



# Dawson Regional Planning Commission

On The Land We Walk Together • Nän käk ndä tr'ädäl

## Recommended Plan – Highlights

### August 2022

# The Dawson Planning Region



The Dawson Planning Region<sup>1</sup> is in the west central part of Yukon and is about 39,854 km<sup>2</sup> or 10% of Yukon. Three highways go through the region as well as the Yukon River. The population is 2220 (2017) which is 5.7% of Yukon's total population. The City of Dawson is the main settlement area.



The Government of Yukon manages the public land in the region and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have 135 parcels of settlement land. These are the two Parties to the Plan and they will be jointly responsible for making it work.



The First Nation of Nacho Nyäk Dun and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation have overlapping traditional territory and White River, a non-self-governing First Nation under the UFA, have identified a land selection in the Region.



The region has a thriving community and cultural landscape, and has healthy ecosystems that support a wide variety of fish and wildlife.



The Dawson Region boasts many opportunities and activities in mining, forestry, agriculture, tourism, trapping, big game outfitting, subsistence harvesting and fishing.



The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, as well other First Nations, have lived and travelled in the area Hwëch'in for generations. It is a place of immense importance as Tr'ondëk identity, culture, beliefs, traditions and practices are rooted in the land.



The region is of global archaeological and paleontological interest because of its Beringian and Gold Rush past

<sup>1</sup>The City of Dawson (and surrounding communities), Tombstone Territorial Park, and Klondike National Historic Sites are not in the scope of the regional plan.





This booklet introduces the Recommended Plan for the Dawson Planning Region and presents some of its key ideas. The full version of the Recommended Plan can be found at [dawson.planyukon.ca](http://dawson.planyukon.ca)

This Recommended Plan was written by the Commission based upon feedback they received on the Draft Plan in 2021. It is their best attempt to reflect community values, and to meet the objectives of Chapter 11 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement.

## Plan Concepts

### **Vision**

The Plan is based upon the concept of *"On the land we walk together - Nän käk ndä tr'ädäl"* which highlights the shared responsibility that we all must be stewards of this region. The future of the region will include a diverse economy, rich cultural legacy, healthy environment with shared and respectful use of natural resources.

Based on the Party, public, and Plan Partner feedback more work was needed to better address some important concepts throughout the Plan.

### **Umbrella Final Agreement Alignment**

The Recommended Plan is an important step towards the implementation of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement and First Nation reconciliation. The Recommended Plan made stronger connections to the First Nations Final Agreements.

### **Traditional Knowledge and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in culture and values**

The important differences between Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's ancestral responsibility to the land and community stewardship is highlighted. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in culture and values are woven more deeply throughout the Recommended Plan.

### **Climate change**

Through adaptive management and research recommendations, the potential impacts of and mitigation for climate change are considered in the Recommended Plan.



Photo: Yukinobu Yamamoto

# Key Recommendations



**Access:** Careful and responsible development of roads and trails.



**Caribou:** A mix of protection and limits to development in critical habitat and migration corridors.



**Conservation Priorities:** Recommendation for legal protection of five areas to preserve wilderness value and wildlife habitat.



**Culture and Heritage:** The rich history of the region is celebrated and cultural and heritage resources preserved, including a healthy, connected landscape.



**Cumulative Effects:** A Framework and thresholds for indicators (surface disturbance and linear feature density) are recommended to provide a way of understanding and monitoring activities in the Region.



**Implementation:** Emphasis on co-management and the Parties working together and with stakeholders and the community to implement the plan is encouraged. The Commission is recommended to continue after plan approval to monitor progress, conformity checks, and play a role in sub-regional planning.



**Mineral Development and Exploration:** Available land for placer and quartz exploration and mining, continued development of existing claims in protected areas and support for new reclamation guidance.



**Stewardship:** The introduction of Integrated Stewardship Areas in the land designation system, and creation of a Dawson Land Stewardship Trust for ongoing practice of stewardship.



**Traditional Knowledge:** The rich knowledge held by the Commission, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens, and the community guided the direction in the Recommended Plan, and should continue to guide the implementation of the Plan.



**Wetlands:** Recognition of wetlands and their ecological importance including development limits in rare and sensitive wetland types.

## What is Stewardship?

Stewardship as it is lived and understood by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is an ancestral and spiritual responsibility to live with the land 'in a good way'. More broadly, 'community stewardship' is about having a sense of responsibility to the land, water, and animals.



# Land Designation System

There are 21 Landscape Management Units (LMU) in the Recommended Plan, and each are assigned one of the following land designations:

- ① Integrated Stewardship Areas 1-4 (ISA)
- ② Special Management Areas (SMA)
- ③ Sub-regional Planning Areas
- ④ Community Area

The Recommended Plan also uses overlays to identify LMUs that have specific values that need to be managed for:

**Caribou Stewardship Overlay**  
**Wetlands Stewardship Overlay**  
**Highway Corridors**

Some of the LMUs have been recommended for a temporary (interim) withdrawal from mineral staking. Because of their environmental and cultural values, these areas need special attention and new guidance before the withdrawals can be removed, such as new reclamation or access plans. These areas are:

**LMU 7 – Wehtr’e (Antimony)**  
**LMU 17 – Nän Dhòhdäl (Upper Indian River Wetlands)**  
**LMU 21 – Wëdzey Tay (Fortymile Caribou Corridor)**

*A map of the region is on the next page.*

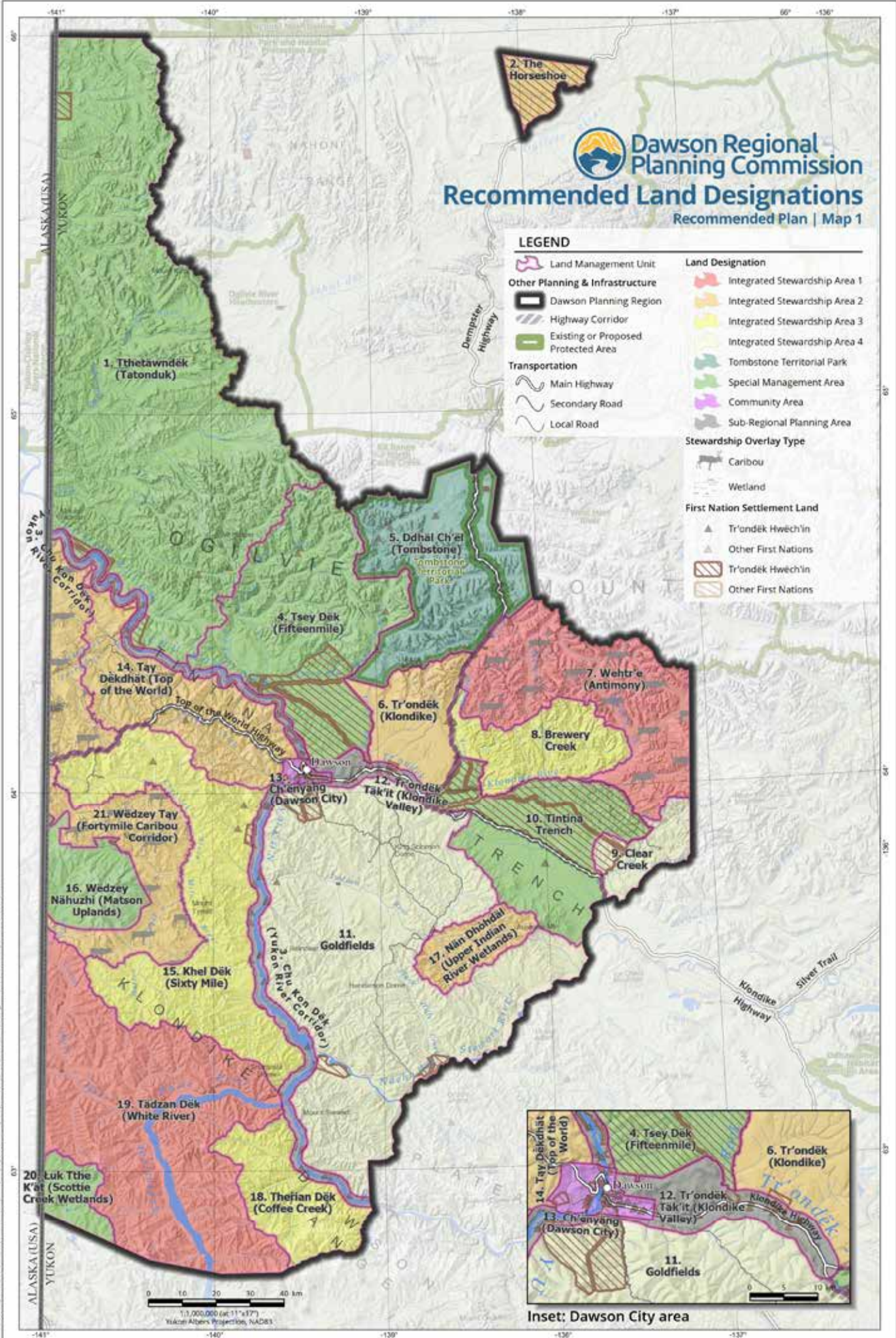




**Dawson Regional Planning Commission**  
**Recommended Land Designations**  
 Recommended Plan | Map 1

**LEGEND**

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Land Management Unit                       | <b>Land Designation</b>             |
| <b>Other Planning &amp; Infrastructure</b> | Integrated Stewardship Area 1       |
| Dawson Planning Region                     | Integrated Stewardship Area 2       |
| Highway Corridor                           | Integrated Stewardship Area 3       |
| Existing or Proposed Protected Area        | Integrated Stewardship Area 4       |
| <b>Transportation</b>                      | Tombstone Territorial Park          |
| Main Highway                               | Special Management Area             |
| Secondary Road                             | Community Area                      |
| Local Road                                 | Sub-Regional Planning Area          |
|  | <b>Stewardship Overlay Type</b>     |
|  | Caribou                             |
|  | Wetland                             |
|  | <b>First Nation Settlement Land</b> |
|  | Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in                   |
|  | Other First Nations                 |
|  | Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in                   |
|  | Other First Nations                 |



0 10 20 30 40 km  
 1:3,000,000 (at 11°N 137°W)  
 Yukon-Alberta Projection, NAD83

**Inset: Dawson City area**

Land Designation	Description	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Region %
<b>Special Management Area</b> <i>Highest Conservation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommended for permanent withdrawal from new industrial land use and surface access. Existing mineral activity can continue.</li> <li>Neither new mineral staking nor dispositions are allowed.</li> <li>Needs to be legally protected and have management plans.</li> </ul>	13,598	34.1
<b>ISA 1</b> <i>Lowest Development</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very high ecological or heritage/ cultural value within a sensitive biophysical setting</li> <li>The priority is to maintain ecological integrity and cultural resources.</li> </ul>	6,276	15.7
<b>ISA 2</b> <i>Low Development</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High ecological and cultural values within a moderately sensitive biophysical setting.</li> <li>The priority is to maintain ecological integrity and cultural resources and minimise land use impacts</li> </ul>	5,232	13.1
<b>ISA 3</b> <i>Moderate Development</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moderate ecological and cultural values within a moderately sensitive biophysical setting.</li> </ul>	4,843	12.1
<b>ISA 4</b> <i>Highest Development</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower ecological or heritage/ cultural value within a moderately sensitive biophysical setting.</li> </ul>	6,613	16.6
Sub-Regional Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommended for sub-regional planning</li> </ul>	1,124	2.8
Tombstone Territorial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Out of Planning Region Scope</li> </ul>	2,107	5.3
Community Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Out of Planning Region Scope</li> </ul>	81	0.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>39,875</b>	<b>100</b>



# On the land we walk together Nän Käk Ndä Tr'ädäl

Photo: Yukinobu Yamamoto



## Next steps:

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Government of Yukon will be undertaking consultation in Fall 2022. Follow us on Facebook or look to our websites for updates.



**Dawson  
Regional  
Planning  
Commission**

Office #4 (Southside)  
978 2nd Ave.  
Dawson City  
(867) 993 4400

Suite 201  
307 Jarvis st.  
Whitehorse  
(867) 667 7397

EngageDawson.  
[planyukon.ca](http://planyukon.ca)  
[Dawson.planyukon.ca](http://Dawson.planyukon.ca)  
[dawson@planyukon.ca](mailto:dawson@planyukon.ca)