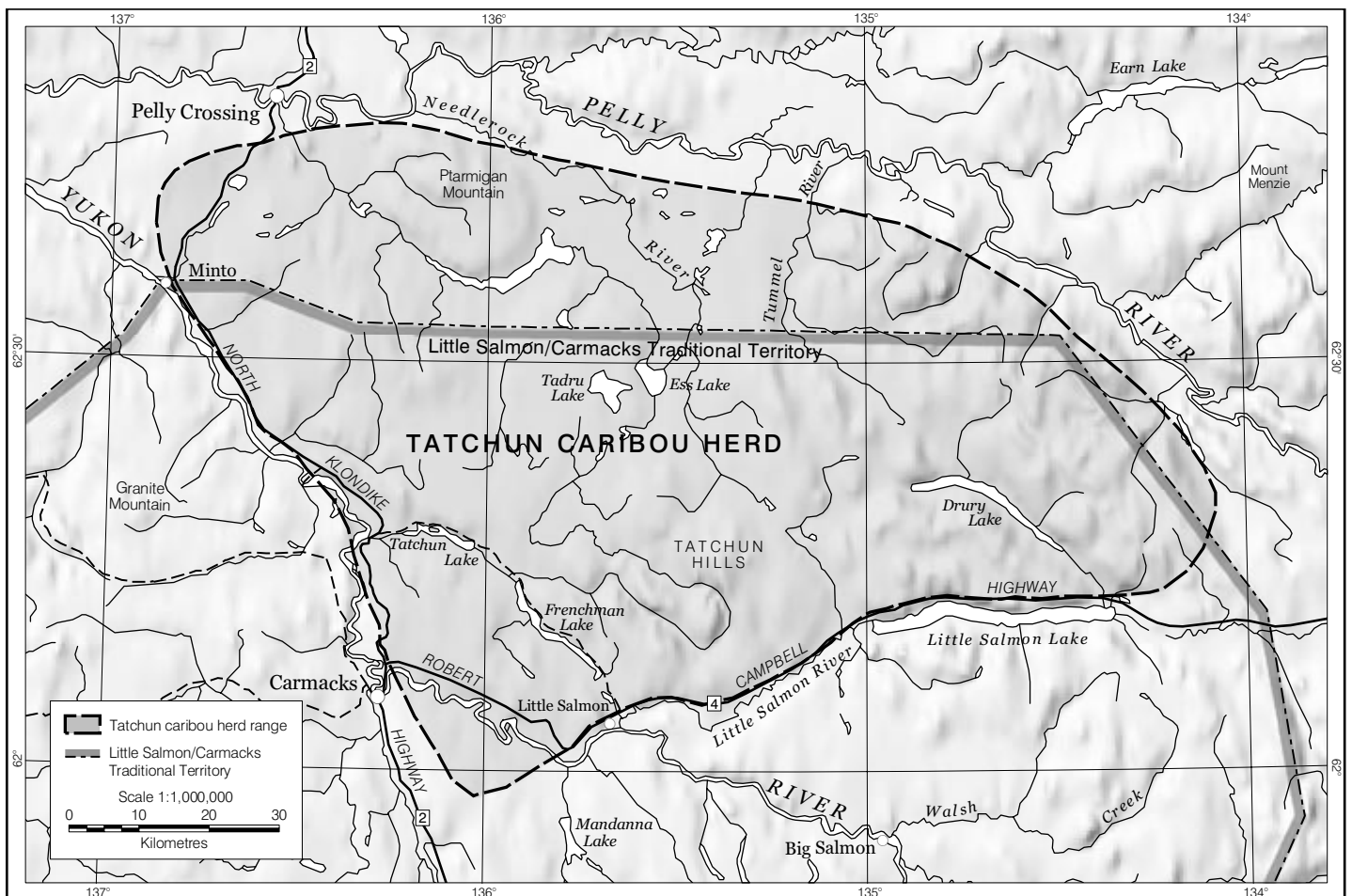


Figure 8. Tatchun caribou herd range.

Solution Carefully monitor size and composition (percentages of calves, bulls and cows) of the Tatchun caribou herd, ensure safe harvest rates and protect its remaining winter range from fire.

Commitment

By who? By when?

YTG, LSCFN
2006

Count the Tatchun caribou herd. [15]

The Tatchun herd has been counted only once before, in 2000. Biologists want to count herds with special management concerns about every five years, so the Tatchun herd should be counted soon. It has been difficult to get funding to do these counts, and weather and snow conditions are not always reliable for rut season counts. The plan needs to be flexible about when the count happens. Information about herd size is important to establish sustainable harvest limits by all users, including outfitter quotas. YTG will cover the cost of the survey, and LSCFN will participate on the survey.

YTG, LSCFN
2004-2009

Continue monitoring Tatchun caribou herd composition in fall. [16]

YTG has been monitoring the annual composition of calves, cows, and bulls in the Tatchun herd each fall during the rut as part of routine studies. YTG will cover the cost of the monitoring surveys, and LSCFN will participate.

YTG, LSCFN, CRRC
2004-2009

Monitor all harvest of the Tatchun caribou herd. [17]

There is an open harvest of this herd and resident licensed hunters take about 3 each year. The non-resident harvest is based on quota of 7 bulls, which will be need to be re-negotiated between the outfitter and the CRRC in 2004, to ensure that it remains within sustainable limits. The number of bulls compared to cows is fairly low, and the bull harvest is probably near the upper limit of what the herd can sustain. Monitoring all harvest is critical, and LSCFN is currently working to design a harvest-monitoring program. LSCFN needs to be sensitive to interest of elders and needs to go slowly and carefully to collect reliable information, but understands the importance of collecting harvest information for sustainable harvesting. Selkirk First Nation also hunts the Tatchun herd, and information on harvest is collected each year for the Northern Tutchone May Gathering.

CRRC, YTG, LSCFN
2004

Recommend that the Tatchun herd winter range be protected as part of a fire management plan. [18]

If the remaining winter range is burned, it could be bad for the herd (Figure 9). If it burned in a wet year, it may prevent all of it going quickly. If it burned in a dry year, it could remove most of the remaining winter range around Tatchun and Frenchman Lakes. There should be a formal recommendation to Fire Management staff that the winter range needs to be protected through the development of a fire management plan for the area.

Concern**Any increase in permits for the Klaza caribou herd will lead to more hunters and disturbance.**

The Klaza caribou herd that ranges west of Carmacks (Figure 10) has increased in numbers since the mid-1990s and the herd now has at least 700 animals. In 2002, permits for resident hunters were raised from six permits to 12 permits. There was concern expressed that any additional increase in permits would bring more hunters into the Mount Nansen area, potentially disturbing not only this herd, but also other wildlife in the area.

Solution Manage harvest of the Klaza caribou herd to minimize disturbance and monitor hunter activity in this range.

While this concern relates to the broader concerns about the impacts of access in the Mount Nansen area, there is a specific need to understand the impact of the current harvest activity on the Klaza caribou herd.

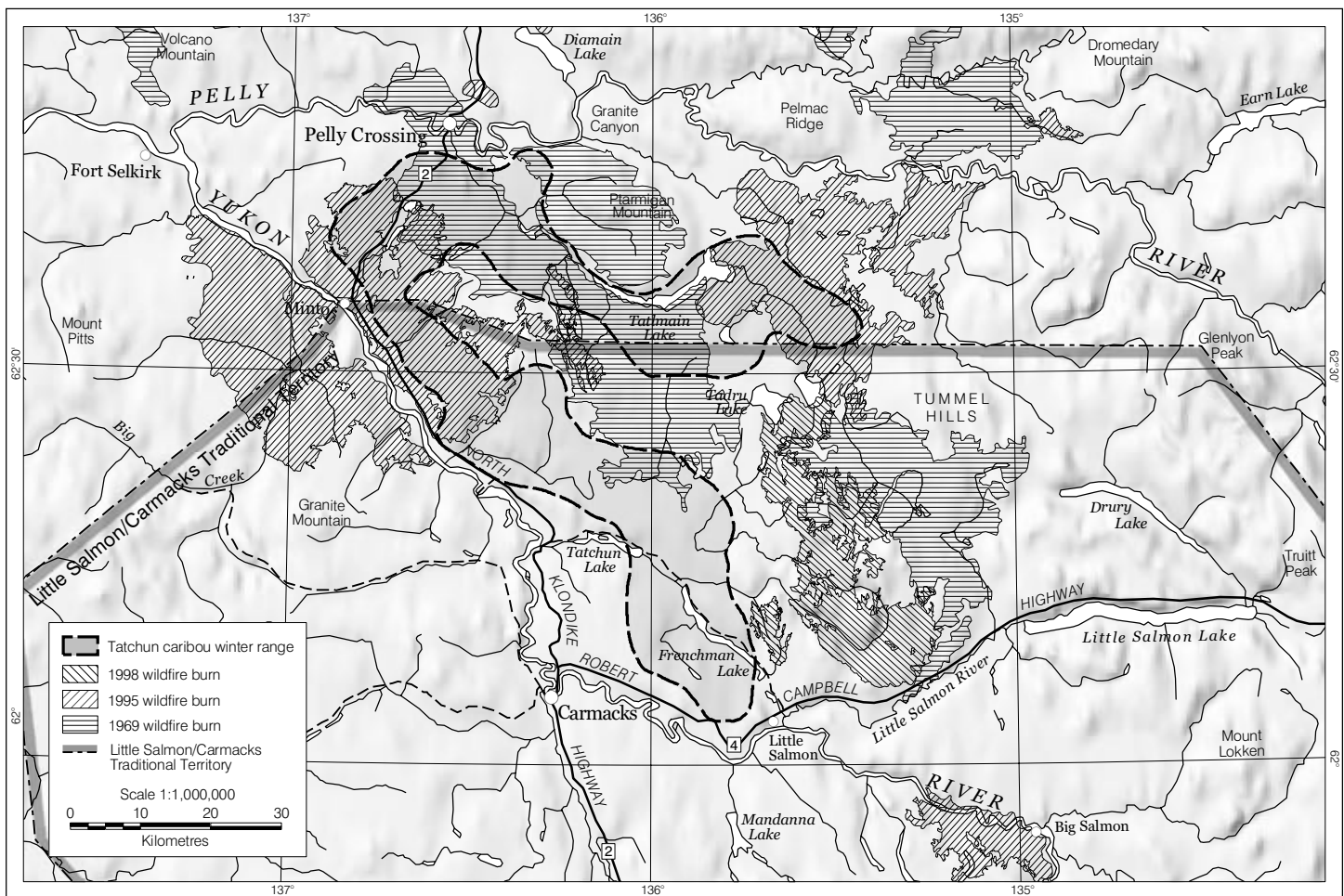


Figure 9. Wildfires in the winter range of the Tatchun caribou herd from 1969 to 2003.

Commitment

By who? By when?

LSCFN, YTG
2004-2009

CRRC, YTG, LSCFN
2004-2009

Get more information about Klaza caribou herd harvest activities. [19]

There is a need for more information about harvest activities in the Mount Nansen area — and particularly for this caribou herd. As proposed in the Access section, a LSCFN Game Guardian patrolling the area and talking with people about their observations would be the best way to collect this information. Information from YTG Conservation Officer patrols will also provide information about activities in the area.

Consider concerns about access when setting the number of permits for the Klaza caribou herd. [20]

Any change in the number of permits would require a discussion between YTG, LSCFN and the CRRC. At that time, any new information obtained about observed impacts of the Klaza caribou harvest should be considered.

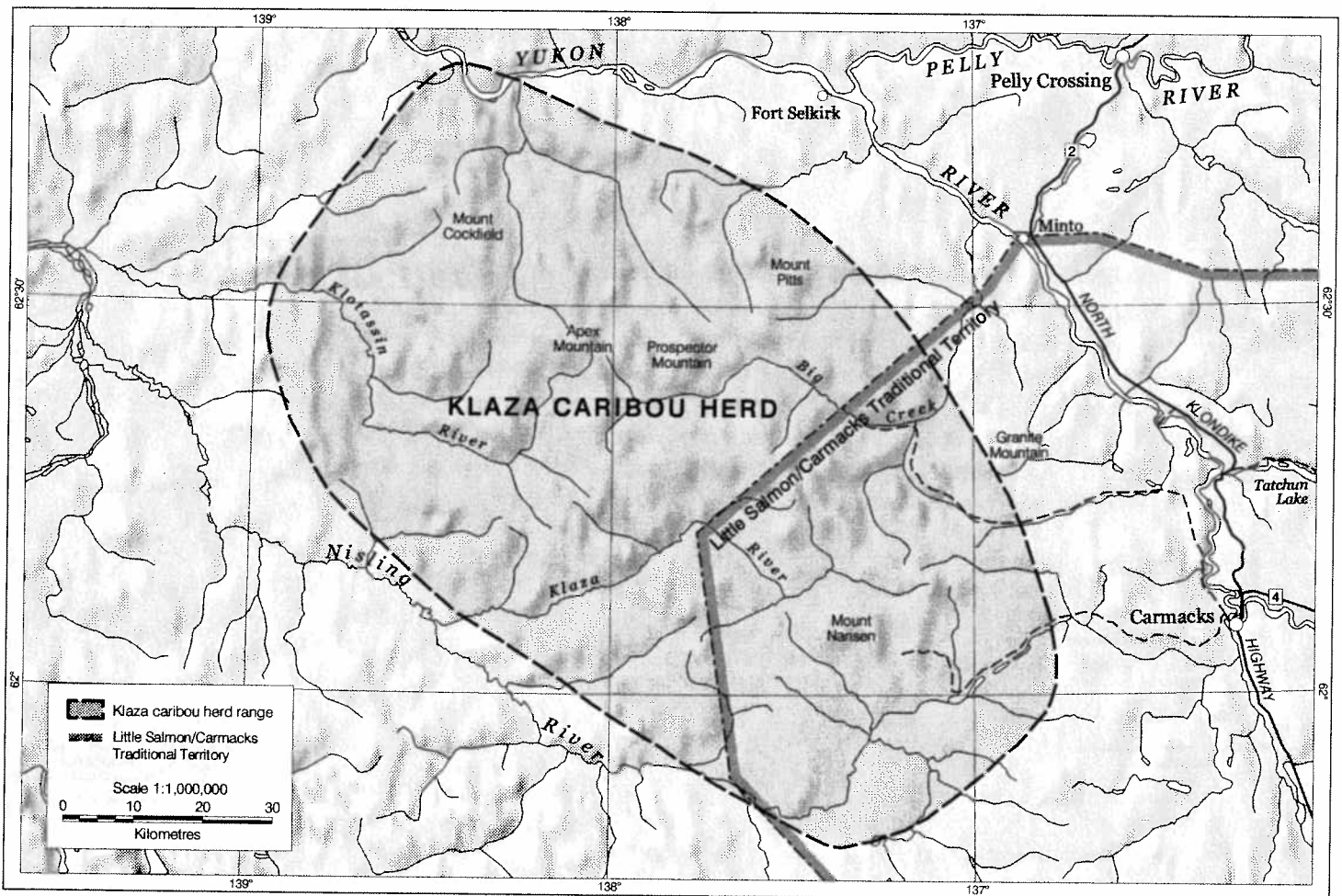


Figure 10. Klaza caribou herd range.

ELK

Concern

The community needs more information about elk.

Elk in the Braeburn area (Figure 11) are highly visible to residents and highway travellers throughout the year. Local residents are interested in knowing more about the status of the elk population and herd management.

Specific questions raised by local residents included: How many elk are there in this area? How many elk are too many elk? Do the Braeburn elk mix with elk in the Takhini valley as one large herd, or are they two smaller herds? How are elk affecting moose populations — are they crowding moose out of the area? Are there studies in other areas where elk and moose co-exist to look at competition between the two? Could a hunt manage elk numbers? Has there been a determination of what herd size could sustain a harvest? Better information needs to be provided to the community to address these important questions.

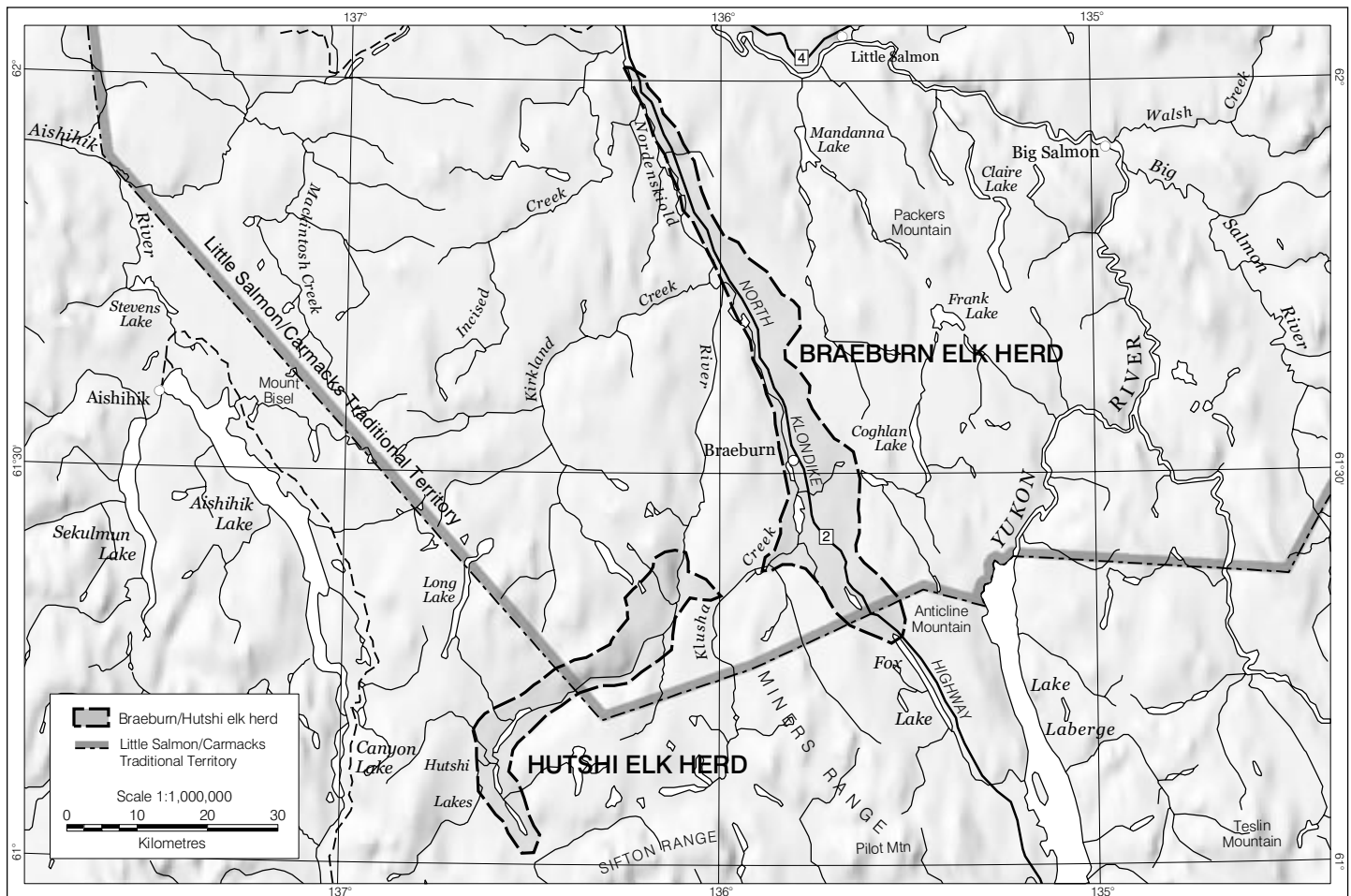


Figure 11. Braeburn/Hutshi elk herd range.

Solution **Provide information to the community to address community concerns and questions about elk.**

A management plan prepared by YTG in 1990 summarized some of this information, and some new information is available. In 2004, a new elk management plan for both the Braeburn/Hutshi and Takhini Valley elk herds was in the early stages of development. That process provides the opportunity for a community presentation about elk.

Commitment

By who? By when?

CRRC, LSCFN
2004

Recommend to the elk management plan process that an information session be held in Carmacks to address community concerns and questions. [21]

A community meeting with the appropriate YTG staff could address many of the community's questions and concerns.

CRRC, LSCFN
2004

Recommend that elk planning participants hold a meeting in Carmacks to collect local information and concerns about management. [22]

This would enable local people to directly participate in planning and gain an understanding of the process.

CRRC, LSCFN
2004

Recommend to YTG that CRRC and LSCFN participate on the planning team. [23]
This would ensure that Carmacks area residents have a direct ability to participate in the process and discussion of elk management.

Concern

Braeburn area elk feed on agriculture crops of local residents.

Elk range in the Braeburn area overlaps with some agricultural land dispositions. Elk have been grazing on commercially planted fields and have consumed oats, timothy, clover and wheat. The properties are not fenced and elk can be seen in the fields during the summer and winter. Also, the elk range map needs to be updated to reflect current range use by elk in the Braeburn area, and information should be made available to land managers and persons considering agriculture land applications in the area. Requests to YTG for compensation from elk damage are assessed case by case.

Solution **Update elk range maps for use by YTG Lands Branch to avoid elk-crop conflicts.**

Avoiding future land dispositions within the elk range would help to minimize these conflicts.

Commitment

By who? By when?

YTG
2004-2009

YTG will update range maps with known distribution of elk in the Braeburn area. [24]
This will be an ongoing requirement so that accurate information on elk habitat is available when considering land dispositions in the area.

Concern	Many local residents do not support expanded numbers and range of elk unless people can hunt elk.
	<p>Many locals believe that elk numbers in the Braeburn area are increasing. People have seen more elk along the North Klondike Highway in recent years, and residents report seeing a number of calves also. The potential impacts of a larger herd are a community concern in Carmacks. These elk also pose a danger to travellers on the North Klondike Highway.</p> <p>Residents noted that the benefit of hunting the herd is a potential trade-off for some of the impacts of having the elk herd resident in the area. Along with a hunt, however, one resident commented that bringing a focus on an elk hunt to this area would also bring a need for added restrictions on hunters to manage access and the other impacts of an elk hunt. Residents also noted the value of wildlife viewing of elk is a competing interest with an elk hunt.</p>
Solution	Recommend to the elk management plan that a harvest be considered as a tool to manage expanding elk herd range.
	<p>This recommendation will go to the elk management planning team to consider. The social interactions between elk and other wildlife (e.g., moose, caribou) are not well understood. Until they are, limiting the expansion of elk range could help manage unknown impacts. An elk hunt could change the way elk use range in the Carmacks area, but research needs to be done to monitor changes caused by hunting. Hunting may discourage elk use of road corridors for grazing and reduce travel hazards on the North Klondike Highway.</p>
Commitment By who? By when? CRRC, LSCFN 2004	<p>The CRRC and LSCFN will bring this recommendation to the Yukon elk management team. [25]</p> <p>This recommendation from the Carmacks Fish and Wildlife Plan should be considered in the development of a new elk management plan beginning in 2004.</p>

Concern**Elk are a serious road hazard on the North Klondike Highway near Braeburn.**

Elk are often seen grazing in the ditches and on the North Klondike Highway, and are habituated to traffic. Vehicle-elk collisions have increased and highway travellers have seen more and more elk along the highway corridors. The Fox Lake burn in 1998 might have improved elk habitat. In addition, brome grasses were planted along the highway corridors, which attract elk to the road, especially during winter.

Solution Make the North Klondike Highway corridor less attractive to elk.

Vegetation has been plowed up and alternate cover has been planted along the Alaska Highway to discourage bison from the Alaska Highway corridor between Whitehorse and Haines Junction with some success. Similar tactics could be used to discourage elk from staying near the North Klondike Highway.

Commitment

By who? By when?

YTG, LSCFN, CRRC
EARLY IN PLAN

Work with YTG's Department of Highways and Public Works to make the highway corridor less attractive to elk. [26]

A joint meeting between YTG, LSCFN, CRRC and the YTG Department of Highways and Public Works should consider ways to make the roadside habitat less attractive to elk.

*Bryan Tom checking
a fish trap*



ENFORCEMENT

Concern **Wilderness travellers are not adequately informed about wildlife laws which results in *Wildlife Act* violations.**

Residents believe that many wilderness travellers do not have correct information about the legal requirements to obtain fishing licenses and small game licenses, as well as an understanding of harassment of wildlife. More attempts need to be made to reach wilderness travellers to get accurate information to them about travelling in this area before they begin their travel. This problem happens along all parts of the Yukon River, from Whitehorse to the Yukon Territory border, and LSCFN has discussed the need for a coordinated management plan for the entire Yukon River corridor.

Solution **The YTG Conservation Officer and LSCFN Game Guardians can help inform river travellers of wildlife laws.**

Where possible, patrols between the YTG Conservation Officer and LSCFN Game Guardians will be coordinated.

Commitment

By who? By when?

YTG
2004-2009

LSCFN
EARLY IN PLAN

River patrols by YTG Conservation Officers will continue to be a priority in the summer months. [27]

All problems encountered will be documented, and will be forwarded to the CRRC when this plan is reviewed.

LSCFN will review its Game Guardian program and evaluate how to best patrol the river. [28]

*Little Salmon Lake
(M. Colpron)*



Concern**Rules about resident harvest on settlement lands are not clear.**

Laws are needed by LSCFN to address resident hunting on settlement land. While Category A land is not open to resident hunting without First Nation permission, LSCFN has no legislation to enforce this. This is an issue for LSCFN to decide how and when they may want to deal with it.

Solution Provide information to community and First Nation about laws around hunting on LSCFN settlement lands.

Hunters need to understand what laws apply to their activities, on settlement and non-settlement lands and to whom. It is important that people get this information before they go out to hunt.

Commitment

By who? By when?

YTG, LSCFN, CRRC
2004, 2005

The YTG Conservation Officer will hold information sessions with the CRRC and LSCFN to review hunting on settlement lands. [29]

A request will be made to the YTG Conservation Officer to provide information to LSCFN citizens at their next General Assembly. The YTG Conservation Officer will provide the same information to the CRRC to keep their members informed during the winter of 2004-05.

Concern**Need more enforcement at the Tatchun fishing derby to stop wastage of jackfish.**

Every year a fishing derby is held at Tatchun Lake. A concern was raised that some fish caught in the derby have been left in buckets in the sun, and wasted. More enforcement and education about proper handling of fish is needed during the weekend of the derby at Tatchun Lake.

Solution Provide more education for anglers and derby organizers about rules concerning wastage of fish.

Both anglers and derby organizers need to be reminded to not waste or abandon fish caught during the derby.

Commitment

By who? By when?

YTG
2004-2009

Make the presence of a YTG Conservation Officer at the Tatchun fishing derby an enforcement priority. [30]

Attendance by a YTG Conservation Officer at the derby would help to remind anglers about proper handling of fish.

Concern

There is not enough enforcement presence in the LSCFN traditional territory.

This has been a community complaint for 25 years. People feel that with a YTG Conservation Officer stationed in Carmacks, there would be more effective patrols and enforcement.

Solution

Increase the enforcement presence by stationing a YTG Conservation Officer in Carmacks, and supporting a First Nation trainee and YTG Deputy Conservation Officer in the community.

More presence on the land may help to not only address enforcement concerns, but also provide another source of information about people's activities on the land.

Commitment

By who? By when?

CRRC, LSCFN
EARLY IN PLAN

Recommend stationing a Conservation Officer in Carmacks year-round. [31]
People feel that the duties of the YTG Conservation Officer are always expanding and as a result, that one YTG Conservation Officer's time cannot address all responsibilities adequately in this region. Justification for recommending an additional Conservation Officer in Carmacks should consider the requirements to monitor wood bison harvest activities, the need to patrol the Mount Nansen area to understand impacts of access on wildlife, and enforcement implications once the LSCFN has established their own legislation about harvest activities on settlement land.

CRRC, LSCFN
EARLY IN PLAN

Request the establishment of a YTG Deputy Conservation Officer position in the Carmacks area. [32]

Deputy Conservation Officers are unpaid volunteers that work directly with the YTG Conservation Officers. They undergo training to handle road-killed wildlife, deal with problem bears, wolves, and accompany Conservation Officers on river patrols or field patrols. Deputy Conservation Officers are a valuable set of eyes and ears in the community. The CRRC and LSCFN will write a formal request for a Deputy Conservation Officer Program in the traditional territory.

CRRC, LSCFN, YTG
2004

Recommend support for YTG Conservation Officer training program for First Nation people. [33]

At the time of this plan, the Yukon Government's Public Service Commission was working to establish a First Nation Conservation Officer trainee position. A First Nation trainee would work and train with the current YTG Conservation Officer stationed in Faro for a period of three years. The competition for the training program would be open to all Yukon First Nation applicants and may result in more patrolling and effective enforcement within the Carmacks area.

FISH

Concern

There is a need to find out why the Braeburn Lake whitefish population is declining.

Whitefish spawning runs in the creeks in and out of the lake used to be good and were an important source of food for people. There has been a noticeable decline in whitefish over the past few years and according to local residents, the last good year was in 1998. Suggested causes of the decline could be contaminants changing water chemistry, sewage from lakefront residences, or changes in water levels due to beaver dam removal. The health of Braeburn Lake is a concern for many people, not just residents of Carmacks.

Solution **Monitor water quality, contaminants, water flow, and whitefish populations in Braeburn Lake.**

Managers and area residents need more information to understand changes that are occurring in Braeburn Lake and to the whitefish population.

Commitment

By who? By when?

YTG, LSCFN, CRRC
EARLY IN PLAN

Monitor water quality and contaminant levels in Braeburn Lake. [34]

The management plan for the Nordenskiöld Habitat Protection Area (Figure 1) will include monitoring of water quality downstream from Braeburn Lake, and the lake should be included in monitoring. Both water and fish should be sampled for contaminant levels. Outcomes of this monitoring will be shared with the CRRC.

YTG
EARLY IN PLAN

Do a traffic flow study where vehicles are crossing Klusha Creek. [35]

It is possible that vehicles crossing Klusha Creek to reach homes around the lake are affecting the whitefish spawning areas by causing siltation or by destroying spawning areas in the shallows. YTG should monitor traffic flow using a vehicle counter.

YTG, LSCFN, CRRC
EARLY IN PLAN

Conduct a whitefish study that collects local knowledge about spawning areas and water quality, and counts juvenile whitefish. [36]

There have been two small net surveys on Braeburn Lake but there is no information about juvenile whitefish production. Small-mesh “beach seine” nets will be used to sample the lake to study the recruitment of juveniles into the whitefish population. Traditional spawning areas will be investigated to see if changes in water flow have affected their use. Results of the study will be shared with the CRRC.

YTG, LSCFN, CRRC
EARLY IN PLAN

Monitor spawning in the fall using local people. [37]

Local people could watch spawning areas and report changes in the numbers of whitefish. Samples taken from harvested fish will be used to see if there are missing age classes.

Concern

A creek crossing the Campbell Highway (near Bearfeed Creek) near Little Salmon Lake is drying up. Beaver dams block another creek from Ghost Lake.

These creeks were grayling and pike fishing spots for LSCFN people. Blockages in both creeks (Figures 12 and 13) may be related to beaver dams. Some people thought that changes in water flow in the Ghost Lake creek was related to the installation of a culvert under the Robert Campbell Highway.

Solution Assess what is changing creek flows and develop plans to correct the problems if required.

Commitment

By who? By when?

YTG, LSCFN, CRRC
2004

Investigate why these creeks are drying up and report to the CRRC. [38]
Once it has been determined why the creeks are drying up, YTG, LSCFN and the CRRC will consider how to proceed. Local trappers or residents with an interest should participate in any planned work.

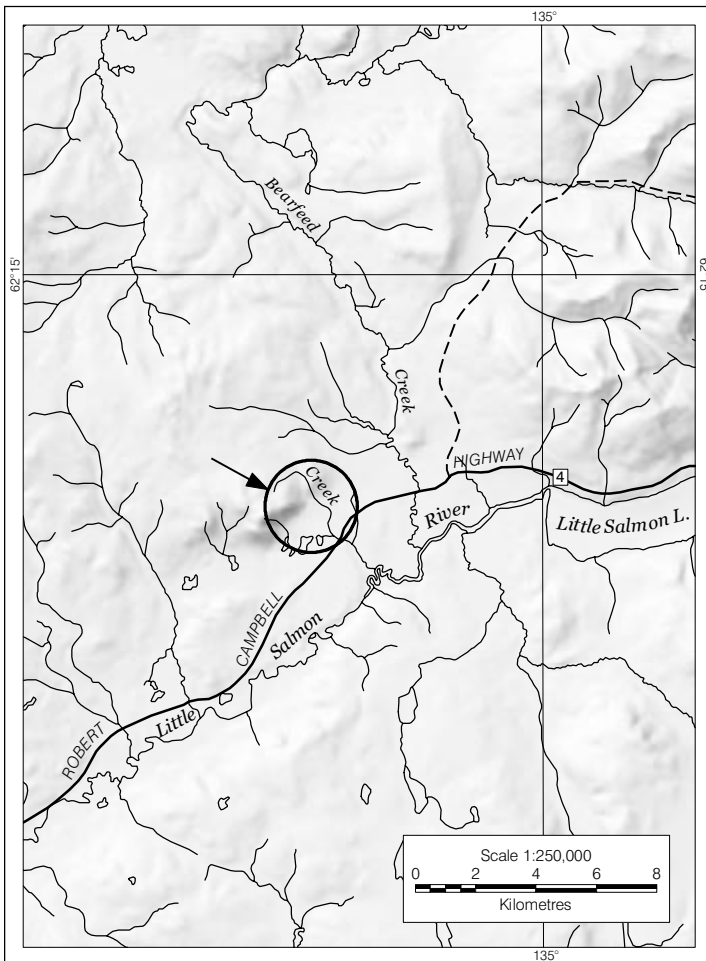


Figure 12. Creek identified by Carmacks residents as drying up.

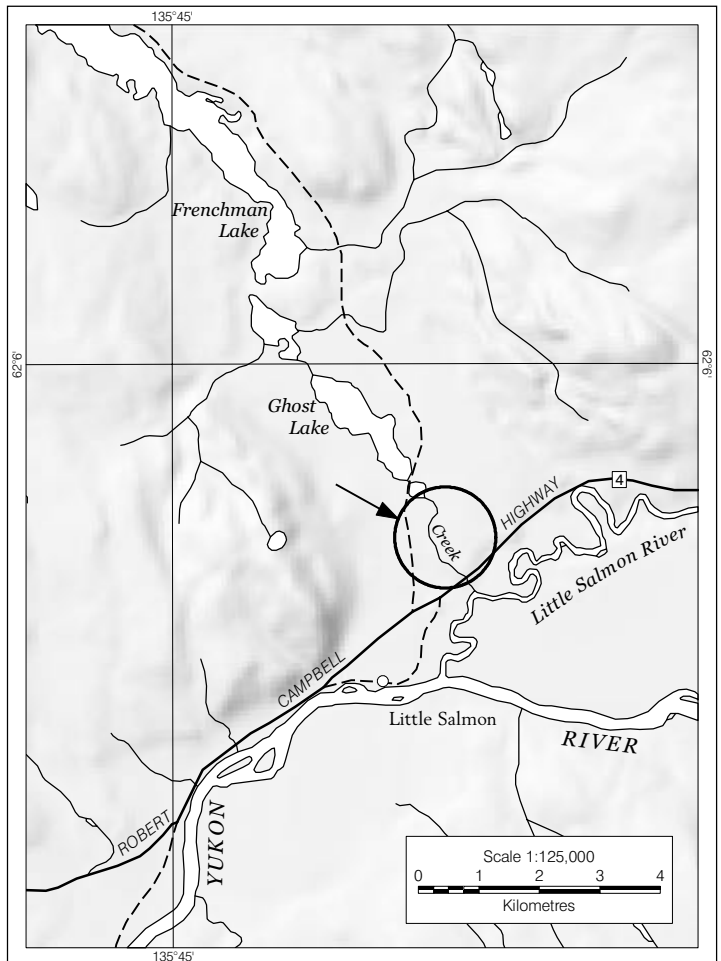


Figure 13. Creek from Ghost Lake blocked by beaver dams.

Concern**Ten-Mile Lake may be over-fished during the winter due to easy access.**

This is a small lake located between the North Klondike Highway near Braeburn and Coghlan Lakes (Figure 14). It is the first lake on the trail from Braeburn and is easily accessible in winter. People who fished the lake 20 years ago have noticed that far fewer fish are being caught than before. This lake is managed under the Conservation Water regulations with a daily catch limit of two lake trout, four grayling and four pike, per person.

Solution

Provide information to anglers about fishing regulations on the lake, assess lake trout stock, and increase education and enforcement presence during winter.

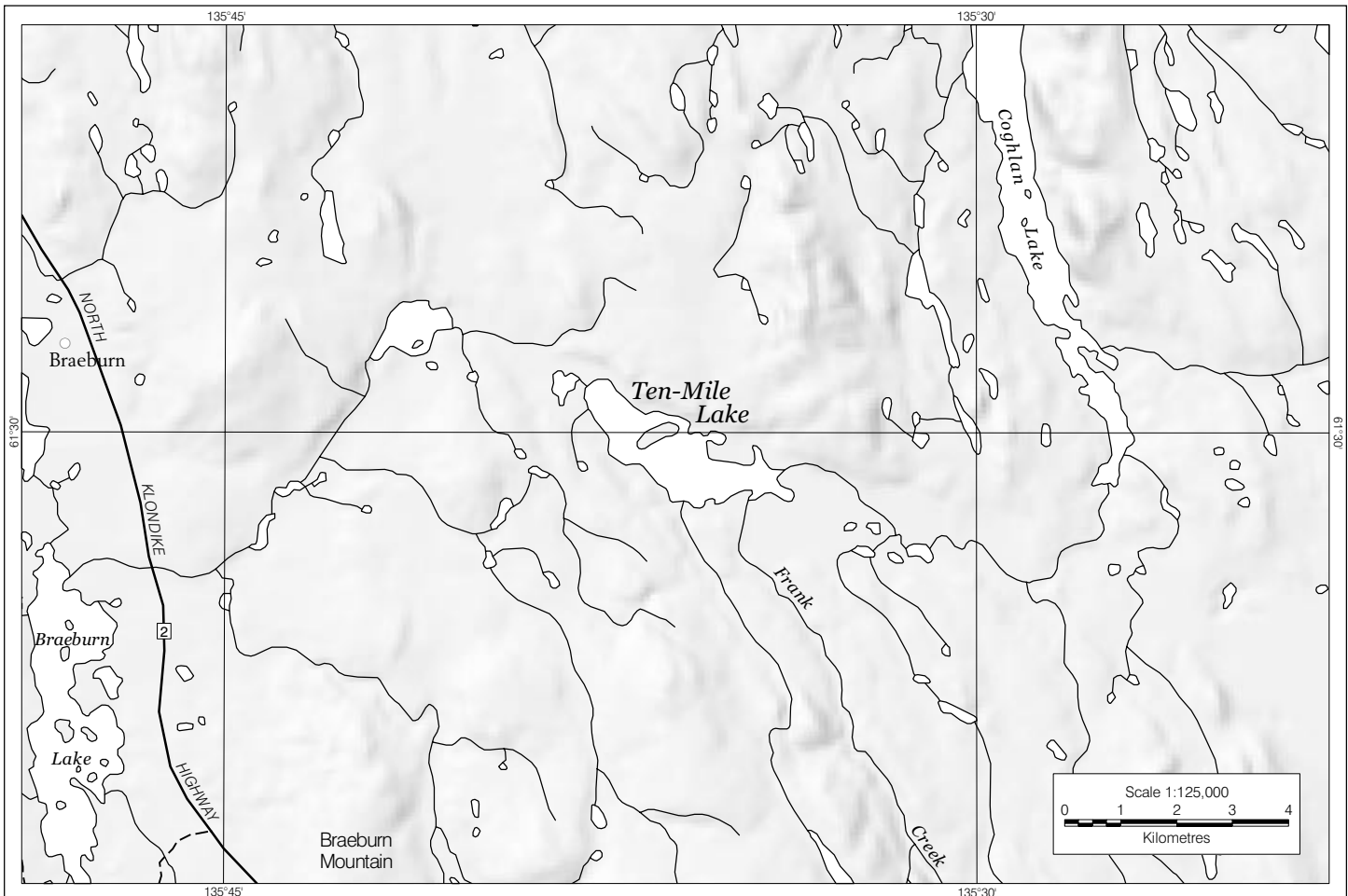


Figure 14. Ten-Mile Lake and area.

Commitment

By who? By when?

YTG
2004

Put up an information sign at Ten-Mile Lake describing fishing regulations on lake. [39]
A sign at the lake will help to inform anglers about the daily catch limits, slot sizes and how these apply to fish in the lake.

YTG, LSCFN
2004 OR 2005

Survey lake trout stock. [40]
A lake trout survey gives an idea of relative abundance that can be compared to over 100 lakes in the Yukon. YTG will try to study Ten-Mile Lake early in the plan. The lake should be sampled every five years to monitor changes in fish populations. YTG will cover the cost of the survey, and LSCFN will participate in the survey.

CRRC
2004 OR 2005

Assess lake trout stocks and consider classifying Ten-Mile Lake as Special Management Waters with “small lake” trout regulations. Submit to Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board as a regulation change proposal. [41]
Depending on the outcome of the stock assessment, if there is a significant conservation concern for the lake trout population, a regulation change to limit daily catches to one lake trout less than 65 cm in length per day could be introduced.

CRRC, LSCFN, YTG
2004 OR 2005

Increase education about freshwater fish at schools. [42]
Providing information to school kids is a good way to get information to the public about fisheries management. At the time of the plan, the LSCFN was working on some new school curricula. This provides an opportunity to share information about fisheries management in the Carmacks area. The LSCFN, CRRC and YTG would all need to participate in a discussion about the best way to do this. Field trips with older school kids related to “on-the-land” resource management are also a way to work with kids.

YTG
2004-2009

Enforcement patrols to Ten-Mile Lake should be a high priority during winter. [43]
Both Faro and Whitehorse Conservation Officers patrol Ten-Mile Lake trail in winter, at least three weekends each winter. To get a good sense of angler activity during the winter, there needs to be as much activity reported as possible.

Concern

There are concerns about levels and methods of harvest and locations of guest cabins of the fly-in commercial fishing operation on local lakes. There is a need to have the owner involved with the community.

There are fishing lodges on eight lakes in the area: Coghlan, Claire, Drury, Frank, Ken and Lynn (Chain Lakes), Mandanna, and Ten-Mile lakes. People in the Carmacks area don't have a lot of information about the commercial activities at these lodges and are concerned about the impact this operation has had on fish populations in lakes in the area in the past. The ownership of the lodge has recently changed, and the community would like to develop a relationship with the new owner. People in the community would like to understand what fish are in these lakes, how many fish are caught and released, how many fish are harvested by the commercial operation, and also find out what are safe levels of harvest. People are also concerned about the ethics of catch and release fishing and would like to discuss the need to limit use of areas in lakes to avoid disturbing spawning fish on a seasonal basis. The operating policy of the commercial lodge is for catch and release fishing only, and catch effort has been reduced from what it was in the past on lakes.

Solution **Work to exchange information between the community and the fishing lodge owner to understand the fishing activities on these lakes.**

Commitment

By who? By when?

CRRC
2004

The CRRC will ask for voluntary reporting by the fishing lodge owner of fishing activity on lakes. [44]

The lodge could also report numbers and conditions of fish caught, and record other activities on lake. Since this is confidential information, providing these numbers would be up to the owner of the lodge, but would directly address people's questions about how many fish are being taken. Information about the condition of fish caught would be helpful also to monitor any concerns with the health of fish.

LSCFN
EARLY IN PLAN

The LSCFN will consider giving traditional use information to the fishing lodge owner. [45]

Information about traditional uses of lakes, and fishing practices and First Nations ethics could be interesting for the lodge's clients, and help foster conservation of fish. A meeting with LSCFN and the lodge owners would be the best way to begin this discussion.

Concern

Catch and release practices of fishing can hurt and kill fish.

This is a common community concern throughout the Yukon and has come up in past regional fish and wildlife management plans. The YFWMB worked extensively to come up with solutions to address community concerns, and could be asked to present the findings of their work to the community.

Solution

Make a recommendation to the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board about catch and release fishing, and work with fishing lodge owner on local lakes.

Commitment

By who? By when?

CRRC
BEFORE 2007

Make a recommendation to the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board: “People are concerned about catch and release fishing practices in the LSCFN traditional territory. The Board needs to continue an education and awareness program because it is a high priority in the community. The Board is invited to host a discussion in the community.” [46]

Because live release is a Yukon-wide issue, the Carmacks plan partners acknowledge that changes to fishing methods cannot be made in isolation from the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board.

CRRC, LSCFN
2004-2009

The CRRC and LSCFN will work with the fishing lodge owner about live release practices. [47]
Information and communication between the community and lodge will help each other understand management concerns.

HABITAT

Concern

Roadside patches of unburned forest, the west side of Braeburn Lake, and the Tatchun caribou herd winter range need to be protected from fire.

Large stretches of forest have been burned during the last 10 years along the North Klondike Highway. While regeneration of forest stands caused by fire is recognized as a natural process, there is a need for older stands for some wildlife species such as caribou. Maintaining some of these older stands is necessary for these species to stay in areas. Allowing some wet-season, lightning-caused fires to burn can help to create patch habitat. Wildfires in 1969, 1995 and 1998 in the Tatchun caribou herd range have removed a lot of wintering habitat for these animals. These areas provide important places for caribou to go in the late winter when food is difficult to find due to snow cover. Allowing wetter season wildfires to burn in caribou habitat would allow the natural regenerative process of fire's impact on a forest to proceed. Quickly extinguishing fires in dry years would help to manage fires so that they do not get out of control and result in large burned areas and in less patchy habitat.

Solution

Develop fire management strategies to protect important wildlife range and forest stands that are critical parts of the regional biodiversity.

Commitment

By who? By when?

CRRC, LSCFN, YTG
2004-2009

Work with fire management officials to identify important areas for protection, and strategies for management of fires in areas outside the community. [48]

Over the next five years, work towards protection of important habitats in the LSCFN traditional territory, beginning with the Tatchun caribou winter range and Braeburn areas (see commitment #18, page 15). Both areas should be identified to Fire Management in 2004, with response actions expected mid-way through this plan.

CRRC, LSCFN
MIDWAY IN PLAN

Recommend the west side of Braeburn Lake as an important area for maintenance of biodiversity. [49]

The west side of Braeburn Lake is an area of old growth forest that the community would like to protect. Given the large fires that have occurred around the area, it is important to maintain some old growth timber for regional biodiversity. This fire management priority would need agreement from the First Nation because of settlement lands in the area.

Concern

Wildlife areas need to be identified in the Magundy River and Little Salmon Lake areas in a proactive and coordinated way.

There is a need to address conflicts between traditional uses of these areas and the agriculture, recreation, and other land application processes. Cottage lots and agricultural leases along the Magundy River and along the shores of Little Salmon Lake have been developed in a “spot application” approach to land development. There is a need to document, in an organized manner, more local knowledge about the movements and use of these areas by wildlife. Both ends of Little Salmon Lake are important for traditional use activities and both areas are important moose habitats. The Magundy River has also been identified as an area of “harvestable timber.”

Solution

Recommend the development of a local area plan for the Little Salmon Lake and Magundy River areas, and provide information about key wildlife habitats for consideration in the plan for the area.

Commitment

By who? By when?

LSCFN, YTG
2004

Document important habitats and cultural areas in the area as part of information gathering for a local area plan. [50]
Before making a request for a local area plan, LSCFN needs to gather information about wildlife habitat and cultural uses in these areas. The YTG regional biologist will assist in this collection.

CRRC, LSCFN
2004

Recommend to YTG Community Services that a local area plan be undertaken for the Magundy River and Little Salmon Lake areas. [51]
In making the recommendation, well-documented information would support the request, identifying the conflict between wildlife habitat and development in the area. The CRRC and LSCFN would need to draft a letter to initiate this process. Any planning should include Ross River Dena, as this is an area of traditional territory overlap.

Concern

There is a need to protect the Yukon River from Tatchun Creek to Minto as important habitat for moose, salmon, and other wildlife.

This section of the Yukon River contains a number of sloughs and islands, and was identified as important habitat for moose during calving, summer and winter. Moose were commonly seen in this area back in the 1960s, but fewer have been seen in recent years. “Dog Salmon Slough” was one area noted in particular as an important habitat area (Figure 15). Bears use Dog Salmon Slough for fishing. Moose might be staying away from river corridors now with the increased river travel traffic during summer. The review process for land applications in this area needs to consider the importance of these habitat areas to fish and wildlife.

Solution Conserve the important moose and salmon habitat along the Yukon River from Tatchun Creek to Minto.

Commitment

By who? By when?

CRRC, LSCFN
2004

Pursue designating the area between Tatchun Creek and Minto along the Yukon River as a Habitat Protection Area under the *Wildlife Act*. [52]

The community and governments need to get together to decide what kind of activities should happen in this important wildlife habitat. This is an overlap area with Selkirk First Nation, and the CRRC needs to consult with them. A LSCFN Game Guardian could also assist in evaluating the area for designation and providing management guidelines.

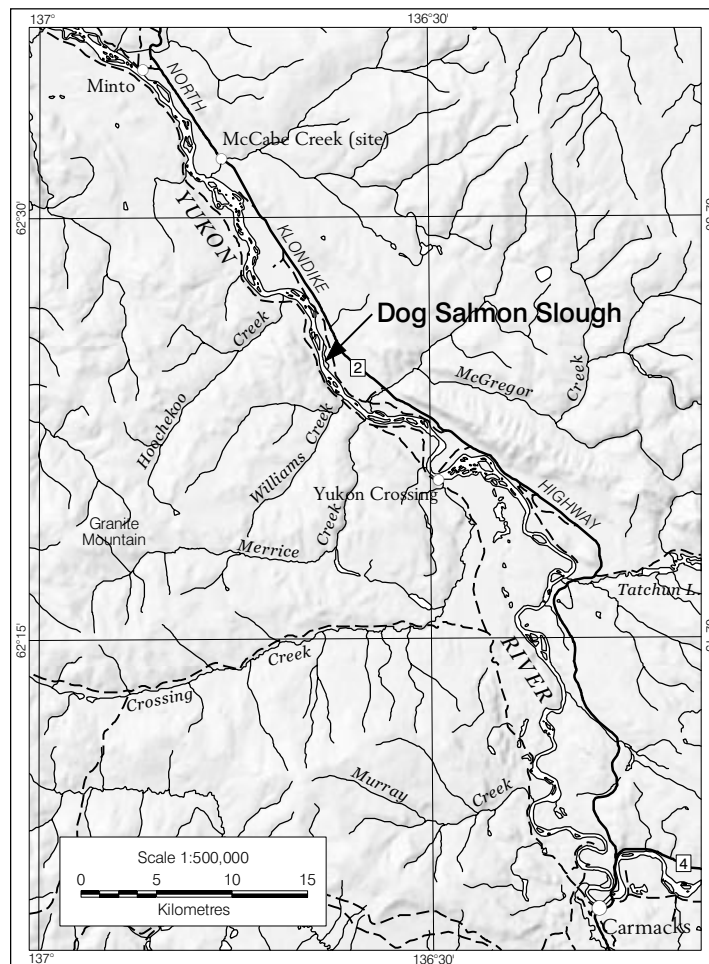


Figure 15. Dog Salmon Slough and area.

Concern

Beaver dams along Fox Creek, Klusha Creek and at No More Lake are blocking fish movements.

Residents identified Fox Creek and Klusha Creek as important spawning creeks. It is thought that spawning fish (whitefish and salmon) may not be able to get through these creeks due to beaver dams blocking creek flows. A community project to clear Klusha Creek of beaver dams for spawning salmon has shown success, with salmon returning to Twin Lakes in the past two years. A beaver management workshop, previously held in Carmacks with elders, identified important areas for dam removal.

Solution Continue community program to manage beaver dams in important spawning creeks.

Commitment

By who? By when?

LSCFN
2004-2009

LSCFN will continue with programs of beaver management on creeks where needed.

[53]

Once the reason for blockage is determined, LSCFN will consider how best to proceed.

*Winston Billy and
Howard Charlie,
Game Guardians*



MOOSE

Concern

Moose populations are low, populations need to be counted, and harvest by all users monitored.

Low moose numbers were a main concern in the Mount Nansen area. In 1988, an area around Mount Nansen (Game Management Subzones 5-22, 5-23, 5-24, and 5-26; see Figure 1) was closed to resident hunting. A count in 1987 recorded the lowest moose density recorded in North America, and a count in 2003 showed numbers are still low. Bear and wolf populations do not seem high enough to affect moose, but increasing caribou populations may be bringing wolves into areas, that then kill moose. The easy access to this area results in high hunting pressure, and First Nation hunters from Whitehorse use this area.

Moose populations were reported to be low in the highway corridor from Braeburn to Twin Lakes. Some residents believe that elk are competing with moose for space, as moose numbers seem to have dropped at about the same time that elk began staying around the Braeburn area. Residents report that over the last 15 to 20 years, moose tracks and sightings in this area have noticeably decreased, and that fewer moose tracks than expected have been seen where many bison and elk tracks are sighted. Hunting activity on the east side of the North Klondike Highway, towards Frank and Coghlan lakes, is reportedly high for “Sunday afternoon” hunters, using ATVs and vehicles as far as the trail provides access. Wildfires in this area (1958 and 1998) will probably produce good moose habitat through regeneration of shrubs and browse species, but residents have not yet seen any response by moose to the burns.

Some people feel that moose are being pushed away from the Yukon River by the many river travellers. In the last ten years, moose numbers have really dropped along the river. Hunting does not seem to be the problem, as few people are hunting along the river, and licensed harvests are low. Harvest data are needed from the First Nation here and in other parts of the traditional territory. In the “old days,” near the end of August, people would leave from Carmacks, travel with dogs and packs to the other side of Big Salmon Lake, build rafts, and float down the Yukon River to Carmacks with two or three moose dried. People have changed the way they hunt, from river hunting to travelling into the mountains to find moose.

Solution **Count moose from the air and monitor composition of moose populations using ground-based surveys; monitor harvest by all users; and improve information for First Nation hunters.**

Commitment

By who? By when?

CRRC, YTG, LSCFN
EARLY IN PLAN

Establish ground-based monitoring of moose, and do some low intensity aircraft counts in the fall for a couple years to see if similar patterns in percentages of cows, bulls and calves are seen. [54]

A good way to monitor moose populations and survival of calves is to follow the ground-based surveys started in Mayo. This involves asking about 20 knowledgeable local hunters and trappers to record their sightings of moose in the fall. Recruitment of calves can be estimated by dividing the number of calves seen by the number of cows, and the number of bulls can be compared to cows as well. This composition information can be helpful in understanding if moose numbers are stable, increasing, or decreasing. This is intended to be a volunteer project with small prizes only. This work should consider including placer miners in collecting information because they see a lot of country and wildlife.

YTG, LSCFN
EARLY IN PLAN

Complete an aerial moose count southwest of Carmacks where moose have never been studied before. [55]

Moose have never been counted from Braeburn north and along the Nordenskiöld Valley, and this is an important area to look at in the near future (Figure 16). Survey costs will be covered by YTG and the LSCFN will participate in the survey.

YTG
2004-2009

The YTG Regional Biologist will provide harvest information for resident hunters to CRRC in all years. [56]

This information is available on an annual basis. The YTG Regional Biologist will present this information for the consideration of the CRRC upon request.

LSCFN
EARLY TO MIDWAY
IN PLAN

Consider hiring a Game Guardian to monitor First Nation hunting activities in the traditional territory. [57]

LSCFN has committed to collecting harvest information and presenting it at the annual May gathering. LSCFN met with some hunters in April 2004 to see what other First Nations are doing, and ask what were the best ways to monitor harvest in the traditional territory.

LSCFN
2004

Put up a sign on Mount Nansen road to inform all First Nation hunters about concerns for low moose numbers. [58]

The LSCFN made a sign previously stating that other First Nation hunters need permission from LSCFN to hunt within the LSCFN traditional territory. The LSCFN will erect the sign near the start of the Mount Nansen road.

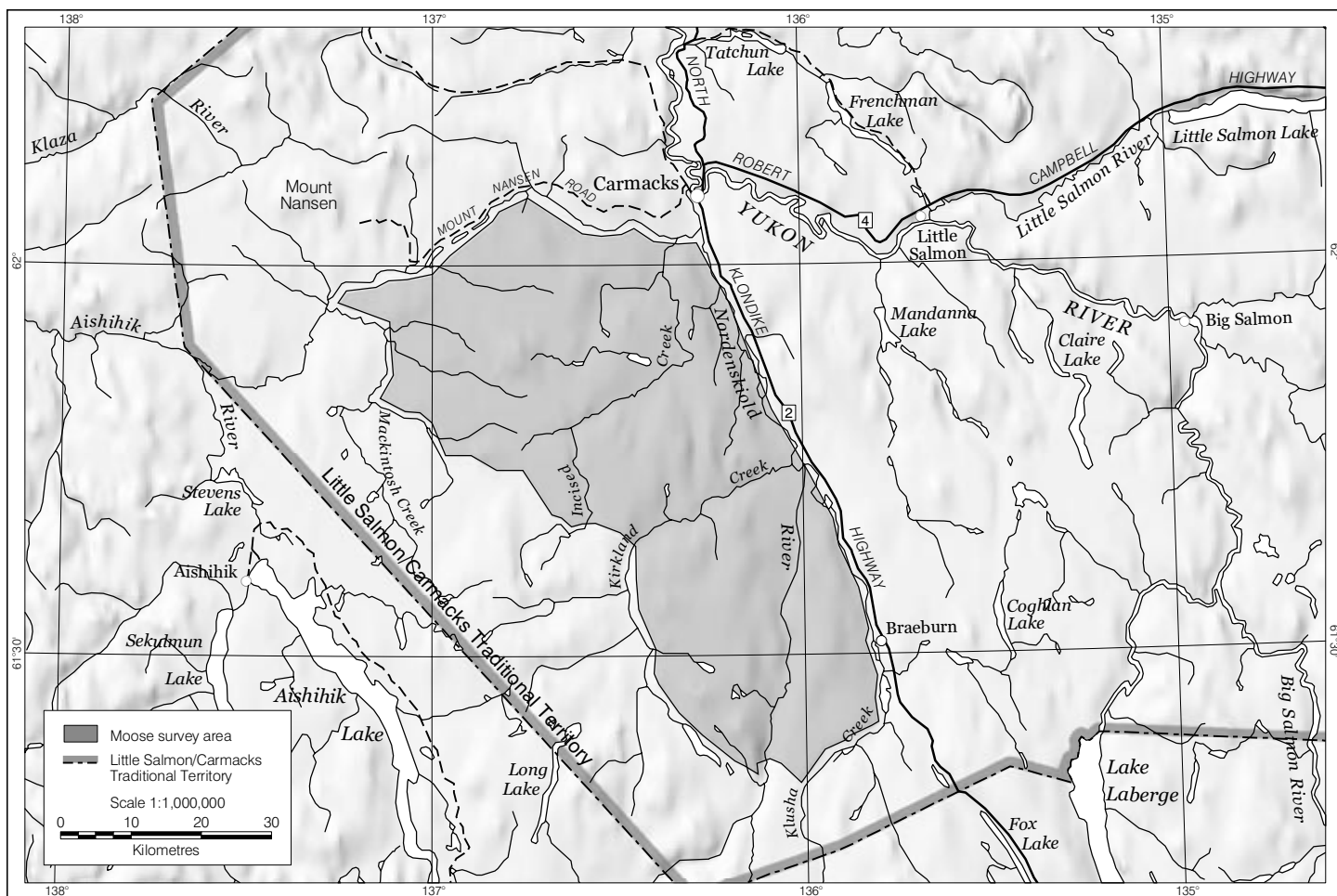


Figure 16. Proposed Nordenskiöld moose survey area.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Concern **Elders’ information is not being transferred to youth.**

Teachings from elders are an important way for youth to learn about bush life and traditional ways. Elders are concerned that youth are not interested in listening, that traditional ways will be lost, and that youth will not learn important messages about bush life.

Solution **Involve elders and youth in traditional activities.**

Hunts that involve elders and youth provide the opportunity for elders to teach kids about traditional ways. School bison hunts have proven to be effective in getting kids out on the land. Elders could use similar programs to teach traditional activities to youth. Involvement of the CRRC with youth is an important part of its role in the community.

Commitment

By who? By when?

LSCFN, CRRC
2004-2009

The LSCFN and CRRC will jointly identify opportunities for elders and youth to participate in traditional activities. [59]
The LSCFN needs to provide guidance and find ways to involve elders with youth. This guidance will help the CRRC to carry out community initiatives or programs that may help to transfer traditional ways from elders to kids. It is important that this work continue throughout plan implementation.

Concern **Results of technical studies need to be better communicated with the community.**

This concern was raised specifically in relation to bison and elk management, but also more generally. Communicating the results of fish and wildlife surveys, technical reports, and sharing new information about wildlife management is important and must be ongoing throughout the plan implementation.

Solution **Provide information about wildlife management to the community.**

Community meetings, newsletters, columns in the local paper, or use of a website can provide this information to the community.

Commitment

By who? By when?

YTG, CRRC, LSCFN
2004-2009

YTG to work with the CRRC and LSCFN to ensure the community receives information. [60]
Depending on the issue or information to be shared, the most effective method may vary. YTG will rely on the CRRC and LSCFN to provide advice on how best to share information on a regular basis.

Concern**Identifying increasing wildlife populations in the Yukon Hunting Regulations Summary booklet directs hunting pressure to these areas.**

This booklet is a good source of annual information for hunters. However, publishing positive survey results in the Yukon Hunting Regulations Summary attracts hunters to these areas and in doing so, limits local hunting opportunities. People recognize that wildlife is a public resource in the Yukon and YTG is obligated to share its survey information with the public.

Solution Information about wildlife should be available to the public, but not specifically worded to focus harvest effort on specific areas or populations.

The Yukon Hunting Regulations Summary can generally indicate if wildlife populations are increasing or decreasing without focusing harvest pressure.

Commitment

By who? By when?

YTG
2004-2009

Provide general wildlife population status information in the Yukon Hunting Regulations Summary booklet, and provide opportunities for the public to access more detailed information if needed. [61]

YTG will continue to produce the booklet with general information about the status of regional wildlife populations. Information that is more detailed will be made available through technical reports or on the government's website.

*Viola Mullett and Dawn Charlie
near the mouth of Tatchun Creek*



RECREATION

Concern

Disturbance by river travellers to wildlife, wildlife habitat, and fish camps is increasing along the Yukon River.

Residents have seen an increase in river travellers in recent years. Travellers have left garbage behind and some fish camps have been damaged, drying poles burned, and fish nets destroyed. River travellers need to understand the local concerns and values along the river corridor, and be made aware of sensitive habitat areas so as to avoid disturbing fish and wildlife at important times of the year. LSCFN summer crews who travelled the 400-kilometre stretch of the Yukon River in the LSCFN traditional territory and documented campsites, the condition of the sites, and carried out visitor surveys have documented most of the information currently known.

Solution

Map important habitats along the Yukon River, identify and publicize designated camping spots in areas with the least potential for disturbance, and get information to river travellers about how to minimize their impacts.

Commitment

By who? By when?

LSCFN, YTG
EARLY IN PLAN

Map the important fish and wildlife habitats along the Yukon River. [62]
To manage impacts of the river travellers and identify sensitive areas, more information is needed about important fish and wildlife habitats along the river corridor. There is good local knowledge about key salmon spawning areas, moose calving areas and other wildlife habitats that has not yet been mapped.

LSCFN, YTG
EARLY IN PLAN

Identify existing camping areas and publicize preferred sites to reduce the impact of heavy river traffic. [63]
Through the summer work of the LSCFN crews travelling the Yukon River corridor, 57 sites were identified. Since these sites are established, it would minimize further disturbance if the sites that are not near key wildlife habitat were publicized and used instead of new sites continually being established. YTG Parks and Recreation has offered to assist LSCFN with planning any further design of the preferred existing sites.

CRRC, YTG
EARLY IN PLAN

Recommend that the YTG Tourism & Culture website provide information to river travellers about respecting the Yukon River corridor. [64]
Travellers who are not guided on their river trips are the hardest to reach with information about how to camp and travel respectfully along the Yukon River corridor. The YTG Tourism & Culture web site may provide an opportunity to reach these people. The CRRC, YTG Parks and Recreation Branch, and YTG Tourism need to discuss what the message to these travellers should include.

SHEEP

Concern

Sheep at Kirkland Pass are vulnerable.

A small population of sheep at Kirkland Pass is often down low in the canyon and there is a concern that people travelling in the area by snowmobile in the winter — primarily hunting bison — may disturb the animals. The area the sheep use should be identified as a sensitive habitat.

Solution

Identify the sheep range and manage the area to minimize disturbance.

The range of this sheep population needs to be mapped to better understand where disturbances may occur. Once mapped, this area may be identified as a sensitive habitat, warranting special measures to minimize disturbance to the sheep. The Yukon Wood Bison Technical Team has acknowledged the need to map winter snowmobile trails to better understand and manage access related to the annual bison harvest.

Commitment

By who? By when?

YTG, LSCFN
2004

Map the extent of sheep range at Kirkland Pass. [65]

YTG has some information about the range of this sheep population. This information needs to be reviewed and updated on maps. The LSCFN will assist with mapping in the field.

CRRC, LSCFN
2004

Highlight in the bison plan the importance of this area for the sheep population. [66]

The CRRC and LSCFN will recommend to the YWBTT that this area be given special consideration when managing the bison harvest access because of its importance for sheep.

YTG, LSCFN, CRRC
2005, 2006

Map preferred access to avoid this area (particularly for bison hunters). [67]

Through the winters of 2005 and 2006, the YTG Conservation Officer will be using GPS to map trail networks associated with bison harvest activity. Ultimately, this work will produce a map for bison hunters of preferred access routes. This will help to divert snowmobile traffic away from areas of sensitive habitat, such as Kirkland Pass. The outcome of this work will be shared with the CRRC.

Winston Billy, Game Guardian



TRAPPING

Concern **People want incentives to trap.**

Trapping activity in the area has decreased over the years because the expense to trap is too high. However, removal of beaver dams is still often necessary for improving creek flows and fish passage in streams. Instead of paying people to remove dams, an opportunity exists for trappers to take beavers on their traplines. If trappers were offered a financial incentive to trap beavers and address stream blockage problems, traplines would be used, and the beavers could be removed. There may be some community support for a similar program for local wolf and coyote management. The LSCFN is currently considering a long-term plan to support trapping activities, but it is not yet established.

Solution **More information is needed about Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board Fur Committee’s consideration of incentives.**

Trapping incentives have been raised as an issue in many other communities as a way to encourage and support trapping. With low fur prices worldwide, it has become more and more difficult to earn money trapping. The YFWMB established a special “fur committee” to consider questions about the Yukon’s trapping industry. This committee’s work may provide direction to address the local concerns in Carmacks.

Commitment
By who? By when?

CRRC
2004

CRRC will contact the YFWMB Fur Committee to learn about options for incentives. [68]
The CRRC will follow-up with the Fur Committee, seeking both information and to participate in any ongoing consideration of alternatives.

Concern **Wolf predation in and around Carmacks has been high in recent years.**

In 2002, wolves took a number of dogs in the community of Carmacks, and, since then, residents have reported a number of moose kills around the community. Consequently, wolf numbers remain a concern for area residents.

Solution **Use community-based trapping to manage local wolf populations.**

Training key individuals in the community who have the interest and are likely to continue trapping wolves has been an effective local management technique in other Yukon communities.

Commitment
By who? By when?

YTG, CRRC, LSCFN
2005

Train wolf trappers. [69]
YTG, LSCFN and CRRC will host a wolf-trapping workshop for a limited number of interested individuals. The three-day workshops are typically held from mid-October to the end of November, in the community, and include additional one- to three-day trapline visits to practice skills from the workshop. The Mount Nansen/Freegold area was suggested as an area to start snaring wolves.

PLAN REVIEWS

Plan reviews are an important tool to measure the success of the plan implementation. Two reviews of the Carmacks Community-based Fish and Wildlife Management Plan will occur.

The first, at the mid-way point of the plan implementation in 2006, will consider how much of the plan was implemented and identify any needs to add or adjust the focus of the work plan. This plan is flexible, allowing the LSCFN, YTG and CRRC to modify the plan at any point during plan implementation.

The second review is the final review at the end of plan implementation in 2009. This review will reveal how much of the work was completed and make recommendations about what a new plan may need to consider.

*LSCFN Lands Department at
Mount Nansen*

Results of both plan reviews will be made available to the community, either through newsletters or at a public meeting.



APPENDIX A

List of issues raised as community concerns that were not addressed in the 2004-2009 plan

Community concern	Why it was not addressed in this plan
Grizzlies are reported to be numerous in the Braeburn area, and are possibly dependent on the elk population. These bears haven't posed a problem to people, but are likely an effective predator on elk and other wildlife in the area.	<i>This is an observation, not a concern.</i>
The cabin at the bison corral at the Nisling River is used by hunters and is not well maintained.	<i>The cabin is owned by LSCFN and at the time of the plan, was being dealt with by the Chief and Council.</i>
Numbers of caribou that used to cross at Little Salmon Lake have declined drastically.	<i>This is an important background point related to the concern about Tatchun caribou herd.</i>
There are concerns about the impact of a Northwestel road on the Tatchun caribou herd.	<i>Northwestel has revised its application – the problem was being dealt with at the time of the plan.</i>
Caribou survey funding should be redirected to moose surveys if caribou herds are doing well.	<i>Moose were counted in 2003. No need to redirect funding.</i>
A bow-only hunt for Klaza caribou could provide hunters and outfitters with more opportunities.	<i>This concern was raised by one individual and did not appear to be a community priority. This could otherwise be pursued as a regulation change proposal to the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board.</i>
Residents report that fences, loose dogs and a resident grizzly sow may be having a negative impact on elk numbers.	<i>These are observations that should be included in the write-up about elk in the Braeburn area.</i>
Net fishing can take a lot of fish, particularly when nets are too long.	<i>This should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.</i>
Fishing rules that apply to Braeburn Lake should also apply to other easily accessible lakes in the area, such as Twin Lakes and Little Fox Lake.	<i>This is already done.</i>
Willows are drying up along parts of the Little Salmon River	<i>This is an important piece of information, but it cannot be dealt with in the plan or by the planning partners.</i>
Hunters should have more respect for the local area by not leaving messy camps and garbage behind.	<i>There are littering laws. This is a matter of enforcement.</i>
Residents should have resided in the Yukon for two years before being able to get a Yukon hunting license.	<i>This was dealt with through a public consultation process. It was reviewed and stayed at one year for residency requirements.</i>
Since the moose closure in the Mount Nansen area in 1988, moose have not been surveyed and there is no current population estimate.	<i>An early winter moose survey was completed in 2003.</i>
The Yukon Quest sled dog race has an impact on local trapping activities and may provide a winter travel route for wolves.	<i>Quest route is well-established and difficult to change. Wolf management can be dealt with through community trapping program.</i>
The reduced catch of 1 trout per day at Braeburn Lake is a problem for local family harvesting (not enough).	<i>Other alternatives exist for fishing in the area. Braeburn Lake is a small, accessible lake and it is better to conserve the fish.</i>



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