

Introduction to Primers

Environment and Socio-economic effects assessment.

What a mouthful! To explain this in one go would be like eating a woolly mammoth in one bite.

We know the environment, our society and our economy are all connected to each other in uncountable ways. We have a hard time making sense of it all at once.

So we are going to break it down this afternoon into three separate pieces

Environment assessment

Social Impact assessment and

Economic effects assessment

Over the following two days we will hear ideas and try to find ways to put the mammoth back together in a Yukon way.

Ok so the three presentations are introductions to the topics.

Some of you will be familiar with one or more of areas of assessment, others may not. There is a wide diversity of knowledge and experience in the room. There are people in the room that have not been involved in environmental assessment but may be very important as we build a Development Assessment process that expands to more fully include socio-economic effects. If some of this is

familiar, bear with it, there is always something new to learn from the presentations and the people at your tables.

Look for what is common.

Natural sciences, Social sciences, and Economics are separate schools of learning, they use different approaches and different words. But there is also much in common. For example environmental scientists may refer to a description of an environment before development as baseline data, a social scientist may refer to the description of a community as a community profile, I don't even know what an economist refers to it as!. So we are going to have to learn to listen to each carefully and not get lost in terminology or jargon.

The three assessment processes all take a look at what our backyard is like now, they all take a look at the proposed development and then they try to bring them together to guess... ahem predict what our backyard will be like after the development. And to provide decision makers with this assessment of effects and recommendations to so our backyard ends up they in a way that benefits us and future generations most.