

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Review of the Dawson Regional Draft Plan



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Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Our Foundation	4
Dënezhu dät'r'inch'e (The People of This Land)	4
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement	4
Draft Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Land Vision.....	5
United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).....	5
Reconciliation.....	6
Our Process	6
Technical and Staff Input	6
Citizen Engagement	7
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Council	7
Our Recommendations to the Commission.....	7
1. Alignment with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement	7
Opening Recital to the THFA.....	8
Chapter 11 of the THFA.....	9
2. Protection of High Conservation Areas.....	12
Special Management Areas	12
Additional Areas for Protection	14
3. Sustainable Development on the Working Landscape	16
Cumulative Effects Management.....	17
Adaptive Management	18
Community Growth	18
4. Climate Change and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Rights and Interests.....	19
5. Joint Management and the Concept of Stewardship	19
Stewardship	20
Joint Management and Implementation	20
6. Future Planning Areas and Adequate Interim Protection	21
Appendices.....	22
Appendix A: Alternative Conservation Map for Consideration	22
Appendix B: A Review of Inclusion and Consideration of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Values, Way of Life, and Traditional Knowledge in the Draft Dawson Regional Land Use Plan	23

Appendix C: Technical Summary of Comments	24
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Introduction

Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in would like to thank the Dawson Regional Planning Commission (the Commission) for their hard work reaching this important milestone. We are encouraged by the efforts made by the Commission to strike a balance between competing and conflicting land uses and perspectives in this complex planning region. Additionally, we are happy to see many of the recommendations of the Draft Plan reflect a collective vision that is based on a sustainable approach to development within the Dawson planning region. The Draft Regional Plan (Draft Plan) is a good start towards meeting the objectives of Chapter 11 of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Final Agreement (THFA or Final Agreement).

The Dawson planning region represents 75% of our Traditional Territory, a land that has sustained us since time immemorial. This land is our home, our heritage, and our responsibility. In addition to being an administrative party with decision-making authority to this process, we remain an integral part of this land and it is our law to take care of it as it takes care of us; the wellness of this land is intrinsically linked to the wellness of our people - today and into the future. To maintain our existence as a people on this land, our ancestors taught us to interact with all of creation “in a good way.” This simple but powerful tenant is central to our identity as a people. We want the Commission to understand that all of our recommendations in this submission reflect these truths. While it is our culture to seek balance and respect with others, our guiding principle is always to first serve and respect the land. From a healthy land, all else flows and only with a healthy land will our culture persist.

Cultural viability is one of the objectives of Chapter 11 in our Final Agreement. In the THFA, the Commission is directed to recognize and promote the cultural distinctiveness and integral values of Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in, as well as to utilize our collective knowledge and experience as Yukon First Nations living on this landscape in preparing a Recommended Plan. We believe that, in many ways, the Commission has succeeded in capturing the broad perspectives and interests of Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in and we are encouraged by the overall direction provided by the Draft Plan. However, we do not feel that our unique way of life, values, and traditional knowledge and experience are evident throughout the entire document. As a result, we believe the Draft Plan does not meet all of the objectives of Chapter 11. It is critical that our cultural distinction and connection to the land as a people is explicit: These are cornerstones of the THFA.

In this submission, we have identified six key themes that need further consideration as the Commission move forward with the Recommended Plan. Two of the themes are areas of high concern for us: alignment with the Final Agreement and protection for high conservation areas. The other four themes are matters we believe require work prior to completing the Recommended Plan: sustainable development, climate change, joint management and stewardship, and sub-regional planning.

We will be happy to help the Commission to address each of the themes outlined in this submission. Please do not hesitate to call upon our Senior Liaison Committee and the Technical Working Group representatives when you need guidance and support. We have confidence that the Commission will finalize a Recommended Plan that meets the objectives of Chapter 11.

Our Foundation

“Our land lives and breathes. It is alive with power. Our land is the earth, the water, the sky, the stars and the wind. It is the people and the animals, the fish and the plants. It is a life force. Our land shapes our world. Our beliefs, thoughts, and actions are responses to the land itself and in return the land provides for us. We work together to maintain this reciprocal relationship.

“It is our law to care for the land as it cares for us. We live in balance with its rhythms and respond to its demands. We make our decisions, from the smallest to the most complex, with the future health of the land and ourselves in mind. We know that the smallest action can cascade outward in time and space and will impact the integrity of the land as a whole. In turn our beliefs, thoughts and actions also cascade outward and impact our wellness as a community.

“It is the land who teaches us to always be aware of our impacts and to consider our role in sustaining our whole selves and our communities”. (Excerpt Dënezhu dät’inch’e, TH 2019)

As we move forward in this process, we ground ourselves in the voices of our Citizens and in foundational guiding documents. These documents include: Dënezhu dät’inch’e, the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Final Agreement, our draft Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Land Vision, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Reports.

Dënezhu dät’inch’e (The People of This Land)

In April of 2019 Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in submitted a document entitled “We are Dënezhu” as additional information to our Issues and Interests Report.

As is described in this foundational document, it is our law to care for the land as it cares for us. We live in balance with its rhythms and respond to its needs. We make our decisions, from the smallest to the most complex, with the future health of the land and our children in mind. The wellness of our land is intrinsically linked to the wellness of our future generations. Our Vision is to maintain our spiritual, social, and economic relationships with the land. Our ancestral stewardship responsibility is premised on a duty to interact with and use the land “in a good way”; this is central to our identity as a people. We have a deep spiritual connection to the land and water. It is our responsibility to protect our Traditional Territory as a whole, and the land, water, animals and plants that have supported our people for generations. Everything is connected.

The objectives of our Final Agreement recognize and protect our right to uphold our spiritual and physical relationship with the land: a relationship that is premised on caring for the land and allowing it to thrive in perpetuity.

Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Final Agreement

The Umbrella Final Agreement and the subsequent THFA and Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Self-Government Agreement represent a turning point for us as a people. These documents reflect our resiliency and our determination to re-establish ourselves as an independent people with the inherent right to manage our own affairs. We expect our Final Agreement to be respected and for the obligations of all parties to the THFA to be met.

The Commission was established under Chapter 11 of the THFA. The objectives of that chapter include to *“recognise and promote the cultural values of Yukon Indian People”* and to *“utilize the knowledge and experience of Yukon Indian People in order to achieve effective land use planning.”* The Dawson planning region overlaps with three First Nation’s Traditional Territories, and we encourage the Commission to follow these objectives and the spirit and intent of the Final Agreement in considering these objectives and overlapping Yukon First Nation cultural values. Upholding these objectives means developing a Recommended Plan that protects our rights, values, and interests in the context of present day and future needs, which are dependent upon a healthy and diverse landscape. In particular, land use planning must uphold our constitutionally protected rights to:

- Participate meaningfully in the management of land and resources (Chapter 11);
- Have water that is on or flowing through or adjacent to TH Settlement Land remain substantially unaltered as to quantity, quality, and rate of flow, including seasonal rate of flow (Chapter 14);
- Harvest for subsistence all species of Fish and Wildlife (Chapter 16);
- Use and enjoyment of Settlement Land (Chapter 5);
- Recognize and protect a way of life that is based on an economic and spiritual relationship between Tr’ondëk Huch’in and the land (Recital 3); and
- Encourage and protect the cultural distinctiveness and social well-being of Tr’ondëk Huch’in (Recital 4).

Draft Tr’ondëk Hwëch'in Land Vision

As part of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch'in Land Stewardship Framework Project, Tr’ondëk Hwëch'in is developing the Tr’ondëk Hwëch'in Land Vision. The Land Vision is a high-level values guidance document for our government, rooted in our traditional stories. Our traditional stories describe the laws and relationships that were set out by Tsà’ Wëzhè, the Traveller, our culture hero. Tsà’ Wëzhè travelled the Earth and made agreements with the land and with other beings, the plants and the animals. These agreements between our people and the land are rooted in the values of respect, integrity, balance, justice, and interconnection. Our people have survived on this land by interacting with it in a manner that upholds these values. For us, this is true sustainability: not economic development that sustains a society for several generations, but a deep and meaningful relationship with the Earth that sustains a people for all of time. This is the essence of our traditional stories and the essence of the Land Vision.

The Tr’ondëk Hwëch'in Land Vision will guide all levels of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch'in Government. The Land Vision will transform and inform our Government’s operations and its processes, including land use planning on both Settlement Lands and in the Dawson planning region. Applying the sustainable values outlined in the Land Vision to present-day land management approaches will ensure that the Tr’ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory retains its integrity in the years to come.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

UNDRIP is a comprehensive international instrument that addresses both individual and collective rights of Indigenous peoples around the world. It offers guidance on cooperative relationships with Indigenous peoples based on the principles of equality, partnership, good faith, and mutual respect.

Directly referring to and incorporating UNDRIP principles into the Plan will also uphold Tr’ondëk Hwëch'in’s rights to:

- Maintain and strengthen TH Citizens' distinctive spiritual relationship with their traditionally owned or otherwise occupied and used lands, territories, waters and other resources and to uphold their responsibilities to future generations in this regard (Article 25);
- The conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of TH's lands or territories and resources (Article 29);
- Determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of TH lands or territories and other resources (Article 32); and
- Have our Final Agreement honoured and respected by being recognized, observed and enforced (Article 37).

Reconciliation

All Yukon regional land use plans are rooted in the Final Agreements and should have the obligations set out in the Agreements at their core. Additionally, the current Plan is being developed in the context of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and continued revelations about the extent of historical and ongoing harm wrought by Canadian residential schools.

Historically, land use planning was sometimes used by colonial administrators and successive Canadian governments as a tool to relocate Indigenous peoples or restrict their access to their lands in the name of "orderly development." Western ideas of land use and management were, and continue to be, imposed on Indigenous peoples in Canada with the outcome of adversely transforming the relationship and interaction between the land and land-based societies.

In the present day context of Chapter 11 of the THFA, we believe processes as set out under this Agreement, including regional land use plans, have a responsibility to speak to reconciliation and how it is reflected in the regional planning process. This responsibility can be met by clear statements that recognize Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in approaches to land management; approaches that lead to true sustainability. It is also important that it be acknowledged that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in continue to embody our ancestral responsibilities to the land through ongoing Stewardship.

We encourage the Commission to take every opportunity to champion collaborative and co-management approaches in the name of Reconciliation so that the Recommended Plan strengthens relationships among and within the Dawson region. Reconciliation in this process is an opportunity for listening, learning, capacity-building, and forging a new way, together. The Commission has indicated that the Draft Plan is based on the principle of "On the Land We Walk Together" - Nän kāk ndä tr'ädäl. We believe this concept can continue to help guide the Commission in efforts to base the Recommended Plan on the responsibility for reconciliation, such that we all continue to live on and care for the land in a good way.

Our Process

The completion of this submission would not have been possible without the dedication and tremendous effort on behalf of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Council, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government staff, and external experts.

Technical and Staff Input

Departments that contributed to this submission include Economic Development, Education, Implementation, Natural Resources, Heritage, and Wellness. Staff from these departments were invited to participate in the review of the Draft Plan for key sections and values depending on their subject

matter expertise and role within the organization. In addition to this internal staff input, external expertise was contracted in areas including the Draft Plan recommendations pertaining to wetlands and the inclusion of traditional knowledge.

Citizen Engagement

It is foundational to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government that all operations, including responses to the Commission, be driven by concerns expressed by our Citizens, and that there remain an open line of communication throughout the process between Citizens and the staff when preparing submissions. This was accomplished through the hiring of a dedicated staff member to support the Commission in their engagement efforts, to discuss key aspects of the Draft Plan with our people, and to collect individual feedback as appropriate.

Once received, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in staff and contractors organized and articulated all input into the six key themes described in our submission. The input provided to the Commission in this submission should be considered a collective review and compilation of many voices, all rooted in the values and principles of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in that seek to maintain the integrity of our culture and our land.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Council

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Council participated in the review through updates from staff, providing feedback and direction, and ultimately approving the details of this submission.

Our Recommendations to the Commission

It is our sincere interest to support the Commission in its efforts to uphold the obligations of the THFA. It is clear to us from the Draft Plan that the Commission is committed to meeting its obligations and we are grateful for that. However, there are six aspects of the Draft Plan that can be improved in order to properly balance each of the objectives of Chapter 11. Two the following themes, aligning with the Final Agreement and protection of high conservation areas, are critical, where as the remaining four themes are areas of improvement. In all, we encourage the Commission to utilize the experience of our Senior Liaison Committee and Technical Working Group representatives as they work towards addressing the following recommendations.

1. Alignment with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement

It is not easy to bring our principles and values into a land use planning process that focuses on a profoundly different way of seeing the world – one that views the land as being in service to us rather than us being in service to the land. However, as per our Final Agreement, we enter into this process with faith that it is in the best interests of the land and the people to reconcile two different worldviews and find a balance that meets the objectives of Chapter 11.

Chapter 11 of the THFA sets out a regional planning process whereby Yukon First Nations way of life, values, and traditional knowledge and experience are to be incorporated into planning. In order to assist us in our review of how the Draft Plan met these objectives from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's perspective, we have worked with a third party contractor to better capture our overall concerns and recommendations. These are captured in detail in Appendix B. While we have summarized main points below, we encourage the Commission to conduct a full review and consideration of the entire report in Appendix B.

It is important to acknowledge that the Draft Plan does make efforts to introduce better approaches than previous Yukon Land Use Plans by including a detailed consideration of wetlands, introducing the concept of stewardship, and addressing missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, for example, as these are all topics that are deeply important to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Overall, however, we do not believe the Draft Plan articulates, in a clear and transparent manner, the way of life, values, and traditional knowledge and experiences of us, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Our hope is that our feedback and recommendations in this submission can help guide the Commission as they move forward towards a Recommended Plan that meets the objectives of Chapter 11.

It is also important to note that we understand that the process for establishing a Regional Planning Commission allows for the transfer of important knowledge, experience, and values from Commission members and the community to the planning process and resulting land use plan. Commission members have deep roots within the Dawson region and much lived experience on the landscape. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in acknowledges and appreciates the contributions of Commission members and the community to this process.

Below we have summarized two sub-sections that provide an overview of the relevant objectives reviewed, where we have identified gaps, as well as how we see them being addressed as the Commission moves forward with a Recommended Plan.

Opening Recital to the THFA

The THFA clauses that precede the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Government of Canada and the Government of Yukon approval signatures, state that:

“... the parties to this Agreement wish to recognize and protect a way of life that is based on economic and spiritual relationship between Tr'ondëk Huch'in and the land;

the parties to this Agreement wish to encourage and protect the cultural distinctiveness and social well-being of Tr'ondëk Huch'in”

It is clear that the Parties to the THFA wish to recognize and protect the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of life, our spiritual relationship with the land, our cultural distinctiveness, and our social well-being as a people. The provisions of Chapter 11 reinforce this commitment.

Given this, it is important to note the language that is often used to describe us in the Draft Plan. Rather than acknowledging Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in specifically and our cultural distinctiveness, the Draft Plan often lumps our culture in with broader terms such as “First Nation,” “community,” or “socio-cultural” values. In several places where the Draft Plan does mention us as a people specifically, the Draft Plan compares and equates addressing our values with addressing everyone's in the region.

We are Dënezhu, the people of this Land. We are Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the people of the river. We have cultural distinction that should be made explicit within the Recommended Plan. As such, we encourage the Commission to use more specific language when referring to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and our own interests and values.

Recommendations

- To recognize and promote the cultural distinctiveness of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and their identity as Dënezhu throughout the Recommended Plan. As recognized in the Draft Plan, this region is a

unique mix of people, history and values. However, the Recommended Plan should address how the distinct values of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are integrated in this land and how the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in culture is reflected in the land.

Chapter 11 of the THFA

The following sections highlight specific objectives of Chapter 11 that have been reviewed for relevancy and application within the Draft Plan. To begin, it is important to note that, as is expressed in the Draft Plan, a key objective of Chapter 11 of the THFA is to ensure 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 so as to ensure Sustainable Development. However, it is not the only objective. We understand Sustainable Development as defined in the THFA has been used as a guiding principle to the Plan, however it is equally important to acknowledge explicitly all objectives of Chapter 11 for the regional land use planning process.

As such, we encourage the Commission to add clarity and explicit consideration of the other objectives of Chapter 11 that need to be reflected in the Plan (e.g., in Section 4, which identifies the plan's core principle as sustainable development, section 4.3 description of cultural values as key to Sustainable Development only).

Our Cultural Values

THFA Objective 11.1.1.3 is to: *Recognize and promote the cultural values of Yukon Indian People.*

Our values and our way of life are based on traditional knowledge and experiences. Our culture is deeply interconnected with the land and all that the land provides. We do not see ourselves as separate and above the land, we see ourselves in balance with the land and beholden to it. The Draft Plan, in contrast, takes a siloed approach to cultural values that separates us from the land. For example, water is included as an ecological resource but is not considered for the immense and deep cultural value it provides to us as a people. Similarly, the loss of ecological integrity is acknowledged but the associated loss of cultural integrity is not. Our way of life, values, knowledge, and experience are most frequently portrayed under "heritage and culture," with a focus on tangible items, like uses, resources and sites. While these are significant values, the more holistic intertwined Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in relationship with the land and its significance to us as a people could be better reflected in the Recommended Plan.

It is also worth noting that the Draft Plan does not acknowledge nor address the broader values of "cultural landscape" or "cultural continuity" that we identified in our past submissions to the Commission, including our April 2019 document entitled "*We Are Dënezhu. The people of this Land. We are Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. The people of this river,*" as well as our conservation priority assessment submitted in December of 2020, entitled "*Ninänkäk hqzq wëk'àtr'ènhcha (We Take Good Care of Our Land).*" Within both of these documents we make best efforts to describe who Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people are as Dënezhu and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of life, Tr'èhudè. We believe that these words and the meaning of these fundamental concepts should be included in the Recommended Plan.

Recommendations

- To review our previous submissions (April 2019, December 2020), and use the information therein to describe our values and our way of life;

- To recognize and promote Tr'ëhudè into the plan, and to describe and better integrate our relationship with the land that is fundamental to our identity, way of life, and all aspects of well-being;
- To consider our values more explicitly and holistically. For example, explicit consideration of our relationship with the land requires consideration of cultural values such as cultural landscape and continuity together with ecological values such as ecological integrity, along with measures to protect heritage uses, resources, and sites;
- To acknowledge the traditional economy and the importance of its economic contributions in all areas of the planning region, and to work with the Technical Working Group TH representatives to ensure all areas in which traditional use is a value is accurately included and described; and
- To ensure heritage resources accurately reflects what heritage means to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in the LMU table of values.

Our Knowledge and Experience

THFA Objective 11.1.1.4 is to: *Utilize the knowledge and experience of Yukon Indian People in order to achieve effective land use planning.*

There is a general lack of reference within the Draft Plan to Traditional Knowledge and traditional land management practices and how they were considered, both within the core components of the Draft Plan, such as the Plan Concepts, as well as the specific recommendations of the Draft Plan, such as in the General Management Directions and Special Management Directions. We encourage the Commission to add clarity and transparency to the Recommended Plan as to where and how Traditional Knowledge and traditional land management practises are being considered. Technical Working Group TH representatives will be happy to assist the Commission to address this important objective.

We are encouraged by the Commission's efforts to include Hän language within the title of the Draft Plan and in the names of the Landscape Management Units (LMUs). Including our language and our words is an important way to highlight our culture and our history and helps us to see ourselves within the Plan. However, we need to acknowledge that we are often limited in our ability to always provide this important input. Our capacity to provide Hän translations is directly tied to the people who continue to speak and learn the language. We encourage the Commission to go further in their efforts to use Hän language to describe the planning region, but to also recommend the Commission consider the development of financial supports for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in order to provide language services such as translation.

Recommendations

- To plan and host a Traditional Knowledge focused workshop in partnership with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in order to gain increased insight as to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in understanding of land management;
- To utilize the knowledge gained from the above workshop in an explicit and meaningful way; and
- To continue to emphasize the importance of, and include as appropriate, the Hän language, and to consider adding recommendations that offer funding supports to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in order to facilitate language translation services.

The Importance of Land and Education

It is important to note that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in makes use of several sites and camps in the planning region for K-12 education programs, specifically at Chëdähdëk (Fortymile), Èdhàdàdhëchan kek'it (Moosehide), Nänkäk Chëolay (Land of Plenty), Chu kon dëk (the Yukon River Corridor) and the Dempster region. We note that the Draft Plan does not make reference to these sites as being important for educational purposes in an explicit way.

Our relationship with the land is central to how we describe and consider knowledge and education. This relationship is so intertwined that it is difficult to speak to them as stand-alone considerations in the broader practice of land stewardship. Everything is intertwined such that education, knowledge, land, and ultimately our culture, cannot be separated. Given this, we strongly encourage the Commission to emphasize the importance and interrelationship between cultural education and the land, and to consider added recommendations as appropriate to ensure important areas for educational pursuits on the land and cultural education are protected.

Recommendations

- To speak to the importance of land-based learning and cultural education to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in within the Dawson planning region;
- To consider making recommendations to support a greater understanding of Dënezhu ways and knowledge in programs that prepare people to enter land-based professions (e.g., conservation, biology, ecology, research, land use management, stewards, governance roles); and
- To work with the Technical Working Group TH representatives to identify areas within the Dawson planning region that are important sites for land-based learning and cultural education, and where necessary, add special management directions that protect the area for this value. At a minimum, this includes Chëdähdëk (Fortymile), Èdhàdàdhëchan kek'it (Moosehide), Nänkäk Chëolay (Land of Plenty), Chu kon dëk (the Yukon River Corridor) and the Dempster region.

Our Settlement Land

THFA Objectives 11.1.1.2 and 11.1.1.5 are to: *Recognize Yukon First Nations' responsibilities pursuant to Settlement Agreements for the use and management of Settlement Land, and to minimize actual or potential land use conflicts both within Settlement Land and Non-settlement Land and between Settlement Land and Non-Settlement Land.*

We believe that additional attention should be given to Settlement Land as a value within the Draft Plan. We also believe that the Commission should clarify how Settlement Land should be intended to be managed when a single parcel falls under multiple LMUs (i.e. TH SL R-79B and R-2A).

During treaty negotiations, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in selected land parcels to provide for the present and future needs of our Citizens. Under our Final Agreement, we retained 2,600 km² out of a Traditional Territory of approximately 64,000 km² – about 4 percent. Many Settlement Land parcels were selected to provide a base for traditional activities in the surrounding area, and many of the priority conservation areas included in *Ninänkäk hqzq wëk'ät'èndhcha (We Take Good Care of Our Land)* were identified to include land around Settlement Land parcels. We identified this land as being priority conservation areas in order to protect our rights to peaceful enjoyment of that Settlement Land, and to protect the use of Settlement Land by our Citizens. A parcel of settlement land surrounded by industrial development is a

clear land-use conflict between Settlement Land and Non-Settlement Land, which we believe directly conflicts with THFA objectives.

It is also important for the Recommended Plan to reflect the various rights and obligations Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has with respect to Settlement Lands, such as those related to water and access, for example. Generally speaking, the management directions in the Recommended Plan must consider and protect these specific rights and objectives.

Recommendations

- To include more focused consideration of Settlement Land within the planning region as a value, and clarify the recommended management directions that address the objectives above;
- To be clear that the recommendations put forward for Upper Klondike (LMU 10) and the recommended legal designation as a protected area will not impede Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's ability to develop this important area for cultural use, as determined by us; and
- To protect the area surrounding the Forty Mile camp/Heritage (LMU 15) by establishing a no activity buffer such that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in can maintain the cultural significance of this important area.

2. Protection of High Conservation Areas

The Draft Plan has made a significant effort to describe and identify areas of high conservation value within the Dawson region. We are pleased to see much overlap of the Special Management Areas (SMAs) with our identified Conservation Areas submitted to the Commission in *Ninänkāk hqzq wëk'ät'r'ènhcha (We Take Good Care of Our Land)*. However, the discrepancy between the designations of SMA I and SMA II creates uncertainty as to the future of these important areas. Furthermore, there are additional areas within the planning region that require consideration for protection based on their high conservation value.

Generally speaking, we need a network of protected areas in order to preserve ecological and cultural integrity within the Dawson planning region. We must make certain that broad swaths of land are truly protected to ensure that far-reaching connectivity corridors allow the important movements and genetic exchange of the species we rely on and have the obligation to protect. When we protect large, interconnected corridors for migratory species, we can simultaneously protect a network of habitats that support the health and perseverance of our local ecosystem. In doing so, we add certainty to our own ability to care for and relate to the landscape, such that we retain true cultural continuity.

Special Management Areas

The establishment of SMAs is provided for under Chapter 10 of the THFA. The objective of that chapter is to *maintain important features of the Yukon's natural or cultural environment for the benefit of Yukon residents and all Canadians while respecting the rights of Yukon First Nations*. Chapter 10 also describes the various ways in which an SMA may be legally designated, including 11 different options with the additional option to establish any "such other areas as a Yukon First Nation and Government agree from time to time." In addition, Chapter 10 makes very specific provisions as to how SMAs are to be established, dictating the level of conservation that should be determined in a management plan.

We understand that the Commission has identified 39.3% of the Dawson planning region as an SMA, with 3.8% of that designated as an SMA I, and 35.5% of that designated as SMA II. The difference

between the two designations focuses around the level of conservation afforded to it, in that SMA I calls for maximum conservation (and a legal definition as a protected area) and SMA II calls for high level of conservation (with no legal designation). Section 3.2.1 states that areas designated SMA I require management plans, but this does not apply to areas designated SMA II.

We believe the Commission should eliminate the distinction between SMAs and require management plans for all SMAs. This would not only be consistent with the opening paragraph of section 3.2.1 of the Draft Plan, in which the Commission states, *“The level of protection within an SMA is defined in a management plan developed for each area, with management shared among Yukon Government, First Nation Governments, and Renewable Resource Councils, depending on the area and the jurisdiction.”* But it is also consistent with the land designation system applied in the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan (PWRLUP). In the PWRLUP, 55% of the region was identified as an SMA, and each was to be permanently withdrawn from industrial land use and surface access. In the PWRLUP SMAs, it was clear that they were intended to become legally designated as protected areas, with subsequent management plans.

We believe that the SMA II designation is an insufficient conservation mechanism. Contrary to the way in which SMAs were described in the PWRLUP, the Draft Plan indicates that SMA IIs are not meant to receive legal designations as protected areas. Further, the requirement for management plans is discretionary. Based on this uncertainty and flexibility, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in does not believe we will realize the vision we have for the future of our Traditional Territory with the current distinction between SMA I and II. Furthermore, with only 3.8% fully protected within the planning region, the Draft Plan does not fully recognize or promote our cultural values and subsistence rights, as these depend deeply on maintaining the integrity of large intact landscapes within our Traditional Territory.

Similarly, we do not believe the SMA II designation aligns with the Commission's own vision for those areas. For example, in reading the management intent statement for LMU #1 North, the Commission states *“our management intent for this area is to focus on conservation with limited use, and to explore options for ensuring landscape connectivity, ecosystem representation, and key areas for wildlife, stewardship, and heritage are preserved.”* This statement suggests a high focus on conservation and preservation that the SMA II designation does not fulfill.

We encourage the Commission to provide the highest level of protection to all SMAs, to align this designation with the THFA, and to be consistent with the manner within which SMAs were designated in the PWRLUP.

In addition, the Commission should provide greater clarity as to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's shared management responsibilities in these important conservation areas.

Recommendations

- To designate all SMAs within the Draft Plan as “Special Management Areas”, consistent with the PWRLUP, and eliminate the distinction between SMA I and SMA II;
- To recommend that all SMAs are to be permanently withdrawn from any new industrial land use and surface access, and that they are intended to become legally designated as protected areas with subsequent management plans; and
- To indicate that interim and permanent withdrawals as recommended by the Commission in SMAs should not be removed without agreement with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

Additional Areas for Protection

There are also critical areas within the Dawson planning region that are not currently designated as either an SMA I or SMA II that should be further considered for protection in the Recommended Plan.

We worked very hard with our Citizens and our community to identify priority conservation areas within *Ninänkāk hq̄q̄ wëk'àtr'è̀nhcha (We Take Good Care of Our Land)*. Within it, we focused on the need to prioritize key values including water, habitat for fish and wildlife, ecological integrity, Settlement Land, cultural continuity, sustainable economy, trap lines, and cultural landscape, which are attributes of our culture and all of our collective future in this region. Through this work, we identified four key areas for conservation that included the Northern Area, Fortymile Core Caribou Range – Fortymile and Ogilvie/Tatonduk, Key River Corridors (Yukon, Stewart, and Klondike Rivers), and Wetlands (Clear Creek, Indian River, and Scottie Creek).

As described in *Ninänkāk hq̄q̄ wëk'àtr'è̀nhcha (We Take Good Care of Our Land)*, there are immeasurable and significant values associated with waterways, wetlands, and key habitat for fish and wildlife, that have yet to be fully protected in the Draft Plan, either through the designation as an SMA or through added General or Special Management Directions. We encourage the Commission to review their consideration of the following high valued areas to ensure they are adequately protected in the Recommended Plan:

Waterways

Water bodies and waterways must receive the highest order of protection. Within *Ninänkāk hq̄q̄ wëk'àtr'è̀nhcha (We Take Good Care of Our Land)*, we identified Major River Corridors, including the Yukon, Klondike, and Stewart River Corridors as Conservation Areas. Currently, only the Yukon River has gained this level of consideration and conservation in the Draft Plan as an SMA II.

Water is the life force of all creation and our collective survival depends upon it. Water is essential for the health of every part of the land and for every aspect of survival and is central to our culture and traditional activities. Many TH Settlement Land parcels are located in major river corridors for this reason. Ensuring protection for major waterways will uphold Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's rights under Chapter 14 and Chapter 5 of the THFA.

Recommendations

- To revisit the need for conservation of important waterways as well as riparian areas for the Recommended Plan;
- To establish a Major River Corridor designation and make recommendations for those Corridors not currently covered under the Draft Plan, including the Klondike and Stewart River Corridors; and
- To develop specific General Management Directions for water, that include, at a minimum:
 - The protection of water quality, quantity, and rate of flow through and adjacent to Settlement Land as per Chapter 14 of the THFA;
 - The need for adequate water withdrawal monitoring, and testing, and the consideration of set limits to withdrawals within watersheds with high anthropogenic intervention

Wetlands

It is important that we keep wetlands intact, and that we protect and maintain their ecological and cultural function. Wetlands provide habitat for wildlife such as moose, waterfowl and fish, as well as

provide ecosystem services to the surrounding environment, such as water filtration, flood abatement, water containment and carbon sequestration. Importantly, wetlands offer critical areas for subsistence harvest and use, and as such are important to our traditional economy.

We are supportive of the Commission's recommendations to protect undisturbed bogs and marshes throughout the planning region. We are also happy to see the Upper Indian River wetlands and the Scottie Creek wetlands recognized for their high conservation value. We believe the Flat Creek Wetland complex is also deserving of this designation, as they are a site of significant ecological importance as well as important for cultural education and our traditional economy. In addition, region wide, we encourage the Commission to think long term about how adequate consideration can be provided to fen habitat.

Fens, more than most wetlands, are defined by the groundwater that moves through them. Anything that interrupts this slow creeping groundwater flow fundamentally alters or eliminates the fen character, structure, and viability. Even small changes at the headwater source of a fen, such as a road cut, a ditch diversion or intense soil compaction, can eliminate the down-gradient remainder of the fen. Therefore, fens are not as adjustable as marshes, swamps and bogs, rather, fens operate like a living organism that cannot lose vital parts without the remainder dying. To complicate matters, fen wetlands are also heavily influenced by edge effects, in particular the location and extent to which disturbance occurs within and around the fen.

The Commission has asked for direction as to how much fen habitat we are comfortable with being disturbed, providing us with a range of between 25% and 75%, in order to set a recommended threshold in the Recommended Plan. Given the overall general importance of wetland habitat to us, and the significance of fens as sensitive and irreplaceable organisms, it is very difficult if not impossible for us to determine the actual percentage of fen that can be damaged or disturbed. Because of the complicated and natural features of fen wetlands and their sensitivity to disturbance, in addition to protecting as much fen as possible, we need to additionally protect areas surrounding fen habitat through the establishment of appropriate buffers.

Recommendations

- To implement a no more than 25% disturbance threshold to fen habitat within the ISAs without specific management direction otherwise;
- To implement a 200 m buffer zone surrounding the fen, and to have this buffer captured within the 25% threshold to disturbance. Implementing this recommendation will allow for the long-term protection of this important value for future generations;
- To extend the boundary of the Upper Indian River Wetlands (LMU 19);
- To add the Flat Creek Wetlands (LMU 11) as a Special Management Area; and
- To genuinely and effectively protect permafrost. For example, new roads and trails should always avoid permafrost and wetland areas, not just "where practicable."

Caribou Habitat

Protecting habitat for wildlife is essential to meeting the objectives of Chapter 16 of the THFA, including to *"ensure Conservation in the management of all Fish and Wildlife and their habitats"* and to *"provide for the Yukon Indian People's ongoing needs for Fish and Wildlife."* In addition, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has the cultural obligation to protect these animals.

Caribou herds are declining worldwide. We are fortunate to have five herds that migrate through and inhabit this region. Caribou have provided food, nutrients, traditional supplies/tools, and clothing for our people for thousands of years, and it is critical that this connection remain for future generations. As stewards of this land, it is crucial that we protect caribou and their habitat such that we also protect our cultural continuity and our way of life.

The Draft Plan indicates that the intent for the Matson Uplands (LMU 18) is *“the preservation of core summer habitat required for the continued growth and survival of the Fortymile caribou herd within its Yukon range.”* We are encouraged by this recognition, however we are not satisfied that the area as delineated in this LMU will accomplish this vision. Rather, this area only represents a small portion of the necessary habitat requirements for this important caribou herd. Without meeting and protecting the core habitat requirements of the Fortymile caribou herd, we risk losing them again altogether. We have foregone subsistence harvesting of this herd for several decades, and now that the caribou have returned, we are just starting to rebuild that important cultural connection. We cannot risk losing this herd again. As such, we urge the Commission to consider the Fortymile caribou herd as *the* priority value of concern within its range on the west side of the Yukon River, and in particular within its core habitat requirements.

Furthermore, we note that the Draft Plan could emphasize the importance of the Clear Creek caribou herd, which resides within the areas currently designated as LMUs 7, 8, 9, and 10. All caribou herds are important and consideration of the needs of this caribou herd is in particularly critical given the overlap of their range within significant areas of development.

Recommendations

- To designate LMU 23 as an SMA (which would include LMU 18). At a minimum, this LMU should be drawn to capture all core summer habitat area, and include a 2 km buffer, such that the area adequately protects the necessary requirements for this important herd. The requirements of this herd must be prioritized over existing sub-surface rights and disturbance such that the presence of either should not dictate the boundaries of the LMU;
- To increase the level of protection for the Clear Creek caribou herd by ensuring a significant portion of their core range is protected. This will likely require boundary changes to the existing LMUs (8, 9, and 10) and the details of which should be based on technical expertise obtained through the Technical Working Group; and
- To designate LMU 7 as an SMA such that habitat required for the Hart River herd is adequately protected.

3. Sustainable Development on the Working Landscape

THFA Objective 11.1.1.6: *To ensure 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 so as to ensure Sustainable Development.”*

In order to determine where acceptable limits of Sustainable Development lie, an analysis is required on the economic benefits, costs, and impacts on broader values such as government finances, the environment, social and community values, and Indigenous Values. Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in has begun to look into this analysis as described, but this requirement would be strengthened if the Commission included it within their recommendations. In our view, this would be only fitting given that the Draft Plan has made explicit reference to Sustainable Development as a guiding principle of the Plan. The

Commission must consider not just the value of materials produced by mining, but the full range of costs and benefits, including ecological, social, and community costs, as well as who benefits and who shoulders the costs.

As a community, the social system upon which Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in depends on is intimately tied to the need for healthy fish and wildlife populations and intact landscapes. While the interpretation as to what can be considered sustainable is subjective, the need to consider whether or not socio-economic change is undermining the ecological and social systems upon which communities and societies are dependent, is not. As a community, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in social system is intimately tied to the need for healthy fish and wildlife populations. Currently, we do not feel the Draft Plan adequately ensures sustainable development within the working landscape given that there remain gaps within the cumulative effects management framework, adaptive management, and measures to ensure community growth.

We have provided high level recommendations below on the concept of Sustainable Development more generally.

Recommendations

- To strengthen the language in the Plan to ensure Sustainable Development, as defined by the THFA, not just promote it; and
- To recommend an analysis of economic benefits, costs, and impacts on broader values such as government finances, the environment, social and community values and Indigenous Values in the Dawson planning region. This will allow Sustainable Development to be better evaluated.

Cumulative Effects Management

The Draft Plan proposes to manage cumulative effects in the Dawson planning region similar to how they have been managed in the Peel and North Yukon regions. We understand that this includes the identification of thresholds of allowable surface disturbance and linear density (roads and trails) that occur in each LMU in which activities are to occur (i.e. ISAs and SMA IIs). These activities are then tracked and accounted for such that if activities approach the recommended threshold, the activity *may* not be allowed to proceed. We are encouraged to see that the Commission is taking the necessary steps to manage cumulative impacts within the Dawson planning region, and we are happy to see the skeleton framework for how that can be done. We also understand that the Commission is actively seeking additional guidance as to how their cumulative effects management framework can be further developed. Below, we have summarized the main concerns we have on the described approach, and we hope these concerns will be addressed as the Commission develops a Recommended Plan.

We would also like to note that while the work to finalize the Cumulative Effects framework is ongoing, the level of disturbances provided in the Draft Plan are subject to change. We therefore reserve our comments at this time on the specific levels recommended for the Integrated Stewardship Area (ISA), as they are not yet tied to values. In general, however, we feel these thresholds as listed are too high in the ISA III and IV areas.

Recommendations

- To ensure that the cumulative effects management framework establishes appropriate and additional indicators for the Dawson planning region;

- To explicitly incorporate indicators that better reflect Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in social and cultural values , including harvesting and hunting, and/or spending time out on the land, but also measureable indicators of climate change, like permafrost and wildfires;
- To identify effective and acceptable levels of disturbance that **do not** undermine the key values of the region, such as moose, caribou, salmon, water, and to accept that these values might not be the same throughout the planning region; and
- To provide clarity around the overall cumulative effects framework and how all aspects of the recommended framework are to occur. For example:
 - The definition of indicators;
 - The application of indicators and clarity on who has the mandate and resources to assess and monitor indicators, plus certainty as to how often disturbance mapping will occur;
 - The process to occur when changes or exceedances are identified;
 - Clarity around the recommended thresholds, including when land can be considered reclaimed, whether applying a threshold across an entire LMU is an appropriate scale, as well as how the distribution of disturbance within an LMU is determined. Additionally, clarifying that a critical threshold cannot be exceeded, that a cautionary threshold could involve slowing the pace and scale of development in an area, or increasing monitoring.

Adaptive Management

The Draft Plan includes adaptive management as a guiding principle, however there is a lack of clarity on how adaptive management will be applied through implementation and plan review. For example, it is not clear what aspects of the Plan can adapt, and the factors upon which adaptation will be required. Specifically, it will be important that the Recommended Plan consider in explicit terms how climate change will be considered through an adaptive management lens, and similarly, what role Stewardship will play.

In theory, adaptive management is an excellent concept; but in practise, it is difficult to effectively implement. Much of this work will be completed by the Parties, however it is important that the Commission add clarity around this concept and how they envision it relating back to management directions in the Recommended Plan, including disturbance thresholds.

Finally, we also encourage the Commission to review the definitions and the different components of adaptive management and consider how these relate to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values.

Recommendations

- To review the definition of adaptive management to ensure it reflects Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values that apply to the principle; and,
- To provide clarity as to how adaptive management will be applied throughout Plan implementation. It should be clear that all components of the Plan need to be monitored as they are implemented to ensure a comprehensive approach to adaptive management.

Community Growth

We are encouraged to see the focus on agriculture as a growing and sustainable industry in the Dawson planning region. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is proud of our Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Teaching and Working Farm, and

we strongly believe we all must work together to ensure the residents of this region remain food secure as we move into an unsecure and uncertain future due to climate change.

While there are several research and policy recommendations that pertain to prioritizing land for agricultural purposes, there needs to be more certainty as to the protection of high valued areas for agriculture.

Recommendations

- To add greater protection, in certain terms, for high valued land for agricultural purposes in the Klondike Valley and other areas as appropriate.

4. Climate Change and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Rights and Interests

The Yukon First Nations Climate Change Emergency Declaration states there is no greater threat today to First Nations culture, way of life, and the wellness of First Nation Citizens and communities than the impacts of climate change.

Climate change is considered in the Draft Plan setting and among general management considerations. Nonetheless, the magnitude of its overall impact on virtually all aspects of the planning region, and in particular on people, could be better emphasized. For example, the Plan could better articulate and make explicit reference to the impacts climate change will have on Indigenous rights, interests, and titles, such as challenges to accessing the land and rivers, exacerbated environmental changes, changes to wildlife and flora distributions, impacts to harvesting, spiritual, physical and mental health and well-being, and effects on culture.

We encourage the Commission to work with the Technical Working Group to better articulate and emphasize the climate crisis and its impacts to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory.

Recommendations

- To consider adding more robust and tangible recommendations that address climate change throughout the entirety of the Plan. For example, the General Management Direction sections could emphasize the impacts different industries have on climate change (i.e. transportation and the construction of roads) and the impacts from climate change on different values (the traditional economy and agriculture);
- To review and adapt the listed objectives of the climate change section to include:
 - Recognising the way climate change is affecting Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in rights, regional governance, and capacity
 - Support the development of self-sufficiency initiatives, food security, and sustainable renewable energy development
- In addition to mitigating the effects to permafrost lost, recommend pro-active measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change; and
- To indicate climate change as a reason to review and adapt the Plan in its entirety, including disturbance thresholds, the location of SMAs, and/or LMU boundaries.

5. Joint Management and the Concept of Stewardship

We are pleased to see that the concept of Stewardship is being utilized in the Draft Plan. This is an important concept that is central to our worldview as we described in previous documents submitted to the Commission, including information related to our Land Stewardship Framework Project.

Given that the Draft Plan covers roughly 75% of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory, it is only appropriate that the Stewardship concept be included in the Plan. However, additional work is required in order to adequately define the term and to align it with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in conceptions of the term, and to incorporate it more fulsomely into the overall directions of the Plan. Thus, in addition to the Land Stewardship Trust, we would like to see greater clarity as to how the guiding principle of Stewardship informs and is enacted through the broader recommendations of Plan. Furthermore, it is crucial to ensure the Recommended Plan fully align with the principles of joint management, as is the overall purpose of Chapter 11 and other aspects of the THFA.

Stewardship

The ideas of Interconnection, Justice and Balance, Integrity, and Respect lie at the heart of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in land stewardship motivation and actions. Stewardship is about responsibility and obligation – take care of the land and it will take care of you; take from the land only what you need and leave the rest for future generations. Ninänkäk hozo wëk'ätr'ënòhcha – “we take good care of our land,” refers to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in deep and inherent ancestral stewardship obligations to the land. These obligations are rooted in an understanding that everything is interconnected. The goal of stewardship is to maintain the integrity of ourselves and of the land. We expect justice from the land – that when we do not act with integrity on the land and with each other, there are consequences, and we must rehabilitate the relationship with the land and with each other in order to undo the harm.

These deep obligations and responsibilities should be more explicitly recognized, honoured, and promoted in the Recommended Plan – not only for our Citizens but for all people living and working in the Dawson planning region. As such, we encourage the Commission to more explicitly describe and integrate this guiding principle within the Recommended Plan.

Recommendations

- To better align the concept and definition of Stewardship as described by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in within the Recommended Plan;
- To add clarity and more explicitly describe how Stewardship as a guiding principle has directed the land use management recommendations within the Recommended Plan, in particular within the “Integrated Stewardship Areas”. Similarly, greater explanation as to how the phrase Nän kāk ndä tr'ädäl – “on the land we walk together” has informed the recommendations within the Plan; and
- To distinguish between the principle of Stewardship and specific values. For example, listing stewardship as a value in the LMU tables is inaccurate, whereas listing Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values of cultural continuity and cultural landscapes or Tr'ëhudè, would be.

Joint Management and Implementation

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has shared management responsibilities for the lands and resources within our Traditional Territory. This is a critical precept of our Final Agreement, confirmed in 2017 by the Supreme Court of Canada in *Nacho Nyak Dun v. Yukon* (the Peel case).

In some sections of the Draft Plan the Commission has laid the foundation for joint management and joint implementation of the Plan by the Parties. However, joint management is only implied, or entirely missing, in other sections of the Draft Plan.

In signing the THFA, we exchanged comprehensive aboriginal title to all of our traditional territory for the specific rights and provisions set out in our Final Agreement. Importantly, those specified rights include the right to meaningfully participate in the management of public resources throughout our traditional territory. Regional land use planning is one of the key tools for achieving meaningful participation. As stated in the Peel decision, “*it is a clear objective of Chapter 11 to ensure First Nations meaningfully participate in land use management in their traditional territories*” (*First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun v. Yukon*, 2017 SCC 58).

The Recommended Plan should bring clarity to the importance of shared management and implementation by consistently reflecting this as a goal of the Plan. Furthermore, we encourage the Commission to make explicit the joint implementation of the Plan through collaborative decision-making processes and the shared management of public lands and resources.

More specifically, the Introduction to the Plan should note that authorities and responsibilities for land, water, and resource management in the Dawson planning region are shared between the governments of Yukon and Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in depending on the nature of Settlement Land and Crown Land. We are supportive of the general integration of shared management into other sections of the Plan, including the Guiding Principles, Plan Goals, and General Management Directions.

It is critical that Section 6 of the Draft Plan – Plan Implementation and Review – be strengthened so as to explicitly reflect the commitment for joint Party implementation of the Plan. We encourage the Commission to improve the language in the Recommended Plan to state that the implementation of a land use plan is a “critical” part of the planning process. Further to this, we suggest that the Recommended Plan explicitly and consistently reflect and provide for joint Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in and Yukon decision making for the management of land, water, and resources in the Dawson planning region.

Recommendations

- To specify that a Goal of the Recommended Plan is to ensure that Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Citizens meaningfully participate in the management of public resources throughout the Dawson Planning Region, on both Crown Land and Settlement Land;
- To clarify that all SMAs created pursuant to the Recommended Plan will be jointly established and managed by the Parties, and likewise that the Management Plans required for these areas will be jointly developed, implemented and, where necessary, reviewed and amended;
- To revise Section 6, Plan Implementation and Review, to reflect joint management and implementation responsibilities, including joint responsibilities for Plan review and amendment; and
- To consider funding and administrative requirements for joint implementation.

6. Future Planning Areas and Adequate Interim Protection

Tr’ondëk Hwëch'in understands that certain areas of the Dawson planning region require a greater degree of planning in order to consider a wider range of land use activities, interests, and potential conflicts. Accordingly, the Commission has identified areas for ‘Future Planning,’ with the intention that these LMUs will be planned for via sub-regional planning at another time. These areas include LMU 3: Yukon River – Chu kon dëk, LMU 13: Klondike Valley, and the Dempster Highway Corridor.

The Yukon River Corridor in particular is of great importance to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. This is why we have identified it as a Conservation Area within *Ninänkäk hqzq wëk'ättr'èndhcha (We Take Good Care of Our Land)*. We are happy to see it identified as an SMA, and are encouraged by the interim withdrawal within this culturally and ecologically significant area. However, it is critical that the impacts to this important LMU, as well as to the others, are allotted adequate consideration and mitigation prior to the completion of another lengthy planning exercise. Furthermore, if these areas are left without adequate consideration and interim management, there remain large gaps in the planning region and thus limits the ultimate success of reaching the Plan goals, objectives, or ultimately the stated Vision for the region.

As such, we strongly encourage the Commission to provide for greater clarity and guidance in the Recommended Plan regarding how these Future Planning areas are to be both a) managed in the interim and b) ultimately planned for. For example, we encourage the Commission to add recommended timelines for starting the sub-regional planning process, as well as clear statements regarding when and how that process shall occur. Furthermore, in the absence of approved sub-regional plans for the Yukon River – Chu kon dëk and the Dempster Highway Corridor, we urge that the Recommended Plan recommend a continuance and/or implementation of mineral withdrawals in these areas such that impacts to them during the sub-regional planning process are minimal. It is also important that any decision to lift mineral withdrawal should be a joint decision made by both the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon Governments.

Recommendations

- To provide a timeline and framework for triggering a joint Sub-Regional Planning process for the Future Planning areas;
- To recommend a continuance and/or implementation of mineral withdrawals in the Dempster and Yukon River Corridors for at least 10 years, or until a sub-regional plan has been developed and approved for those areas; and
- To explicitly state what interim measures should be considered prior to the completion of the sub-regional plans in these important areas.

Appendices

Appendix A: Alternative Conservation Map for Consideration

Appendix A to this submission contains an alternative conservation map for the Commission's consideration as they prepare their Recommended Plan. This map has been developed using the information already provided to the Commission in our *Ninänkäk hqzq wëk'ättr'èndhcha (We Take Good Care of Our Land)* submission in December of 2020, as well as considers the areas put forward by the Commission in their Draft Plan.

It is important to note that any boundary as expressed in this map should only be taken to reflect an indication of size and location, but the exact boundary of LMUs should be discussed and determined further with the Technical Working Group, if the Commission so chooses. In all, our hope is to reflect the following suggestions to the proposed Land Use Designations and LMU boundaries:

Table 1: List of Recommended Changes by LMU

LMU	Draft Plan Designation	Recommended Change	Reasoning
1	SMA II	SMA	Alignment with THFA, consistent with PWRLUP, greater certainty for protection
3	SMA II	SMA	Alignment with THFA, consistent with PWRLUP, greater certainty for protection. Exact boundary on map subject to change. The Yukon River Corridor is an important area for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the size of the Corridor must accurately capture those values.
4	SMA II	SMA	Alignment with THFA, consistent with PWRLUP, greater certainty for protection
6	ISA II	SMA	Boundary on map subject to change. Conservation emphasis in this area should be for the Klondike River and surrounding area, as it contains important salmon habitat, several active trapping concessions, and areas for our traditional economy
7	SMA II	SMA	Alignment with THFA, consistent with PWRLUP, greater certainty for protection
8	ISA III	Modified boundary (see map)	Important areas for Clear Creek Caribou Herd
10	SMA I	Modified boundary (see map); SMA	Important areas for Clear Creek Caribou Herd
11	ISA I	SMA	Flat Creek Wetlands are an important ecological and cultural area
12	ISA IV	Modified boundary	Relatively intact areas closer to the Stewart River may require different management objectives than the Goldfields
15	ISA II	SMA	Fortymile area is important for cultural continuity and cultural education
18	SMA I	Modified boundary (see map); SMA.	Requires added area for protecting the Fortymile Caribou Herd.
19	SMA II	Modified boundary (see map); SMA	Expand into the lower reaches of the Indian River such that important wetland habitat be given the same level of protection as the upper reaches
22	SMA II	SMA	Alignment with THFA, consistent with PWRLUP, greater certainty for protection
23	ISA I/II	SMA	SMA; area should cover, at a minimum all core summer habitat for the Fortymile Caribou Herd as well as a 2 km buffer

Appendix B: A Review of Inclusion and Consideration of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Values, Way of Life, and Traditional Knowledge in the Draft Dawson Regional Land Use Plan

Appendix B to this submission contains a review of the Draft Dawson Regional Land Use Plan prepared by Gillian McKee. This review summarizes the way in which Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values, way of life, and traditional knowledge was included and considered in the Draft Plan, and provides for robust recommendations for how the Recommended Plan can better meet these objectives of Chapter 11 of

the THFA. While several of the high level recommendations of Appendix B have been referenced specifically in this submission, it is important that the Commission review and consider all sections of Appendix B as you move forward with the Recommended Plan.

[Appendix C: Technical Summary of Comments](#)

Appendix C to this submission contains a technical summary of comments received during our technical review of the Draft Plan. It is an accumulation of comments from a broad spectrum of technical backgrounds, both internal from staff at Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as well as from technical experts contracted to provide specific feedback. As such, many of the comments read differently as they are a compilation from multiple authors, and have varying levels of specificity. We want to provide this technical feedback to the Commission such that they are provided with as much information as possible moving forward, however it is also important to note that these comments are likely best addressed at the Technical Working Group level with assistance from the Parties. It is not our anticipation or expectation that these comments be accepted fully in the Recommended Plan.


Appendix A – Alternative Conservation Map for Consideration




Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

Alternative Conservation Map for Consideration

 LMUs Recommended for SMA Designation

 Modified LMUs for Consideration – Recommended for SMA Designation (see note below)

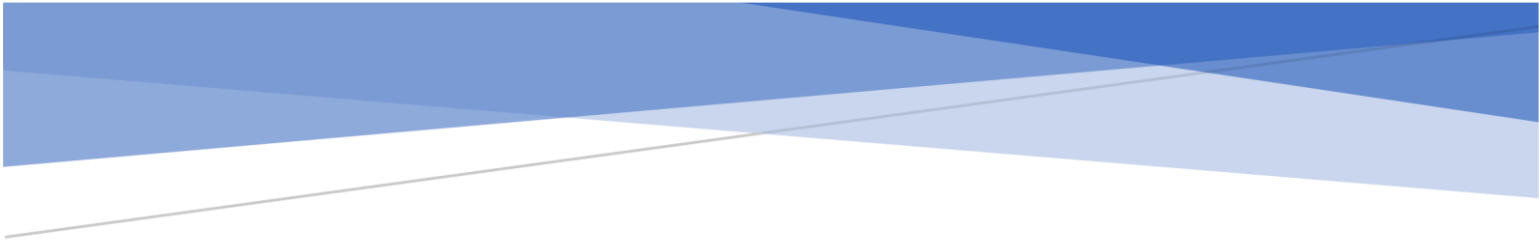
0 30 60 Kms


Scale: 1:1,500,000
Datum and Projection -NAD 83 - UTM Zone 7
Map Units in Meters



NOTE: Boundaries are approximations, and delineated areas demonstrate locations of maximum conservation value

Appendix B – Review of Inclusion and Consideration of TH Values, Way of Life, and Traditional Knowledge in the Draft Plan



REVIEW OF INCLUSION AND CONSIDERATION OF
TR'ONDĚK HWĚCH'IN VALUES, WAY OF LIFE, AND
TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE DRAFT
DAWSON REGIONAL LAND USE PLAN

Gillian McKee

M.Sc., MCIP, RPP

October 20, 2021

Prepared for: Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. INTRODUCTION.....	2
B. OVERALL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	3
B.1. TR'ONDĚK HWĚCH'IN CULTURAL DISTINCTIVENESS AND ALIGNMENT WITH FINAL AGREEMENT	3
B.2. TR'ONDĚK HWĚCH'IN WAYS OF BEING, DOING, AND KNOWING.....	6
B.3. DAWSON PLAN AND RECONCILIATION	7
B.4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.....	8
B.5. STEWARDSHIP, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND BALANCE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH LAND	9
B.6. PLAN STRUCTURE, LINKAGE, CONSISTENCY	11
C. OVERVIEW OF INCLUSION AND CONSIDERATION OF TR'ONDĚK HWĚCH'IN TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN DRAFT DRLUP	13
D. FOUNDATION SECTIONS – VISION, PRINCIPLES, GOALS (S.1.6, 1.7).....	14
D.1. CONTEXT (S. 1.1).....	15
D.2. NĀN KĀK NDĀ TR'ĀDĀL - ON THE LAND WE WALK TOGETHER (S. 1.4)	16
D.3. VISION (S. 1.6.1).....	17
D.4. PRINCIPLES (S. 1.6.2).....	17
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (S. 1.6.2.1)	18
STEWARDSHIP (S. 1.6.2.2)	19
PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT (1.6.2.3, 1.6.2.4)	20
PRIORITY CRITERIA FOR CANDIDATE CONSERVATION AREAS (S. 1.6.2.5)	20
D.5. GOALS (S. 1.7).....	22
E. DESCRIPTION OF THE REGION (S. 2).....	23
F. MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS - LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT UNITS, LAND USE DESIGNATION SYSTEM, SPECIAL AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTIONS, CUMULATIVE EFFECT MANAGEMENT (S. 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5).....	25
LAND DESIGNATION SYSTEM, SPECIAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTION, GENERAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTION (S. 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)	25
CUMULATIVE EFFECTS MANAGEMENT (CE) (S. 3.5)	27
ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT	29
G. GENERAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTION (S. 4).....	29
G.1. SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY (S. 4.1)	31
G.2. ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY AND CONSERVATION (S. 4.2)	36
CLIMATE CHANGE (S. 4.2.5)	37
G.3. CULTURE AND HERITAGE (S. 4.3)	38
H. LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT UNIT MANAGEMENT (S. 5).....	38
I. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION, REVISION (S. 6).....	40
APPENDIX A	42

REVIEW OF THE DRAFT DAWSON REGIONAL LAND USE PLAN (OCTOBER 2021)

A. INTRODUCTION

This review of the Draft Dawson Regional Land Use Plan (DRLUP) (released in June of 2021) examines how Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in ways of being, doing, and knowing are integrated into the Draft DRLUP. It looks at how well the Draft DRLUP includes and considers Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of life, values, and traditional knowledge and experience.

This review also looks at how the Draft DRLUP aligns with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement objectives and obligations for planning as they relate to consideration of traditional knowledge. The Final Agreement Chapter 11 on Regional Land Use Planning sets out a planning process whereby Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of life, values, and traditional knowledge and experience are to be incorporated into planning. This review examines how the Draft DRLUP meets these requirements.

The review of the Draft DRLUP examines the consideration of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of life, values, and traditional knowledge and experience by looking at:

1. the legislative context for requiring their consideration and the alignment of the Draft DRLUP with those requirements;
2. the stated intention of the Dawson Regional Planning Commission (DRPC);
3. sources and techniques used by DRPC;
4. the Draft DRLUP Plan process – the stages of planning as described in the Draft DRLUP;
 - clarity and transparency in the process;
5. the Draft DRLUP document (main focus of the review):
 - specific naming of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in;
 - use of Hän language;
 - portrayal of traditional knowledge or traditional land management practices;
 - specific identification of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values;
 - explicit addressing of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values.

Section B of this report provides overall observations from the review of the entire Draft DRLUP. Section C summarizes the observations on each of the five questions listed above. Sections D – I provided a detailed section by section review of the Draft DRLUP. Each section of this report also includes recommendations on how the DRLUP could better address Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of life, values, and traditional knowledge and experience and be more aligned with the Final Agreement provisions for planning. This report has been prepared for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in who are reviewing and developing a submission on the Draft DRLUP.

B. OVERALL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It is clear that the Dawson Regional Planning Commission (DRPC) has done a lot of work to prepare the Draft DRLUP, especially in Sections 4 and 5 on the General Management Directions and the Landscape Management Units. The Draft DRLUP introduces new approaches from previous regional plans in the Yukon by including detailed consideration of wetlands, introducing the concept of stewardship, and addressing missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, two spirit, and other genders (MMIWG2S+), which are important to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Overall however, the Draft DRLUP does not fully integrate Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of life, values, and traditional knowledge and experience throughout all aspects of the Plan. As such the Draft DRLUP does not clearly and transparently address the Final Agreement provisions for planning as they relate to the consideration of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural distinctiveness, knowledge and experience.

The following are overall observations about the Plan in regards to above, followed by recommended changes to address areas of concern. There are more examples of these topics in the detailed review sections D-I that follow.

B.1. TR'ONDËK HWËCH'IN CULTURAL DISTINCTIVENESS AND ALIGNMENT WITH FINAL AGREEMENT

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement requires all aspects of regional planning, and Commissions in particular, to address Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of life, values, and traditional knowledge, and experience as a plan is developed, approved, and implemented.

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement Recital clauses that precede the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and the governments of Canada and Yukon approval signatures provide the facts that:

“the parties to this Agreement wish to recognize and protect a way of life that is based on economic and spiritual relationship between Tr’ondëk Huch’in and the land;
the parties to this Agreement wish to encourage and protect the cultural distinctiveness and social well-being of Tr’ondëk Huch’in”.

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement Chapter 11 Land Use Planning includes several clauses directing how Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in ways of being, doing, and knowing are to be addressed in regional planning:

11.1.0 Objectives:

11.1.1.3 to recognize and promote the cultural values of Yukon Indian People;

11.1.1.4 to utilize the knowledge and experience of Yukon Indian People in order to achieve effective land use planning.

11.4.5 Regional Land Use Planning Commissions

11.4.5. In developing a regional land use plan, a Regional Land Use Planning Commission:

11.4.5.5 shall use the knowledge and traditional experience of Yukon Indian People...;

11.4.5.6 shall take into account oral forms of communication and traditional land management practices of Yukon Indian People;

11.4.5.7 shall promote the well-being of Yukon Indian people, other residents of the planning region, the communities, and the Yukon as a whole, while having regard to the interests of other Canadians.

Many other clauses of Chapter 11 address Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's role and authority in planning and other matters of importance to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, but these clauses in particular clearly state the objectives and obligations related to inclusion and consideration in planning of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of life, values, knowledge, and experience.

It is not apparent how the Draft DRLUP aligns with the directives in the Final Agreement related to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values, way of life, and traditional knowledge as follows:

Final Agreement Recital clauses:

the parties to this Agreement wish to recognize and protect a way of life that is based on economic and spiritual relationship between Tr'ondëk Huch'in and the land; and the parties to this Agreement wish to encourage and protect the cultural distinctiveness and social well-being of Tr'ondëk Huch'in.

- the “cultural distinctiveness” of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is not strongly evident, portrayed, or addressed in the Draft DRLUP;
- Rather than name Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in specifically, the Draft DRLUP most often uses generic terms like “First Nations” or “community”. As a result, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is not recognized and it is unclear who the generic terms refers to. In several places, the Plan compares and equates addressing Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values with addressing everyone's in the region. By doing this, the Plan does not respect, recognize or promote Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's distinct way of life, values, and rights in the region;
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's distinct cultural values are explained inaccurately and are often lumped into generic and vague references to ‘community values’ or ‘socio-cultural values’. They are not explained in the way Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in identifies them.

11.1.0 Objectives:

11.1.1.3 to recognize and promote the cultural values of Yukon Indian People.

- Values, as described by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in their April 2019 (Issues and Interests Report and Additional Documents) and December 2020 (Conservation Priority Assessment: Ninänkäk hozo wëk'ätr'ënhcha (we take good care of our lands)) submissions to the DRPC, are not clearly identified and addressed in the Draft DRLUP, specially the broader values of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in relationship with the land with values such as cultural continuity and cultural landscape;
- The Draft DRLUP is not clear and explicit when it addresses cultural values; therefore, it is not evident whether or how Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values were addressed in much of the Plan.

11.1.1.4 to utilize the knowledge and experience of Yukon Indian People in order to achieve effective land use planning.

- The Draft DRLUP makes few direct references to if or how the DRPC used Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional knowledge and experience in preparing the Plan, or how traditional knowledge is to be applied in the Plan recommendations;
- While some of the Draft DRLUP concepts reflect some of the concepts in the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in submissions (primarily in Plan section 5), in many sections the Plan does not portray how and where the use of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional knowledge and experience was incorporated.

11.4.5 Regional Land Use Planning Commissions:

11.4.5. In developing a regional land use plan, a Regional Land Use Planning Commission:

11.4.5.5 shall use the knowledge and traditional experience of Yukon Indian People.

- See comments on 11.1.1.4.

11.4.5.6 shall take into account oral forms of communication and traditional land management practices of Yukon Indian People.

- It is not apparent if and how oral forms of communication, such as storytelling, were used in the Plan
- There is limited Hän language;
- At present, it is unclear if and how traditional land management practices were considered and incorporated;
- While a few of the Draft DRLUP concepts reflect some of the traditional land management practices and concepts in the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in submissions - primarily stewardship - the concept is: 1) not effectively explained, 2) does not portray the distinct Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in ancestral responsibility for stewardship; and 3) is not fully integrated throughout the Plan;
- While the Draft DRLUP includes some of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values for conservation, it has not integrated Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in land management practices that respect land as an integrated whole, as explained in their submission *Ninänkäk hozo wëk'ätr'ënöhcha* (we take good care of our lands) (Dec 2020).

11.4.5.7 shall promote the well-being of Yukon Indian people, other residents of the planning region, the communities, and the Yukon as a whole, while having regard to the interests of other Canadians.

- The Draft does not explicitly address the well-being of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as well-being is defined by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in its description of values in the two submissions to the DRPC.

In general, the Plan addresses cultural or “socio-cultural” values but does not achieve the Objective of recognizing and promoting Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural values because:

- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural distinctiveness is not fully recognized;
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values are not described in the way Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in describes them based on traditional knowledge and experience;

- Generally, the description of cultural values focuses on resource, sites, and uses without addressing Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's broader way of life, and reciprocal and enduring relationship with the land, with all the associated and broader values such as cultural continuity and cultural landscape;
- By generally taking a siloed approach to land, people, economy the Plan does not adequately capture Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's relationship with the land;
- The Draft DRLUP approach to sustainable development is not in keeping with Chapter 11 and the Final Agreement Definition;
- The lack of explicit consideration of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values, along with the Draft DRLUP problems with structure and consistency, means there is a lack of clarity and transparency in what cultural values were recognized and promoted.

Recommended changes in DRLUP:

- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has submitted documents (April 2019, December 2020) that describe Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values and our way of life, which should be used to inform the Plan. They explain Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural values, which the Plan is to promote. They are based on traditional knowledge and experience, which the Final Agreement requires the DRPC to use;
- Throughout the DRLUP, recognize and promote the cultural distinctiveness of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and their identity as Dënezhu. As recognized in the Draft Plan, this region is a unique mix of people, history and values. The DRLUP is the opportunity to address how the distinct values of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in co-exist in a unique way with the other residents and the stakeholders in the region, each with their own history and attachment to the region;
- Rather than equate or lump Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in into generic groups, the DRLUP should recognize Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's cultural distinctiveness, which co-exists in this unique region with other people who each have their own history and values (e.g., pg 20, 21).

B.2. TR'ONDËK HWËCH'IN WAYS OF BEING, DOING, AND KNOWING

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of life, values, knowledge and experience are not fully integrated throughout the Draft Plan. The Draft Plan does not clearly portray and integrate the intertwined relationship between the land and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and how that relationship is fundamental to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in identity and all aspects of well-being. The Draft Plan does not integrate the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Tr'ëhudè – “how to live in a good way, our way of life, our law”.

In April 2019 and December 2020 Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in provided comprehensive submissions that describe who Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people are as Dënezhu and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of life Tr'ëhudè. They clearly describe Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values and way of life based on traditional knowledge and experiences. The way of life and values as described by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in these submissions are not reflected in the Draft DRLUP.

While the Draft DRLUP addresses cultural values, most often described generally or as “First Nation” or “community” values, it does not capture what the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in submissions provided to explain their distinct values and way of life (April 2019 and December 2020). The Final Agreement

Objective “to recognize and promote the cultural values of Yukon Indian People” is not referenced in the Plan, nor is it captured in the Plan Principles.

- Stewardship is introduced as a Principle, but requires further explanation and integration throughout the Plan and its recommendations, particularly in how it contributes to the Chapter 11 Objective to recognize and promote cultural values;
- Nän kāk ndä tr’ädäl - On the Land We Walk Together is introduced but requires further explanation and integration throughout the Plan and its recommendations;
- Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in way of life, values, knowledge, and experience are frequently portrayed under “heritage and culture”, with a focus on uses, resources and sites. While these are significant values, the more wholistic intertwined Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in relationship with the land and its significance to Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in is not fully captured.

Recommended changes in DRLUP:

- Recognize and promote Tr’ëhudè into the plan. Describe and better integrate the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in relationship with the land that is fundamental to Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in identify, way of life and all aspects of well-being.
- Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in values should be included and considered more explicitly and wholistically. For example, explicit consideration of Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in relationship with the land means consideration of cultural values such as cultural landscape and continuity together with ecological values such as ecological integrity, along with measures to protect heritage uses, resources, and sites.

B.3. DAWSON PLAN AND RECONCILIATION

Although all Yukon regional land use plans are rooted in the Final Agreements, the DRLUP is being developed at a different time in history than either of the first two Yukon Plans. This Plan is being developed in the context of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Supreme Court of Canada ruling on the Peel case, and in the context of a state of climate emergency.

This DRLUP is being developed at a point in time of reconciliation, where the modern day treaties such as the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Final Agreement “play a critical role in fostering reconciliation”, which “will not accomplish its purpose of fostering long term relationships between Indigenous peoples and the Crown if it is interpreted in an ungenerous manner”. “Reconciliation is found in the respectful fulfillment of a modern treaty’s terms.” (Nacho Nyak Dun v. Yukon. 2017 SCC 58)

Plans being developed today need to reflect this evolving context of reconciliation.

The Draft DRLUP:

- refers to using the framework of previous Yukon regional plans, without any recognition of the changed planning context;

- predominantly follows the western science paradigm of the previous plans, and does not effectively integrate Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values into its approach;
- frequently does not name Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and does not describe Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in ways of being, doing and knowing in the way Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in identifies them;
- reflects colonial approaches, for example, by lumping and equating Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values with all others.

The Commission has the opportunity with the DRLUP to lead the way with a plan that reflects this new context of reconciliation. Bringing in the Stewardship Principle is a step forward, but more work is needed to integrate the Principle and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values throughout the Plan.

Recommended changes in DRLUP:

- DRLUP Context section should describe these shifts in the context for planning and their implications for the need for planning to ensure plans are based in truth about Indigenous experience, and respect Indigenous ways of being, doing and knowing;
- The Commission should seize the opportunity of the DRLUP to lead the change required in plans for reconciliation.
- The DRPC can acknowledge Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in distinctness, rights, Tr'ëhudé, without diminishing the recognition of other residents and stakeholders in the region. As Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in stated in its 2019 submission, “we believe there are many truths and perspectives and together they make us stronger”.
- All aspects of the Plan should be informed by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional knowledge, the DRPC should be explicit and make transparent how they have used traditional knowledge to draft the Plan;

B.4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable Development is a concept that the Planning Chapter 11 of the Final Agreement explicitly addresses in two places;

- (1) Objective 11.1.1.6 *“to ensure 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 so as to ensure Sustainable Development.”*
- (2) 11.4.5.9 *“In developing a regional land use plan, a Regional Land Use Planning Commission shall promote Sustainable Development”.*

The first line of Section 1.6.2.1 of the Draft Plan suggests that Chapter 11 presents sustainable development as a guiding principle for planning. It also states that the Commission considered the lens of Sustainable Development “first and foremost”. None of these Chapter 11 Final Agreement clauses establish Sustainable Development as a “guiding principle” and there are many other clauses that direct planning. For example, Chapter 11 Objective to *“recognize and promote the cultural values of Yukon Indian people”* is an especially significant directive for planning. The Commission has chosen to centre Sustainable Development as a guiding principle while the Objectives and other directives

laid out in Chapter 11 are equally important. Objective 11.1.1.6 is about the integration and coordination of policies so that Sustainable Development can be ensured. The 11.4.5.9 clause directs the Commission, but there are nine other directives to the Commission in that section, including “*promote the well-being of Yukon Indian People*”.

The Final Agreement provides the definition of Sustainable Development to be used in planning:

“means beneficial socio-economic change that does not undermine the ecological and social systems upon which communities and societies are dependent.”

This definition captures the balancing required of “socio-economic change” - that it is beneficial and does not undermine the ecological and social systems we depend on. The descriptions in the Draft DRLUP of sustainable development and of balance between various land uses strays from this definition. In the Draft DRLUP sustainable development is presented mostly from a western science perspective as a mix of environment/economy/people with the need to establish trade-offs between competing, conflicting land uses.

In many places, Sustainable Development is the only Plan Principle identified of the five guiding Principles in the Plan. For example, “the Plan is guided by the principle of sustainable development” (pg. 13). In contrast to this focus on sustainable development, the Chapter 11 Objective to recognize and promote cultural values, is not referenced, nor is there any explicit analysis and description of how is to be achieved in the Plan.

Recommended changes in DRLUP:

- Add clarity around the provisions within the Final Agreement that direct planning, including those related to Sustainable Development, but also the other Objectives and clauses of Chapter 11. Don’t single out Sustainable Development as “first and foremost”.
- Use the Final Agreement definition of Sustainable Development to guide the balancing of land uses in the region – while this definition is referenced, it is important that the Plan does not undermine the ecological and social systems, such that the use of the definition is actually and effectively applied. Because of Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in relationship with the land, it is both an ecological and social system that is fundamental to Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in identity and well-being. Using the Final Agreement definition of Sustainable Development must emphasize the importance of “not undermining”.
- DRPC should address how both Sustainable Development and Stewardship Principles apply throughout the plan and how they come together (see section B5).

B.5. STEWARDSHIP, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND BALANCE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH LAND

The Draft DRLUP indicates that some sort of balance of land use is needed in the region, but that balance is explained in many different, inconsistent ways. The Plan presents Principles of Sustainable Development and Stewardship, but they have not been integrated into the Draft DRLUP in a way that explains what they mean and how they relate to each other or how they address Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in

values. The Draft presents the Sustainable Development Principle as a way of sustaining ecosystem integrity, communities and cultures, and economic activities, whereas the Stewardship Principle is trying to capture the concept of responsibility. Additional information as to how the Recommended Plan could address balance is captured in Appendix A.

The most common way of describing balance in the Draft DRLUP uses the term sustainable development as some kind of balancing and trading off between economy, environment, and people. For example, “strike a balance between sustainable economic development and ecological conservation and socio-cultural preservation” (pg.14). The discussion is frequently about conservation of priority ecological areas, and adequate land base for economic activities, and how uses may compete or conflict, and require trade-offs (e.g., Wetlands, pg.96).

However, for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the obligation to care for the land, water, and animals as their ancestors did is an integrated wholistic approach to land use and management. As Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in stated in the December 2020 submission “It is not culturally appropriate for us to consider our home in relation to trade-offs, compromises, and priorities. We view the land in its interconnected entirety and we have a stewardship responsibility to it all”. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has a spiritual, social, and economic relationship with the land. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values are about an enduring relationship with the land and living in balance with the land.

The Draft DRLUP also describes a region that is a diverse and unique, where the mix of people and land uses co-exist and “can happen in a respectful way” (pg.17). The Plan indicates that in addition to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values of stewardship, many other people in the region feel a shared responsibility and respect for the land. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values also include a sustainable economy.

Finding the balance in the region is challenging. As Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has stated “applying these sustainable [Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural values] to present-day land management approaches is precisely what is needed to ensure that the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory retains its integrity for another seven generations” (December 2020).

The Sustainable Development definition from the Final Agreement (see section B4) suggests a balance: beneficial socio-economic change that does not undermine the ecological and social systems we all depend on. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in intertwined relationship with the land is both an ecological and social system. The economic growth desired in region can be considered socio-economic change.

Both the Principles of Sustainable Development and Stewardship need to come together to guide finding the balance of living in relationship with the land and with each other, that respects the diverse values of the region.

Recommended Changes to DRLUP:

- DRLUP should bring Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values and way of life into both these Principles.

- DRPC should consider how the Principles come together to guide “Nän kāk ndä tr’ädäl - On the Land We Walk Together” and the balance of living in relationship with the land and with each other, that respects the diverse values of the region.
- Better integrate both the Sustainable Development and Stewardship Principles throughout all of the Plan. The need for a balance should be captured in a vision, further defined in the goals, then made operational through the management tools. By addressing the balancing as a relationship with the land, the principles of Sustainable Development and Stewardship are better integrated. The Draft DRLUP already includes aspects of the concept of balance but it needs to be clarified, consistent, and integrate both Principles.

B.6. PLAN STRUCTURE, LINKAGE, CONSISTENCY

Problems in the structure, linkage and consistency within the Draft DRLUP undermines how clearly, transparently, and effectively the Draft DRLUP addresses Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of life, values and traditional knowledge.

Areas of concern include:

- The key foundational sections of Vision, Principles, and Goals do not provide the clear direction necessary to guide and provide the rationale for the following management directions in the LDS, SMD, and GMD;
- Intermixing of statements that are goals, vision, principles, and management directions so that the Plan does not provide a clear flow and continuity in concepts from broad vision (why) and principles (guidance) to goals (what we want to achieve to move toward vision) to management direction (LDS, SMD, GMD) (how we want to achieve the goals);
- Lack of consistency and continuity in terminology, which creates a confusing mix of language especially around such key aspects as stewardship, cultural values, sustainable development, balance, adaptive management;
- Not thoroughly addressing the integrated nature of ecological, cultural and economic values, and of important concepts of climate change, and adaptive management;
- Although some of these issues could be corrected with editing, they indicate underlying uncertainty in their meaning and intent in the Plan.

Consequently, the Draft DRLUP lacks clarity and consistency in what Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values have been considered and how, especially around the broader land relationship values beyond resources, sites and uses.

Another consequence is that a lot of the details provided in the LMUs (Section 4) and GMDs (Section 5) are not linked clearly back to the Vision and Goals, and as a result to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values.

The results-based management system relies on clear goals linked to management directions. The overall lack of clarity in the linkages between the Plan Goals and management directions would make

effective application of this system through Plan implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and review more challenging.

Recommended changes in DRLUP:

- Improvements in clarity, structure, flow, linkage, terminology will improve effective plan implementation, monitoring, evaluation, review, and adaptive management.
- Sections D – I include recommended changes on these matters.
- Review the linkages between the Vision, Goals, and Management directions such the rationale and flow between them are clear.

C. OVERVIEW OF INCLUSION AND CONSIDERATION OF TR'ONDĚK HWĚCH'IN TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN DRAFT DRLUP

The following list is a summary on the inclusion and consideration of traditional knowledge in the Draft DRLUP. The rest of this document provides a more detailed review of the inclusion and consideration of Tr'ondĚk HwĚch'in traditional knowledge, values, and way of life in the Draft Plan.

1. the legislative context and the alignment of the Draft DRLUP
 - Tr'ondĚk HwĚch'in Final Agreement clearly requires all aspects of planning, including the work by the Planning Commission to address Tr'ondĚk HwĚch'in values, way of life, well-being, traditional knowledge, and traditional land management practices.
 - The extent to which the Draft DRLUP aligns with the Final Agreement is addressed specifically in Section B and Sections D – I of this report. Generally, this review shows how the Draft DRLUP did not achieve the Final Agreement Objectives to recognize and promote the Tr'ondĚk HwĚch'in cultural values, or to use Tr'ondĚk HwĚch'in knowledge and experience for effective planning.
 - The Dawson Regional Planning Commission Terms of Reference (2018/19) do not mention traditional knowledge other than to include Final Agreement clause 11.4.5.5 under section 9 “Participation and Engagement”.

2. the stated intention of the Dawson Regional Planning Commission (DRPC)
 - The DRPC did not prepare any policies around the use of traditional knowledge.
 - In the Draft DRLUP the Commission stated their vision for the process and the plan, which do not mention traditional knowledge. “For the plan” states “will be crafted to reflect community values and will guide integrated use and management of land, water, resources”(pg. 16).

3. sources and techniques used by DRPC
 - The primary source of traditional knowledge about Tr'ondĚk HwĚch'in values were the submissions prepared by Tr'ondĚk HwĚch'in (April 2019, December 2020). Tr'ondĚk HwĚch'in developed these documents through its own process and asked the DRPC to keep the December 2020 document confidential for their own use until the draft Plan was released and lands withdrawn. The documents clearly describe Tr'ondĚk HwĚch'in values, including identity as DĚnezhu, Tr'ondĚk HwĚch'in way of life as Tr'ĚhudĚ, and Tr'ondĚk HwĚch'in management practices of NinĚnkĚk hozo wĚk'Ětr'ĚnĚhcha (we take good care of our lands). The traditional knowledge shared in these documents provides a clear description of who Tr'ondĚk HwĚch'in people are and what is important to Tr'ondĚk HwĚch'in, and how that comes from the connection to the lands of Tr'ondĚk HwĚch'in Traditional Territory.
 - The DRPC carried out consultation activities with Tr'ondĚk HwĚch'in, but it does not appear that they hosted or funded any gathering and documentation of traditional knowledge specifically through such activities as workshops or interviews.

- The DRPC relied on Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to provide the traditional knowledge for planning.
4. the Draft DRLUP Plan process – the stages of planning as described in the Draft DRLUP
 - The rest of this report addresses issues around the planning approach to the Draft DRLUP. Section B6 and the following sections D – I elaborate on this topic.
 - Generally, Plan concepts (see section F), structure and linkages (see B6) are not clear and consistent, which contributes to a lack of transparency in the planning process about whether and how Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in knowledge and values were considered and applied.
 5. the Draft DRLUP document
 - Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in ways of being, doing, and knowing are not infused throughout the Draft Plan.
 - For such a large plan, the Draft DRLUP does not specifically name Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in very many parts of the Plan.
 - The Hän language is used in some places - mostly place names. Key concepts provided in Hän and explained by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in its submissions were not addressed.
 - The Draft DRLUP rarely mentions Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional knowledge or traditional land management practices.
 - The Plan does not describe the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values in the way that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in describes them in the submissions of April 2019 and December 2020.
 - Generally the Draft DRLUP acknowledges certain Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values, but does not fully integrate Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values into the Plan.

D. FOUNDATION SECTIONS – VISION, PRINCIPLES, GOALS (s.1.6, 1.7)

The upfront sections of the Plan on Principles, Vision, and Goals should provide the foundation for the entire Plan. They should flow from overall vision, to broad principles, to general goals, and be linked so that they provide the rationale for the more detailed objectives and directions that follow in the Plan. In the Draft DRLUP the sections are presented as part of the “Introduction”.

In the Draft DRLUP these foundational and guiding sections do not clearly lay out the intention for the region especially as it relates to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural distinctiveness, values, and way of life. Often, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is lumped along with everyone else in a generic “community” reference, which does not clearly reflect Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in’s distinct identity and values. The Context section (s.1.1) does not adequately set the stage and situate the Draft Plan in the region.

If these key foundational sections do not clearly establish and portray how Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values are to be recognized and promoted, then these sections won’t guide how the values are to be addressed in the following management directions (s. 4 GMD, s. 5 LMU, SMD). For example, the Rationale and Priority Objectives in the LMUs need to be in keeping with the Vision and Goals.

Recommended changes in DRLUP:

- Rework these critical sections to better reflect Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values and way of life, using the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in submissions (April 2019, December 2020). Reworking these sections will provide a better foundation for the following detailed management sections.
- Vision, Principles, Goals should have their own section and not be part of the Introduction as they form the foundation of the Plan and the overall guiding statements for the future of the region.

D.1. CONTEXT (S. 1.1)

This section should situate the reader in the region and identify what a reader should know to be able to understand the Plan.

The section does not accurately portray who Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people are and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of life as an important context for the Plan. The description of a “relatively small but stable population...residing in Dawson” and “quality of life attributed to...mining and other economic sectors, a thriving cultural landscape” do not capture Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's place in the region - Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's way of being in the region and the meaning of the Traditional Territory.

Recommended changes in DRLUP:

- An important context for the DRLUP is an understanding of who Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people are and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory, and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of life. Also to understand Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's intertwined relationship with the land as essential to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in identity and all aspects of well-being. This description in the context section would set a foundation for better understanding the principles, vision, goals and rest of the Plan that follow.
- The context section should include the Final Agreement context for the plan as the key legal authority for land, water, wildlife, natural resource management in the region and for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in rights and responsibilities.
- The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in submissions of April 2019 and December 2020 should be used to for a more accurate description for the context.

From that submission:

We are Dënezhu. The people of this land. We are Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. The people of this river. We have occupied this territory for all time. Our enduring relationship with our land is our heritage. Our stories are written on the land and our place in this world is created, understood and owned through these stories. Tsà'Wëzhè travelled our territory and brought order to the world. He established relationships with our non-human relatives and formalized our responsibilities to them and to each other. His journey and the agreement he made are Tr'ëhudè, our way of life, our law. Living our law by engaging with our land brought our society into existence and has shaped our culture and created our identity. Central to this is

the requirement to uphold a reciprocal relationship with the land and all living things and to maintain the integrity of our homeland as an interconnected entity. This is the essence of existence as Dënezhu.

- Use of this information is an example of traditional knowledge informing the Plan. It would help explain some of the concepts introduced in the Plan such as stewardship and Nän kāk ndä tr'ädäl - on the land we walk together.
- The final paragraph should be moved to the sections on principles and vision.

D.2. NÄN KÄK NDÄ TR'ÄDÄL - ON THE LAND WE WALK TOGETHER (S. 1.4)

The Plan requires more clarity around the overall purpose of this section. The title suggests it could be a description of vision or principle, however the last bullet points suggest goals. The statements about how “the Plan strives to strike a balance between within the planning region between sustainable economic development and ecological conservation and socio-cultural preservation” are vision and goal statements.

It is written from a western scientific planning perspective, with its references to levels of “land use activity are increasing... the region is an attractive place to live, work and visit...increasing levels of land use conflict... potential impacts to culture and environment if not properly managed.”

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are not mentioned and the section doesn't reflect Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of describing Tr'ëhudè and the enduring relationship with the land with phrases such as “region has sustained generations of First Nations and non-First Nations people with its wealth of resources”. This phrase does not capture “we have occupied this territory for all time” and “living our law by engaging with our land brought our society into existence and has shaped our culture and created our identity” (April 2019 Submission to DRPC).

Recommended changes in DRLUP:

- Need further consideration of how Nän Käk Ndä Tr'ädäl, should be applied in the plan. It should be better integrated into the appropriate section. See discussion under Vision (D3).
- Accurately portray Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values and way of life using the April 2019 submission and language. The generic phrase “rich cultural legacy” is not clear.
- Recognize and protect Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural distinctiveness by more explicitly addressing Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values, way of life. The section mentions “cultural landscape” but that concept, which aligns with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values, is not expanded on in the rest of the Plan.
- Need to reconcile the statements about balancing economic development, ecological conservation, and socio-cultural preservation with the clauses and definitions from the Final Agreement and with other statements in the plan about balancing values and interests. For example the section does not refer to ecological or social systems, as in the Final Agreement definition of Sustainable Development.

D.3. VISION (S. 1.6.1)

The Vision should explain the overall intent for the region as it moves into the future. The future vision should be the key guiding statement for the Plan. It should represent the common value-centred vision that those who will be affected by the Plan, including Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, have for their future in the region. They should be able to put the vision on a poster as a clear statement of how they see themselves in the future in the region.

The April 2019 and December 2020 Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in submissions provided many statements that describe Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's way of living with the land that extends to the past and will carry forward into the future. In addition, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in clearly spelled out the Final Agreement's spirit and intent and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in rights that would inform the vision (December 2020). These values are not reflected in the brief vision statement provided.

Recommended changes in DRLUP:

- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in should be able to see their future in the Vision for the Plan. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has provided input about how their future flows from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's enduring relationship with the land. For example, the future of this region is one where Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in continue living as Dënezhu, as people of the land. The land continues to shape Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in identity. The April 2019 and December 2020 submissions include many statements about Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's future in the region.
- The Vision can reflect all ways of being in the region but needs to recognize and respect each of the different histories and values. The Vision should reflect the unique mix of ways people co-exist together in the region. The concept of Nän Käk Ndä Tr'ädäl "On the Land We Walk Together" could help explain this vision.
- The Vision section should be about the future of the region. If the statements about "For the Plan" and "For the Process" are about how the Plan was prepared, they should not be in the Vision section.
- The work done throughout the rest of the Plan could help expand the Vision. The Plan indicates the future vision is about how Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, other residents, and stakeholders co-exist and live in relationship with the land and with each other in the region. There is a balance in the region of a relationship with the land that ensures well-being of land and people. The region is a unique combination of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in ways of being, doing, and knowing along with the values, history, and way of life of those who are part of the mining community, the arts community, and all the other residents and visitors who enjoy the regional values. The plan can describe this unique region without lumping everyone into a generic "community" in a way that also respects, recognizes, and promotes Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's distinct way of life and values.

D.4. PRINCIPLES (S. 1.6.2)

The Principles should guide the choices to be made in the Plan for the future of the region. In the Draft DRLUP the Principles include goals and management statements, so the guiding principles are not clear. The Principles do not fully address the Final Agreement definition of Sustainable

Development, and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural values of stewardship, adaptive management, and conservation.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (s. 1.6.2.1)

The definition of Sustainable Development in the Final Agreement is presented along with the clause about the need for integrated and coordinated policies but the next paragraphs don't use the same language or explain how they connect with the key concepts in the definition: we depend on ecological and social systems, socio-economic change is to be beneficial and to not undermine these systems (see B4 above).

The section lumps Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in with the generic "community", rather than recognizing the distinct social system of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and how it in particular is intertwined with the ecological systems in culturally distinct ways that are different from other people in the Dawson region.

The Principle is not clearly explained because there are three bullets that address economic, ecology, and culture, followed by three other sections that also address those matters, but using different words, e.g., "maintaining and enhancing cultural and heritage values" and "maintaining communities and cultures". Many of these statements are more like goals than guiding principles.

Recommended changes in DRLUP:

- This section needs to provide clearer guidance for the balancing required in the plan between socio-economic change (including economic development) and the ecological and social systems so they are not undermined (see B5 above).
- Recognize the distinct social systems of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and how it is intertwined with the ecological systems, such that land is both an ecological and social system. Therefore sustaining both ecological and cultural integrity are interrelated and critical.
- In its submissions, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in defined the elements of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in relationship with the land. For example, "we sustain what is most valuable to us by living Tr'ëhudè; we live in harmony and balance, we build and practice respect." The DRLUP should be clear and transparent in how the DRLUP brings together the values of all participants, so Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in sees themselves reflected in the Plan.
- Should not single out Sustainable Development from all the other Final Agreement provisions, such as the Objective to recognize and promote Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural values.
- DRPC needs to address how Sustainable Development and Stewardship Principles both apply throughout the plan, and how they come together.
- Refer to the Final Agreement clause "to promote Sustainable Development", and other relevant clauses to explain the use of this Principle, rather than state it is the "first and foremost" consideration. There are many other as important clauses from the Final Agreement that the DRPC is to consider.

- Ensure they are statements of principle that that can then be applied to guide the choice of goals and management directions in the Plan. More detailed Statements about how to achieve Sustainable Development should be in the Goals section.

STEWARDSHIP (s. 1.6.2.2)

In its submissions (April 2019 and December 2020) Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has given a clear description of stewardship from a Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in perspective. Stewardship is a duty toward the land, waters, animals, and fish and that it is central to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in identity. The phrase Ninänkäk hozo wëk'ätr'ënòhcha (we take good care of our lands) states Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in inherent, culturally grounded stewardship obligations, which should be recognized and promoted in the DRLUP.

Although two Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in quotes are provided in s. 1.6.2.2, the section does not explain what they mean for the Stewardship Principle in guiding the Plan. The rest of the paragraphs do not refer back to the quotes and uses the generic term “community stewardship”. The stewardship principle does not make the connections with Nän käk ndä tr'ädäl – “on the land we walk together”, or Ninänkäk hozo wëk'ätr'ënòhcha – “we take good care of our land”.

The section portrays stewardship as a “common sentiment” heard from everyone, which diminishes this fundamental aspect of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in identity, way of life, well-being, and laws, and perpetuates colonial attitudes. It does not respect, recognize or promote Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's distinct cultural values.

This section links the Stewardship Principle primarily to the Integrated Stewardship Areas (ISAs). As the active industrial landscape, it's not clear why the principle would apply here, but not in the Special Management Areas (SMAs) for conservation. The descriptions of the ISA, and Plan recommendations and adaptive management don't further explain this guiding principle, but are more detailed management actions that should be later in the Plan.

In the rest of the Plan, stewardship is frequently portrayed as a value - for example, a cultural value of LMUs - not as a Plan Principle that applies to all land users and to all aspects of the Plan. This approach acknowledges Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in duty of stewardship, but provides little direction on stewardship responsibilities of other land users.

Recommended changes in DRLUP:

- The section needs to integrate the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in distinct stewardship obligations - as Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has described them - into the DRLUP Principle of stewardship;
- The Principles section needs to clarify both the Principle of Stewardship and how it relates to the Principle of Sustainable Development (see section B5);
- Stewardship should be presented as a Plan Principle that applies to all land uses and land users, and that promotes stewardship as it is practiced by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as well as by other land users and managers when they carry out practices to take care of the land. In this way the Principle would describe the “holistic mindset that all land users have a duty to care for the land” (pg.17);

- The management tools to operationalize the Principle should include both SMAs and ISAs, the Land Designation System (LDS) and cumulative effects management, the Special Management Directions (SMD) and General Management Directions (GMD) management practices, and adaptive management, all of which contribute to stewardship.
- The descriptive details about the ISA on page 17 are management directions about how to achieve stewardship and are not principles. They should be moved to the management section.

PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT (1.6.2.3, 1.6.2.4)

These two Principles are described from a western scientific perspective without any reference to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in knowledge and land management practices in keeping with these concepts.

In the April 2019 submission, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in described the significance of the value of adaptation “We Adapt, We Survive”. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in explained its way of dealing with uncertainty, gaining knowledge and wisdom from the land, being flexible, and adapting to challenges and dealing with change.

Recommended changes in DRLUP:

- Integrate Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values - as Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has described them - into the guiding principles for the DRLUP to ensure the DRLUP recognizes and promotes Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural values.
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values around learning from the land and being flexible should be integrated into the principle of adaptive management (see section I below).

PRIORITY CRITERIA FOR CANDIDATE CONSERVATION AREAS (s. 1.6.2.5)

Most of the material in this section is not a principle but is a description of methodology. The principle appears to be about what conservation means, and the importance of protecting key values and attributes of the landscape to maintaining ecological systems.

The section does not address the key, wholistic Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values of cultural connectivity with the land - “the wellness of our land is intrinsically linked to the wellness of our future generations” (December 2020). It focuses primarily on ecological conservation and ecological connectivity.

The introduction to the section (pg. 18) refers to how ensuring ecological systems are maintained is central to the definition of sustainable development. The Final Agreement definition is about social systems as well as ecological systems, which captures Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's intertwined connection with the land.

The criteria do not address the role of conservation areas in mitigating effects of climate change as Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in recognizes in its submission (December 2020).

Recommended changes in DRLUP:

- The principle being addressed in this section should be clarified and all the detailed criteria for choosing SMAs moved to section 3.2. Conservation areas would protect key values, and require intactness and connectivity to maintain landscape level ecological and social systems and to contribute to climate change adaptation. The discussion on page 100 of the Draft DRLUP provides some direction for statements that could be used for the principle.
- The principle should address the interconnected cultural significance of the landscape as well as its ecological importance. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's submissions (April 2019 and December 2020) explain Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's intertwined and enduring relationship with the land, including values of cultural continuity and cultural landscape.
- The discussion of conservation is closely related to the Plan Principles of sustainable development and stewardship. The Final Agreement definition of Sustainable Development speaks to not undermining the ecological and social systems, which brings in the need for balancing our relationship with the land through conservation/use. The Principle should provide the guidance for why a network of conservation areas is needed. Together with the other Principles, it would guide how a balanced relationship with the land can be achieved with the management tools in the Plan. As the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in submission (December 2020) stated, conservation areas “will make meaningful, sustainable, long-term contributions to Yukon’s economy”.

Comments about the conservation criteria (should move to s. 3.2.1):

- The relationship between Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the land means the land is both an ecological as well as a social system, so conservation criteria need to apply to the cultural landscape as well as to the ecological landscape. Conserving the land is about both ecological and cultural integrity. This cultural connection should be integrated into these criteria and not just under “Heritage, Social and Cultural Values”.
- Conservation criteria should include Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's cultural value of the connection between the land and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of life. The cultural values of cultural continuity and cultural landscape should be recognized and integrated into discussions about ecological criteria, such as fish and wildlife, water. The wetlands criteria does refer to how wetlands are significant for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional and cultural activities. While “Heritage Resources and Sites” are also essential values on the landscape, the broader connections need to be addressed.
- It is not clear how Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional knowledge and land management practices were applied in this section, other than to identify specific values like water, wetlands, and heritage resources and sites. The section should reflect traditional knowledge around connectivity, maintaining intact ecosystems over the long term, and other knowledge and practices related to conservation.
- The rationale for giving priority to water and wetlands needs to be provided and should include Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional knowledge about the significance of these to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values and way of life.

- The discussion of Harvesting Rights and Activities should make reference to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in rights under the Final Agreement.

D.5. GOALS (S. 1.7)

The Goals should provide broad direction on how to achieve the Vision. They should provide the rationale for the management objectives and directions that follow in the Plan. They are the bridge between the values expressed as Vision and Principles and the choices made to operationalize those with management directions (LDS, SMD, GMD, CE management, and adaptive management). The Goals are critical to the results-based management system, and to ensure effective Plan implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and review.

The Goals follow the western scientific approach of dividing the direction into ecological, socio-cultural, and economic values. They are not clear in their rationale and direction. They vary from broad - “uphold and enhance cultural and heritage values” to very specific - ensure cumulative disturbances “are reclaimed or restored”. They repeat what has already been established in the Principles - “promote land stewardship”. Different words are used from the previous sections on Vision and Principles to describe the same idea, which increases the confusion on what is meant, e.g., “support natural integrity” (Goal) and “sustain ecosystem integrity” (Principle).

Other than one reference to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is lumped in with all “Yukoners” or “First Nations”, which does not recognize and promote Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural distinctiveness and values.

The use of the terms “heritage and cultural values” is very vague and generic, whereas both the ecological and economic goals are more specific about which values are to be addressed (e.g., aquatic and terrestrial habitat, ecologically representative areas, economic development opportunities and activities, access infrastructure). Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values are not effectively addressed:

- Water, which is essential and central to survival, is not specifically mentioned. The need for the highest order protection of water is not explicitly addressed;
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural connections to fish and wildlife habitat are not recognized or addressed, as identified in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in submissions;
- Ecological integrity is called “natural integrity” and only refers to reclamation and restoration of cumulative effects. The need for protecting the system as an interconnected whole is not explicitly addressed;
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in settlement lands are not mentioned, The value of these settlement lands as a base for traditional activities in the surrounding area is only recognized generically under support land-based activities that promote “Yukoners” health and well-being; facilitate traditional economic development that results in benefits to First Nations;
- Cultural continuity, is not addressed. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in submissions describe this value of being connected with the land and fulfilling stewardship duties, and how that provides many benefits to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. The Goals do not address the significance of protecting these values through protecting culturally important areas, which support these essential values.

- The Goals don't address interconnections between the economic goals and the ecological and socio-cultural Goals. It is not clear if "sustainable economic development opportunities and activities" in the Goals encompasses Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values of a sustainable economy, with activities that support economic and ecological goals.
- The Goals don't specifically address the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in value of trapping or make the connection between this traditional economic activity with cultural and ecological Goals.
- Cultural Landscape is not addressed. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in submissions describe this value of relationship with the land, and how it is integral to identity of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people. The Goals do not address the significance of maintaining the "web of connected experiences" of the cultural landscape.

Recommended changes in DRLUP:

- The Goals need to more explicitly reflect and integrate Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values, way of life and knowledge. As described in the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in submissions (April 2019 and December 2020), Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's relationship with the land is much broader than this section portrays.
- The Goals should not be limited to three "silos" and need to address the interconnections between these values.
- Rework the Goals to provide the clear link between Vision and Principles and management direction. The large amount of detail in Plan sections 4 and 5 explaining values, rationale, vision, and objectives could help inform these Goals.
- The Goals should follow from and indicate how to apply *all* the Principles, not just Sustainable Development. They should provide the more detailed direction on the relationship between stewardship and sustainable development and how to balance relationship with the land.
- Chapter 16 Goals in the Final Agreement should be recognized.
- The Goals should use consistent wording from the Principles and Vision and explain any new terms.

E. DESCRIPTION OF THE REGION (S. 2)

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in should be able to see themselves in the description of the planning region. It should be an accurate description using Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in knowledge and experience of how Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in sees themselves and their Traditional Territory. Other than noting that the planning region is contained entirely within Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory, and a short account of land status, the Description has no further explanation of what the region means to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as a Traditional Territory. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and their Territory are not described using their own words. The description is primarily from a western scientific perspective using the "environment/people/economy" format.

The Final Agreement requirement to use the knowledge and experience of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is not met in this section:

- Environment section does not mention Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in relationship with the land;
- People and Communities section describes Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in the region using the past tense (relied, hunted, harvested), then states “today, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in maintain strong cultural connections to the region”. This is a colonial approach to describing Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of being in the region, instead of recognizing the continuity of connection and relationship Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has with the land;
- The section on European contact is unclear - “impacted by economics”? “conflicts well beyond their homelands”? In its submission, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in stated “Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have experienced extreme challenges in the face of the Klondike Gold Rush and the subsequent installation of a colonial power in our territory” (December 2020);
- No explanation of why the two settlement areas are important to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in;
- Not clear who “Communities” in the title refers to? Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are lumped under “community” in other sections of this plan and section 2 should clarify Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in’s way of living in the region;
- The section on Economy does not make clear Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in’s connection with all aspects of the economy. For example, the employment statistics under Renewable Resources does not capture the significance of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in involvement in timber harvest, agriculture, and tourism. The well-being of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in derives from being involved in a range of economic activities, not only the traditional economy;
- The section on climate change is very limited. It describes “anticipated”, “expected” changes that “can affect interests and activities”. It does not use any of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in’s knowledge and experience over generations of a way of life in the region about climate change in the region.

Recommended changes in DRLUP:

- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in should be able to see themselves in the description of the region, based on their own knowledge, experience, and way of identifying themselves to explain who Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are and what the Traditional Territory means. For example, the intertwined and enduring relationship between Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the land, and how land is the foundation of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in identity and all aspects of well-being, and how Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in society is born out of the land – it is the place of stories, language, and teachings.
- The section needs to explain Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in: people of this river; Dënezhu: people of this land; Tr'ëhudè: our way of life, our law.
- Describe the landscape as Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in sees it – any distinct features or areas that are significant to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in or that people use to navigate and understand the landscape. For example, the significance of the Yukon River.
- Explain significance of settlement land as Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in describes it.
- Use Hän language place names, for example, river names.
- Use Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in knowledge and experience of climate change, and its implications for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in way of life.

- Clarify the use of terms like “communities” and “settlements”, recognizing the cultural distinctiveness of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

F. MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS - LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT UNITS, LAND USE DESIGNATION SYSTEM, SPECIAL AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTIONS, CUMULATIVE EFFECT MANAGEMENT (S. 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)

This section of the Draft DRLUP explains four key conceptual approaches to management direction in the Plan:

- landscape management units (LMUs);
- landscape designation system (LDS), which includes three main zones of Special Management Area (SMA), Integrated Stewardship Area (ISA), and Corridor Areas;
- special and general management direction (SMD) and (GMD);
- and cumulative effects (CE) management .

LAND DESIGNATION SYSTEM, SPECIAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTION, GENERAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTION (S. 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)

The LDS, SMD and GMD are management approaches through which the Plan Vision, Principles and Goals are operationalized. The general approach of dividing the landscape into separate areas to be managed in different ways is generally not in keeping with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values. As Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in stated “It is not culturally appropriate for us to consider our home in relation to tradeoffs, compromises and priorities. We view the land in its interconnected entirety and we have stewardship responsibility to it all”. However Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in also stated “applying these sustainable [Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural values] to present-day land management approaches is precisely what is needed to ensure that the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory retains its integrity for another seven generations” (December 2020).

The section does not provide a transparent explanation of how Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional knowledge and traditional land management practices were considered:

- to establish LMU boundaries, other than they follow settlement land boundaries;
- to establish three categories of SMA, ISA, and Corridors;
- to ensure management approaches address Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values of connected, intact landscapes, cultural continuity and cultural landscape, especially at the regional scale across LMUs;
- to ensure the LDS manages the values and sensitivity of an individual LMU, and also to addresses the balance of land uses to not undermine the ecological and social systems of the region as a whole, i.e., at the spatial scale of the regional landscape. It is not clear how dividing the region into LMUs, each with its own designation contribute to overall ecological and cultural integrity at the regional landscape scale?

The Stewardship Principle is mentioned in the discussion of ISAs (3.2.2, PG. 31) but not in the discussion of SMAs. The Stewardship Principle should not just apply to ISAs that “allow for existing and new industrial land uses, including mining and exploration, forestry, agriculture and other land use activities” but also to SMAs that are intended for conservation. The ISA section (3.2.2) does not include the description under Implementation on page 176, which provides a description of intended balance and restoring the balance in these ISAs.

Many of the concepts introduced in the Draft DRLUP section 3 are not linked back to wording in the overall Plan Vision, Plan Goals. The section introduces new ideas, without a clear rationale, for example:

- 3.2 Priority values – what are these and whose priority? How were they identified? The discussion of criteria of water and wetlands (1.6.2.5) stated they received “priority consideration” – why and whose priority?
- The “rationale for designation” under each LMU should be consistent with the criteria for consideration described in 1.6.2.5. A lot of different terminology is used.
- Stewardship, which is a general Principle for the entire Plan, is listed under each LMU as a value and seems primarily to be about only Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in stewardship duties, not the responsibilities of all land users.

Recommended changes in DRLUP:

- Provide a clear description of how land designation, management intent, priority objectives for the LMUs are chosen, to provide transparency in how they relate to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values, traditional knowledge and traditional land management practices, including Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's holistic, integrated values.
- The Draft DRLUP describes each individual LMU in detail in Section 5 with detailed rationale for their designation and management direction based in their individual values and vision. However Section 3 should first explain how the overall Plan approach of dividing the landscape into LMUs, designating them with different categories of use (SMA, ISA, Corridor), and directing how the LMU should be used (SMDs, and GMDs) would achieve the overall Plan vision, principles and goals, and more specifically how they capture Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values.
- This explanation should show how the management approach maintains values, not just at the LMU scale, but also at the regional scale by not undermining the overall integrity of the ecological and cultural landscape.
- The criteria for choosing conservation areas (s. 1.6.2.5) should be moved to this section as they explain the values considered in choosing a suitable land designation and objectives for an LMU. The designation of LMUs as being for “maximum conservation” or “high conservation of ecological and cultural values” should be described in terms of these criteria. The SMA II discussion introduces a new concept of “long term maintenance of wilderness character” which was not explained in the conservation criteria.
- The discussion of conservation in these sections needs to address the cultural values of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as the intertwined and enduring relationship with the land, where the land is both an ecological and social system, as well as having specific cultural uses, resources and sites. For

example, a trapline is not only a use and site, it also enables connection between land and culture. Values of cultural landscape and cultural continuity should be added. For example, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in December 2020 submission described the cultural landscape as “a web of connected experiences”, such as a place for practicing traditional pursuits, passing on and sustaining culture by being on the land with children, maintaining the spiritual relationship, and as a place of identity through language, songs, stories, kinship connected with the land.

- Ecological representation and landscape connectivity should include the key Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values of cultural continuity and cultural landscape. While Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural uses, sites, and resources are concentrated in some areas, they are found throughout the planning region, which also holds the broader cultural values of an intact landscape. Cultural connectivity and continuity at a landscape level needs to be ensured.
- As a Plan Principle, Stewardship should be integrated throughout the Plan – not just for ISA LMUs. The SMA description talks about management shared among Yukon Government, First Nation governments, and Renewable Resource Councils, and the Yukon Parks Strategy states “improved joint management of territorial parts with Indigenous government is a high priority”. These collaborative management approaches are an example of ways in which the Stewardship Principle of shared responsibility could be applied to SMAs.
- This section should explain how the land designation system contributes to operationalizing both the Stewardship and Sustainable Development Principles, including how they relate to each other. Both Principles apply in the choice of appropriate designation as ISA or SMA, by both conserving priority values and also establishing the appropriate balance of land use across the region so as to not undermine the ecological and social systems.
- This section should provide more transparency on how Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values were considered in both choice of appropriate designation for an LMU and in the balancing of uses across the region.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS MANAGEMENT (CE) (s. 3.5)

Intact, connected ecological and cultural landscapes, ecological integrity, and protected water and habitat, and a sustainable economy are significant Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values. The management of CE is one of the tools for managing the balance of land use in relationship with the land.

This section states that indicators relate directly or indirectly to regional values, and addresses some Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values such as habitat and habitat intactness to some extent, but do not explicitly address other cultural values such as cultural continuity. The overview does not mention cultural values and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values specifically. References to cultural values in 3.5.1.1 and 3.5.1.2 are vague such as “how people use the land”, “high-valued caribou habitat”.

The section identifies other potential indicators, but none mention the cultural values associated with these ecological values or mention Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in specifically. It states that developing indicators around the stewardship concept “would require much further research”. It is not clear what this statement is based on or whether the role of traditional knowledge and traditional land management practices in determining cumulative effects and providing cultural indicators was considered.

The discussion of cumulative effects appears to be based mostly on western science. The use of traditional knowledge or traditional management practices of how Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in observes and responds to changes in the landscape are not mentioned. Where unknowns are identified and research is recommended, the use of traditional knowledge is not mentioned.

The levels for CE thresholds differ from both Peel and North Yukon levels, where the highest development indicators (IMA IV) are the same as the low development ISA Zone II in the Draft DRLUP. The discussion of the CE framework is not transparent in how threshold levels are tied to the Plan Goals and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values. The choice of threshold levels is “to try and balance potential risks to ecological and cultural resources with economic development”. The use of term “cultural resources” is not clear in how it portrays Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values.

The Plan states the disturbance thresholds considered the tolerance for development and “ensured the threshold for each ISA exceeded current disturbance levels to allow for continued development”. It does not explain how the chosen levels relate to ecological and cultural integrity, the balance of risk, or Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values specifically. It states that the modeling to estimate disturbance levels addresses only the disturbances of placer and quartz mining and exploration, but do not address “interactions between these disturbances or values like moose or caribou” (pg.42).

The discussion of the CE framework and thresholds levels does not elaborate on some approaches to CE mentioned elsewhere in the Plan. For example, how to meet the Plan goal to “support natural integrity of the planning region by ensuring cumulative disturbances from human activities on the landscape are reclaimed or restored”; or how CE relates to the statement under the Sustainable Development Principle that some economic activities can be sustained indefinitely, while others deplete resources, but are ones from which the land can recover.

The recommended action on pg. 41 is one of the few places in the Plan where the stewardship responsibilities of proponents are specifically addressed, which is an example of how their stewardship responsibilities could be addressed in the SMDs and GMDs.

The section describing the CE framework (3.5.3) does not explain clearly how adaptive management will be carried out, using the CE tracking information. The tracking would inform not just Plan amendments and land use decisions, but annual Plan monitoring, Plan evaluation and Plan review. An adaptive management system that monitors, learns and adjusts both the implementation of the Plan directions as well as the overall Plan is not clearly explained.

Recommended Changes to DRLUP:

- The concepts of threshold levels and a balancing of risks should be more fully explained as they relate to the Plan Goals. In the Final Agreement, the Sustainable Development balance required is to not undermine the social and ecological systems, so the discussion of threshold levels should show how it contributes to that balance.
- Specific aspects of the CE framework, including the levels of thresholds, CE reclamation and restoration need to be better integrated and aligned with the Plan Goals and linked to Plan values

(such as moose, caribou, salmon, water), which would assist with effective plan implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, and adaptive management.

- The way in which stewardship responsibilities of proponents are addressed in the recommended action in pg. 41 is an example that could be applied to the GMDs and SMDs in sections 4 and 5;
- This section 3.5 would be clearer if the order were reversed: explain the overall CE framework first, then the threshold levels, then the indicators. This approach would more clearly indicate rationale for choices made regarding CE and how Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values are addressed.
- Separate out the discussion of technical methodology (e.g., pg. 40).
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional knowledge and traditional land management practices should be used to consider other approaches to determining and assessing change in the land, including developing cultural indicators.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Adaptive management is a significant Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in value – “We Adapt, We Survive.” (April 2019). Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in learns from the land to be aware of our impacts and our role in sustaining ourselves. The Plan Principle of Adaptive Management is mentioned in fragmented ways in different place in the plan. This section does not explain the link between CE and adaptive management. In several places in the Plan ‘unknowns’ are acknowledged and research recommendations made, but does not make the link to adaptive management.

Recommended Changes to DRLUP:

- Section 3 and Section 6 should explain the adaptive management approach in keeping with the Plan Principle, including Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values of adaptation. They should connect monitoring what is happening on the land (including tracking CE) with learning and adjusting as the Plan is implemented, evaluated and reviewed. This adaptive approach should be carried out in reviewing the Plan as a whole, and also when land users and managers implement the management directions. The Plan should clarify the adaptive management system during Plan implementation when land users and managers monitor, learn and adjust the management actions of the Plan as they are implemented.
- The explanation of an adaptive management system also should include what would happen from monitoring CE if threshold levels are approaching? In addition to monitoring, how would the ‘learning and adjusting’ parts of adaptive management be carried out?
- The Plan should clarify how an adaptive management system can address ‘unknowns’ not just by research projects, but also by monitoring, learning, and adjusting during the implementation of management actions.

G. GENERAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTION (S. 4)

The discussion below is an overview, followed by detailed examples and recommendations in the discussion of Plan sections 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3.

The section does not fully recognize and promote Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values, especially the intertwined relationship of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in culture with the land – “the web of life to which we are culturally and biologically connected” (December 2020).

The section rarely names Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in specifically (Table 1).

The description of what informed the content in the section makes no reference to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional knowledge or traditional land management practices (pg. 45). The use of traditional knowledge to address topics where there is a lack of information is not mentioned. Only a few research recommendations mention collecting traditional knowledge.

The section is not clear which Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values - or cultural values more broadly - it is addressing. Of the three themes, the “Culture and Heritage” heading does not include any descriptors as there are with both ecology (integrity, conservation, stewardship) and economy (sustainable), which is indicative of the lack of clear direction regarding Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values. The “Culture and Heritage” section (4.3) focuses on heritage resources and sites, and uses, and does not address Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's broader relationship with the land with values such as cultural continuity and cultural landscape. The section uses many different and inconsistent terms in referring to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values. “Socio-cultural values” is used most frequently, but not explained.

The section divides the management directions according to economy, ecology, and culture. While the section acknowledges the interconnections between these and the need to cross-reference (pg. 45), Issues, Objectives and Recommendations are presented by individual topic. As a result, the interconnections are not well addressed. Specific examples are provided below in the discussion of sections 4.1 and 4.2. In general, some of the sections on economic land use activities (4.1.1 to 4.1.8) identify associated ecological and cultural issues, but very few identify any objectives or recommendations around those issues. In the ecology section, most sections describe the issues and objectives as the direct impacts on wildlife and habitat, and do not address associated cultural issues and objectives. The water section (4.2.3) acknowledges the linkages with economy and culture, but the economic sections on mining (4.1.1) and agriculture (4.1.3), which are cross-referenced, do not include any discussion of issues and objectives on water. The wetlands section is the only one that describes both ecological and associated cultural issues, and mentions socio-cultural values in the objectives. The “Culture and Heritage” section (4.3) does not examine issues and objectives around the interactions between economic activities and culture from the perspective of cultural values.

The implication of this “siloe” approach is that the interconnected consequences for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values are not fully examined. The approach focuses primarily on maintaining ecological integrity as a way of also maintaining cultural integrity (if the land is protected, so are all the associated cultural values). However, there may be other objectives and recommendations that could explicitly address maintaining cultural integrity, in addition to those around protecting the land.

The application of the Stewardship Principle to all land uses and land users is not well addressed in the GMDs. The “Recommended Management Practices” could be considered stewardship practices for which

the proponents, land users, land managers, and project assessors take responsibility. They are not presented this way, and in many sections none are listed.

Recommended Changes to DRLUP:

- Consider Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional knowledge and traditional land management practices in developing the Recommendations and identifying additional research work required to fill information gaps.
- As described in the results-based management framework and the plan implementation sections, monitoring the achievement of objectives is key to plan implementation, monitoring, and adaptive management. This section should clearly link the Issues, to Objectives, to Recommendations, so the section is transparent in how Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values were addressed and can be effectively implemented and monitored.
- More effectively and comprehensively address the interconnections between ecological, cultural, and economic Issues, Objectives, and Recommendations. Consider consolidating Objectives into a summary section to make the interconnections more evident, to demonstrate the balancing of management intentions, and to enable more effective Plan implementation, monitoring, and adaptive management.
- Explicit consideration of cultural integrity issues, objectives, and recommendations in addition to ecological integrity considerations.
- Use the “Recommended Management Practices” as stewardship practices for which proponents, land users, land managers, and project assessors are responsible. This approach would promote the “holistic mind-set” as presented as the Stewardship Principle. For example, industry led reclamation practices.

G.1. SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY (S. 4.1)

The section mentions Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in specifically in five of the ten topics addressed (Table 1). Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is not specifically mentioned in any discussion of Issues and Objectives.

The section does not make clear what specific cultural values are being addressed. References to culture in these sections are very inconsistent (Table 2). They vary as follows:

- socio-cultural values (used 7 times), socio-cultural use, socio-cultural setting, socio-cultural context, socio-cultural perspective, socio-cultural mode of transportation (each used once);
- cultural values, cultural setting, cultural areas;
- Traditional economic activities (used 7 times), traditional land use (3), traditional economic and subsistence harvest (3), traditional economy, traditional economic pursuits, traditional economic access, traditional economic value, traditional activities, traditional harvest, subsistence harvest (3).

With such inconsistent terminology, the section does not clearly indicate the values to which the Issues, Objectives and Management Recommendations apply. The section is not transparent in how it

has addressed Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values. This lack of clarity also would make effective Plan implementation, monitoring, evaluation, review and adaptive management more challenging.

Specific examples of not addressing interconnections between economy, ecology, and culture are:

- Mining (s. 4.1.1): discusses only “issues and interests...for the ongoing support of the mineral exploration and development” (pg. 47). Objectives address the interest of the industry to ensure “adequate land base” for mining. The effects on the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural landscape over time as a result of development, for example, are not addressed;
- Access (s. 4.1.2): the overview acknowledges impacts of access on ecological integrity (but not cultural integrity). Issues include both ecological and cultural issues. Objectives address both “protect and manage access” for economic development and “minimize impacts to key ecological or socio-cultural values” (pg. 50);
- Agriculture (s. 4.1.3): Objectives include “minimize conflicts with other users” (pg. 63);
- Tourism (s. 4.1.4): Issue is “compatibility with other economic and socio-cultural values”, but this issue is not addressed in the Objectives (pg. 65);
- Outfitting (s. 4.1.5): Issue is “maintenance of functioning ecosystems is vital to outfitting industry”, but Objectives only address outfitting rights (pg. 67);
- Community Growth and Recreation (s. 4.1.6): Issue is recreational “conflict with other users”, but the Objectives do not address this issue (pg. 69);
- Forestry (s. 4.1.7): addresses traditional economic activities in Issues and Objectives;
- Aggregate (s. 4.1.8): addresses “socio-cultural resources” in Issues but not in Objectives.

The section does not mention the use of traditional knowledge or traditional land management practices in analysing the issues or developing objectives and recommendations. For example, an issue under Traditional Economy (s.4.1.9) is “limited information available on the impacts of development on traditional economic pursuits..., in particular to moose harvesting and overall use and enjoyment on the land”. There is no mention whether this limited information refers to both scientific and traditional knowledge. It suggests the section did not use traditional knowledge and experience about these impacts.

No mention of traditional knowledge research is included in the research recommendations.

Recommended Changes to DRLUP:

- Identify and address Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values specifically as they have been identified by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in their April 2019 and December 2020 submissions;
- Ensure the sections link from Issues to Objectives to Recommendations and use consistent terminology so they are more transparent in how Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values are addressed;
- Use traditional knowledge where available, and address gaps in the Recommendations.

Table 1: specific mention of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

Section	Topic Overview	Key Planning Issues	Objectives	Planning Strategy
4.1.2 Access	TOW*important connector between Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in families; Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in/YG Interpretive Plan			Interp Plan – cultural values Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
4.1.3 Agriculture	Suitable Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in settlement land parcels, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Farm valued cultural and economic resource			
4.1.4 Tourism	Tourism value rich cultural history of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in			Incorporate Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural history and contemporary use into strategies and signage; opportunities for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in retain co-management responsibilities in LMU 4; signage re Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in history and Hän language
4.1.5 Outfitting				Outfitting subject to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement
4.1.9 Traditional Economy	as defined by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in harvest natural resources, direct value, non-consumptive value; Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in land claim agreement provide for continued harvest rights			

*Top of the World Highway

Table 2: mention of values important to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

Section	Topic Overview	Key Planning Issues	Objectives	Planning Strategy
4.1.1 Mining	Strongly tied to socio-economic culture of Dawson	Impact ecological and socio-cultural values		Conserve priority ecological and socio-cultural values
4.1.2 Access	Impact ecological integrity, wildlife, fish; DH* important to subsistence harvesting; TOW* immense ecological and cultural importance; First Nations; traditional activities; environmental and cultural impacts; socio-cultural use; local subsistence harvest; river travel socio-cultural mode of transportation; traditional economic access	Impact ecological and cultural setting; wildlife; 40mile herd; heavy use by First Nations for traditional economic and subsistence harvest and rights; impact cultural values; harvest pressure on moose; impact wildlife and wildlife habitat; impact to key ecological or socio-cultural values	Minimize impacts to key ecological or socio-cultural values	Affected First Nations; unique biophysical and socio-cultural setting, cultural areas; harvesting and traditional economic activities; First Nation governments; harvesting and traditional economic activities; access management plan in areas of high ecological or socio-cultural value; the Parties develop access plan consider impacts to use of land for traditional economic activities, subsistence harvesting and trapping; impacts to traditional land use
4.1.3 Agriculture	Parties desire continued growth; contribute to socio-cultural context of community			
4.1.4 Tourism	tourism pressure impact important ecological and cultural setting of DH; potential growth in Indigenous tourism	Compatible with other economic and socio-cultural values; impact heritage sites, wildlife, water	Values of wildlife, culture, heritage	
4.1.5 Outfitting		Maintain functioning ecosystems		
4.1.6 Community	Balance growth, traditional harvesting			No new spot land applications in SMA

Growth, Recreation				
4.1.7 Forestry	Important socio-cultural perspective;	important part of traditional economic activities		Support Dawson Forest Management Plan
4.1.8 Aggregate Resources		Adverse impacts on ecological and/or socio-cultural values		Avoid sensitive fish habitat and other ecologically important areas
4.1.9 Traditional Economy	Participation required for First Nations culture and community well-being, subsistence harvest, traditional economic activities; other affected First Nation harvest rights; traditional economy closely linked to heritage and culture	Opportunities and landscapes to participate in traditional economic activities; maintaining First Nations culture, community well-being, ties to the land; limited information about development impacts on traditional economic pursuits	Protect traditional land use/ economic activities and harvesting; maintain key use areas for subsistence harvesting; protect trapping infrastructure and resources; furbearer habitat intact; maintain/support trapping concessions and minimize conflicts	Communication and consultation protocol to minimize conflict with traditional economic activities; communicate and consult; DDRRC Local resource Knowledge; traditional use impact studies; buffers for SL parcels; identify high traditional economic value; document trapping land use patterns
4.1.10 MMIWG2S+	Improve positive benefits for Indigenous women; culturally relevant gender-based analysis			Gender-based socio-economic and impact assessments; study relationship between resource and development projects and violence against Indigenous women and girls

*DH - Dempster Highway; TOW – Top of the World Highway

G.2. ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY AND CONSERVATION (S. 4.2)

The connection between ecological, cultural, and economic values varies in this section. For example, links between ecological and cultural values are noted in the overview discussion of key species habitat (4.2.1) and under specific species of caribou (4.2.1.1), moose (4.2.1.2), salmon (4.2.1.3), and resident fish (4.2.2), but not in sheep (4.2.1.4), bears (4.2.1.5), migratory birds, raptors (4.2.2), or species at risk (4.2.2).

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is mentioned specifically in Issues and Objectives only in the caribou, salmon and in the wetlands overview.

The Waters section recognizes the cultural importance of water, but is an example of the Plan's generic approach to values in contrast to how Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in describes these values. Section 4.2.3 (pg. 90) describes water as "an important and complex *resource*", "it sustains ...plants, animals, industries, and *communities*", rivers "hold high ecological, economic, heritage, and cultural importance", "all rivers are important" (italics added). Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is not mentioned specifically. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in describes the value of water as "the life force of all creation and our collective survival depends on it. Water is essential for the health of every part of the land and for every aspect of survival, and is central to our culture and traditional activities" (December 2020). The Plan description does not recognize and promote the distinct Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural values of water, its spiritual value, and as essential to all aspects of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in well-being.

The "Rivers" discussion in the Water section does capture ecological and cultural values by stating the "main objective for rivers is to maintain and enhance their multi-use character while ensuring their ecological and cultural integrity remains intact". This statement is the one place in the Plan where the term "cultural integrity" is used - although not explained. This concept of intact ecological and cultural integrity is in keeping with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's values of ecological integrity, cultural landscape and cultural continuity.

The Wetlands section (4.2.4) is the one section where specific cultural implications of ecological impacts are identified in the Issue: "the impact of wetlands altered by human activity may result in the reduced use of an area (harvesting, recreational, and/or traditional pursuits); the sense that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have not upheld traditional laws; and a reduced connection to the land" (pg. 93). The Objectives and Recommendations address protecting wetlands, but do not explicitly address the associated cultural impacts.

The section does not mention use of traditional knowledge. Where the section mentions topics are "poorly understood", it is not clear if this considered traditional knowledge (pg. 88). Five research recommendations mention the use of traditional or local knowledge.

Recommended Changes for DRLUP:

- Explicitly address the cultural implications of ecological impacts, as is addressed in Wetlands for cultural integrity. This concept of cultural integrity is in keeping with

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's broader values of ecological integrity, cultural landscape and cultural continuity.

- Consider the cultural implications in Objectives and Recommendations. For example, are there management actions that could be recommended to address the issues identified under Wetlands, in addition to protecting the wetlands?
- Use traditional knowledge where available, and address gaps in the Recommendations.

CLIMATE CHANGE (s. 4.2.5)

Climate change is an overarching issue that affects economic, ecological and cultural values of the region. Similar to other interconnected matters, the Plan has not addressed the connections well. The implications for climate change at a regional scale for all values and land users, and its connection with adaptive management as a means to deal with the uncertainties of climate change are not well addressed.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in makes the connection between climate change resilience and protection of intact habitat, connected and intact landscapes to enable species to move, and carbon sequestration in wetlands (December 2020). The Plan does not mention climate change in the sections explaining conservation criteria (1.6.2.5), land designation system (s. 3), or cumulative effects management (s. 3).

The Climate Change overview (4.2.5) does not mention cultural values and the issues are narrowly interpreted as “changes to traditional land use, subsistence harvesting success, and gathering” (pg. 100). The section does not address the broader implications for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, who “make decisions that ensure a future for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren” (April 2019), where “Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has survived on this land for thousands of years” and where management approaches need to “ensure that the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory retains its integrity for another seven generations” (December 2020).

Adaptive management in response to climate change is mentioned for Plan review (pg. 99) and major resource development projects (pg. 100), but not as a Plan Principle that applies to all land users.

The discussion of SMA under climate change does not address cultural implications. It identifies ecological but not cultural integrity, cultural resilience or connectivity of the cultural landscape.

Recommended Changes for DRLUP:

- Climate change - as a main driver of change in the region - should not be addressed solely under Ecological Integrity. The implications of climate change for ecological, cultural and economic values should be addressed.
- The implications of climate change for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural values should be explicitly addressed and linked to the adaptive management system.
- As a Plan Principle, adaptive management should apply to all land users as an approach that land and resource managers use when carrying out the management recommendations of the Plan (see section I).

G.3. CULTURE AND HERITAGE (S. 4.3)

The section focuses on heritage resources and sites, subsistence use, and traditional “pursuits”. Broader cultural values of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's relationship with the land are not addressed.

Stewardship is a Plan Principle, so it is not clear what is intended with this section (4.3.2). The section doesn't include any discussion of Issues or identify any Objectives, so it is not clear what is being addressed.

- Identifying stewardship as a “common sentiment” diminishes this fundamental aspect of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's identity;
- The first recommendation essentially restates the Plan Principle without any clearer management direction on how to apply the Principle through management actions.

The Hän language section (4.3.4) does not include any discussion of Issues or identify any Objectives so it is not clear what is being addressed or what is the rationale for the management recommendations.

Recommended Changes to DRLUP:

- Stewardship is a Principle that is integrated throughout the Plan.
- The Plan should explicitly address broader cultural values of cultural continuity, cultural landscape, including a discussion of issues and objectives as rationale to guide management directions.
- The Plan should address the broader interconnections between Issues around culture, economy and ecology.

H. LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT UNIT MANAGEMENT (S. 5)

The list of values, and rationale for designation are the basis for the LMU Designation, Vision or Management Intent, the Priority Objectives, and the Special Management Directions (SMDs). The Plan Vision, Principles, and Goals are applied through the specific elements of this section.

The approach to values looks at the separate silos of ecological, economic and heritage, social and cultural values, without addressing the interconnections between these. Specific Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural values of cultural continuity and connection with the land and cultural landscape are not mentioned. The most common reference is to generic “socio-cultural values”.

Stewardship is listed as a “Heritage, Social and Cultural Value”. Stewardship has been presented in the plan as a Principle that applies to all aspects of the Plan, so it should not be presented only as one type of cultural value.

The SMDs are mostly about managing industrial land use and access and protecting ecological features and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in rights. SMDs to achieve vision and goals for cultural values, particularly the broader cultural continuity and cultural landscape are not explicitly addressed. Measures to ensure

cultural integrity as well as ecological integrity are not identified, other than to protect the land. For example, measures to support Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in stewardship duties or cultural practices on the land.

Vague wording in the objectives and specific management directions will make effective Plan implementation, monitoring evaluation and review challenging.

In the SMA II LMUs, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values are mentioned in a few places, but often Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is not specifically mentioned and values are described using vague, different, and undefined terms. For example, “respect cultural values”, “recognize socio-cultural value” “respect space for traditional economic activities”. SMA I – LMU 10, 18 identify more specific Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values.

Recommended Changes in the DRLUP:

- The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values should be identified as Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in describes them and should include the values of cultural continuity and cultural landscape;
- The description of values, rationale and management intent should establish that protection of land not only protects ecological values but also the intertwined values of the cultural landscape. For example, protect wild *and* cultural landscape, ensure ecological *and* cultural connectivity;
- In the list of values for each LMU, ecological representation and landscape connectivity should not just be linked to ecological values, but should also address cultural values, continuity, and landscapes;
- It should also make clear that some values, such as values of intactness and connectivity of the ecological and cultural landscape and cultural continuity, are on a regional scale, not just within individual LMUs, although specific areas are especially significant. The section should make clear how the individual LMUs contribute to the regional scale values;
- In addition to ensuring ecological integrity, the Plan should provide explicit, specific measures on maintaining cultural integrity. The Priority Objectives and SMDs should address measures for conserving and promoting Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's cultural values, not only by protecting the land and managing industrial use, but also by supporting cultural continuity and landscape. For example, supporting Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in continued use of the land for teaching and learning, bringing Elders and youth together, language retention. Specific SMDs would contribute to achieving the vision of “Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in continues to access and learn from this landscape.” For example, some LMUs note “ongoing efforts by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to reconnect with the herd through community hunts and education camps”, as a value, but it could be addressed also as a specific management direction to support this activity.
- Stewardship should not be listed as a “heritage, social, and cultural value”. As a DRLUP Principle, stewardship is about the broader duty and mindset of caring for the land that applies to the entire Plan and all users. It is not only up to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to practice stewardship in the region, and it is not only with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values or practices where the Stewardship Principle is to be applied.

Stewardship practices would look different in the different land designations. In SMAs the Stewardship Principle is applied through different levels of protection. In ISAs, the Stewardship Principle is applied with the SMDs that manage how land use is carried out.

Example of applying the Stewardship Principle in the LMUs:

Heritage, Social, Cultural Values

- Cultural continuity, landscape
- Recognize the overall cultural values inherent anywhere on landscape, with certain areas as critically important. E.g., all water is important and wetlands have a specific critical importance. Use Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in knowledge and management practices of the area, e.g., land of plenty, citizen bread basket, connecting pathways for Forty-mile herd, the meaning of place names.

Priority Objectives: Current wording is “preserve values required to maintain stewardship duties”, which does not capture that stewardship is a principle and a duty, not something maintained by what values are present. Better wording would be:

- Preserve key values in keeping with Stewardship Principle (key values defined in S.3 and include Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural values);
- Facilitate and support Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in stewardship practices, with SMD about being on the land with Elders, children, families;
- Maintain key areas where Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has the opportunity to practice its stewardship duty because the landscape is still healthy and accessible.

SMDs

- Support Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in stewardship practices, e.g., on the land programs, culture camps.

I. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION, REVISION (S. 6)

As acknowledged in the Draft DRLUP, unknowns exist because of a lack of information and because of the changing context of the region, particularly climate change and new unexpected challenges that will continue to come up. Adaptive management is a key management approach to this uncertainty and risk.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in April 2019 and December 2020 submissions identified values that can be applied through adaptive management. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in identified values of learning from the land, remaining fluid and mobile, learning how to live with the landscape by responding to its challenges. “We adapt, we survive. We move, we journey.”

The Final Agreement Objective “ensure 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 so as to ensure Sustainable Development” (11.1.1.6) relates to the need for integration and coordination across the interconnected directions of the Plan. Plan implementation is not only about land and resource users and managers carrying out the recommendations, but also continuing to be aware of the integrated vision, goals, and principles for the region.

The Draft DRLUP mentions adaptive management in several places, but does not provide a good explanation of how the Principle is to be applied, especially in how it relates to land and resource users and managers as they implement the SMDs and GMDs. The section focuses mostly on the overall Plan review rather than the monitoring, learning and adjusting also needed as specific management directions are implemented.

Evaluating conformity of land uses with the plan by tracking only the two CE indicators would not address the full range of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values in the DRLUP.

Recommended Changes in DRLUP:

- As land and resource users and managers implement the recommendations, they should also understand the integrated context the Plan provides in its vision, principles, and goals rooted in the values of the region.
- The monitoring framework (pg. 182) should encompass all elements of the Plan, not just the few mentioned.
- A comprehensive approach to adaptive management should:
 - monitor the changing planning context, including climate change, and how effectively the DRLUP is being implemented by land users and land and resource managers;
 - identify what is being learned from monitoring and research;
 - enable adjustment in land and resource management to the new challenges and lessons learned;
 - the role of traditional knowledge in ongoing monitoring, learning, adjusting.
- A more thorough approach to conformity checks should ensure that Plan elements that are not captured by the two CE indicators are also checked.

APPENDIX A

Some suggestions for how to address balance as living in relationship with the land and with each other, respecting the diverse values of the region:

- Vision [Why- value centred]: Express a vision of balance for the region about what it means to live in relationship with land and each other. For example:
 - Co-exist based on respect, trust, stewardship;
 - Nän kāk ndä tr'ädäl - On the Land We Walk Together;
 - A balance of living with the land means human-caused disturbance will not undermine or put at risk ecological and cultural systems;
 - Sustain ourselves, self-sufficiency - in all aspects of our well-being (economic, physical, spiritual);
 - The changing climate challenges the ecological and social systems.
- Goals [what to achieve]
 - There are key values and areas that are especially important, but they are part of a broader ecological and cultural landscape. Maintain key values and areas and also not undermine the well-being, integrity of the overall functioning ecological and cultural systems.
 - Be resilient to climate change.
 - Ensure ecological and cultural intactness and connectivity over time and space; think of the interconnected whole and of seven generations.
 - Support a balance of type of activities in the region – some require more stewardship practices to limit their disturbance.
 - Establish acceptable limits to human-caused disturbance, considering both space and time.
- Management Tools [How – LDS, CE management, SMD, GMF, adaptive management] Recognize that all parts of the Plan are ways to operationalize the Principles of Sustainable Development and Stewardship (and the other Plan Principles) to achieve the desired balance. For example:
 - Both the SMA and ISA contribute to spatial intactness and connectivity over region as a whole. They establish different levels of human use in different areas within acceptable disturbance limits;
 - The SMD and GMD management practices are stewardship practices by land users, proponents, assessors;
 - Apply both spatial and temporal management: multi-use areas; mitigation hierarchy; to some extent human uses areas can be reclaimed and land can recover;
 - Manage CE around acceptable limits in each LMU;
 - Relationship is key: how we work together, communication actions, Land Stewardship Trust.

Appendix C – Summary of Technical Comments

Chapter or Section	Page #	Category	Comment/Description
<i>Preamble</i>			
How to Use the Plan	10	General	While one of the primary purposes of the plan is to assist with development assessment, this is not the only purpose. For example the SMAs have a goal of conservation management outside of environmental assessment and development. The plan sets goals for these areas, such as ecological integrity, that will be monitored and effected outside of EA. Suggest expanding this scope of plan usage.
<i>Section 1</i>			
Section 1	12-19	Gap	The Introduction to the Plan should note that authorities and responsibilities for land, water and resource management in the Dawson Planning region are shared between the Parties, i.e., the governments of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Joint management should be reflected in the Guiding Principles, Plan Goals, General Management Direction and Plan Recommendations (Policy and Research). A specific Goal of the Plan should be to ensure that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in meaningfully participates in the management of public resources throughout the Dawson Planning Region, on both Crown Land and Settlement Land, in order to maintain the ecological and cultural integrity of the region.
1.1	13	Suggested Change	reverse order in last sentence "...plan designed to enable the people of the planning region to maintain a rich cultural legacy and a healthy environment, while sustaining a diverse economy."
1.1 Context	13	Addition	Add tourism into sentence 'its quality of life is attributed to opportunities and employment in mining, <TOURISM>, and other economic sectors.' Tourism is of the the biggest industries in the region and should be highlighted along side mining.
1.4.1	15	Gap	Climate change must be referenced as one of, if not the primary, PLANNING ISSUES; and not simply an issue within 'Ecological Integrity'. A theme of Climate Change, with Key Planning Issues including Impacts to Indigenous rights, Environmental effects and impacts to infrastructure, Influencing species distribution, and Complexity and adaptive management would be more appropriate. The inclusion of an appropriately amended summary of section 4.2.5 Climate Change within section 1.6.2 would provide the necessary context.
Table 1.1	15	Addition	In Table 1-1 Key Planning Issue in Dawson Region, suggest adding a reference to Energy, and in particular, renewable energy opportunities and initiatives in the Key Planning Issues.
Table 1.1	15	Addition	Add 'Traditional Economy' into the Culture and Heritage key planning issues column.
1.6.1	15	Suggested Change	Suggest using Trehude, or Continuity of Life, or Ecological Integrity within the Vision statement rather than just sustainable development
1.6.2 Guiding Principles	16	Suggested Change	Should consider incorporating the Tr'ondek Hwech'in concept of Tr'ehude (TH World View) as a guiding principle. It is not enough to incorporate TK into a Colonial planning practice such as this, must also blend elements of Trehude. Otherwise, TK is being taken out of context and forced into another world view.

1.6.2.1 Sustainable Development	16	General	Objective 11.1.1.6 states objectives of land use planning are "to ensure 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 so as to ensure Sustainable Development." As such, the plan must go beyond 'promoting' and ensure the principles are applied. Suggest rewording this section slightly.
1.6.2.2 Stewardship	17	Addition	Add word respectfully at end of sentence- "while allowing economic development activities to continue <respectfully>."
1.6.2	18	Suggested Change	Addressing climate change, its causes and impacts, must be specifically incorporated within the 'Draft plan concepts and principles', with recommendations and mechanisms throughout the Plan to ensure climate change considerations are acknowledged and addressed. The principle could be stated thus: Climate Change: Addressing the causes and impacts of climate change is fundamentally necessary to create an environment where people and nature thrive. This is central to the Draft Plan and essential to the continued health and well-being of the region.
1.6.2.3 Precautionary Principle	18	Suggested Change	While this may, arguably, be one aspect sometimes attributed to the PP, it is clearly NOT the definition. For example: The precautionary principle enables decision-makers to adopt precautionary measures when scientific evidence about an environmental or human health hazard is uncertain and the stakes are high. (European Parliamentary Think Tank) https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document.html?reference=EPRS_IDA(2015)573876 The PP steers governance in risk management, risk governance, how science is used in policy formation; and in directing accountability for unforeseeable consequences. It does seem applicable here where wicked problems and such difficult combinations of goals are aspired to – failure seems a genuine risk. The PP will allow some restraint on the most dubious combinations of goals.
1.6.2.3 Precautionary Principle	18	General	Suggest clearly describing in this section where the plan applies the precautionary principle. It is unclear exactly how the precautionary principle is specifically applied within the plan and the various LMU's.
1.6.2.4 Adaptive Management	18	Gap	While Adaptive Management (AM) is questionably appropriate for evaluating the Regional Management Plan, what is proposed is a very truncated version of AM to "look, learn, and adjust as required". However, a full AM cycle looks more like this: Williams, B.K., Brown, E.D. Double-Loop Learning in Adaptive Management: The Need, the Challenge, and the Opportunity. Environmental Management 62, 995–1006 (2018). https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-018-1107-5 . Even if one compressed this into Look, Learn and Adjust, the design, monitoring, need to be more formalized and scrutinized to keep from making the same mistakes twice.
1.6.2.4 Adaptive Management	18	Gap	Adaptive management principle does not mention Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values of learning from the land, being flexible, adapting to challenges and dealing with change.
1.6.2	18	Addition	Suggest adding a new section between Stewardship and Precautionary Principle titled "Traditional (or Indigenous) Knowledge. In this section should define what this means to the plan, how the plan has incorporated TK into its decision making and into the management recommendations, and what the plans objectives and goals are for TK as a body of knowledge informing the plan and decision making in the future. TH can support the drafting of this section.

1.6.2.5 Priority Criteria for Candidate Conservation Areas	18	Gap	The conservation section is primarily about methodology (which should be moved to s. 3.2) and not principle. The discussion of conservation focuses primarily on ecological conservation and ecological connectivity and does not explain Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's intertwined and enduring relationship with the land and cultural values, including cultural continuity and cultural landscape.
1.6.2.5	19	Gap	The language of "ecosystems services" is incongruent with a TH world view.
1.6.2.5	20	Addition	Add "fish" to harvestable resources under Heritage Resources and Sites
1.6.2.5 Heritage, Social, and Cultural	20	Suggested Change	The plan references the whereas clause from the THFA paraphrasing that the "THFA recognizes and protects a way of life which is based on an ECONOMIC and SPIRITUAL relationship between TH and the land." While this is directly from the THFA, the language could be misinterpreted outside of the framework of the THFA and the supporting chapters . Suggest explaining that the THFA recognizes and protects a way of life inseparable from the natural landscape spiritually, culturally, and economically, where economy refers to both cash and traditional economies as described in the various TH submissions.
1.6.2.5 Heritage, Social, and Cultural	20	Editing/Grammar	Remove the bold title ' Heritage Resources and Sites ' before the bullet list.
1.6.2.5 Heritage, Social, and Cultural	20	Gap	Add to list of Heritage Resources and Sites: - Sense of connection to land/sites, - Ability to move/harvest/hunt, - Science/Denezhu Knowledge, - Stewardship Responsibilities, - Heritage/Harvest Camps, - Sense of Place/Homelands
1.7 Plan Goals	21	Gap	Solely referencing "climate driven shifts in habitat" as a single Draft Ecological goal fails to impart the importance and urgency of climate change action. It must be one of the 1.7 PLAN GOALS with the objectives to reduce contributions to the causes of climate change, address climate change induced impacts, and help preserve the regions natural integrity and support First Nation rights.
1.7	21	Suggested Change	Under Draft Socio-cultural Goals, consider adding: "Ensure Development doesn't impact social life and culture". Under Draft Economic Goals, add: "Support prosperity without growth. Consider community desires before promoting development".
1.6-1.7	15-21	Suggested Change	Vision, principles, goals should each have their own section and not just part of the Introduction as they form the foundation of the plan and are the overall guiding statements for the future of the region.
Section 2			
Entire section		Gap	The section needs to explain Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in: people of this river; Dënezhu: people of this land; Tr'ëhudè: our way of life, our law. Provide a description of the region in the way Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people see it including the intertwined and enduring relationship between Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the land, and how land is the foundation of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in identity and all aspects of their well-being, and how Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in society is born out of the land – it is the place of stories, language, and teachings. Describe the landscape as Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in sees it – any distinct features or areas that are significant to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in or that people use to navigate and understand the landscape. For example, the significance of the Yukon River.
2.1 Setting	22	Addition	There is a portion of the eastern boundary that is not Peel and is the contiguous boundary between TH and NND. Suggest adding language in this regard to include NND to the east, as they are an interested YFN in the plan.

2.2 Land Status	22	Addition	Under Land Status suggest addition: "...does consider them <as adjacent land uses> ."
2.2.3 Designated Lands	23	Suggested Change	Technically, Fortymile, Fort Cudahy, and Fort Constantine Historic Site is not designated as a territorial heritage site under the historic resources act. It is a co-managed site recognized under Schedule A of Chapter 13 of the THFA.
2.2.4 Adjacent Designated Lands	23	Gap	Suggest adding reference to adjacent regional planning areas, particularly the North Plan and the Peel Watershed Plan, immediately adjacent to the Dawson Region.
2.3 Environment	24	Addition	Include bear & sheep as examples of keystone species in the region
2.3 Environment	24	Addition	Last sentence of paragraph 4, suggest adding the Klondike as a significant tributary to the Yukon River.
2.4	25	Gap	4th para - change "For generations" to "Since time immemorial". 6th para - Jack McQuesten was greatly aided by local First Nations people and his Indigenous wife.
2.4 People and Communities	26	Suggested Change	It is important to tease out Tr'ondek Hwech'in (and adjacent FN's) unique relationship with the landscape in this section, or create a separate heading that accomplishes this to fully provide room to articulate the cultural landscape as it relates to indigenous use and value of the region. This is a critical baseline that that needs to be understood and recognized.
2.4 People and Communities	25	Addition	Emphasis needed on today's harvesting; get rid of past tense language.
2.5.1 Non-Renewable Resources	26	Editing/Grammar	Placer mining paragraph: "Dawson mining district <is> the most..."
2.5.1 Non-Renewable Resources	26	Editing/Grammar	Sentence under Hard Rock mining, 'Siver' should be silver
2.5.1 Hardrock Mining	26	General	Data is from 2019. Update claims, active projects, and region covered for Recommended Plan to 2021 #'s.
2.5.1 Placer Mining	26	General	Data is out of date. Update claims, active projects, and region covered for Recommended Plan to 2021 #'s.
2.5.2 Renewable Resources	26	General	Is there a more recent census with updated numbers? Update Recommended Plan with most recent #'s
2.5.2 Tourism	27	Gap	Yukon Tourism and TIA Yukon maintain good metrics re: visitors #s, \$ spent, and contribution to the economy. Suggest expanding the information/numbers in this section to better reflect Tourism's essential contribution to the region.
2.6	27	Gap	This section, like the others under the general heading, is short, mostly descriptive and a matter of presenting facts. Limiting the effects to temperature and precipitation, while those are vital to outcomes, diminishes the complex nature and widespread influence of our changing climate. The description should be more expansive, highlighting key issues of impacts on Indigenous rights and the need for urgent action.
2.6	27	Suggested Char	1st para -Climate change is already havign significant impact. Could strengthen this sentiment.

Section 3

Entire section		Gap	Provide a clear description of how land designation, management intent, priority objectives for the LMUs considered Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in knowledge and experience. The discussion of conservation in these sections needs to address the cultural values of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as the intertwined and enduring relationship with the land, where the land is both an ecological and social system, as well as having specific cultural uses, resources and sites. Concepts such as cultural landscape and cultural integrity should be added.
3.2.2 Integrated Stewardship Areas	31	General	The use of the term 'Integrated Stewardship Area.' has to actually mean something different than Integrated Management Area. Currently, it seems like it is taking advantage of a concept that Tr'ondek Hwech'in has clearly promoted in its conservation priorities and other submissions, but that it means nothing substantially different from IMA at all. To make this change, the Plan could look to different Indicators (ie. social), better monitoring and reporting, inclusion of indigenous knowledge, etc. to ensure it truly is about stewardship.
3.2.3 Cooridor Areas	31	Gap	The corridor areas and sub-regional planning areas get confusing... is corridor only for "major highways" in the region, or does the term apply to river corridors as well? Clarification is required
Table 3-1	33	Gap	Intact landscapes are cultural resources, as is wildlife.
3.3 Special Management Direction	35	Suggested Change	Add the undisturbed wetlands concept in the special management exemptions within ISAs.
3.3	35	Addition	"General management direction for the Plan is organized around a results-based management framework." This requires clarity as to what that actually means.
3.3	35		Will there be a commitment made to address how often "strategies will be adjusted in response to changing status of indicators"? Clarification is required. Review timeline should also be identified.
3.3	35	Addition	Climate change considerations must be included as a specific management direction: "Elimination or minimising of activities that contribute to the causes and adverse impacts of climate change." A definition of the 'best use of land' would be useful for clarity, and should incorporate the potential to retain the natural landscape as a natural solution to climate changes.
3.3	35	Suggested Change	To properly manage the values within SMAs they all really need to have legal designation and management planning.
3.4 General Management Direction	35	Editting/Grammar	Second sentence under General Management Direction - important correction: YESAB is not a regulator.
3.4.1 Results Based Management Framework	36	Gap	Need one more line in the table after the BMPs and measurable signals to assess if objectives are being met. If not being met, then what is the follow up action?

3.5 Cumulative Effects management	37	Gap	Potential effects of climate change must be considered as a component of cumulative impact assessments during evaluations for land-use plans. Until these changes are better understood in a cumulative context and incorporated into the Plan, it will be difficult to reliably predict the environmental, social and cultural outcomes of particular land-management designations and allowable activities. This could be achieved by: Adding climate change to the primary list of cumulative effects indicators; Incorporating and setting measurable thresholds; Considering the direct consequences that climate change may have on other indicators and activities; Addressing how allowable land-uses and activities may exacerbate the causes and impacts of climate change. These would enable specific and measurable thresholds to be developed that consider direct climate change consequences, and the degree of influence of climate change within Land Management Units.
3.5.1 CE Indicators	37	Gap	The Plan's primary Cumulative Effects Indicators are Surface Disturbance and Linear Density; chosen as they indirectly relate to a range of regional values and issues. Climate change shares these characteristics, and indeed surpasses their spheres and range of influence. Thus, climate change must be defined, incorporated and evaluated in the same manner. Equally, climate change must be a key component of the Cumulative Effects Framework; properly tracked and utilising appropriate baseline measurements. In addition to the other cumulative effects indicators identified in section 3.5.1.3, the Plan makes a recommendation that other indicators should be evaluated. These could include permafrost and wildfires and incorporate mental and physical wellness within the context of stewardship; and flooding in the assessment of water.
3.5.1 CE Indicators	37	General	The plan states that there are a number of other potential indicators that could more directly relate to values. Suggest including a Recommended Action to consider inclusion of other potential indicators upon plan review (that's adaptive management...).
3.5.1 CE Indicators	37	Gap	Impacts from "wildfire" should be included under CE indicators.
3.5.1 CE Indicators	37		Who will be given the mandate of assessing/ monitoring these indicators? If the indicators are not currently being monitored, will more money be committed or recommended to increase the research required? Clarification is required.
3.5.1.1 Surface Disturbance	38	General	Within the discussion of Surface Disturbance Measurement and Recovery, why not use all 3 metrics identified in the table? This question should be discussed at the TWG.
3.5.1.2 Linear Density	38	Gap	In the linear density discussion, suggest choosing Option 1, which limits linear features under 1.5m and determine a way to help Alces measure, either by hand drawing or finding better imagery. 1.5-3m is a big gap and will leave huge amounts of unaccounted disturbance on the landscape. If choosing option 2, would need to assume a certain percentage of unaccounted disturbance and include it in the calculation, which introduces uncertainty into the process. Discuss at the TWG.
3.5.1.2	38	Editing/Grammar	last sentence, second paragraph --> "Given the significant implications of added linear density, <using this as a limiting mechanism for thresholds> is an effective tool in cumulative measurement."
3.5.1.3 Other Indicators	39	General	The research recommendation should be to evaluate use of other potential indicators directly in the Dawson Regional Plan, not just use within other regional plans.
3.5.1.3 Indicators	39	Gap	Add noise pollution to indicators - massive impacts on wildlife stress, health, and movement patterns, as well and landscape enjoyment by those who live and visit the region.

3.5.1.3 Water	39	Gap	Water paragraph indicates "ref Cond approach" was developed in 2000's but it is unclear as to what is being used currently. Clarification is required
3.5.1.3 Water	39		How will water be used as an indicator? Defined limits or WQ parameters to be tested for should be included in this "indicators" section
3.5.1.3 Salmon	39	Suggested Change	salmon are heavily affected by factors <both inside and> outside the region
3.5.1.3 Salmon	39		As such, salmon specific indicators may not be needed at this time.... Salmon-specific indicators are needed and are a meaningful indicator for TH... This should be changed to recognize the current gap in knowledge that exists and provide recommendations to address it.
3.5.1.3 Wetlands	39	Addition	How is 40% being defined? --> 40% of an entire drainage? 40% of a single placer claim or grouping? 40% of one wetland complex? Or 40% of one wetland?
3.5.1.3 Ridge tops important for caribou migration	41	Gap	What about other caribou herds? Plenty of information exists on FMCH, Hart, Clear Creek and PCMH.... This section needs to be added to.
3.5.1.3 Ridge tops important for caribou migration	41	Gap	This speaks to critical summer migration routes, but what about summer habitat? Winter habitat?
3.5.1.3 Stewardship	39	Gap	Clear definitions of "indicators", based on current research and data collection, should inform how an indicator will be used in the assessment of CE.
3.5.2 CE Thresholds	40	Question	Why is the "disturbance within 1km of a highway"? Gravel pits and other uses that will contribute to disturbance are within a much smaller corridor
3.5.2 CE Thresholds	40	Suggested Change	Project year-end reporting needs to be committed to by all proponents such that we can get an accurate picture of disturbance on the landscape
3.5.2 CE Thresholds	40	Editing/Grammar	2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence: "Integrated stewardship Areas"
3.5.2 CE Thresholds	41	Gap	Need to identify how often the CE mapping should occur
3.5.2 CE Thresholds	41	Suggested Change	2nd paragraph.... If an indicator level in a "precautionary" or cautionary" threshold zone is reached or exceeded... Clarify that a "critical threshold" can not be exceeded.
3.5.2 CE Thresholds	41	Suggested Change	Cautionary Threshold: could include 'slowing down the pace of development'; putting a ban on new proposals for the area; increased amounts of monitoring to increase an understanding of pressures
3.5.2 CE Thresholds (policy recommendations)	41	Editing/Grammar	This work should include clarifying information requirements for project proposals to determine conformity.
3.5.3 CE Framework	42	Gap	The Plan should identify benchmarks
3.5.3 CE Framework	42	Addition	This section needs to include the monitoring of change of INDICATORS and what steps need to be followed when change is identified.
3.5.3 CE Framework	42	Gap	Identification and reporting of TRENDS needs to be included
3.5.3 CE Framework	42	Gap	Need to include WILD FIRE in the assessment of disturbance... especially in sensitive caribou habitats

3.5.3 CE Framework	43	Gap	It is hard to interpret the % wetlands figures given without knowing the total area considered; the denominator of the calculation. Additionally, distribution is important. If half the wetlands are lost on a prairie pothole landscape, there may be minimal change; if half the LMU wetlands are lost in one complex of a river valley, it could make a large difference.
<i>Section 4</i>			
4. General Management Direction	44-107	General	Throughout this chapter many of the Policy and Research Recommendations actually read like Management Recommendations, and should be included as management recommendations as they will have more strength as recommendations for implementation. Policy and research recommendations should be directed at the parties to support the management recommendations.
4. General Management Direction	44-107	Gap	Climate change must be fully considered within each of the three major themes outlined in this section, and within the Planning Strategy, management practices and recommendations.
4. General Management Direction	44-107	Gap	Stewardship as a principle applied in GMD is not well addressed. The "Recommended Management Practices" could be considered stewardship practices for land users. They are not presented this way and in many sections none are listed. The section could be used to indicate what stewardship activities land users can take on themselves and be responsible for, to promote the "shared mind-set" as presented as the stewardship principle
4.0 GMD	46	Editing/Grammar	SMD section: 2nd paragraph, 2nd sentence... "this Plan assumes that..."
4.1 Sustainable Economy	46	Addition	Sustainable Economy section --> need to add wording around "traditional economy" and wildlife provisions that sustain harvesting, trapping and arts/crafts made from these products. Traditional economy is not referenced at all within this section.
4.1 Sustainable Economy	47	Gap	Language that recognizes traditional economy needs to translate into the importance of this economic contribution to this region. Wild meat, trapping, intact landscapes all feed the wealth, health and wellness of the people. These attributes need to be considered according to Ch.11
4.1.1	47	Suggested Change	The Plan should be careful not to conflate mining history to culture in the same way culture is described to TH. These are unfair comparisons to Tr'ondek Hwech'in as their culture has lived for millenia and is not tied to economic interests or one specific industry.
4.1 Sustainable Economy	46	Suggested Change	The wording needs to shift focus from "need to balance the economic interests with other.... values" to "need to consider cultural and social values so that a balance can be found amongst ecological and economic interests". It is important to change the narrative here in order to honour the TH FA.
4.1 Sustainable Economy	46	Suggested Change	1st para, 6th line - land is currently stressed and is unable to provide "wealth and abundance" (i.e. - salmon stocks have collapsed). Currently, we need to strive for livability.
4.1.1 Mineral Exploration and Development	48	General	Policy Recommendation #2 change the word 'traditional' in reference to mining areas.
4.1.1 Mineral Exploration and Development	48	Suggested Change	Mineral exploration and mineral development does not require "all-season" roads. Suggest change to this, recognizing the seasonal nature of the mining industry.

4.1.1 Mineral Exploration and Development	48	Addition	Additional objective is needed: include thresholds to development in certain areas and clear reclamation standards (expectations), along with a definition of when land can be considered "reclaimed"
4.1.1 Mineral Exploration and Development	48- Planning Strategy	Addition	Additional bullet req'd --> clarity on lands set aside for conservation to ensure cultural values are maintained by safeguarding ecological and heritage resources
4.1.1 Mineral Exploration and Development	48	Gap	There are no management practices recommended in this section. This should be strengthened, if only to just support existing best management practices. But also, ie. better reporting, etc.
4.1.1 Mineral Exploration and Development	48- Rec. Management Practices	Gap	Here is an opportunity to communicate to the mining community/ industry about their obligations of Stewardship and requirements for reclaiming all ground worked so that overall disturbance levels are controlled and efforts are made to ensure a reduction of overall landscape disturbance.
4.1.1 Mineral Exploration and Development	48- Rec. Management Practices	Gap	Another opportunity exists here by communicating the importance of the mining community working together to ensure that thresholds are kept low, reclamation requirements are completed and folks plan appropriately for what they can realistically accomplish. This language will highlight the need for the mining community to come together and work together to ensure thresholds aren't pushed and to make sure that one operator is following due diligence practices and reclaiming their ground so another miner can move into the watershed.
4.1.1 Mineral Exploration and Development	48	General	The plans supports exploration projects 'currently proceeding in the planning region.' What does this statement mean for future projects?
4.1.2 Transportation and Access	49	Addition	Add trapping and harvesting to the "economic interests of the region"
4.1.2	49	Gap	"Industrial Prosperity" needs definition.
4.1.1 Mineral Exploration and Development	49 - Policy recommendations (1)	Suggested Change	Add a sentence about the intended nature of these areas (SMA 2's)
4.1.1 Mineral Exploration and Development	49 - Policy recommendations (3)	Suggested Change	Add language about "depending on designations for LMU's"
4.1.2 Transportation and Access	49/50	Suggested Change	Add a quote that accurately reflects Ch.11 obligations, as access is known to impede many provisions of TH FA b/c of changes caused to lands and F&W from access development.
4.1.2	50	Gap	Air access and noise pollution must also be considered
4.1.2 Transportation and Access	50	Gap	Transportation is vital to our region. It is also our biggest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Aside from addressing the environmental and wildlife impacts of access, priority should be given to reducing emissions, minimising the need to travel, energy efficiencies and self-sufficiency – all of which have considerable economic importance. Equally, climate changes have an enormous impact on the integrity of transport corridors. While a subsequent Research Recommendation later in the Plan references permafrost – the potential economic impacts of permafrost degradation on transportation should be referenced in this section.
4.1.2 Transportation and Access	50	Addition	Winter roads --> should include the fact that winter roads typically do not require any vegetation to be removed for their construction

4.1.2 Transportation and Access	50 - Objectives	Suggested Change	Objective 2. "... or socio-cultural values, <including critical migratory corridors>".
4.1.2 Transportation and Access	51 - Key Issues	Suggested Change	The wording in this section can be elevated to recognize the high-level nature of the plan
4.1.2 Transportation and Access	51 - Recommended MP's	Addition	Refer to the various management plans in place that address, manage and mitigate for the concerns & issues mentioned above.
4.1.2 Transportation and Access	52 - recommended action	Editing/Grammar	"A sub-regional plan for the entire span (or length) of the Dempster..."
4.1.2 Transportation and Access	52 - recommended action	Suggested Change	2nd and 5th bullet contradict each other
4.1.2 Transportation and Access	52	Suggested Change	2nd bullet --> why is there only a higher conservation focus in areas adjacent to LMU's 5,7 and 10? The Dempster corridor should be secured for its own integrity, independent of adjacent land uses and land designations.
4.1.2 Transportation and Access	52	Suggested Change	2nd bullet --> of particular importance is the TH Cultural integrity Area resolution (CIA)
4.1.2 Transportation and Access	52	Suggested Change	8th bullet --> please add bridges in the examples of infrastructure requiring reclamation... could also include any work completed in riparian areas or stream crossings
4.1.2 Transportation and Access	52	Suggested Change	8th bullet --> be aware of changing terminology. Restoration vs. reclamation. Is there a defined difference in this plan?
4.1.2.1 Dempster Highway	50	Addition	Within key issues/interests there is no mention of oil and gas. If developed in the future this will increase traffic along the highway.
4.1.2.1 Dempster Highway	51	Suggested Change	Add to list of Key Issues "Alienation of TH and other Indigenous peoples from the Dempster region and Tombstone Park in particular." and "TH and Indigenous access, hunting, and cultural use"
4.1.2.1 Top of the World Highway	51	Addition	Suggest adding increased access from the TOW to other areas for industrial and commercial activities as a key issue, particularly from Placer, but also forestry.
4.1.2.1 Top of the World Highway	53 - Policy recommendation (1)	Suggested Change	"The integrity of this area must be maintained to ensure harvesting and traditional economic activities can continue. "
4.1.2.1 Klondike Highway Corridor	54	General	There is a considerable amount of placer activity within the corridor itself (ie. Clear Creek, Flat Creek, Goring, Dempster Corner.) Would suggest adding this in key planning issues.

4.1.2.1 Klondike Highway Corridor	55	General	<p>Interpretive plans are not intended for enforcement, or to deal with land use conflict. They are meant to guide the 'interpretation' of an area and facilitate recreational/tourist use, basically through signage. Most of an interpretive plan is figuring out how to tell a story about the place and where. They have very little legislative teeth and are likely not an appropriate management tool as intended in the plan. An interpretive plan could support management practices and recommendations provided by the Commission or parties, but is not the correct tool to define them.</p> <p>Suggest adding to recommended management practices and then suggest development of an interpretive plan as a tool to support these, particularly respectful recreational/tourist activities.</p>
4.1.2 Klondike Highway Corridor	54 - Planning Issues	Suggested Change	Add reference to the highway corridor being close to Klondike River and groundwater source
4.1.2 Klondike Highway Corridor	55 - policy recommendations (2)	Suggested Change	"The integrity of this area must be maintained to ensure harvesting and traditional economic activities can continue. "
4.1.2 Klondike Highway Corridor	55	Gap	This is the obvious area for expansion in the agricultural sector. Area for future ag growth needs to be identified
4.1.2.2 All-season surface access	55	Suggested Change	The Key planning issues should acknowledge this concern and also reference the subsequent increase in greenhouse gas emissions as new roads and trails are developed. Recommended Management Practices does specify that new roads and trails avoid permafrost and wetland areas "where practicable". This must be revised simply to "avoid" these areas. In addition, access use and frequency should be a consideration in approving new routes.
4.1.2.2 All-season surface access	55	Suggested Change	The terminology "all-season" is inaccurate and inconsistent with placer applications to YESAB and LUP from EMR. Need clear definitions of terms used.
4.1.2.2 All-season surface access	55	Editing/Grammar	First 2 sentences are redundant in relation to the following sentences (paragraph).
4.1.2 Transportation and Access	55	Gap	Commission's vision of what they would like to see for the future of this area needs to be better defined. Ag growth areas? Viewscape for the Valley? Mining in corridor? Future commercial areas?
4.1.2 Transportation and Access	55	Gap	What consists of "residential development"? Does this mean one house? An established subdivision? There is a housing shortage in Dawson and the Klondike Valley is the next obvious area for expansion. This should be clarified.
4.1.2 Transportation and Access	56 - Planning Issues	Gap	Fertile soils present in the Klondike Valley should be protected for future agriculture needs
4.1.2.2 All-season surface access	56	Suggested Change	".....cumulative surface linear access has resulted in increased and potentially unsustainable access for moose harvest...."
4.1.2.2 All-season surface access	57. a	Gap	WCS identifies south-facing slopes as critical refugia for endemic plant species in the future... This management direction should consider that value and identified risk.
4.1.2.2 All-season surface access	57. b	Gap	How is redundant defined? Clarification required.
4.1.2.2 Policy recommendation	57	Suggested Change	Considering that "no access off the Dempster Highway" has been included in the recommendations ... please clarify where future access can occur under a plan amendment. Alternate access from North Fork Road may be considered through a plan amendment.

4.1.2.2	58	Addition	Under Research Recommendations , stating <i>The Parties should conduct a baseline linear disturbance study with priority given to areas experiencing increased pressure from linear development...</i> it should be noted that the threshold should not be based on road density in a given area alone - more specific language should address redundancy of roads (particularly with the NAR at play) and strive to prevent loop roads that lead to increased hunting and predation
4.1.2.2 Recommended management practices	60	Suggested Change	A management practice could be added to include: If remote areas are known to have increasing access, then additional monitoring of moose, caribou, as well as linear disturbance assessments could be prioritized for monitoring. The DDRRC could be tasked with identifying "notable" high-use areas.
4.1.2.5 Water Access	61	Addition	Other Potential Key Issues: -Ferries and winter road crossing proposed by NAR - Conflicts with values associated with reasons for travel, ie. Recreational relies upon wilderness characteristics and viewsapes
4.1.3 Agriculture	63	Suggested Change	How can the ag industry grow and how can we increase our food security if identified "quality growing soils" are allowed to be used for fill, mined or built on top of? Should make protection of fertile soils a priority for this area.
4.1.3 Agriculture	63	Question	How can the ag industry grow if ag area/ lands are not identified in the plan?
4.1.3 Agriculture	64	General	Policy Recommendation #3: Specify the community as Dawson City, and then be more specific of area ie. Klondike Valley? Policy Recommendation # 4: can this recommendation be strengthened to suggest a review of the regulation that allows for the subdivision of ag land?
4.1.2.5 Water Access	62 Rec management practices	Suggested Change	A fisheries assessment should be conducted on proposed fording areas to determine species presence, so that life history requirements (that vary amongst species) can be considered
4.1.2.5 Water Access	62	Suggested Change	Often, access by water is the most energy-efficient means of transport and can also help remove the impacts of climate change of overland routes. The proposed Planning Strategy recommending research into the ecological and social impacts of barging should be extended to consider all craft, develop thresholds for use if this form of access is to be promoted, and a comparison made with overland access from a climate change perspective.
4.1.2.5 Water Access	62 Research Recommendations	Suggested Change	The Stewart, Klondike and Fifteenmile Rivers need to be included under this recommendation as they are salmon bearing streams and provide for subsistence needs with freshwater fish as well (e.g. grayling and whitefish)
4.1.3 Agriculture	62	Addition	The Plan could include research into alternative farming techniques as a Key planning issue – with an Objective to “Minimise the climate change impacts of agriculture”. If the Plan is to truly support increased agriculture, it similarly needs to investigate and recommend the introduction of climate change-friendly farming methods.
4.1.3 Agriculture	62	Gap	the recognition of the Klondike Valley as containing high agricultural potential for the planning region highlights the need to safeguard this area in the interim until "future sub-regional planning" can be completed

4.1.3 Agriculture	63 Key planning issues	Suggested Change	Can an example be provided for co-existence and collaborations (e.g. mining or forestry working with farmers when clearing land to support ag endeavours when 1st use of land has been completed)
4.1.3 Agriculture	64	Addition	1st paragraph --> This could potentially be done by collaborating with foresters, as well.
4.1.4 Tourism	64	Suggested Change	The Plan could acknowledge climate change impacts as a Key planning issue, with an Objective to "Minimise the climate change impacts of tourism". The Plan can support low carbon tourism development through recommendations to: Research the measurement and disclosure of CO2 emissions in tourism; Investigate and implement emissions reductions in tourism operations; Engage the tourism sector in carbon removal.
4.1.4 Tourism	65 Key planning issues	Suggested Change	1st bullet --> should go into detail about potential implications to TH rights (working with TH TWG)
4.1.4 Tourism	65 Key planning issues	Suggested Change	2nd bullet --> should go into detail about potential implications to TH rights (working with TH TWG)
4.1.4 Tourism	65 Key planning issues	Question	5th bullet --> seems out of context for the length of this plan (and considering that every economic activity was impacted by COVID-19)
4.1.4 Tourism	66	General	Recommendation to the Parties: PR #1: Does there need to be a threshold or metric attached to this? I.e. What is a natural scenic viewscape and at what point is it adversely impacted. PR#2: For all areas, not just the Klondike Gold fields. RR #1: I.e. Trail Development
4.1.5 Outfitting	67	Addition	2nd paragraph --> could add winter and spring for wolf and bear
4.1.6.1 Dawson City Water Supply	70	Gap	There is a need for water testing that shows whether mining is contributing heavy metals to the water supply.
4.1.6.1 Dawson City Water Supply	69	General	Recommendation to the Parties: RA #1: These water sources are informal community use sites, and may not be supported as drinkable water by community services or public health. This likely won't be supported. Maybe reframe this as a recommended management practice to protect important community water sources?
4.1.6.1 Dawson City Water Supply	69	Suggested Change	To date, attempts to develop comprehensive estimates of the economic impacts of climate change in water resources sector have identified considerable economic costs associated with climate change impacts. A clearer picture of its effects in our region would be invaluable.
4.1.6.1 Dawson City Water Supply	69	Gap	2nd paragraph --> add Wolf Creek (LMU #6)
4.1.6.1 Dawson City Water Supply	69 Key planning issues	Gap	2nd bullet --> add "agriculture"

4.1.6.1 Dawson City Water Supply	69 Recommended management practices	Suggested Change	a. and b. could include langaugae that refers to the riparian areas or the stream crossings
4.1.6.1 Dawson City Water Supply	70 Policy recommendations	Addition	Last policy recommendation --> add "agriculture"
4.1.6.1 Dawson City Water Supply	68	Question	How do we ensure the health of our drinking water supply without interim protection from activities that could potentially alter or pollute our water without interim protection in place until sub-regional planning is completed?
4.1.6.1 Dawson City Water Supply	69 Planning strategy	Suggested Change	A Planning Strategy should be introduced to address climate change-specific issues and impacts.
4.1.6.2 The Klondike Valley	71	Suggested Change	Top of page --> ...for recreational use and agricultural opportunities.
4.1.7 Forestry	71	Addition	Key Planning issues- forests are important habitat for furbears
4.1.7 Forestry	71 Key planning issues	Question	What about "fire breaks" to be put in around town and the oportuntiy this provides for fuelwood harvest? This would be a large swath and could provide years of harvestable timber
4.1.7 Forestry	72 Research Recommendation	Editting/Grammar	"advancing the use of biomass energy"
4.1.7 Forestry	71	Gap	Climate change impacts to regional forests are considerable. Changes to local weather and extreme weather events, likely increases in snow cover, melting permafrost, wildfires and increased potential for disease will have an adverse impact on forest viability and their subsequent ability to act as a major carbon sink. This should be acknowledged as a Key planning issue and account taken in within the section's recommendations.
4.1.7 Forestry	72	Suggested Change	The Research Recommendation to continue to explore the feasibility of advancing biomass energy should be rewritten to assess the position of biomass in the context of climate change in the region.
4.1.8 Aggregate Resources	73 Recommended planning strategies	Gap	a.ecologically important areas, such as steep embankments that provide habitat fort rheatened SAR/ COSEWIC listed avaian species such as 'Bank Swallow'
4.1.8 Aggregate Resources	72	General	Suggest changing wording in objectives from 'protect' to 'reserve'.
4.1.8 Aggregate Resources	72	General	Recommended Management Practices: a) remove the 'where possible' as it weakens the statement for future implementation
4.1.8 Aggregate Resources	72	General	Recommendation to the Parties: RA #1: need to define what 'large scale' is. This is a really subjective term that does not lend itself well to future implementation of the plan.

4.1.9 Traditional Economy	73	Suggested Change	Consider re-naming this section "Cultural or Land Based Economy", rather than "traditional" (renders it in the past).
4.1.9 Traditional Economy	73	Gap	This section seems to only directly address trapping, but should also include fishing, hunting, gathering, wildcrafting, etc.
4.1.9 Traditional Economy	73	Suggested Change	The Plan notes much of the traditional economy is based on the harvest of natural resources and contributes to cultural and social wellbeing. Potential restrictions to access to the land and its resources are a key component of climate change impacts. While the direct economic impacts of climate change on harvesting may be modest, they are sufficient to warrant climate change-induced restrictions to access to be noted as a Key planning issue and incorporated as a Research Recommendation: "The parties must support research into how climate change induced impacts affect access to traditional harvesting and natural resources and the traditional economy."
4.1.9 Traditional Economy	74	Addition	Key Planning issues -citizens and stewards have been saying for many years that it is more and more difficult to make a living from the land. This is valid information.
4.1.9 Traditional Economy	75	General	Recommended Management Practices: a) This is going to become pretty unwieldy since it can be assumed that there is traditional economy potential everywhere in the Planning Region. Suggest being more specific that this recommendation is for the environmental assessment process, for assessible activities and would be triggered at the request of either of the parties or the evaluator. This provides a threshold of activity and will make implementation easier.
4.1.9 Traditional Economy	75	General	PR #3 and RR#1 are the same. Suggest leaving it as a PR and delete the redundant RR. The challenge will be determining what these buffers are.
4.1.9 Traditional Economy	75 Policy Recommendation	Suggested Change	Potential to add another recommendation --> Support wildlife management strategies that enhance moose populations
4.1.9 Traditional Economy	75 Policy Recommendation	Addition	Research recommendation --> maintain an active tally of moose population in areas with access
4.2 Ecological Integrity and Conservation	76	Gap	The Plan acknowledges healthy air, water, vegetation and wildlife are critical to sustaining life. And the greatest threat to ecological integrity and conservation is climate change. Thus much of CLIMATE CHANGE 4.2.5 (in the expanded form suggested in this submission) could be incorporated into the introduction to this section. Equally, the Draft Ecological Goal to 'Promote awareness and support mitigation and adaptation to the effects of climate change' is not reflected in the Key planning issues or Recommendations for the majority of the section. The Planning Strategy for this section must more fully acknowledge the threat to ecological integrity that climate change carries and be definitive in its recommendations that protection of ecosystems is paramount and must take precedence over all other considerations.
4.2.1 Key Species Habitat	77 Key Planning Issues (Migratory)	Gap	1st bullet --> in years when the PCH come into the THTT, they would be "viewed" more by public to be the predominant herd and their range extends well throughout the northern 1/2 of the planning region. Please include the Porcupine caribou herd here, as this is an extremely important herd to our region

4.2.1.1 Caribou	77 Key Planning Issues (Migratory)	Gap	1st bullet on p.78 --> this is incorrect... Currently >218,000 PCH
4.2.1.1 Caribou	78 Key Planning Issues (Migratory)	Editting/Grammar	3rd bullet on p.78 --> Consistent with the precautionary principle, a high degree of caution in harvest and management strategies caution is warranted across herd ranges of migratory caribou.
4.2.1.1 Caribou	78 Key Planning Issues (Woodland)	Suggested Change	1st bullet --> The eastern extent of the region is used heavily by woodland caribou in the spring and summer year round .
4.2.1.1 Caribou	78 Objectives	Gap	3rd bullet could be added under objectives --> Disturbance and development activities should be kept to a minimum in overlapping areas with key habitats
4.2.1.1 Caribou	79 Research Recommendation	Gap	I think the PCMB maintains up-to-date information pertaining to the suitability of key habitats... this should be recognized. Potentially change language to acknowledge all of the great work and commitment that PCMB commits to the PCH.
4.2.1.1 Caribou	80 Recommended Action	Editting/Grammar	DDRRC
4.2.1.1 Caribou	79 Recommended Action	Suggested Change	The 'Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Management Plan' was signed off between Parties in November 2020 and provides guidance, direction and implementation strategies that have been agreed to by all management authorities. A multi-year Implementation Plan can be found in Appendix 5 of the plan. https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/env/env-fortymile-caribou-herd-harvest-management-plan.pdf
4.2.1.2 Moose	81	Question	Is this the most recent research available? (note ref = 2004). Other studies show differing response rates to lower thresholds and we should research most agreed to thresholds to ensure minimal behavioural response occurs so less impact to moose populations. Functional responses, seasonal variation and thresholds in behavioural responses of moose to road density Hawthorne L. Beyer, Ricardo Ung, Dennis L. Murray, Marie-Josée Fortin, First published: 08 February 2013, https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.12042
4.2.1.3 Salmon	82	Suggested Change	First paragraph, last sentence: "...traditional ways knowledge to youth, to keep...."
4.2.1.3 Salmon	83	Gap	"The FHMS is implemented by the Yukon Placer Secretariat Yukon Government and Department of Fisheries and Oceans and manages". ***The information is outdated and Yukon Placer Secretariat has been replaced by CMI 'Adaptive Management Coordinator' and the info from YPS is now housed at the EMR library
4.2.1.3 Salmon	83	Addition	2nd bullet "key planning issues": ...can affect salmon habitat and are known to be an environmental stressor to juvenile salmonids .
4.2.1.3 Salmon	83	Suggested Change	add a 5th bullet --> Increased use of high-powered motor boats, jet boats and barges, along with increased horsepower driving the power boats. (If this bullet is added, then this could link to the "research recommendations" listed for salmon.
4.2.1.3 Salmon	84	Gap	Rearing habitats need to be included under the "recommended mngm't practices" section

4.2.1.3 Salmon	84	Suggested Change	a. Avoid direct Over-wintering and rearing habitats for juveniles, as well as adult salmon.
4.2.1.3 Salmon	84	Suggested Change	g. (i.e. over-wintering and rearing habitat and water withdrawals...
4.2.1.3 Salmon	84	Suggested Change	Research Recommendation SHOULD include aquatic inventories for areas that have not yet been mined AND areas that are not currently being mined
4.2.1.3 Salmon	84	Addition	Last research recommendation on this page could include " freshwater fish species " OR remove the DDRRC and YFWMB as salmon do not fall under their authority... only freshwater species
4.2.1.3 Salmon	85	Suggested Change	1st bullet --> include " or areas not currently being mined "
4.2.1.3 Salmon	85	Suggested Change	2nd bullet --> suggested use of stronger language such as "improve" (?)
4.2.1.4 Sheep	86 Objective	Gap	Recognize the importance of genetic exchange for our local sheep populations - importance of protecting genetic exchange corridors and ensuring that access and human disturbance does not become a limiting factor
4.2.1.4 Sheep	87 Objective	Gap	The strong language used in the 'objective section' for sheep will assist the implementation of protection of sheep habitat and is a good example of the direction required to fulfill the expressed intent of the Commission in regards to other key habitat areas identified. This language should be used for other values, as well.
4.2.2 Other Fish and Wildlife Habitat	88 Resident Fish Species	Gap	Issue with this number. There are not this many freshwater species occurring in the region if you are NOT counting salmon, as indicated in the description.
4.2.2 Other Fish and Wildlife Habitat	88 Recommendations to the Parties	Addition	"Parties, together with DDRRC and YFWMB should work collaboratively to define and map key aquatic habitat..."
4.2.2 Other Fish and Wildlife Habitat	88	Gap	CE assessment on water, as it relates to fish habitat and "quality, quantity and rate of flow" as per Ch.16
4.2.2 Other Fish and Wildlife Habitat	88	Gap	publicly accessible habitat inventory for freshwater species, similar to recommendation made for salmon
4.2.2 Other Fish and Wildlife Habitat	89 Key issues related to migratory birds and raptors	Addition	another key issue includes "key habitats are not well understood or mapped"
4.2.2 Other Fish and Wildlife Habitat	89 Research recommendation	Suggested Change	Add the DDRRC and Duck's Unlimited Canada
4.2.3 Water	90	General	The intro section to this section needs to be beefed up in regards to cultural importance of water. We have heard very clearly that water is the most important resource in the region. Potentially there could be a separate section on cultural importance.
4.2.3 Water	90	Gap	The plan should provide general management direction for water across the region. Protection of quality and quantity of water sources should be within the framework of this plan. These are protected under chapter 14 of the THFA

4.2.3 Water	90	Gap	'Water' is referenced within sections of the Plan "that address water". There remains shortfalls however, particularly in relation to the connection between climate change and water. This must be specifically referenced in the introduction to this section and particular attention given to how climate change is altering water systems, and subsequent impacts within the region. There are recognised gaps in knowledge of the hydrological cycle within the region, especially the groundwater regime. If the Plan intends to highlight the "interconnectedness of water" greater emphasis must be given to researching baseline hydrological cycles and modelling to predict (and mitigate) alterations due climate changes. It would be worth referencing climate change within the five subsections.
4.2.3 Water	90	Suggested Change	Change the sequence list of who water sustains: plants and animals, communities and industry
4.2.3 Water	90	Gap	Water withdrawal and its thresholds/indicators need to be addressed in terms of quality, quantity and rate of flow ; this concept is important in general when gauging impacts to aquatic resources, but also in regards to TH's Final Agreement rights, specifically section 14.8.1.
4.2.3 Water	90 - 91	Gap	"water....sustains Region's plants and animals, industries, and communities" (pg.90) and "Water for community consumption has been highlighted as a main issue" (pg.91) --> These descriptions do not recognize and promote the distinct Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural values of water, as a spiritual value and as essential to all aspects of well-being "water is the life force of all creation and our collective survival depends on it. Water is essential for the health of every part of the land and for every aspect of survival, and is central to our culture and traditional activities" (December 2020).
4.2.4 Wetlands	92	Suggested Change	No more than 25% of a fen should be sacrificed to development with that amount including a calculated 200 m buffer of likely-to-be-affected zone. However, it is also problematic to set a specific percentage of fens that can be sacrificed during development: relatively few existed initially, even fewer now remain; Fens are continuous in nature; Drainage results from deliberate draining, buffer effects and upslope hydrologic interruptions; Effects down the river can be cumulative; These are some of the last (and possibly marginal) places gold has been sought. Likely a product of mechanization and \$1800/oz gold prices; An abysmal record of returning them to a recognizable habitat.
4.2.4 Wetlands	92	Gap	The Plan acknowledges the urgent nature of the issues as they relate to wetlands disturbance from mining activity, but omitted the longer term impacts, expected or potential, from climate change. The list of Key issues related to wetlands must incorporate the climate change risks to these regionally scarce and valued ecosystems; and how human disturbance will exacerbate these impacts. Otherwise, the list, and the assigned Objective, are reasonable and accurately reflect the importance and value of the region's wetlands.
4.2.4 Wetlands	92	Gap	This section is one example where the associated cultural impacts are identified in Issues and addressed in Objectives (pg.93). However, the Recommendations mostly address reducing the direct impact on wetlands and do not also explicitly address the associated cultural effects. For example, what management measures could be taken to address the reduced connection to land and the sense of not upholding traditional laws, in addition to protecting wetlands?
4.2.4 Wetlands	92	Suggested Change	"...known to be the site of land-use conflict within the region due to the overlap of the potential high mineral value that exists in some areas and the ecological function being maintained by wetlands throughout valley bottoms "

4.2.4 Wetlands	92 Economy	Gap	Communities also rely on intact wetlands and riparian areas adjacent to creeks and rivers to mitigate flood risk, reduce threats to local infrastructure (including damage to roads and buildings) and to reduce the cost to fix flood-damaged infrastructure that becomes a burden to the tax payer
4.2.4 Wetlands	93	Question	What about small open-water complexes that have been created by past reclamation efforts?
4.2.4 Wetlands	93 Key issues related to wetlands	Suggested Change	2nd bullet --> Some wetland complexes in the planning region...
4.2.4 Wetlands	93	Editting/Grammar	Typo for second bulletpoint under Key issues related to wetlands *second sentence <i>The impacts of wetlands altered may result in</i> <-- should be a colon not a semi-colon.
4.2.4 Wetlands	93	Editting/Grammar	Under Key issues related to wetlands the draft speaks of the Indain River Valley being the most productive... but very important to note although Sulphur and Dominion might be the highest producing placer region, much of this area is upland and should not be confused with the wetland complex in the Indian River Valley itself <-- in other words, the wording in this statement is misleading and should be corrected.
4.2.4 Wetlands	94	Suggested Change	In December 2015, 196 governments, including Canada, agreed to a programme of climate change mitigation and adaptation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This calls on member states to develop Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to address climate change, with nature-based solutions as a key component, including from wetlands. The agreement acknowledged the critical role wetlands play in both adaptation and mitigation; in the latter through carbon storage and sequestration, particularly in peat soils and blue carbon in coastal waters (Ramsar Convention 2015). Encouraging countries to include wetland conservation and management in NDCs is a major priority. This commitment should certainly be considered for any planning strategies for wetlands in the Plan region.
4.2.4 Wetlands	94	Suggested Change	Given the importance, rarity and role of the region’s wetlands, and as a means to stabilise the wetlands regime, the strategies for managing wetlands should be amended to read: a Avoid the loss of wetlands and wetland benefits, b Wetlands warrant the highest levels of protection, c Further research is urgently required prior to any permissions that may affect wetlands, d Researched-backed information will be used to guide decisions, and this may evolve as more information is available about Yukon’s wetlands. e Mitigation Hierarchy The Mitigation Hierarchy – a widely used concept in natural resource management, is a set of sequential steps that should be followed to minimize the loss and degradation of wetlands. 1. Avoid impacting wetlands, 2. Support practices proven to stabilise and/or enhance wetlands, 3. Reclaim previously impacted wetlands.
4.2.4 Wetlands	94 Key issues related to wetlands	Suggested Change	2nd bullet --> traditional laws pertaining to stewardship

4.2.4 Wetlands	94	Suggested Change	Referencing Mitigation Hierarchy as a problem solving/planning tool for development in wetland areas is not always the right approach - offsetting is not a viable alternative for all wetlands; reclamation implies conversion of wetlands only as peatland regeneration requires very long periods of time; lastly, TH remains concerned that the concept of <i>minimizing impacts</i> , which suggests wetland avoidance is discretionary. Some recognition of the limits to this hierarchy should be noted.
4.2.4.1	94	Suggested Change	It is important to note that while marshes and bogs store enormous amounts of carbon, fens are the means by which that carbon is absorbed and accumulated. Disturbing or removing fens eliminates that potential for carbon storage. In addition fens, if left to naturally develop, evolve into bogs and efficiently retain stored carbon. Thus these areas are as equally important as other wetland types and disturbance should really be avoided altogether
4.2.4.1	94	Suggested Change	The Policy Recommendations should apply to pre-existing permits.
4.2.4.1	94	Suggested Change	The Recommendations for the Parties, and in particular the research recommendations are welcomed and will certainly assist in facilitating urgently needed research, and in key areas too. Public awareness could be expanded to specifically include the mining industry and representative bodies. Raising awareness and highlighting the importance of wetlands may help mitigate some of the industry's objections when restrictions are introduced.
4.2.4.1	95	Question	Fen Threshold section suggests that the allowable development of fens should not be based on claimblock/permit. Please provide more clarity on the suggested alternative approach.
4.2.4 Wetlands	95 Key issues related to wetlands	Addition	3rd bullet --> "... could take hundreds of years and the extent of functionality (post-reclamation) is not well understood in the north and in permafrost environments "
4.2.4 Wetlands	95: Fen Threshold	Gap	The suggestion of approaching "thresholds" by LMU actually does the opposite of taking a holistic approach. If 100% of localized fens can be disturbed in one part of the LMU, as long as it remains less than the established threshold, then this has the potential to destroy local ecological balance and pockets of endemic species. How does this management intent protect rare plant species? How does this approach protect areas of cultural importance?
Figure 4-1	96	Gap	Figure 4-1 is a little misleading in apparent magnitude and color. Although the colored plot lines seem to portray different losses, if one considers the actual percentage change of each they are commensurate: Green line Wetlands move 1.9% points up to 7% (+ 37% change) Red line of number of placer claims move 10% points down to 15% (-40% change) Blue line area of placer claims moves down 2 percentage points to 4.5% (-44% change)
4.2.4 Wetlands	96	Suggested Change	If the LMU rationale is known to be inadequate but is chosen to provide "certainty to proponents" then one way to accommodate that inadequacy is to limit the percent developable area of fens to 25%. This, knowing the actual reach will be larger. This may require a greater degree of test drilling and prioritizing before drainage and earth moving for gold extraction take place. Maybe this is a good thing.
4.2.4 Wetlands	96 Key issues related to wetlands	Suggested Change	6th bullet --> Wetlands may is known to support rare flora and fauna... (DUC ground-truthing research)

4.2.4 Wetlands	97 Key issues related to wetlands	Gap	loss of permafrost underlying disturbed wetland areas
4.2.4 Wetlands	97 Research recommendation Buffers	Suggested Change	"Parties consider the best available data and literature on wetland buffers to determine the best-optimal solution..."
4.2.4 Wetlands	97 Research Recommendation (Wetland Inventory)	Addition	"...disturbance thresholds and should be completed using a scale that works for "on the ground" implementation of the plan. "
4.2.4 Wetlands	98 Research Recommendation (Wetland Inventory)	Addition	The DUC inventory should be recommended to be expanded upon. No need to start at square 1.
4.2.4 Wetlands	98 Key issues related to wetlands	Addition	10th bullet --> "extent and type.... not fully understood and requires further research
4.2.5 Climate Change	98	Gap	Climate change overview does not mention cultural values and the issues are narrowly interpreted as "changes to traditional land use, subsistence harvesting success, and gathering" without recognizing broader landscape level shifts, and their implications for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in intertwined cultural values and way of life.
4.2.5 Climate Change	99 Key issues	Suggested Change	<p>Key issues related to climate change include:</p> <p>The list is relatively accurate and incorporates many of the key issues and concerns. Some additions should include:</p> <p>Indigenous rights: Climate change and its effects are directly eroding aboriginal and treaty rights, titles and interests.</p> <p>Community capacity: Existing issues relating to isolation and capacity are being exacerbated by the disproportionate impacts of a changing climate in the North. The difficulties of governing are multiplied by these new pressures.</p> <p>Permafrost: Melting permafrost 'changes' must include the destruction of habitats and potential creation of new ones.</p> <p>Instability effects many topographical features and rivers and streams too. These can block access for humans and other species.</p> <p>Flooding: We've seen first hand the potential for flooding in the Yukon this summer. While historically flood events have reduced on the Yukon River over the past decades, climate changes will lead to greater snow and ice melt, unpredictable break-ups and extreme precipitation events.</p> <p>Extreme weather: Unpredictable and severe weather events will become more common. This will equally affect communities and traditional land users. While of short duration, impacts could be long-lasting and overwhelming.</p> <p>Potential new developments: A transition to a 'green' economy and renewable energies may bring new requests for land use, additional infrastructure, access and exploration potential for minerals associated with new technologies and increased battery storage.</p>

4.2.5 Climate Change	100 Objectives	Suggested Change	1. Recognize that the way habitats are distributed distribution of habitats on the landscape could change...
4.2.5 Climate Change	100 Objectives	Suggested Change	The three listed objectives are very limited, and not all relate to the key issues stated earlier. The list should be altered or increased to: Recognise the opportunities to respond to climate change in ways that go beyond resilience and support a more sustainable region; Recognise the way climate change is affecting Indigenous rights and regional governance and capacity; Recommend measures to mitigate the causes of climate change, and monitor and address its impacts; Support the development of self-sufficiency initiatives, food security and truly sustainable renewable energy development.
4.2.5 Climate Change	100		The Plan could incorporate strategies to: Minimise activities that contribute to climate change; Identify and assess all impacts of climate change on the planning region; Seek and present potential solutions for effective adaptations and to improve resiliency. Could also consider adding Climate Change Recommended Management Practices can into every other facet/section of the plan, as applicable.
4.2.5 Climate Change	101 Wetlands	Addition	Could other references be provided that support the "wetland as a carbon storage" concept since this was publicly questioned (Randy Clarkson) and some of the mis-information about carbon release was shared with (and amongst) industry.
4.2.5 Climate Change	101 Policy Recommendations	Gap	Food security issues need to be prioritized and lands need to be identified as set aside or priority areas for future agricultural use and business opportunity
4.2.5 Climate Change	102 Research recommendation	Suggested Change	Change order of alternative energy sources to have solar lead the list... as we see the most amount of this investment in Dawson already, including YG, TH, municipality and personal investments.
4.2.5 Climate Change	102	Suggested Change	The position of the table of Recommendations, immediately following the section on Recommendations to the Parties, makes it look like policy, research and action are related to Wetlands only. This is easily solved through better formatting. The Recommendations themselves, while all worthwhile, are as equally limited as the Plan's approach to climate-change key issues, objectives and strategy. The list requires extensive enlargement to accommodate all aspects of climate change, or better still, for climate-change specific recommendations (policy, research and action) to be incorporated within their relevant section within the Plan.
4.3 Culture and Heritage	103	Gap	This section has generic, lumping, and equating of cultural values "unique contemporary socio-cultural setting", "maintaining and enhancing cultural and heritage values for all people", "equally important". It does not portray Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in distinct cultural values to be recognized and promoted.
4.3 Culture and Heritage	103	Gap	1st para, last sentence - maintaining cultural and heritage values is life sustaining, much more than a key part of sustainable development. Use of the term culture to mean both TH culture AND mining culture is not accurate.
4.3 Culture and Heritage	103	Addition	last sentence; first paragraph --> add language acknowledging Ch.11 objectives that speak to this/ or quote

4.3 Culture and Heritage	103	General	Suggest following edits to the second paragraph of this section: -Add a paragraph break between the second and third sentence so that the sentence starting "Preserving the important history..." is a new paragraph. - Add quote from TH Heritage Act "The land is central our identity; it is the source of life, we understand ourselves as part of the land, related to the entire natural environment and to everything in it."
4.3 Culture and Heritage	103	General	Add sentence to the end of the 3rd paragraph along the lines of: - The guiding principle of stewardship is embued in the management directions with the goal of maintaining strong cultural connections to the land.
4.3 Culture and Heritage	103	Gap	Climate change exacerbates the difficulties already faced by indigenous communities including political and economic marginalization, loss of land and resources, human rights violations, discrimination and unemployment." Thus, incorporating climate change considerations into the Plan's Draft Socio-cultural Goals is an imperative.
4.3 Culture and Heritage	103	Gap	Should add a paragraph about the Tr'ondek-Klondike World Heritage Site Nomination.
4.3.1 Heritage Resources and Sites	104	Suggested Change	Change word "rules" to 'laws.' This will capture both traditional law and things like legislation/regs
4.3 Culture and Heritage	104	Addition	add 8th bullet --> the connected landscape and unencumbered waterways, intact landscapes - these are cultural resources to TH
4.3.1 Heritage Resources and Sites	105	Suggested Change	Include the word 'cultural' in front of 'other resources' in the objective, so that it reads '...and other cultural resources'
4.3.1 Heritage Resources and Sites	105	Suggested Change	Recommended Management Practice C, add wording to read- "Avoid or minimize land use activities in significant heritage and cultural use areas durring important seson use periods.
4.3.1 Heritage Resources and Sites	105	Suggested Change	It is not appropriate for the plan to make this determination on behalf of Tr'ondek Hwech'in. It also shows a bit of misunderstanding in regards to the characterization of travel 'routes' within the traditional territory. As written, TH would not support this. I would suggest changing this to a research recommendation: <i>"The Parties should continue to support and fund research to better understand ancient trails and travel routes within in the planning region to ensure their heritage and cultural values are appropriately managed and protected, while minimizing potential land use conflicts."</i> The recommended action to jointly develop management guidelines can address potential conflict between ancestral trails (routes) and recreational use. Leave that to the parties.
4.3.1 Heritage Resources and Sites	104	Gap	Climate change impacts on heritage resources must be Key issue, and a Recommended Management Practice inserted to ensure heritage sites and resources currently or potentially impacted by climate change receive the level of care and protection required; or Research Recommendation a. could be expanded to include an assessment of climate change impacts.
4.3 Culture and Heritage	105	Gap	Heritage values rooted in the TT are existent b/c of the health and integrity of the land. The vitality of the land must persist to protect TH culture and way of life.
4.3 Culture and Heritage	105 Objective	Addition identified and preserved as well as recognizing the importance of maintaining healthy, connected landscapes.

4.3 Culture and Heritage	105	Addition	Under Research Recommendation, acknowledge that TH language workers and Han speaker(s) are already strapped and require financial support in order to provide language services such as translation. Must acknowledge the extreme pressures placed upon our remaining Han speaker and language learners, and the limited capacity they have to provide translation services.
4.3 Culture and Heritage	106 Recommended Action	Suggested Change	The Parties should explore options to augment for enhancing the sense of stewardship...
4.3 Culture and Heritage	106 Recommended Action	Suggested Change	should include Yukon Government information on areas with increased potential for archaeological and historic resources within the heritage resources section. Any large gaps could inform research recommendations.
4.3.3 Harvesting Rights and Activities	107	Suggested Change	Climate change presents a number of threats to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in harvesting rights. Rights of access are considered in the first of the Key issues - though it may be prudent that climate change impacts and hindrances are acknowledged as a potential limiting factor. While the second Key issue does recognise climate-changed induced effects on use-areas, it doesn't properly acknowledge the full extent of impacts, nor the role climate change will play in exacerbating alterations to the environment and species distribution and behaviour. An addition to this list should recognise the possible impacts to mental and physical wellbeing if Citizen access to the land is compromised by climate changes. A Recommended Management practice should be added to ensure land use activities do not contribute to aggravating climate changes to the environment or to Citizen access.
4.3.3 Harvesting Rights and Activities	107	Addition	Add Key Issue: "First Nations opportunities to participate in resource harvesting and other economic and cultural pursuits depend on healthy fish and wildlife populations and intact landscapes "
4.3.3 Harvesting Rights and Activities	107	Addition	2nd to last sentence --> not limited to hunting, fishing, trapping and harvesting plants for medicine and foods .
4.3.3 Harvesting Rights and Activities	107	Gap	Last sentence --> The recognition and protection of this way of life is a cornerstone of the THFA and legal obligations to this effect are mandated and upheld by this Agreement . There is an opportunity to support this section (4.3.3) better with legal foundations provided under the THFA. This needs to be included as an educational piece for the general public, as well as bureaucrats and environmental assessors who will look to this plan for guidance and direction.
4.3.3 Harvesting Rights and Activities	107	Gap	3rd bullet --> ...and the Goldfields (please add as this is the most obvious LMU/ area within the region that has multi-use activities
4.3.3 Harvesting Rights and Activities	107 Objectives	Addition	add 4th bullet (?) --> Ensure land use activities do not compromise the rights guaranteed under the THFA
Section 5			
Chapter 5 Land Mangement Units	109-173	Suggested Change	Refer to LMUs as ISA, not as zone. This language is used throughout this chapter. I.e. Zone 3. Suggest just referring to it as ISA 3, etc.

Chapter 5 Land Mangement Units	109-173	Suggested Change	Stewardship should not be listed only as a “heritage, social, and cultural value”. As a DRLUP principle, stewardship applies to the entire plan and all users. As stated in the Draft DRLUP (s. 1.6.2.2) stewardship is about creating the “mindset that all land users have a duty to care for the land.” It is not only up to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to practice stewardship in the region, and it is not only with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in values or practices where the stewardship principle is to be applied. Following that principle: the SMDs can be considered stewardship measures carried out by industrial land users. In addition: specific measures to support Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in stewardship practices should be added as SMDs; under the list of heritage, social and cultural values, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in value would be cultural continuity and cultural landscape rather than stewardship.
Vegetation and Unique Features	109-173	Addition	Within Section 5. Land Management Units add additional value of Trehude under Heritage, Social, and Cultural Value. It is important to articulate the cultural significance outside of the 'heritage resources section' It is also important to recognize traditional land use outside of traditional economy and heritage resources. There will be some redundancy, but this section can focus more on Settlement Lands, traditional pursuits, and cultural use areas, and describe and better integrate TH relationship with the land. This could be the intention of the 'Stewardship' value. Suggest retitling if this is the case. If not, suggest adding a separate Tr'ëhudè section in each LMU as the first row in the list under Heritage, Social, and Cultural Value.
Traditional Economy	109-173	Gap	Where do Licenced Harvest and community gathering activities (berries, non-timber forest products like mushrooms and plants), that are not necessarily tied to Tr'ondek Hwech'in, fit? Is this under Traditional Economy? Within the plan TE is focused on indigenous use , so this kind of gets lost as a community resource. Its not really recreation because people depend on these resources as contributing to their annual food source. Suggest considering how to characterize this community value within chapter 5.
Values	109-173	General	Suggest reviewing the language within the tables so that it is consistent across LMUs. There is considerable variability throughout in how the values are being articulated.
Heritage Resources	109-173	Addition	Throughout the region there is variable 'potential' for archeological and historic resources, with areas of increased potential for likelihood where resources may be found. Should get this information from YG to include in the heritage resources section. I think this is as important as exisiting resources as we know there are thousands of sites out there that just are not yet identified, but need to be considered. If there are large gaps or unknowns, this could be included as a research recommendation.
Heritage Resources	109-173	Suggested Change	Retitle Heritage Resources to Heritage and Cultural Resources through the section.
LMU 1: North	110	Addition	Special Management Directions should include limitations on air traffic (timing and frequency) to reduce impacts to key wildlife values (sheep, caribou, peregrine falcon), not air access landing only as per SMD #7.
LMU 1: North	111	Suggested Change	SMD 5: Other existing land use rights (trapping, outfitting, traditional economic activities, subsistence harvest rights) recognized
LMU 1: North	111	Question	SMD 6: Clarify the wording. Is it a timing window where no activities allowed during a specific time, or just no activities in lambing and late winter habitat?
LMU 1: North	111	Suggested Change	SMD 7: need stronger language then 'may'. Suggest rewording this to make it stronger.

LMU 1: North	112	Suggested Change	Heritage & Cultural Resources: Traditional trails and travel routes between cultural areas (identified routes along Tatonduk River, Eagle Creek, Mount Klotz, and Yukon River), Several Tr'ondek Hwech'in Settlement Land Parcels chosen for their traditional and cultural significants. Historic Trapping Cabin on sitdown creek. Documented archeological site on coal creek, with high liklihood of undocumented archeological sites throughout the LMU.
LMU 1: North	112	Addition	Suggest adding Research Recommendation specific to LMU 1 for increased documentation of archaeological and cultural sites. Rationale being that the area has been identified as culturally significant, but site indentification and documentation for the area is limited to date.
LMU 2: Eagle Plains	114	Addition	Special Management Directions should include linkages between future Dempster Corridor planning and this LMU to ensure connectivity, particularly since this area/SL is disconnected from other Land Management Units.
LMU 2: Eagle Plains - Traditional Economy	115	Suggested Change	Reword Traditional Economy: "Presence of First Nation land use along Oglivlie River, the Dempster Hwy , and within LMU
LMU 2: Eagle Plains - Heritage Resources	115	Suggested Change	The way the Heritage Resources area is worded misrepresents the area. Reword: "Heritage & Cultural Resources: Important Caribou harvesting area. Potential for undiscovered archaeological sites and infrastructure related to historic harvest activities. "
LMU 3: Yukon River	116	Addition	Re: the interim withdrawal of lands from staking, more clarity is needed around linking the intended holistic vision for the river with the consideration of differences in North and South of Dawson activity levels (i.e., Special Management Directions #4 and 6). For example, how will allowable development proximity of adjacent LMUs be buffered?
LMU 3: Yukon River	117	Addition	Consider adding another priority objective: " <i>To preserve the wilderness characteristic of the Yukon River Cooridor.</i> " This is extremely important to support and preserve so many of the values (economic, recreation, First Nation identity and use) of the area.
LMU 3: Yukon River - Economic Value	118	Addition	Economic Value: What about commercial fishery in economic value? There is also nothing about timber harvest.
LMU 3: Yukon River	118	Gap	The Yukon River Cooridor is overlapped by outfitting concessions on the north side between Dawson and the Alaska Boarder.
LMU 3: Yukon River - Tourism	118	Addition	Also include winter opportunities such as dogsledding, snowmobile tours, as well as emerging indigenous tourism opportunities.
LMU 3: Yukon River - Heritage, Social, and Cultural Value	118	Suggested Change	Change wording- Heritage & Cultural Resources : Location of many important traditional routes , historic sites, TH land use sites, heritage reserves, historic resources, and archeological sites.
LMU 3: Yukon River - Recreation	118	Addition	List some recreational activities to ensure they are reflected during implementation- hiking, boating, canoeing, camping, snowmobiling, fishing etc.
LMU 3: Yukon River - Stewardship	118	Addition	Add to stewardship section: The Yukon River is critical to Tr'ondek Hwech'in way of life and connection to the landscape, and is central to the Tr'ondek Hwech'in cultural landscape. "
LMU 4: Fifteen/Chandindu	119	Addition	Special Management Directions #6 --> more on the consideration/implementation (the what/where/and hows) of establishing an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) would be appreciated, as it is not mentioned any further in the document.

LMU 4: Fifteen/Chandindu	119	General	The management statement describes this area as relatively inaccessible. This may be true for the most northerly extent, but the areas adjacent to the Yukon River Corridor, particularly the area between Dawson, Yukon River, Chandindu and Tombstone Park are quite assessible and contain a number of existing overland access routes.
LMU 4: Fifteen/Chandindu - Priority Objectives	120	General	The priority objective about heritage (bullet #2) needs to be broadened to include TH perspectives. Include additional wording around culturally important areas and traditional land use areas.
LMU 4: Fifteen/Chandindu - Tourism/Recreation	121	General	Current tourism and recreation and future opportunities of this LMU are misrepresented . There is actually considerable use of this area for hiking, snowmobiling, and emerging packrafting opportunities, among others. This is close to town and adjacent to Tombstone and actually probably has one of the highest recreation and future tourism potentials in the region for wilderness tourism. There is also the Yukon Ditch that runs through this area which Tr'ondek Hwech'in has completed a feasibility study for opening this trail as a recreational hiking trail.
LMU 4: Fifteen/Chandindu - Heritage Resources	121	Suggested Change	Suggest using the terminology 'Traditional routes' instead of trails. It better characterizes the holistic concept of travel and the fact that these 'routes' are not necessarily trodden trails on the landscape. Consider this throughout the plan.
LMU 4: Fifteen/Chandindu - Heritage Resources	121	Suggested Change	There are actually a considerable # of archeological sites identified in this LMU. The Yukon Ditch also transects this LMU and there are a number of historic sites associated with the Yukon ditch system.
LMU 5: Tombstone	122	Question	Formatting-wise, having the Land Status box containing TH SL parcels under the Tombstone LMU makes it seem like these parcels are within the park when they are not. Given these parcels are not part of the park but are within this LMU, how does the plan proposed to manage these parcels or give them a designation?
LMU 6: Klondike	123	Suggested Change	Special Management Directions #2 should read " <i>Development in this area should ensure impacts to lynx are minimized or avoided.</i> "; #4 should read " <i>Development in this area should take care in not impact this important water source</i> "; additionally, protection of wetlands should be added to the list Special Management Directions.
LMU 6: Klondike	123	Suggested Change	The plan states McQuesten Highlands ecoregion is not represented in Yukon's protected areas. Does this ecoregion receive protection in another LMU/elsewhere in the plan? This section should clarify this.
LMU 6 Klondike-Trondek - Tourism	125	Addition	Potential for Indigenous tourism and interpretation along the Dempster Highway, at places like Wolf Creek (ie. Jackie Olson)
LMU 6 Klondike-Trondek - Heritage Resources	125	Addition	The area includes a portion of the Yukon Ditch and yukon ditch sites
LMU 6 Klondike-Trondek - Recreation	125	General	Suggest removing the word 'some' from the sentence . There are several hiking opportunities along the Yukon Ditch, and within tombstone mountains south of Tombstone Park. There is also snowmobiling along existing access within the LMU.
LMU 7: Upper Brewery/Hamilton	126	Addition	The North Klondike River and its tributaries are not mentioned as an ecological value . This misses out on the headwaters of this important salmon-spawning river.

LMU 7: Upper Brewery/Hamilton - Special Management Direction	127	General	5. What is it about the viewscape to be maintained? Need to define. Is it the aesthetic and natural character? Wilderness character?
LMU 7: Upper Brewery/Hamilton - Rationale for Designation	128	General	What makes the mineral disposition 'important'? Suggest removing the word from the sentence. This is value laden.
LMU 7: Upper Brewery/Hamilton - Economic Value	128	Addition	Add Traditional Economy: the area is an important harvest area of high cultural value.
LMU 7: Upper Brewery/Hamilton - Heritage, Social, and Cultural Value	128	Addition	Add Heritage and Cultural Resources: Includes a number of archeological sites, and Settlement Lands of cultural significance.
LMU 7: Upper Brewery/Hamilton - Recreation	128	Addition	Also canoeing North Klondike.
LMU 7: Upper Brewery/Hamilton - Trehude	128	Addition	Add Tr'ëhudè: Important area for connecting to the land through the practice of land use/and traditional economic activities, including trapping, gathering, and harvesting.
LMU 8: Lower Brewery/Hamilton	129	Addition	Special Management Directions #3 should state that future/placer development shall not interfere with the noted water baseline data collection and monitoring deemed necessary for quartz mining practices (i.e., Laura Creek).
LMU 8: Lower Brewery/Hamilton	129	Addition	Special Management Directions should include a statement such as "This Designation shall not limit TH's ability to access the land for traditional land use activities."
LMU 8: Lower Brewery/Hamilton	129	Addition	Ecological Values - Caribou should include the Hart River Herd - listed as species of Special Concern under SARA.
LMU 8: Lower Brewery/Hamilton	129	Suggested Change	This is a large LMU, which lumps in the relatively undeveloped western portion with the Brewery hard rock site. Consider redrawing western boundary. This is important because as placer activity in the Clear Creek area to the south pushes the Clear Ck caribou herd northwards, they will need habitat refugia.
LMU 8: Lower Brewery/Hamilton - Traditional Economy	130	Addition	Also small game, birds, and berries. Wood cutting and other traditional pursuits.
LMU 8: Lower Brewery/Hamilton - Heritage Resources	131	Suggested Change	Several archeological resources documented in this LMU.
LMU 8: Lower Brewery/Hamilton - Recreation	131	General	There are 2 rows for recreation. Merge the 2.

LMU 8: Lower Brewery/Hamilton - Recreation	131	Addition	Also canoeing/packrafting the North-Klondike.
LMU 9: Clear Creek	132	Suggested Change	The entirety of TH SL R-79B (and R-2A) parcel should enjoy the conservation/staking withdrawal protection provided under adjacent LMU10; in other words, the parcel should not be included in this designation at all. Having this parcel split undermines the value of the entire parcel and jeopardizes what is better protected. This change would also better facilitate the Management Intent of adjacent LMU 11: ISA I.
LMU 9: Clear Creek	132	Suggested Change	Ecological Values - Wetlands - wetlands do not only appear near the Klondike Hwy, they appear well > 2km from it.
LMU 9: Clear Creek	132	Suggested Change	Management Intent should explicitly recognize important habitat requirements for the FMCH as well as the Clear Creek Herd (CCCH); Overall, don't feel that an ISA 4 is providing any protection for the CCCH or the Clear Ck wetlands.
LMU 9: Clear Creek - Traditional Economy	133	Suggested Change	Portions of this area are absolutely utilized for harvest activities, particularly those areas transected by the Klondike Highway and Clear Creek road. This should be reworded. R-7B and R-2A which this LMU overlays was selected partially as a hunting, trapping, and recreation area. There are a number of expressions of interests on these parcels by TH citizens.
LMU 9: Clear Creek - Heritage Resources	132	Suggested Change	This section is inaccurate. There are several identified archeological sites in this LMU (~15). Clustered on the ridge above McQuesten, and along the Klondike Hwy on the NE side of the LMU.
LMU 10: Upper Klondike	135	Suggested Change	The portions carved out of parcels R-79B and R-2A should <i>not</i> be carved out for this Management Intent Statement to make sense (i.e., " <i>to preserve the deep cultural connection to the land and active use of the area by TH citizens.</i> "). Expanding this LMU eastwards to include a portion of 8 and 9 would address concerns about allowing development in CCCH habitat (see above)
LMU 10: Upper Klondike	135	Suggested Change	Priority Objectives: Replace "Minimize" with "Avoid disturbance to key salmon habitats for various life cycle stages."
LMU 10: Upper Klondike - Management Intent Statement	135	General	Use Han name for Land of Plenty: Nānkāk Ch'ēholay
LMU 10: Upper Klondike - Transportation and Access	135	General	The North Fork access road is a HPW maintained road up to the Brewery Creek Mine entrance. It has its own surveyed ROW. If the mine is developed there will be increased access through this SMA to support the mine. Not sure if this is congruent with the value and objectives of the LMU or not. There have been discussions/feasibility re: a transmission line transecting this area to provide power to the mine site.
LMU 10: Upper Klondike - Economic Value	135	General	As per the THFA Government has a right to construct the North Fork Hydro Project centered to the greatest extent possible on the Ditch and shall have right of access for this. There is a flooding right for the purposes of the project. Not too sure how this is accommodated with the SMA 1.
LMU 10: Upper Klondike - Traditional Economy	137	General	Area is highly used for harvest activities and hunting.

LMU 10: Upper Klondike - Heritage Resources	137	General	Also historic sites related to the Yukon Ditch.
LMU 11: Flat Creek Wetlands	138	Addition	Since the Management Intent Statement highlights " <i>important wetland habitat that is integral to the ecological and socio-cultural value</i> " of this region, the Special Management Directions should include wetland protection as a second point (would be more appropriate than under the current Priority Objectives).
LMU 11: Flat Creek Wetlands	139	Addition	Should emphasize the harvest use in this area. It is mostly adjacent to the hwy, but there is considerable harvest activity along this area.
LMU 12: East	141	Suggested Change	Also, sharp-tailed grouse habitat are " <i>an immediate management concern,</i> " Special Management Direction #2 should read <i>their key habitat should be minimized avoided</i> .
LMU 12: East	141	Suggested Change	Concern with size of LMU and threshold, which could allow for high future levels of development in the southeastern portion of the LMU that is currently relatively undeveloped. Suggest reducing size of LMU and leaving the area north of the Stewart out of this ISA4.
LMU 12: East - National Historic Sites	143	Suggested Change	It is strange that this is teased out of the heritage resources section. It could just be included within the Heritage and Cultural Resources row.
LMU 13: Klondike Valley - Heritage Resources	145	Gap	Flooding represents one of the greatest natural disturbances in the region. In addition, permafrost degradation, and in particular the risks from slumping and unstable ground, and the potential for landslides particularly in the north end of the community are potentially enormous risks to be considered. These must be addressed through Special Management Directions for LMU 13.
LMU 13: Klondike Valley - Tr'èhudè	147	Addition	Add Trehude row, first row in Heritage, Social and Cultural Value, which reads: "Important areas for connecting to the land through the practice of land use activities. This area is important for maintaining Tr'ondek Hwech'in way of life and connections to the land."
LMU 15: Fortymile River	149	Addition	In order to preserve the cultural significance this area holds to TH Citizens, proximity to the Forty Mile camp/ Heritage Site needs to be further protected by buffers (such buffers should not distinguish between high level and low level activities as it is non-sensical to permit exploration closer to important heritage and multi-use areas if those areas are off limits for higher impact activities anyway) (precedent: 2020-0142 Decision Document supporting YESAB 56.1.c)
LMU 15: Fortymile River	149	Addition	Ecological Value: The 40mile river is valuable habitat for chum and other fish species. This is not mentioned, only Chinook. NOTE: future reclamation and closure planning for the Clinton Creek site is underway, this comment on p.151 could include more detail. Talk to TH TWG.
LMU 15: Fortymile River - Heritage Resources	151	Addition	There are also documented precontact archeological sites in this LMU. The area was part of the 2014 Archeological Potential model, which would have mapped high potential polygons for this area. Language around this potential mapping could be included.
LMU 15: Fortymile River - Traditional Economy	151	Addition	Harvest of Non-timber forest products(ie. berries) by the community is important in this LMU.
LMU 15: Fortymile River - Tourism	151	Addition	Also tourism along the TOW. The area also includes the Clinton Creek access road, which provides access to the Fortymile, Forty Cudahy, Fort Constantine Heritage site, and portential component within the Tr'ondek-Klondike World Heritage Site.
LMU 15: Fortymile River - Tourism	151	General	TOW is a major tourist artery. Wilderness characteristic of the TOW is an important component of this. The natural characteristic of areas of the LMU visible from the TOW should be preserved.

LMU 15: Fortymile River - Stewardship	151	Addition	Add: "Important area for connecting to the land through the practice of traditional land use activities. This area is important for maintaining Tr'ondek Hwech'in way of life and connections to the land."
LMU: Fortymile River-Trehude			Important to include a Trehude section for this LMU.
LMU 16: Swede Creek - Transportation and Access	153	Addition	The LMU is bound by the TOW highway, and is accessible by this and secondary roads and trails off the hwy.
LMU 16: Swede Creek - Tourism	153	General	TOW is a major tourist artery. Wilderness characteristic of the TOW is an important component of this. The natural characteristic of areas of the LMU visible from the TOW should be preserved.
LMU 16: Swede Creek - Trapping	153	Addition	The community trapline may also be part of this LMU and provides learning experiences for amateur trappers.
LMU 16: Swede Creek - Traditional Economy	153	Addition	Add Traditional Economy: the area is an important harvest area for Moose, grouse, berries ect.
LMU 16: Swede Creek - Heritage Resources	153	Addition	Documented pre-contact archeological sites in the LMU
LMU 16: Swede Creek - Recreation	154	Addition	Adjacency of the LMU and TOW make it very appealing for recreational pursuits of all kinds. Also consider winter activities including dog mushing, and snowmobiling.
LMU 17: Sixtymile	155	Gap	Management Intent for this area states "...to adequately protect caribou habitat and to ensure sustainable development" and that "Interest in the area is growing, which includes increased opportunities into previously remote areas". However, interest in the area should not justify more access. The LMU designation is in contradiction with Special Management Direction #2 statement. Suggest re-designating to at least ISA 2. Precisely because it's remoteness, this landscape should be better protected; access management considerations should include flight traffic (timing and frequency) to better protect sensitive wildlife and TH Land Use rights, focus on linear redundancy above and beyond linear density alone and have additional protection for important cultural sites like TH S-14B.
LMU 17: Sixtymile	155	Suggested Change	Priority Objective 2 states that "New access infrastructure is planned for & managed..." What about reclaimed or decommissioned? It is understood that the plan can't necessarily do this and the correct tool is the Resource Road Regs, but the plan could emphasize limits on roads and importance of removing roads from landscape before new ones are allowed.
LMU 17: Sixtymile - Priority Objectives	156	Suggested Change	The caribou priority should be made the first priority in the list.
LMU 17: Sixtymile - Tourism	157	General	TOW is a major tourist artery. Wilderness characteristic of the TOW is an important component of this. The natural characteristic of areas of the LMU visible from the TOW should be preserved.
LMU 17: Sixtymile - Traditional Economy	157	Suggested Change	Change language to 'The area is important for subsistence harvesting and traditional economic activities. There are a number of settlement lands parcels identified as important harvesting and gathering sites'
LMU 17: Sixtymile - Traditional Economy	157	General	Harvest of non-timber forest products is important for the community, especially along the TOW, but also down the 60mile road and other access off the TOW.

LMU 18: Matson Uplands - Management Intent Statement	158	General	From a caribou perspective this LMU isn't enough. It is delineated and dictated by the mineral claims around it, not for what is best for the caribou. The priority here needs to be the caribou, and we need to consider what they need first before all else.
LMU 18: Matson Uplands	158	Addition	No issue with designation. Area is too small though. Comment/question: what forms the boundaries? I.e. why is one a straight line? Is this the edge of a claim block? Does not seem like a natural feature.
LMU 18: Matson Uplands - Stewardship	159	Suggested Change	This area is important for maintaining Tr'ondek Hwech'in way of life and connections to the land.
LMU 19: Upper Indian River Wetlands	160	Addition	The area carved out for "wetland protection" excludes part of the main stem of the Indian River... there are examples of LMUs where a collage of various conservation priorities can 'coexist' - this needs to be applied to the Indian River (as well as other wetland sensitive areas). Special Mgmt Direction 3.c) should specify that the robust reclamation practices are for non-peatlands; clarify where exactly these practices are coming from (i.e. which guidance document or wetland policy?)
5.19: Upper Indian River Wetlands.	160	General	By the numbers there are 587 claims and 11 placer leases within the LMU. By area this is 65.2km ² , or 13% of the region. Within this LMU Ducks Unlimited has mapped 35.26km ² of wetlands. Of that wetlands 22.16km ² , or around 63% is covered by active claims or leases. This designation does not effectively 'protect' the wetlands in this area.
5.19: Upper Indian River Wetlands - Stewardship	162	Suggested Change	Add language: "...and is important for maintaining Tr'ondek Hwech'in way of life and connections to the land."
LMU 20: Coffee	163	Addition	Special Management Directions #4 should state that future/placer development shall not interfere with the noted water baseline data collection and monitoring deemed necessary for quartz mining practices.
LMU 20: Coffee - Tr'ëhudè	165	Addition	Add Trehude row, first row in Heritage, Social and Cultural Value, which reads: "Important areas for connecting to the land through the practice of land use activities. This area is important for maintaining Tr'ondek Hwech'in way of life and connections to the land."
LMU 21: White - Stewardship	168	Suggested Change	Add language: This area is important for maintaining Tr'ondek Hwech'in way of life and connections to the land.
LMU 22: Scottie Creek - Stewardship	171	Suggested Change	Add language: This area is important for maintaining Tr'ondek Hwech'in way of life and connections to the land.
LMU 23: Fortymile Caribou Corridor	170-73	General	The physical operation/implementatation of this will be near impossible. Elevation is a pretty clear indicator so should be pretty easy to delineate on the landscape.
LMU 23: Fortymile Caribou Corridor - Traditional Economy	174	Suggested Change	S-14 is not in this LMU. As noted for other LMU, it is not appropriate to highlight 1 SL parcel within the entire plan as important. Would suggest just broadening this language to say that the areas is important for hunting and harvest activities.
LMU 23: Fortymile Caribou Corridor - Recreation	174	General	This is the type of language that should be included for any LMU adjacent the TOR. Also need to consider winter recreation.
LMU 23: Fortymile Caribou Corridor - Stewardship	174	Suggested Change	Add language: This area is important for maintaining Tr'ondek Hwech'in way of life and connections to the land.

Section 6			
6 Plan Implementation and Revision	175-183		The Commission should consider recommending for an RRC like structure to be setup with a post plan 'commission' as a recommendation body and an administrative staff to ensure successful implementation of the plan.
6.1	175	Suggested Change	The authorities and responsibilities for implementing the Plan are shared between the governments of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon, and that all aspects of Plan implementation should be jointly managed. This could be reflected by adding references to joint implementation throughout this section. This could also be achieved through an omnibus statement about joint decision making at the beginning of section 6.
6.1	175	Suggested Change	Section 6 of the Draft Plan – Plan Implementation and Review – states that “The implementation of a land use plan is an important part of the planning process”. In our view that is an understatement. We would like to see that strengthened to say that the implementation of a land use plan is a “critical” part of the planning process. Implementation is when the guiding principles, goals and recommendations are turned into actions. Without effective implementation, the whole land use planning process may be for nought.
6.3.1.2	176	Suggested Change	It is obvious that the decision to not provide any strong or legal protection for SMA2s wasn't considering the impact that this lack of true protection could have on the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have been on this land for millennia, and they intend to be here for another thousand years. 3.8% protection will not sustain them into the future. Increasing the protection for SMA2s at least gives them a fighting chance. Therefore, it is recommended that the DRLUP draft be updated to increase the longer-term certainty of protection for SMA2s. Increased protection for SMA2s means increased protection for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people and culture.
6.3.3 Subregional Plans	176	General	Include timeline
6.4 Plan Conformity	177	General	The recommendation should be for the parties to commit to capacity and resources to ensure plan conformity can be conducted effectively and ensure successful implementation of the plan.
6.6.2 Plan Review	179	General	Would like to see a process put in place for successfully considering adaptive management and for measuring plan success. Really, the implementation committee should be compiling annual reports for review which includes feedback from the parties, Yesab, Ylupc ect. This is the best way to ensure there is a process to evaluate the plan. I think the recommended action could be worded slightly stronger to look at a process of annual evaluation of the plan.
6.6.2 Plan Review	182	Addition	A detailed evaluation of Scope creep; bureaucratic slippage; Agency capture; compliance; and enforceability should be undertaken.