An aerial photograph of a vast, open landscape, likely a tundra or plain, with a winding river or stream cutting through it. The terrain is flat with some low hills and patches of water. The image is framed by a rough, torn-edge border.

**Tombstone Territorial Park
Draft Management Plan
2002**

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Tombstone Territorial Park Draft Management Plan

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Tombstone Territorial Park

Yukon Territory

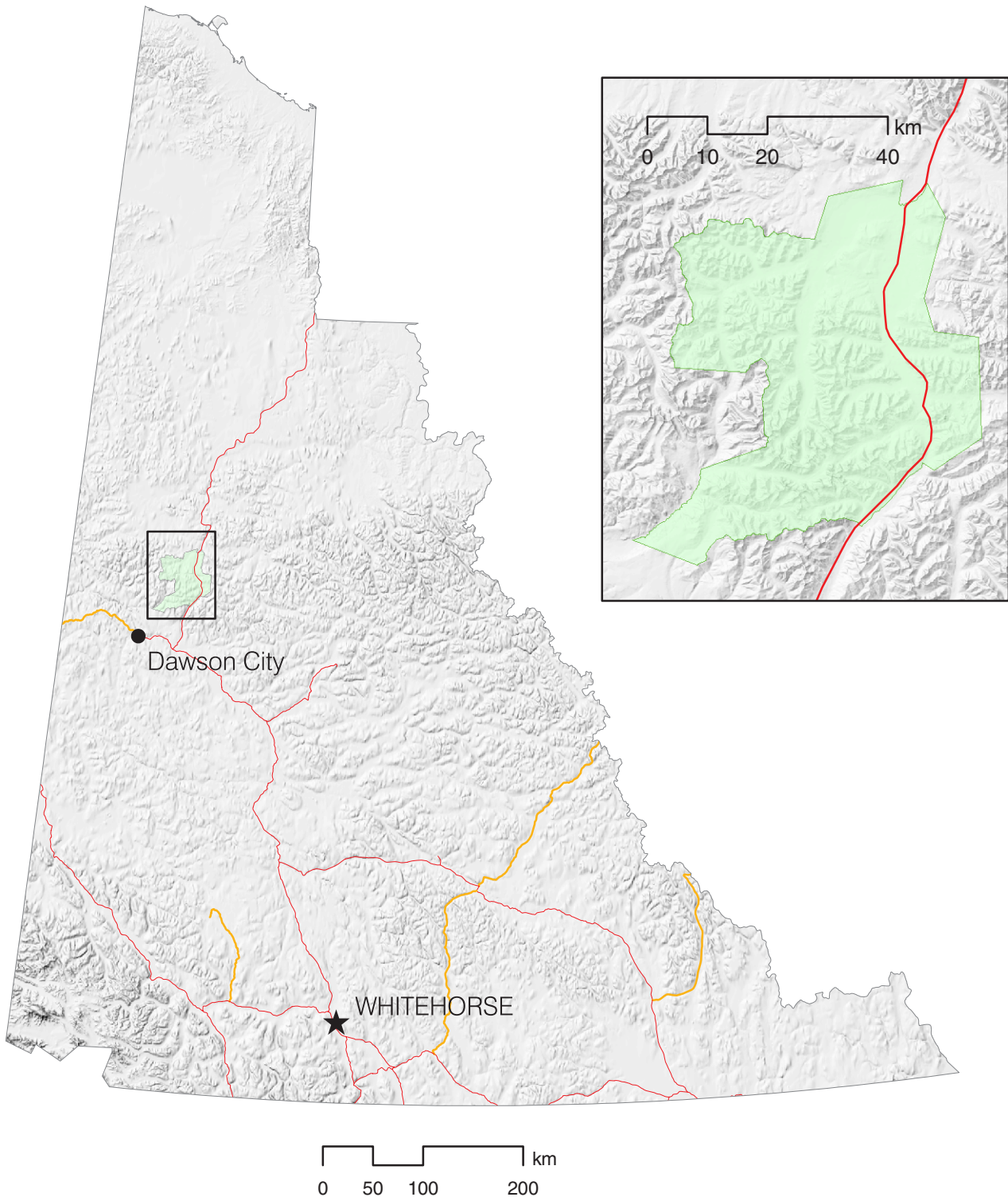


figure 1

Tombstone Steering Committee

Tombstone Steering Committee members include: Julie Frisch, Dawn Dickson, Tim Gerberding and Dick Van Nostrand. This Committee is directed by Schedule A to Chapter 10 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement to recommend a Park Management Plan to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon Governments for approval.

This Draft Management Plan has been prepared following a review of public and government comments received on the draft management principles prepared last fall. Your comments on the recommendations outlined in this draft are welcome.

***The deadline for submissions is
Sept. 13th, 2002.***

The Steering Committee will prepare final edits to the Management Plan this fall and expects to submit the final recommendation to the two governments early this winter.

The Umbrella Final Agreement (1993) states that Special Management Areas may be established in accordance with the provisions set out in Chapter 10 of a Yukon First Nation Final Agreement.

The objective of Chapter 10 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 Indian People and Yukon First Nations.”

Tombstone Territorial Park has been established pursuant to Schedule A to Chapter 10 of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Final Agreement.

Schedule A to Chapter 10 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement.

1.0 Park Objectives

The Park objectives are set out in Schedule A. They are:

- to protect for all time a natural area of territorial significance which includes representative portions of the Mackenzie Mountains ecoregion, including the Ogilvie Mountains and Blackstone Uplands areas, and contains important physical and biological features as well as sites of archaeological, historical and cultural value, by the establishment of a territorial park under the Yukon Parks Act, to be known as Tombstone Territorial Park;
- to recognize and protect the traditional and current use of the area by the Tr'ondëk Huch'in in the development and management of the Park;
- to recognize and honour Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in history and culture in the area through the establishment and operation of the Park;
- to encourage public awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of the natural, historical and cultural resources of the Park in a manner that will ensure it is protected for the benefit of future generations;
- to provide economic opportunities to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in the development, operation and management of the Park in the manner set out in Schedule A.

2.0 Definitions

2.1 In this schedule, the following definitions shall apply.

“Core Area” means that the area identified as such on map “Tombstone Territorial Park, (TTP)”, in Appendix B- Maps, which forms a separate volume to this Agreement, but not including:

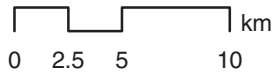
- (a) the lands described as Parcel S-26B/D, Parcel S-207B/D and Parcel S-208B/D in Appendix A – Settlement Land Descriptions to this Agreement, nor any land lying between those Parcels and the Major Highway known as the Dempster Highway; or
- (b) Lot 1000, Quad 116 B/8, Plan 70864 CLSR, 95-124 LTO.

“Study Area 1” means that area identified as such on map “Tombstone Territorial Park, (TTP)”, in Appendix B – Maps, which forms a separate volume to this Agreement.

“Study Area 2” means that area identified as such on map “Tombstone Territorial Park, (TTP)”, in Appendix B – Maps, which forms a separate volume to this Agreement.

“Study Area” means both Study Area 1 and Study Area 2.

Tombstone Territorial Park



- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in S Site
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in R Block
- Tombstone Corridor



figure 2

3.0 Establishment

- 3.1 Yukon shall establish the Core Area, and such portions of the Study Area as are decided pursuant to 5.0 to be included in the Park, as a natural environment park under the *Parks Act*, R.S.Y. 1986, c.126, in accordance with this schedule, as soon as practical following the determination of the boundaries of the Park pursuant to 5.0.
- 3.2 Canada shall transfer to the Commissioner of the Yukon the administration and control of Crown Land within the Park, excluding the mines and the right to work the mines and minerals, as soon as practical following the determination of the boundaries of the park pursuant to 5.0
- 3.3 Subject to 3.6, Canada shall prohibit entry on the Core Area and Study Area 1 for the purpose of locating, prospecting or mining under the *Yukon Quartz Mining Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y- 4 and the *Yukon Placer Mining Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-3, withdraw the Core Area and Study Area 1 from the disposal of any interest pursuant to the *Territorial Lands Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. T-7, and prohibit the issuance of interests under the *Canadian Petroleum Resources Act*, R.S.C. 1985 (2d Supp.), c. 36 in the Core Area and Study Area 1 for 24 months from the Effective Date of this Agreement or until the boundaries of the Park are determined pursuant to 5.0, whichever is earlier.
- 3.3.1 Subject to 3.6, no one may carry out any activities related to the exploration or production of Oil and Gas in the Core Area and Study Area 1 for 24 months from the Effective Date of this Agreement or until the boundaries of the Park are determined pursuant to 5.0, whichever is earlier.
- 3.3.2 Subject to 3.6, no one may explore for coal or stake for coal in the Core Area or Study Area 1 for 24 months from the Effective Date of this Agreement or until the boundaries of the Park are determined pursuant to 5.0, whichever is earlier.
- 3.4 Canada shall notate on its Territorial Resource base Maps and staking sheets Study Area 2 “Tombstone Park Study Area” for 24 months from the Effective Date of this Agreement or until the boundaries of the Park are determined pursuant to 5.0, whichever is earlier.
- 3.5 Following determination of the boundaries of the Park pursuant to 5.0, and subject to 3.6, Canada shall prohibit entry on the Park for the purpose of locating, prospecting or mining under the *Yukon Quartz Mining Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-4 and the *Yukon Placer Mining Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-3, withdraw the Park from the disposal of any interest pursuant to the *Territorial Lands Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. T-7 and prohibit the issuance of interests under the *Canadian Petroleum Resources Act*, R.S.C. 1985 (2d Supp.), c. 36 in the Park.
- 3.5.1 Following determination of the boundaries of the Park pursuant to 5.0, and subject to 3.6, no one may carry out any activities related to the exploration or production of Oil and Gas in the Park.
- 3.5.2 Following determination of the boundaries of the Park pursuant to 5.0, and subject to 3.6, no one may explore for coal in the Park.
- 3.6 For greater certainty, the provisions of 3.3 and 3.5 shall not apply in respect of:
- 3.6.1 existing recorded mineral claims and leases under the *Yukon Quartz Mining Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-4 and existing recorded placer mining claims and leases to prospect under the *Yukon Placer Mining Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-3;

- 3.6.2 existing oil and gas interests under the *Petroleum Resources Act*, R.S.C. 1985 (2d Supp.), c.36;
 - 3.6.3 existing rights granted under section 8 of the *Territorial Lands Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. T-7;
 - 3.6.4 any successor or replacement rights and any leases, licenses, permits or other rights which may be granted in respect of an interest described in 3.6.1, 3.6.2 or 3.6.3.
- 3.7 Designation as a natural environment park shall not be removed from any part of the Park except by the agreement of Government and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

4.0 Steering Committee

- 4.1 Government shall, as soon as practical and in any case no later than 90 days after the Effective Date of this Agreement, establish a steering committee (the "Steering Committee") to:
 - 4.1.1 review the Study Area and make recommendations on whether to include within the boundaries of the Park any portion of the Study Area; and thereafter to
 - 4.1.2 prepare a management plan for the Park.
- 4.2 The Steering Committee shall be comprised of four members of whom two shall be nominated by Government and two shall be nominated by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.
- 4.3 Prior to any appointments being made to the Steering Committee, the Minister and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in shall make reasonable efforts to reach consensus as to the individuals which each nominates to the Steering Committee.
- 4.4 In attempting to reach consensus under 4.3, the Minister and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in shall consider:
 - 4.4.1 any prospective nominee's familiarity with and sensitivity to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in culture and to the aspirations of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in relating to the Park;
 - 4.4.2 any prospective nominee's familiarity with renewable resources issues in the Park, park planning and park management, however, a prospective nominee will not be disqualified only because that nominee is not familiar with park planning and park management issues;
 - 4.4.3 the compatibility of proposed nominees; and any other matters to which the Minister and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in agree.
- 4.5 If, after having made the reasonable efforts required by 4.3, the Minister and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are unable to reach consensus, either may give written notice to the other setting out the names of the individuals whom it intends to nominate to the Steering Committee and 14 days thereafter may so nominate those individuals.
- 4.6 In conducting the review and preparing the management Plan, the Steering Committee shall recognize that oral history is a valid and relevant form of research for establishing the historical significance of Heritage Sites and Moveable Heritage Resources in the Park directly related to the history of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

5.0 Boundary Review

- 5.1 In its review of the Study Area, the Steering Committee shall provide for a public consultation process which recognizes the territorial significance of the Park.
- 5.2 Identification of any portions of the Study Area to be recommended for inclusion in the Park shall be consistent with and guided by the objectives of this schedule.
- 5.3 The Steering Committee shall make best efforts to complete its review of the Study Area, and to provide its recommendations to Government and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as to the boundaries of the Park, within 18 months of the Effective Date of this Agreement.
- 5.4 The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in or Government may refer the recommendations of the Steering Committee to the Yukon Heritage Resources Board, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and the Dawson District Renewable Resources Council for their review and recommendations.
- 5.5 Within 90 days of receipt of the Steering Committee's recommendations, Government and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in shall jointly review those recommendations and shall make reasonable attempts to reach consensus as to the boundaries of the Park.
- 5.6 If Government and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are unable to reach consensus as to the boundaries of the Park, either may refer the matter to the dispute resolution process under 26.4.0.
- 5.7 If the matter referred to the dispute resolution process under 5.6 is not resolved, the Minister may accept, vary or set aside the recommendations of the Steering Committee under 5.3 and the decision of the Minister as to the boundaries of the Park shall be forwarded to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and to Canada.

6.0 Management Plan

- 6.1 The Steering Committee shall make best efforts to recommend a Management Plan to Government and to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in within 18 months of the determination of the boundaries of the Park pursuant to 5.0.
- 6.2 The Management Plan shall be consistent with the objectives of this schedule.
- 6.3 In preparing the Management Plan, the Steering Committee shall provide for a public consultation process which recognizes the territorial significance of the Park.
- 6.4 The Management Plan shall address all matters pertaining to the management of the Park, including:
 - 6.4.1 management and protection of Fish and Wildlife and their habitat in the Park;
 - 6.4.2 management and protection of other renewable resources in the Park;
 - 6.4.3 management and protection of Heritage Resources in the Park;
 - 6.4.4 access to and use of the Park for recreational activities;
 - 6.4.5 access to and use of the Park for public harvesting of Fish and Wildlife;

- 6.4.6 access to and use of the Park for commercial purposes;
 - 6.4.7 traditional knowledge, customs and culture of Tr'ondëk Huch'in in connection with the Park and its natural and cultural resources;
 - 6.4.8 the role and views of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in elders in relation to the Park;
 - 6.4.9 the interest of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in the interpretation of place names and Heritage Resources in the Park directly related to the culture of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in;
 - 6.4.10 measures to enhance public awareness and appreciation of the Park;
 - 6.4.11 identification of specific economic opportunities for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Tr'ondëk Huch'in in the Park;
 - 6.4.12 permitting or other methods of regulating use of the Park; and
 - 6.4.13 such other matters as the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Government may jointly request the Steering Committee to consider.
- 6.5 The Steering Committee may refer the Management Plan to the Yukon Heritage Resources Board, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and the Dawson District Renewable Resources Council for their review and recommendations.

7.0 Approval and Review of the Management Plan

- 7.1 Within 90 days of receipt of the Management Plan, Government and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in shall jointly review the provisions set out therein and shall make reasonable efforts to reach a consensus as to the provisions to be included in the Management Plan.
- 7.2 If Government and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are unable to reach a consensus under 7.1, either may refer the matter to the dispute resolution process under 26.4.0.
- 7.3 If the matter referred to the dispute resolution process under 7.2 is not resolved, the Minister may accept, vary or set aside the provisions set out in the Management Plan, and the decision of the Minister as to the provisions to be included in the Management Plan shall be forwarded to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

8.0 Fish and Wildlife

- 8.1 For greater certainty, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Tr'ondëk Huch'in have the right to harvest Fish and Wildlife in the Park in accordance with Chapter 16 - Fish and Wildlife of this Agreement.

9.0 Forest Resources

- 9.1 The right of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Tr'ondëk Huch'in to harvest Forest Resources in the Park pursuant to Chapter 17 - Forest Resources shall be subject to the provisions of the Management Plan.

10.0 Economic Opportunities

- 10.1 In evaluating any competitive proposal, bid or tender for work associated with the establishment of the Park, construction of Park facilities and the operation and maintenance of the Park, Government shall include among the factors for consideration, employment of Tr'ondëk Huch'in, and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Tr'ondëk Huch'in ownership or equity investment in the firm submitting the proposal, bid or tender, and in any subcontractor to that firm.
- 10.2 Nothing in 10.1 shall be construed to mean that the criteria for employment of Tr'ondëk Huch'in, or for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Tr'ondëk Huch'in ownership or equity investment shall be the determining criteria in the award of any contract.
- 10.3 If a licensing or permitting regime in respect of a sector of the commercial wilderness adventure travel industry applicable to the Park is established and Government places a limit upon the number of such licenses or permits to be issued in respect of the Park, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in shall have a right of first refusal to acquire a portion of those licenses or permits as follows:
 - 10.3.1 in the first year that Government places the limit, Government shall offer to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in respect of the Park;
 - 10.3.1.1 25 percent of the licenses or permits to be issued, less the number of licenses or permits required to allow existing operations which are held by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Firms to operate at their then existing level in the Park; or
 - 10.3.1.2 the number of licenses or permits that remain after the then existing operations in the Park have been issued the licenses or permits that are required to allow them to operate at their then existing level in the Park,whichever is less; and
 - 10.3.2 in the second year, and each year thereafter, Government shall offer to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in any new licenses or permits issued from time to time in the Park until the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Firms together have been issued 25 percent of the licenses or permits issued from time to time.
- 10.4 In calculating the number of licenses or permits required to be offered to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in pursuant to 2.1 of Schedule A, Part II - Allocation of Licenses, Permits and Concessions of Chapter 22 - Economic Development Measures, the total number of licenses or permits to be issued in the Park in respect of a sector of the commercial wilderness adventure travel industry shall be included in the total number of licenses or permits to be issued in the Traditional Territory of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in respect of that sector.
- 10.5 The number of licenses or permits offered to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in pursuant to this schedule shall not be included in the calculation of the number of licenses or permits required to be offered to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in pursuant to 2.1 of Schedule A, Part II - Allocation of Licenses, Permits and Concessions of Chapter 22 - Economic Development Measures.
- 10.6 Licenses, Permits and Concessions of Chapter 22 - Economic Development Measures shall apply, with the exception of 4.13 which shall not apply, to the licenses or permits referred to in 10.3 and the issuance of such licenses or permits.
- 10.7 Nothing in 10.3 shall be construed to prevent the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in from acquiring additional licenses or permits in respect of a sector of the commercial wilderness adventure travel industry applicable to the Park in accordance with Laws of General Application.

11.0 Heritage

- 11.1 The Han language shall be included, where practicable, in any interpretive displays and signs regarding the history and culture of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in that may be erected in, or related to, the Park.
- 11.2 When considering the naming or renaming of places or features in the Park, the responsible agency shall consult with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.
- 11.3 Procedures to manage and protect Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Burial sites shall be established in accordance with Chapter 13 - Heritage of this Agreement.
- 11.4 In developing the Management Plan, the Steering Committee shall take into account the cultural and heritage significance of the heritage routes and sites within the Park identified in Schedule C - Heritage Routes and Sites to Chapter 13 of this Agreement and on map Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Routes and Sites (THHRAS), in Appendix B - Maps, which forms a separate volume to this Agreement.

12.0 Implementation and Review

- 12.1 The Park shall be managed in accordance with the Parks Act, R.S.Y. 1986, c. 126, the Wildlife Act, R.S.Y. 1986, c. 178 and the Historic Resources Act, S.Y. 1991, c. 8 and the Management Plan, or prior to the approval of the Management Plan, in accordance with the objectives set out in 1.0.
- 12.2 Prior to establishment of the Park under 3.1, the Core Area and Study Area 1 shall be managed in accordance with the objectives set out in 1.0.
- 12.3 The Management Plan shall be jointly reviewed by Government and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in no later than 10 years after its initial approval and at least every 10 years thereafter.
- 12.4 Review of the Management Plan under 12.3 shall include a process for public consultation.
- 12.5 Government and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in shall make reasonable efforts to reach consensus as to any action to be taken as a result of the review of the Management Plan.
- 12.6 If Government and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are unable to reach consensus pursuant to 12.5, Government shall determine what action, if any, shall result from the review of the Management Plan and shall advise the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in of its decision.
- 12.7 Government and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in shall consider and may develop mechanisms or enter into agreements to facilitate co-operative implementation and monitoring of the Management Plan.

13.0 Development Assessment and Land Use Planning

- 13.1 In carrying out their functions under Chapter 12 - Development Assessment, the Yukon Development Assessment Board and a Designated Office shall consider the Management Plan.
- 13.2 In developing a land use plan which includes all or part of the Park, a Regional Land Use Planning Commission shall consider the Management Plan.

■ Park Description

Tombstone Territorial Park is established as a Special Management Area pursuant to Schedule A to Chapter 10 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement. Encompassing about 2,200 square km, the Park is situated in the North Ogilvie Mountains and Mackenzie Mountains ecoregions, about an hour and a half drive north of Dawson City. The Dempster Highway bisects the Park and provides visitors with the opportunity to view stunning arctic tundra landscape.

Humans were drawn to this region long before the Dempster Highway was built. The Tombstone area shows remarkable continuity of occupation from the earliest Holocene, 8,000 years ago, to the historic period (Gotthardt, 1993). There are 78 known archaeological sites within the Park, including three microblade sites. This exceptional density of prehistoric use is not surprising given the availability of raw materials for stone tools and the abundance of subsistence resources, including caribou, fish and fur bearers. A concentration of diverse ecological niches in the Park has resulted in an equally diverse collection of flora and fauna, uncommon at this latitude.

The importance of the region to early hunters and fishers is well established. In more recent times the traditional territories of the Han, Tukudh and Teetl'it Gwich'in people overlapped here. Drawn by the abundant populations of game and other natural resources, today's aboriginal people are continuing the ancient use pattern.

Several human movement corridors traverse Tombstone Park (figure 3). These include North Fork Pass, North Klondike River, Hart Pass and Chandindu-Seela Pass. These corridors have been used from prehistoric times to present day. The Chandindu route is recognized in Chapter 13 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement as an important heritage route. The Lost Patrol also used this route during that ill-fated trip.

The Tombstone area has a very interesting geological history. A belt of granitic and syenitic intrusions, known as the Cretaceous Tombstone Suite, bisects the Park. This belt extends from Fairbanks to Ross River and beyond. These intrusions create the incredible vertical relief exemplified by Tombstone and Monolith Mountains and the spectacular scenery associated with Tombstone. The belt is also responsible for the high mineral potential in the area. Deposits associated with the intrusions resulted in extensive mineral exploration throughout the area over the past 100 years.

The area is distinctive in a number of ways. Multiple alpine glaciations sculptured sequences of tarns, cirques and moraines found nowhere else in Canada. The rugged beauty of the Tombstone and Cloudy ranges is but one of the region's many exceptional attributes.

The northern part of the Park features arctic tundra, with natural features and vegetation communities characteristic of the high arctic. The area includes an exceptional diversity of ice margin features such as moraines, ice thaw lakes, pingos, seasonal frost mounds, palsas, aufeis and patterned ground associated with ice wedge polygons.

A number of endemic plants, as well as several plant species of rare or uncommon occurrence, are found here. This is the most southerly point on the Dempster Highway where people can view arctic vegetation and features.

The continental divide runs through the Park, separating the Yukon and Mackenzie watersheds. The Chandindu and North Klondike rivers flow south out of the Park on the Yukon River side. Both are important salmon spawning rivers. The East and West Blackstone rivers flow north out of the Park on the Mackenzie side. Both host healthy populations of Dolly Varden and Grayling.

Abundant populations of five big game species inhabit the Park, which is highly unusual in so small an area. The geology and landforms to the north channel Porcupine caribou into the Park. The area is also critical to the Hart River caribou, an resident woodland herd. In addition, the Park includes key Dall sheep habitat and is important for moose, grizzly and black bears. Big game outfitting in the area dates back to the late 1940s.

The Park includes a wide range of habitats from boreal forest through alpine regions to the arctic tundra of the Blackstone Uplands. This is reflected in the wealth of bird species found there—145 are recorded. The area attracts birdwatchers from around the world. Whether it be a Gyrfalcon patrolling the willows for ptarmigan in the winter, or a Golden Plover just back from Hawaii, the Park offers outstanding opportunities for birding.

In the early 1900s, water was the natural resource of interest in Tombstone. The Yukon Gold Company constructed the Yukon Ditch over three years. By 1909 it was delivering 250,000 litres of water per minute from the Little Twelve Mile and Tombstone Rivers to hydraulic mining operations in the Klondike Goldfields almost 160 km away.

The Yukon Ditch was a system of pipe, flume and trenches. Local spruce, redwood from California and steel pipe imported from Pittsburg and Germany were used in construction. During the peak of operations, a thousand men worked in the powerhouse and along the Ditch.

The water diverted from the rivers to the Ditch also kept a hydro-electric plant producing 1200 kilowatts of electricity per day. Described as a marvel of early 20th century technology, the Yukon Ditch has been compared to the Panama Canal. The Ditch shut down in 1933 as mining technology advanced.

The Dempster Highway traverses the eastern side of the Park from south to north. It began as a winter road in the 1950s and later became a part of John Diefenbaker's Roads to Resources program. All-season construction began in 1958, reaching Chapman Lake in 1962. The road was completed in 1979. The late Joe Henry was instrumental in guiding the survey crews for both projects.

The Park encompasses exceptional hiking, sightseeing, hunting and fishing opportunities. The Blackstone Uplands provide superlative wildlife viewing opportunities. Other than the Dalton Highway/Alyeska Pipeline Haul Road in Alaska, the Dempster is the only place in North America offering visitors the chance to drive to "the arctic".

Tombstone Park is truly an extraordinary area. It is extremely rare to find such a richness, abundance and diversity of culture, history, habitats, vegetation and natural terrain, wildlife and associated habitats, geology and recreation potential in a small area. From any perspective, Tombstone Park and the values it contains are remarkable.

Schedule A to Chapter 10 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement assures the Tombstone area will be protected for all time as a Natural Environment Park.

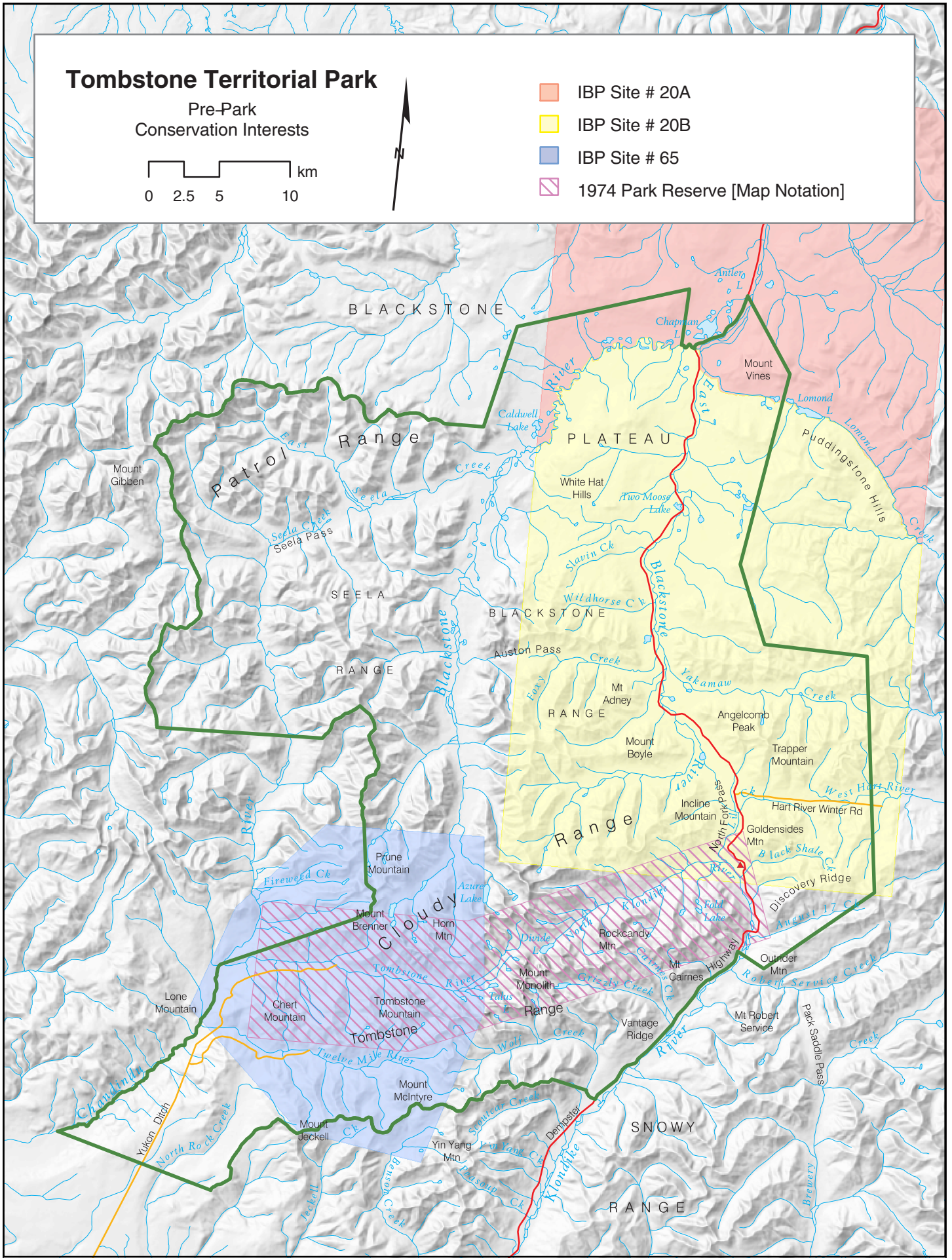


figure 4

Background

Conservation interests in the Tombstone Park area have spanned more than 25 years, officially starting in 1972. That year, investigations by a group of scientists from UNESCO's International Biological Program (IBP) identified two sites that currently fall within Tombstone Territorial Park. One site encircled Tombstone Mountain (336 sq. km) and the other extended north of Chapman Lake, west to Caldwell Lake and just south of the present day campground (1,476 sq. km).

These sites were determined to be of "exceptional" biological importance and interest, hence the designation under the International Program (figure 4). The Tombstone Mountain area was described as being "floristically significant" with unique mountain shapes resulting from the interesting underlying geological formations. The area was described as ecologically diverse, given the latitude. The Chapman Lake area was notable for the number of plant species with range extensions, pingos, and the best representatives of the spruce-willow birch zone.

In 1974, the Government of Yukon identified a park reserve on DIAND land maps. The reserve was designed to "protect" the view of Tombstone Mountain from the newly built Dempster Highway.

When the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in land claim negotiations began in the 1980s, the First Nation selected a portion of the Tombstone Park Reserve as a rural land selection. Given YTG had a previously stated interest in the area, both governments agreed to pursue a Special Management Area under the provisions of Chapter 10.

The original park reserve did not meet accepted conservation or recreation requirements for protected areas at the time of the negotiations. In 1993, researchers examined boundary options for a future territorial park. The contract study produced a recommendation for an area much larger than the park reserve, extending north to Chapman Lake.

Government staff and contractors carried out supplemental investigations in 1993. Reports highlighted tourism potential, archaeological, historical and cultural resources, mineral potential, wildlife resources and viewing opportunities. Land claim negotiators used this information to develop the Study Area agreed upon in the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement. All of this information is available in Tombstone Binder #1 at local public libraries and the Yukon Archives.

Schedule A to Chapter 10 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement assured the Tombstone area would be protected for all time as a natural environment park.

Tombstone Corridor

The Tombstone Corridor was excluded from the Park to provide for continued highway maintenance activities, a possible future pipeline and other public visitor infrastructure that may be required along the Dempster Highway. The Tombstone Corridor is addressed through a separate management plan.

The Tombstone Corridor is described as follows: (km references are to the Dempster Highway):

- West side of Dempster Highway: The corridor extends 500m from the centreline of the Dempster Highway from Wolf Creek (km 50.5) to the point where the Blackstone River crosses from the west to the east side of the road (km 115.3). At that point, the Tombstone Corridor follows the eastern right of way of the Dempster Highway north to km 123. There are variations in this boundary at Tombstone Campground to Moose Lake and R-19 at Chapman Lake (see figure 2).

- East side of Dempster Highway: The corridor extends 500m from the centreline of the Dempster Highway (km 67.3) north to where the East Blackstone River crosses the Dempster Highway (km 86). From here the corridor boundary follows the east bank of the most active channel of the East Blackstone River north to km 120.3.

The Tombstone Corridor will be managed under the Area Development Act and will not be subject to the requirements of Schedule A to Chapter 10 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement.

The Yukon government has committed to manage the Tombstone Corridor in a manner that complements Park values and is consistent with the Tombstone Park Management Plan.

Key Regulatory Powers

Nothing in this management plan will, or is intended to abrogate the rights guaranteed under the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement (THFA) or Self Government Agreement.

Schedule A of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement provides that Tombstone Territorial Park will be managed in accordance with the Yukon Parks Act (now Parks and Land Certainty Act), Wildlife Act, Historic Resources Act and the Park Management Plan. Schedule A also provides that the Management Plan must be consistent with the Objectives (1.0 of Schedule A). To the extent they are consistent with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement, all Laws of General Application (as defined by common law) continue to apply within Tombstone Territorial Park (e.g. Wilderness Tourism Licensing Act). New relevant legislation (e.g. DAP) will also apply within the Park.

Mineral claims and leases within the Park will be managed by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, in accordance with the Schedule A to Chapter 10 of the THFA, the Management Plan, and the Yukon Quartz Mining and Placer Mining Acts. Canada retains the administration and control of mines and minerals within the Park.

The interpretation of settlement agreements and common law is set out in Point 2.6 of the Umbrella Final Agreement (1993). For further clarity, the UFA states that “where there is any inconsistency or conflict between any federal, territorial or municipal law and a Settlement Agreement, the Settlement Agreement shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency or conflict.” This is reiterated in the Parks and Land Certainty Act, which provides the Act “applies to all parks, but only applies to a settlement agreement park to the extent that it is not inconsistent with or in conflict with the settlement agreement.”

Likewise, if there is “any inconsistency between a Yukon First Nations Settlement Agreement and the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the IFA shall prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.” In the case of Tombstone Territorial Park, this affects the management of Porcupine caribou as per the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement of 1985.

It should be noted that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in R-blocks and S-sites are not part of the Park and as such are not subject to this management plan or the Yukon Parks and Land Certainty Act.

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in may develop legislation under their Self Government Agreement to regulate activities on their Settlement Land. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in legislation may also regulate activities for which the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have responsibility and jurisdiction, such as subsistence hunting in the Park.

■ Guiding Principles

The following set of principles will guide decisions about the planning, management and operation of Tombstone Territorial Park. These principles reflect Park objectives and vision.

- The first consideration for any management decision will be whether park objectives as outlined in Schedule A to Chapter 10 are being met.
- The provisions of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement and other applicable Land Claims Agreements (e.g. Inuvialuit Final Agreement and related Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement) are not affected by these principles providing Park objectives are met.
- The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Federal and Yukon governments will share information for planning, management and operation of the Park.
- The views of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Elders will guide the management and operation of the park, at the discretion of the First Nation.
- Park managers will work with governments, mandated boards and councils, private sector operators and individuals to achieve common goals and objectives.
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in cultural, traditional and current activities will continue in Tombstone Park as per Park objectives.
- Applied scientific research, monitoring and analysis will be used alongside traditional and local knowledge as fundamental tools to make informed management decisions.
- Visitor use will be managed in ways that contribute to the protection of park resources, minimize user conflict and enhance public understanding, appreciation and enjoyment, while meeting Park objectives.
- Facility development will be kept to a minimum and considered only when it supports public health and safety, cultural or educational purposes, or resource protection.
- Motorized activity in the park will be prohibited except where provided for in Final Agreements, park zoning or grandfathered uses. Motorized activity will be discouraged in the future.
- No new roads (summer or winter) will be allowed in the Park.
- The Hart River Winter Road is and will continue to be recognized as an existing egress/access point off the Dempster Highway.
- The public will have ongoing opportunities for input and feedback into Park planning processes and management.
- Government marketing efforts for Tombstone will promote the Park as a special place where visitor activities are managed to ensure a high quality visitor experience is maintained and environmental impacts are minimized.
- The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement provides that Tombstone will be a natural environment park administered by the Yukon government. Adequate financial resources to meet park objectives will be the responsibility of the Yukon government, in co-operation with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.
- Park managers will ensure management activities are conducted using sound financial management and with full accountability to the Yukon public.

The successful management of Tombstone is the responsibility of this generation to future generations. Fulfilling the Park objectives and vision and adhering to the guiding principles will require commitment, dedication and cooperation. The management of Tombstone Park can serve as a model for how people with different views can work together to establish and protect special areas of the world.

Vision Statement

To protect for all time the pristine nature of Tombstone Territorial Park by preserving the physical, biological, archaeological and cultural values as well as enhancing the understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural resources of the Park in a manner that keeps it unimpaired for future generations.

Administration and Operations

Current Situation

The land contained in Tombstone Territorial Park presently falls under the administration and control of the Federal government. To the extent they are consistent with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement, all Laws of General Application apply within the Park. The Final Agreement places a prohibition on locating, prospecting or mining under the *Yukon Quartz and Placer Mining Acts* and on the issuance of interests under the *Territorial Lands Act* and the *Yukon Oil and Gas Act*. Mining claims existing at the time of the effective date for the THFA are excepted from this prohibition.

The administration and control of park land will be transferred from the Federal to the Yukon government sometime in 2002. The Federal government retains responsibility for the administration and control of existing mines and mineral related activities.

The *Parks and Land Certainty Act* will be used to manage land use and visitor activities within the Park upon designation by Cabinet. Other Acts (e.g. *Wildlife Act*, *Historic Resources Act*) continue to apply within the Park to the extent they are consistent with the Final Agreement.

Prior to the establishment of the Park and the approval of the Park Management Plan, Tombstone Park must be managed in accordance with the objectives contained in Schedule A. Likewise, the Park Management Plan must be consistent with the objectives.

After the establishment of the Park and the approval of the Park Management Plan, the Park will be managed in accordance with the *Parks Act* (now the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*), the *Wildlife Act*, the *Historic Resources Act* and the Tombstone Territorial Park Management Plan.

Work to Date

To date, land use activities within the park boundaries have been managed by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND). The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Canadian Wildlife Service and Environment Canada have also managed activities or resources falling under their respective legislative authority in the Park.

The Yukon Government has been responsible for managing activities falling under territorial legislation, for example, the *Historic Resources Act*, *Wildlife Act*, or where responsibilities have been delegated to the Territorial Government (e.g. regulation of fresh water fisheries).

The Northern Region Superintendent of Parks has administered the Tombstone Campground with maintenance services provided by employees and contract staff.

Initially, the Dempster Interpretive Centre was administered by the Wildlife Viewing Program and the Parks Branch of the Environment Department. The Centre is staffed on contract. In recent years, the Parks and Protected Areas Branch has administered contract. Staff provide visitor service information to travelers in the area and on the Dempster Highway, and have administered a voluntary registration system for backcountry travelers for several years.

In 2001, a 10-month seasonal auxiliary park ranger provided operational support to the Fishing Branch Protected Areas and Tombstone Territorial Park. This position is currently based in Dawson City. YTG Fish and Wildlife staff servicing the Tombstone area are also located in Dawson (e.g. Regional Biologist, Conservation Officers).

Management Principles

1. The management of Tombstone Territorial Park will be consistent with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement and will be conducted in a manner that recognizes the legislative and regulatory authority of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Yukon and Federal governments.

Key Actions:

- Governments will determine which departments or branches will manage respective activities in the Park.
- Governments will determine a means to coordinate the management of activities in the Park.
- The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon governments will develop a way to co-operatively implement and monitor this Management Plan.
- The views of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in elders will guide the management and operation of the park, at the discretion of the First Nation.

2. Park management and operations will adhere to these management principles unless deemed necessary for the protection of natural and cultural resources, conservation, public health and safety, or other emergencies.

Key Actions:

- Operational guidelines will be developed by YTG to guide park management in the areas of visitor services, infrastructure development and search and rescue within one year of signing this plan.
- YTG and TH will jointly develop operational guidelines for retrieving and collecting heritage resources.
- The Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) will continue to provide services in the Park as per their mandate. A Memorandum of Understanding will be developed between Parks and Protected Areas Branch and EMO to further outline roles and responsibilities.
- DIAND will continue to provide fire management support in the Park until devolution. A Memorandum of Understanding between Parks and Protected Areas Branch and DIAND Fire Management will direct this support.

3. Park operations will be supported by the approval of yearly appropriations by the Government of Yukon sufficient to meet the objectives outlined in Schedule A.

Key Actions:

- A prioritized list of key actions is appended to this plan and will be used to direct operational and capital spending.

4. The Yukon government will ensure that Tombstone Territorial Park and Tombstone Corridor administration and operations are managed in a consistent manner, as outlined in the respective management plans.

Key Actions:

- Responsibilities for managing activities within Tombstone Park and Corridor will be identified and coordinated.

5. Decisions relating to the administration and operation of Tombstone Territorial Park will be made in the context of the surrounding region.

Key Actions:

- Park managers will liaise with agencies with legislative authorities outside the park on matters of common interest.
- Existing boards and councils will be utilized, as per their mandates, for matters relating to park administration .
- Park managers will inform boards and councils of park management issues and decisions relating to their mandates.

Expected Results

Successful implementation of these principles will:

- ensure Schedule A objectives are met efficiently and effectively,
- ensure there is consistency in the operational management of the Tombstone Territorial Park and Tombstone Corridor,
- eliminate duplication of operational efforts among managing agencies, departments, branches, boards and/or councils, and
- provide Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in with meaningful involvement in the management and operation of the park.

Natural Resource Protection and Use

Current Situation

Tombstone Park is rich in both species diversity and vegetation communities due to the physiography and climate of the area. The area hosts many endemic plants as well as several species of rare and uncommon occurrence. Few other areas in the Yukon provide such a varied and diverse set of natural features in such concentration (e.g. moraines, frost mounds, palsas, ice thaw lakes, pingos, patterned ground from ice wedge polygons).

Vegetation communities associated with shrub tundra are found in the northeast section of the park, including riparian willow habitat important to gyrfalcon, moose and other fauna. The vegetation and natural features are almost indistinguishable from the high arctic, providing a major attraction for visitors and scientists.

The natural resources in the Tombstone Park area have been used for over 8,000 years and continue to be enjoyed today. The fact that five big game species occur in sufficient density to support consistent commercial and recreational harvest opportunities is unusual for this latitude (woodland and barren-ground caribou, grizzly and black bear, moose, Fannin and Dall sheep).

The area is popular for resident hunters from all parts of the Yukon. Portions of three big game outfitting concessions and six different traplines fall within the park. Management principles directly related to these concessions are found in the Commercial Activities section.

The Park straddles the continental divide, and as a result it includes fish assemblages for the Mackenzie and Yukon river drainages. The Blackstone River is important habitat for grayling and Dolly Varden. The Chandindu and North Klondike rivers are two of the most important salmon spawning streams in the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional territory. Recreational fishing levels in the park are unknown, and there is no commercial harvest.

Wildlife viewing opportunities from the Dempster Highway attract visitors to the Tombstone area in the spring for birding, in summer to view bear and moose, and in the fall to watch the Porcupine caribou herd.

As per point 8.1 of Schedule A to Chapter 10 of the THFA, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have the right to harvest fish and wildlife in the Park. The adoption of any park management guidelines related to these activities will be at the discretion of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Chief and Council.

Work to Date

Research on natural resource management and use in Tombstone Territorial Park has been limited. Scientists with the International Biological Program (IBP) of UNESCO conducted initial research in the area in 1972 as part of a survey of northern Canada, leading to the identification of two IBP sites in the region.

Further research was conducted during the construction of the Dempster Highway. This information was used, in part, to develop the Dempster Highway Area Development Regulations which came into effect in 1979. These regulations deal with things like access off the Dempster Highway by motorized vehicles.

Biologists and scientists conducted limited studies as part of the Tombstone Park land claim negotiations, boundary identification and management planning work. This included “Assessment of the Vegetation, Terrain and Natural Features in the Tombstone Area” (Kennedy & Smith, 1999), “Summary of Wildlife Population and Habitat Information” (Kienzler 1999) to name a few.

Most of the fish and wildlife work in this area has been recommended by the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, the Yukon Salmon Committee and completed by the Fish and Wildlife Branch, YG. It is agreed that wildlife, avian, fish, ecological and natural feature data for this area is incomplete. Wildlife harvest quotas are not established for the Tombstone region specifically, but are set for the game sub-zones. Baseline data for the sub-zones in this area is sparse.

Of note is the ongoing 30-year study of the ecological relationships between gyrfalcons, ptarmigans and riparian willow habitat. The study area is located just north of North Fork Pass on both sides of the Dempster Highway.

For a complete listing of the technical studies that were commissioned, reviewed or submitted as part of the Tombstone boundary and management planning process, refer to Tombstone Binders #1 - 4 located in the Yukon Archives.

Management Principles

1. Distinct geomorphological features, wildlife/fish/avian habitat and plants will be given special consideration when managing human use in the park.

Key Actions:

- Key wildlife/fish/avian habitat, sensitive geomorphological features and natural terrain, and unique or rare plant communities will be identified, mapped and described.
- The data will be used to promote a greater appreciation and understanding of park values and assist park managers in making well informed decisions about human use in the park,
- Research — comprised of traditional, local and scientific knowledge — of these features will be encouraged.
- Areas identified as particularly sensitive to disturbance, such as critical wildlife habitat, may be closed to all human activities on a temporal and spatial basis.

2. Natural processes will continue without human intervention unless there is a threat to public health and safety or identified values at risk.

Key Actions:

- The Yukon and Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in will work with DIAND Fire Management to identify values at risk in the Park and develop a MOU for appropriate fire management procedures.

3. Water which is on or flowing through the Park will remain substantially unaltered as to quantity, quality and rate of flow, including seasonal rate of flow.

Key Actions:

- Baseline data will be collected and water will be monitored to ensure these factors remain substantially unaltered.

4. All snowmobile activity in the Park will be managed to minimize impact to natural resources.

Key Actions:

- Snowmobile activity to support trapping, and resident and non-resident hunting will be allowed throughout the park, subject to the minimum snow depth requirements.
- Other snowmobile use will be provided for through the Winter Travel Route and Recreational Snowmobile Use Subzones.
- A snow pack of 15 - 30.5 cm (6 -12 inches) over frozen ground is recommended for snowmobile use in the Park, or the level of snow required to ensure snowmobile activity does not damage vegetation or soil (e.g. willows, ground cover).
- All snowmobile activity in the Park will be monitored to determine if vegetation and wildlife are being negatively affected. This data should be used to revisit the snow depth recommendation during the next Management Plan review.
- All snowmobile activity will be managed to ensure gyrfalcon and golden eagle nesting sites and winter sheep habitat are not disturbed.
- The next Management Plan will consider whether snowmobile use in the Park should be restricted to 4-cycle engines.

5. Resident and non-resident wildlife harvesting will continue within the Park subject to Park objectives, the Wildlife Act and the Park Management Plan.

Key Actions:

- Temporary hunting closures or delayed seasonal openings will be used to ensure public health and safety in areas of high visitor use.
- The Dawson District Renewable Resource Council, Porcupine Caribou Management Board and Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board are mandated to address wildlife harvesting in the territory, including the Park. The following recommendations are put forward for consideration by these Boards and Councils:
 - Consider changes to current hunting regulations so that they are the same along the Tombstone Corridor and in the Park between km 68 to the southern boundary of the Park (km 65.3 on the east side of the road, km 50 on the west side).
 - Consider creating a separate game management sub-zone for the park or realign existing sub-zones to align with park boundaries.
 - Consider eliminating snowmobile assisted resident hunting in the Park in the future.
 - Consider applying the same hunting regulations throughout the Park.

6. Fishing will continue within the Park subject to Park objectives, the Yukon Territorial Fisheries Regulations (under the Federal Fisheries Act) and the Park Management Plan.

Key Actions:

- An inventory of fish stocks in alpine lakes will be conducted and sustainable harvest levels will be developed for the next Management Plan review.
- Stocking of lakes and rivers or aquaculture operations will not be allowed in the Park.

7. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in may, during all seasons of the year, harvest forest resources for non-commercial purposes in the Park providing the Park objectives are met. A Park Use Permit is not required.

8. The establishment of non-indigenous species will not be allowed in the Park.

Key Actions:

- Where possible, non-indigenous species will be removed from the Park.

9. The use of non-indigenous species in the Park will require a Park Use Permit. Permits will only be issued when there is negligible risk of disease transmission to endemic wildlife.

Key Actions:

- Llama use will not be permitted until there is evidence that the risk of disease transmission to sheep is negligible.

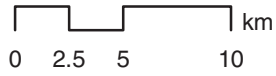
Expected Results

Successful implementation of these principles will:

- protect natural resources found in the Park,
- ensure all harvest activities are sustainable to allow for ongoing use and enjoyment of those resources,
- ensure harvesters are provided with simple and clear rules for their activities within the Park,
- ensure activities within the Park do not harm the resources that are to be protected therein, and
- implement proactive management of natural resources based on sound scientific and traditional knowledge.

Tombstone Territorial Park

Archeological and Historical Resources



- Historic Site
- Area of High Archeological Value
- Prehistoric / Historic Travel Route

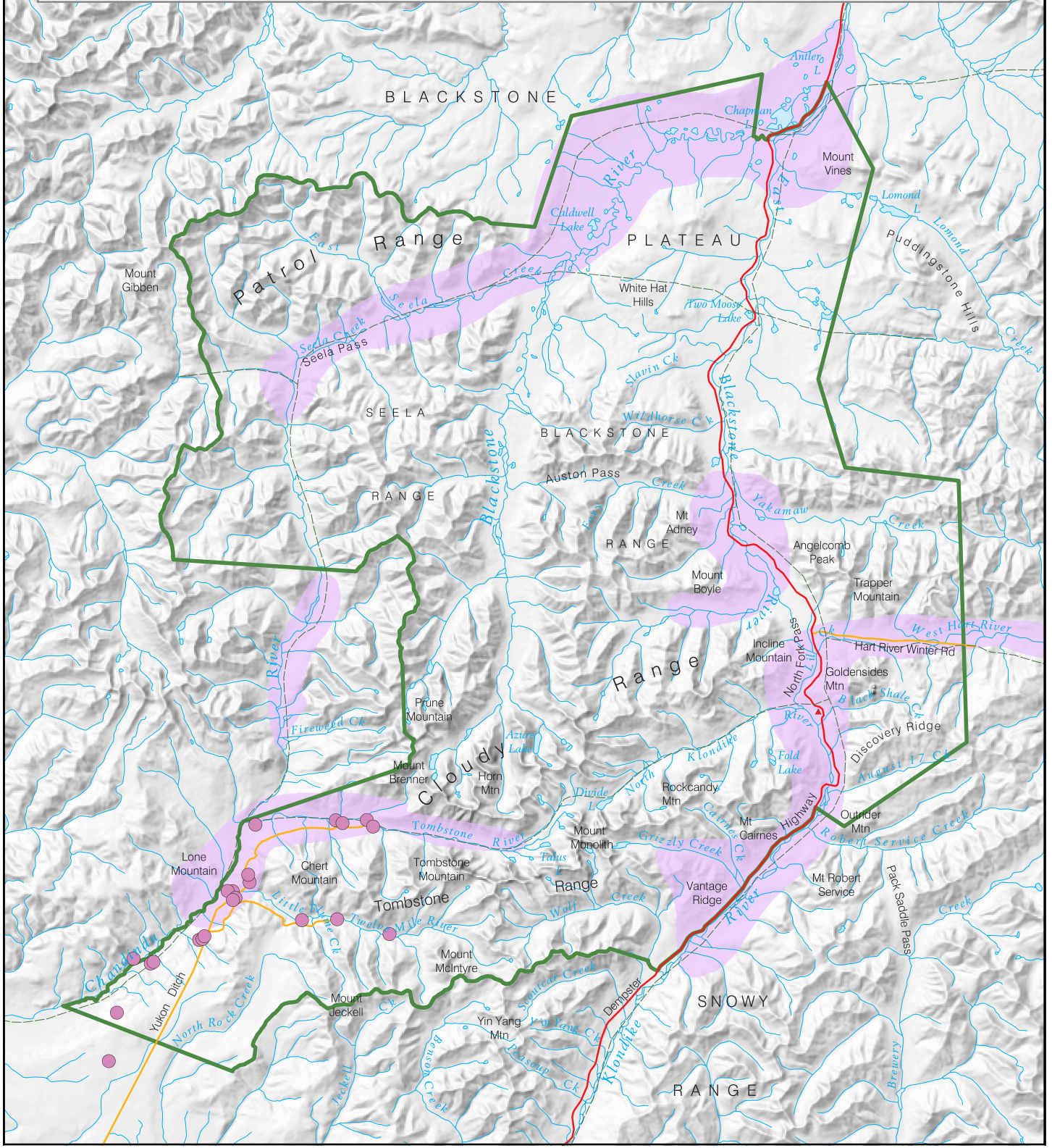


figure 5

Current Situation

Investigations in the Park reveal an exceptional density of prehistoric occupation, likely related to the abundance of natural resources in the area. The winter ranges of Porcupine and Hart River caribou (barren ground and woodland herds respectively) overlap in this region, making it particularly attractive to hunters. Archaeological evidence suggests this pattern of use has existed for eight to ten thousand years, and perhaps longer.

A further attraction for hunters of the past was the presence of high quality black and grey chert, a stone prized for the making of tools. Chert is the local bedrock found in the North Fork Pass and Hart Pass areas.

More recently, the traditional territories of the Han, Tukulh and Teetl'it Gwich'in overlapped in this area. All three First Nations used the area to fish, hunt and make the tools they needed to live. Until the Gold Rush era, the region was used extensively by aboriginal people traveling in seasonal cycles. During the Gold Rush, some took advantage of economic opportunities in nearby Dawson City. Others dispersed to Dawson, Mayo, Old Crow and Fort McPherson. First Nation families born and raised in the Tombstone area still live in Dawson and Fort McPherson.

Traditional travel routes traverse the Park, following the North Klondike and East Blackstone River valleys (branching east to Hart Pass); along the upper Blackstone River to Seela Pass; and along the Chandindu River to the Yukon River.

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement and Yukon Historic Resources Act provide the obligations and authorities for the management of heritage resources in the Park.

The Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre in Dawson City is the focal point for interpretation of First Nation culture in the traditional territory. Tombstone Park is part of that story.

Work to Date

Traditional and historic sites in the Dempster Highway Corridor were documented and summarized in a report by Sheila Greer (1989), including several sites situated in Tombstone Park and Corridor.

Preliminary archaeological work in the proposed Tombstone Mountain Territorial Park was carried out in 1993 and 1999 as part of research efforts to define park boundaries. Seventy eight prehistoric sites were identified. Based on the technologies represented, occupation of the Tombstone Park area likely spans the past 10,000 years.

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon governments have been working with the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and Teetlit Gwich'in elders on heritage investigations and management in the northern reaches of the park.

Louise Profeit-Leblanc conducted oral history work with Joe and Annie Henry and Mary Vittrekwa in the 1980s. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in conducted further studies and fieldwork with elder Percy Henry to document traditional use in the Tombstone region. These studies were augmented by a brief survey of the Black City/Ts'ok giitl'in area by the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute with Teetl'it Gwich'in elder Walter Alexie (Kritsch, 2000). The survey located camps used historically by Alfred Bonnetplume and possibly Old Man Michel, two isolated caches and a grave. Additional camps are thought to be present in the area.

Background research, inventory and assessment of Yukon Ditch heritage resources took place in three phases, from 1990 to 1993. Six weeks of field research was completed, plus considerable archival and oral history research. Researchers recorded all main sites, took ground-based photos and completed Yukon Historic Sites Inventory forms. Aerial photos were also taken in a 1993 visit to determine potential park boundaries. A total of more than 22 sites are recorded as well as numerous important features.

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are also completing work for the Tr'ochëk Heritage Site management planning process. Storylines for the Han culture currently in development will apply to Tombstone Park.

Management Principles

1. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon Governments will work together to protect and interpret heritage resources within the Park.

Key Actions:

- The two governments will identify the most appropriate management actions for dealing with impacts on heritage resources at each of the identified heritage sites/zones, including relevant storylines and messages.
- The views of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in elders, and other First Nation elders as appropriate, will be considered when developing actions for First Nation heritage resources.
- A monitoring program will be developed for the heritage sites/zones to assist in adjusting management approaches as required.
- The Guidelines Respecting the Discovery of Human Remains and Burial Sites in the Yukon, Chapter 13 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement and the Yukon Historic Resources Act will be used to develop procedures for “found” objects in the Park.

2. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in will own and manage heritage resources related to the culture and history of Yukon Indian People in the Park as per the provisions of Chapter 13 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement, and the Yukon Historic Resources Act.

Key Actions:

- Heritage sites related to the culture and history of the Yukon Indian People within the park will be managed with respect for Yukon Indian values and culture.
- As an interim protection measure, all activities at vulnerable heritage sites will require a Park Use Permit, until such time as management strategies are developed for the sites.
- Activities in known First Nation burial and Heritage Sites will require the written permission of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, until management strategies are developed for the sites.
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and where appropriate Teetl'it Gwich'in elders will recommend place names for heritage sites and culturally significant features.
- First Nation storylines and messages will be developed and provided by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in for use in park literature and interpretive programs, in conjunction with the Yukon government or other First Nations where appropriate.

3. Information, education and interpretation will be used as key management tools in the protection of the Park's archaeological, First Nation heritage, historical and palaeontological resources.

Key Actions:

- All visitors will receive key messages about appropriate behaviour and activities around heritage sites, as well as key points from the Historic Resources Act.
- First Nations culture, history and use of the Tombstone area will be a major interpretive theme, with the Tombstone Visitor Centre and Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre playing important roles in the presentation of this information.
- The Yukon Ditch will be recommended for designation under the Yukon Historic Resources Act and interpreted.
- The Dempster Highway will be recognized for its historical significance and interpreted.
- The Dawson to Fort McPherson route (Lost Patrol route) identified in Schedule C to Chapter 13 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement will be recognized and interpreted.
- Key messages relating to identified heritage sites and zones will be developed, along with strategies for delivery of those messages.
- The Tombstone Visitor Centre will be used as the main onsite venue to interpret these messages.

4. Archaeological/historical inventory and salvage work will be conducted in areas of known high potential prior to any increases in human use or development.

Key Actions:

- Ongoing oral history work will be needed to identify areas of potential concern.
- All inventory, salvage and research work will include opportunities for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in elders and youth.

Expected Results

Successful implementation of these strategies will result in:

- visitors who understand what activities and behaviour are appropriate in relation to heritage resources and sites in the Park,
- visitors who understand and respect the First Nation and non-First Nation heritage of the area,
- proactive research and management actions for sensitive or vulnerable heritage sites and resources,
- ease of access to appropriate heritage sites and areas,
- a contemporary understanding of why this area was and continues to be so important to First Nation people, and
- Tombstone's important role in the interpretation of First Nation history and culture.

Identified Heritage Sites/Areas

Based on oral history studies conducted by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, along with historic site and archaeological investigations, a number of heritage sites and areas have been identified. Given the nature or location of these sites/areas further work is required to develop clear management actions.

An overview of the significance of these areas and preliminary management recommendations are listed below. For further information on these sites, refer to the technical reports prepared for the Tombstone boundary and management plan work (see figures 3 & 5).

Yukon Ditch

The Yukon Ditch was a system of pipe, flume and ditch built to transport water over the Tombstone and Little Twelve Mile Rivers in the Ogilvie Mountains to the Klondike Goldfields, over 160 km away. Although portions are overgrown and some remnants burned in a forest fire (1999), a considerable number of ditch sites and features remain. The Yukon Ditch is considered to be one of the greatest feats of early 20th century industrial development in North America.

A detailed report on the Yukon Ditch was prepared by Barb Hogan and Greg Skuce in 1993 as part of research conducted during Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in land claim negotiations and Government of Yukon Historic Sites Inventory program.

Management considerations

Access to the Yukon Ditch features is relatively easy. The main power house on the Little Twelve Mile River is a 10-minute helicopter trip from Dawson City.

Given the sites will probably receive more attention as visitation to the Park increases, it will be important to:

- document the state of the resources on a regular basis,
- identify which buildings and features may require stabilization for public safety, appreciation and enjoyment,
- develop appropriate storylines and messages for the Ditch to be used for visitor education and information, and
- designate the Ditch as a Heritage Site under the Yukon Historic Resources Act.

Interim measures for these sites should include monitoring as well as visitor information signs posted at appropriate access points to mitigate visitor impacts in the short term.

Ts'ok giitl'in and Black City

Ts'ok giitl'in is a Gwich'in word meaning "spruce standing in an arc." The area was used by the Tukudh Gwich'in, Teetl'it Gwich'in and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as a regular camping spot during their seasonal rounds.

Black City was used as a social gathering place for First Nation people and, in later years, hunters, trappers and traders. Black City is designated as an R-block through the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement. The First Nation owns the site and is responsible for management of this area.

Descriptions of these sites are contained in the *Preliminary Archaeological Inventory of the Proposed Tombstone Mountain Territorial Park*, 1993; the *Preliminary Report on Cultural Values of Tombstone Park to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in*, 1999; and other reports written by Sheila Greer in the 1980s.

Both sites are important to First Nation people. They may be sensitive to visitor impacts based on their location and the heritage resources located there.

Management considerations

Management approaches may include:

- controlling access (guided tours or directing park users away from the sites),
- ensuring visitors receive information about resources in the area (caches, tent frames) and the need to respect the sites and avoid damage,
- thoroughly documenting the sites in Ts'ok giitl'in with additional oral history work, and
- investigating the possible requirement for special management for Michel's Cabin, Noils Cabin and/or Michel's No. II Cabin.

Access to the sites should not be encouraged until such time as the resources are better documented and appropriate management guidelines are developed. Appreciation and understanding of the sites will be an important aspect of managing and protecting the resources. Public education and key messages asking visitors to respect and not disturb the sites is required.

North Fork Pass /Tombstone Campground

The North Fork Pass and Tombstone Campground contain a very high density of archaeological sites in surface context. Work to date indicates that the moraines contained within and close to the campground have been used for thousands of years.

A traditional heritage route used by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in ran through North Fork Pass and up to Black City.

More development is expected in this area over the next few years, such as a new Visitor Centre, additional interpretive trails and/or day use facilities. The Tombstone Campground and North Fork Pass areas will continue to receive increased visitation, as has been recorded over the past few years.

Management considerations

Visitor use is likely to cause serious impacts on surface resources. Archaeological salvage in these areas is required.

Seela Pass, Hart River Winter Road, Tombstone River, North Klondike River, Grizzly Creek

All of these areas (except Grizzly Creek) are traditional routes that have been used pre-historically and historically by First Nation and non-First Nation people. These areas have now been identified as winter travel routes, existing routes for motorized access, or in the case of Grizzly Creek, a popular visitor day use and overnight destination. This means human use may be concentrated in these areas in the future.

Many archaeological sites are located in surface context in these particular areas. As well, a traditional heritage route identified in Schedule C to Chapter 13 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement—from Dawson to Fort McPherson—passes through Seela Pass.

Management considerations

Management approaches for these areas may include:

- providing visitor information and education on the heritage resources and appropriate visitor activity in these areas,
- further inventory and documentation of resources,
- recovery as resources permit, and
- ongoing monitoring of visitor use in these areas.

Dempster Interpretive Centre Visitation 1986-2001

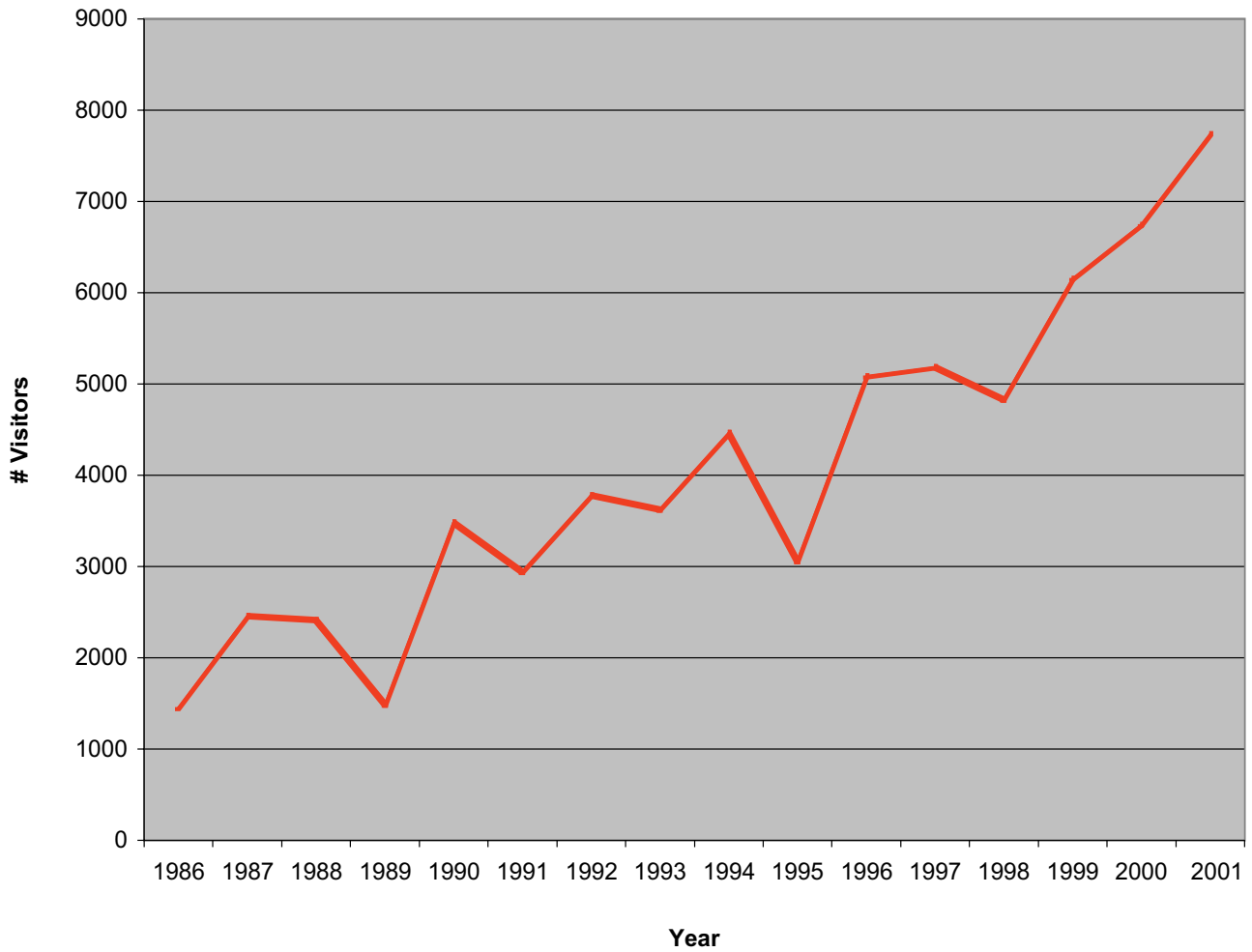


figure 6

Current Situation

Tombstone Territorial Park is well known throughout the Yukon. There has been controversy surrounded the Park's establishment. Work over the past four years by the Tombstone Steering Committee (TSC) has helped to increase understanding of the actual values and resources within the Park and the reasons for park establishment.

International and national media coverage has also increased worldwide awareness of the Tombstone area. A growing number of people appreciate the critical values in the Park and the importance of protecting the area. Articles on the Park appeared in magazines including *Explore* and *Canadian Geographic*, while television coverage of events like the Fulda Challenge and Trans Canada Relay increase awareness. Images of the Park have appeared in numerous books that showcase the Yukon.

The Dempster Interpretive Centre provides interpretive services and basic visitor service information to Dempster Highway travelers and park visitors during the summer months. Basic information is available at YTG and NWT Visitor Reception Centres in Dawson City.

Several books and guides have been written about the Dempster Highway and the Tombstone area, leading to an increased awareness about the Park.

Stunning images from the Park are used in various marketing and media campaigns. The Park area has also been used for film and commercial productions.

Work to Date

Operating under contract since 1985, the Dempster Interpretive Centre has probably been the most effective communication conduit for the Park. The primary role of the Centre is to provide interpretive services about the Dempster Highway and Tombstone region to highway travelers. As awareness about Tombstone Park increased through the 1990s, there was a corresponding increase in the number of people searching for information on the Park (see figure 6).

The Dempster Interpretive Centre is playing an increasingly important role in providing pre-trip planning and onsite visitor service information. The staff also assist in preventing conflicts between wildlife and visitors, and provide information and assistance in an emergency.

The Dempster Interpretive Strategy (1989) proposed a framework for interpreting the exceptional natural, human and cultural heritage along the Dempster Highway. The objective of the Strategy was to enhance visitor experience on the highway, while safeguarding the values that make the region so attractive. Most of the 1989 report still applies to the highway experience today.

In the late 1990s, the Government of the NWT opened a Visitor Information Centre in Dawson City to provide information on the Western Arctic. The primary target audience is Dempster Highway travelers heading to Inuvik, NWT. The Centre provides basic information about the Tombstone area to highway travelers before they leave Dawson City, as well as an exchange of information with travelers returning from Inuvik.

YG Visitor Reception Centres provide basic information on Tombstone and at other locations in the territory. This includes a printed travelogue for the Dempster Highway, information on special events and general hiking information.

Search and rescue and other emergency measures information and communication has been handled by the RCMP, DIAND and EMO depending on the nature of the incident. Conservation officers in Dawson provide information to local hunters and fishers.

The Yukon government's Environment Department website was recently updated to provide basic information on park values and features.

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Culture and Education Department is developing Han storylines and increasing their interpretive programming efforts through the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre. In combination with archaeological research projects and oral history work, understanding is increasing about the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's role at Tr'ochëk Heritage Site and the Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Sites, along with Tombstone Park. The Cultural Centre is becoming the focal point for heritage interpretation in the traditional territory.

YG has completed some work over the past decade to prepare for the replacement of the Dempster Interpretive Centre. The new Centre is still in the initial planning stages and will involve the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Yukon Tourism and other key partners and managers. The new Centre's focus will expand to include interpretation of natural and cultural history as well as visitor services information and park administration.

Since 1998, most communication on Tombstone Park has been through the Tombstone Steering Committee. The TSC provided regular mailouts, an up-to-date website and regular public meetings, and publications about their work to develop the park boundary and Management Plan. This information will be a valuable resource for future park managers, visitors and researchers.

Management Principles

1. Communication—education, interpretation, information services, liaison with key stakeholders—will be the primary means to enhance visitor experience and protect park resources.

Key Actions:

- Communication strategies will be developed that build on existing work (e.g. *Preliminary Notes on Visitor Services in Tombstone* (2001), the *Dempster Interpretive Strategy* (1989), Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in oral history research).
- Interpretive themes and messages will be developed based on the Park's significant natural and cultural values .
- Key audiences and evaluation components will be developed for all communication strategies.

2. Communication efforts for the Park and Tombstone Corridor will be integrated and addressed through the development of a Visitor Activities Service Plan.

Key Actions:

- A Visitor Activities Service Plan will include communication goals flowing from Tombstone Park and Corridor objectives, target audiences, key messages and expected results. The Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in governments will assist in preparing this plan.
- A new Tombstone Visitor Centre at the Tombstone Campground will be built and provide information services and interpretive messages for the Park and Dempster Highway.

- The *Dempster Highway Interpretive Strategy* (1989) messages will continue to be used for the Park and Tombstone Corridor.

3. Park users will be provided with information they need to make well informed decisions about their trip and actions in the Park.

Key Actions:

- Pre-trip planning and orientation information will be available to all park users.
- Information related to management issues and decisions will be shared and communicated to park users on a timely basis.
- Visitor information and interpretive services will be provided at appropriate locations in the Park and Tombstone Corridor, as well as through existing facilities in Dawson City and a new Tombstone Visitor Centre.

4. Communication goals will be linked to regional, territorial and national programs, where appropriate.

Key Actions:

- Information will be shared with other governments, branches, mandated boards and councils, and conservation and education organizations.
- An understanding of Tombstone Park's contribution to larger conservation initiatives will be fostered.
- The role of the private sector, volunteers and other organizations in delivering communication messages will be explored.

5. Opportunities to learn about park resources, values and management actions will be available.

Key Actions:

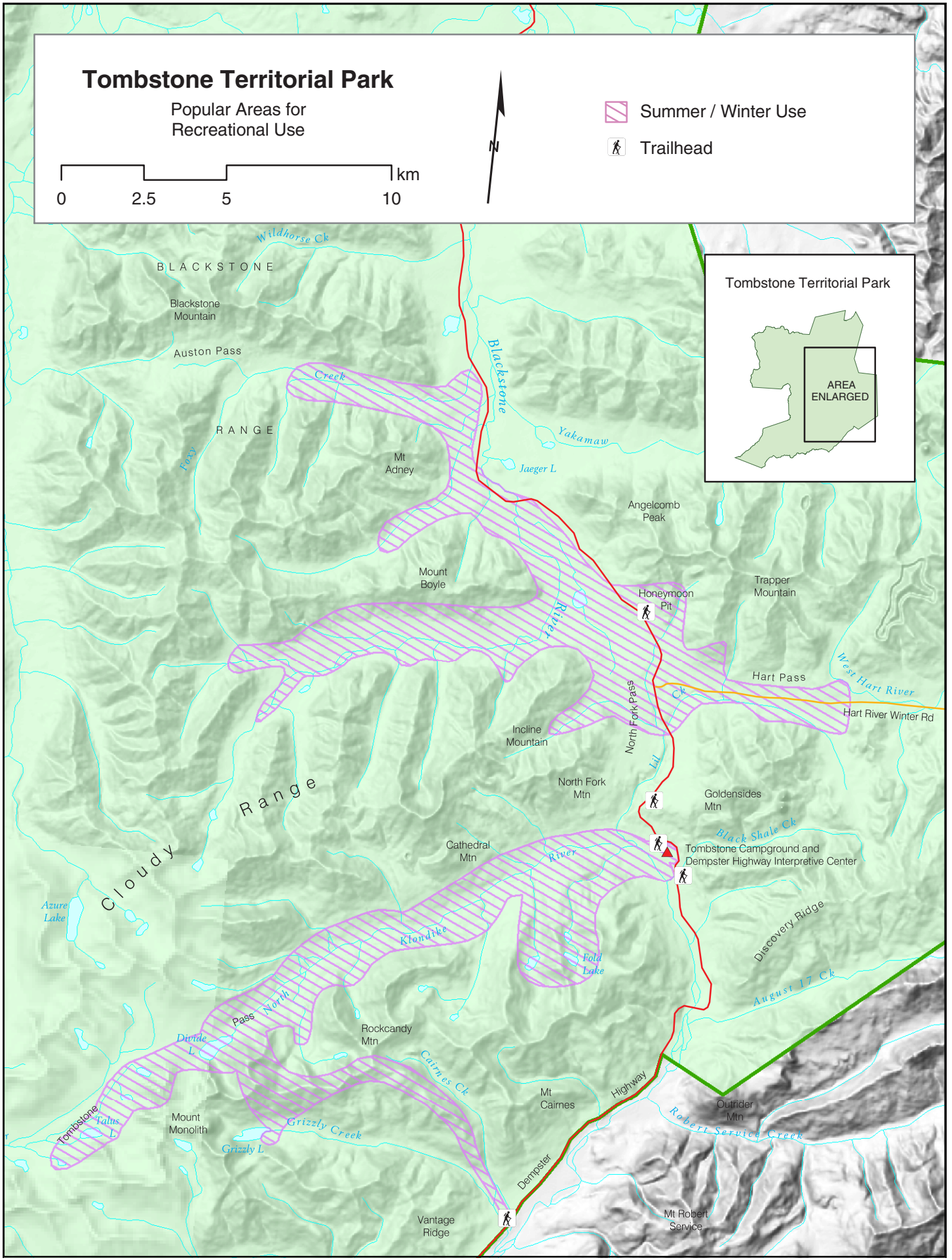
- Research projects in the Park will require a public education component, and researchers will be encouraged to publish their results.
- Opportunities for people who do not visit the Park will be developed.
- Park managers will provide regular updates about park management issues to the public.

6. Communication goals and strategies related to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Teet'it Gwich'in culture and heritage will be developed by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in cooperation with the Teet'it Gwich'in and YG. For further detail, consult the Heritage section.

Expected Results

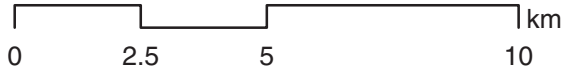
Successful implementation of these principles will:



- reduce the need for management intervention by building respect and appreciation for park values and resources,
- develop a greater respect and appreciation for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and First Nation culture and history associated with the Park,
- improve awareness, understanding and support for Tombstone and its management principles among local, regional and national audiences,
- provide opportunities for the public to be involved in the delivery of park communication messages,
- prepare visitors for their trip and provide the information they need to make decisions that will not disturb park resources, and
- ensure Park communication supports conservation initiatives outside park boundaries.



Tombstone Territorial Park

Popular Areas for
Recreational Use



-  Summer / Winter Use
-  Trailhead

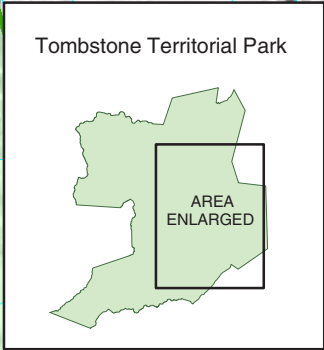


figure 7

Visitor Use and Services

Current Situation

Visitor use in Tombstone Territorial Park has increased steadily since 1985 when records were first kept at the Dempster Interpretive Centre (figure 6). The Tombstone Campground has also seen an increase in use. Visitation to the Park is expected to grow over the lifetime of this plan.

As of summer 2001, most independent backcountry travelers concentrate in the Grizzly Creek, Tombstone and North Klondike Valleys. Guided travelers are distributed throughout the Park.

Currently no visitor facilities are situated in the Park, except the Tombstone Campground and Dempster Interpretive Centre. Three highway pullouts with interpretive signs are located in the Tombstone Corridor at Tombstone Lookout, Two Moose Lake and Chapman Lake. Visitors also use the Northwestel microwave sites as viewing areas, picnic sites and for backcountry access.

An airstrip is located north of Chapman Lake at km 124, just outside the park boundaries.

A short interpretive trail is maintained in the Tombstone Campground; however, there are no other designated trails in the Park. Unofficial trails have developed in popular areas through repeated use, at Grizzly Creek, North Fork, Goldensides, Honeymoon Pit and Charcoal Ridge (figure 7).

Recreational snowmobiling has increased steadily over the past ten years. Most users are from Dawson City. Use is concentrated from late March until early May, depending on snow depth and conditions.

The only other motorized use currently allowed off the Dempster Highway is along the Hart River Winter Road. This consists primarily of recreational ATV use to support resident and subsistence hunting.

Resident and non-resident hunting takes place in the park from mid-August through January and is often snowmobile assisted in the winter months.

Work to Date

Data collected at the Dempster Interpretive Centre includes information on campground registration numbers, nationality of visitors, duration and dates of stay, type of activity and visitor comments.

A voluntary trailhead registration program has been in place for the past two years. Figure 8 provides a snapshot of the current breakdown of visitors to the most popular Tombstone routes. Use of the Charcoal Ridge route, opposite the Tombstone Campground, is presently discouraged due to trail erosion and bear feeding in August. The number of actual trail users in Tombstone exceeds the data because registration is voluntary.

In 2000 - 2002, winter surveys were conducted over an 8-week period to determine the location and extent of winter recreational use. This survey included place of origin, type of use, dates and location of use. Approximately 250 users, mostly snowmobiling day trip visitors from Dawson City, used the Tombstone area from late March through early May in 2000 and 2001.

A PhD dissertation has been completed that identifies ecological indicators which can be used for managing recreational use over a broad spectrum of habitats in the Tombstone and Cloudy Ranges. This work took place over three field seasons.

Wilderness tourism licensing and other tourism data is also collected by the Yukon government. The Park has been divided into specific areas based on current use and available information (see Recreational Opportunities section), with recreational opportunities defined by area.

Preliminary Hiker Registrations -- Tombstone -- Summer 2000

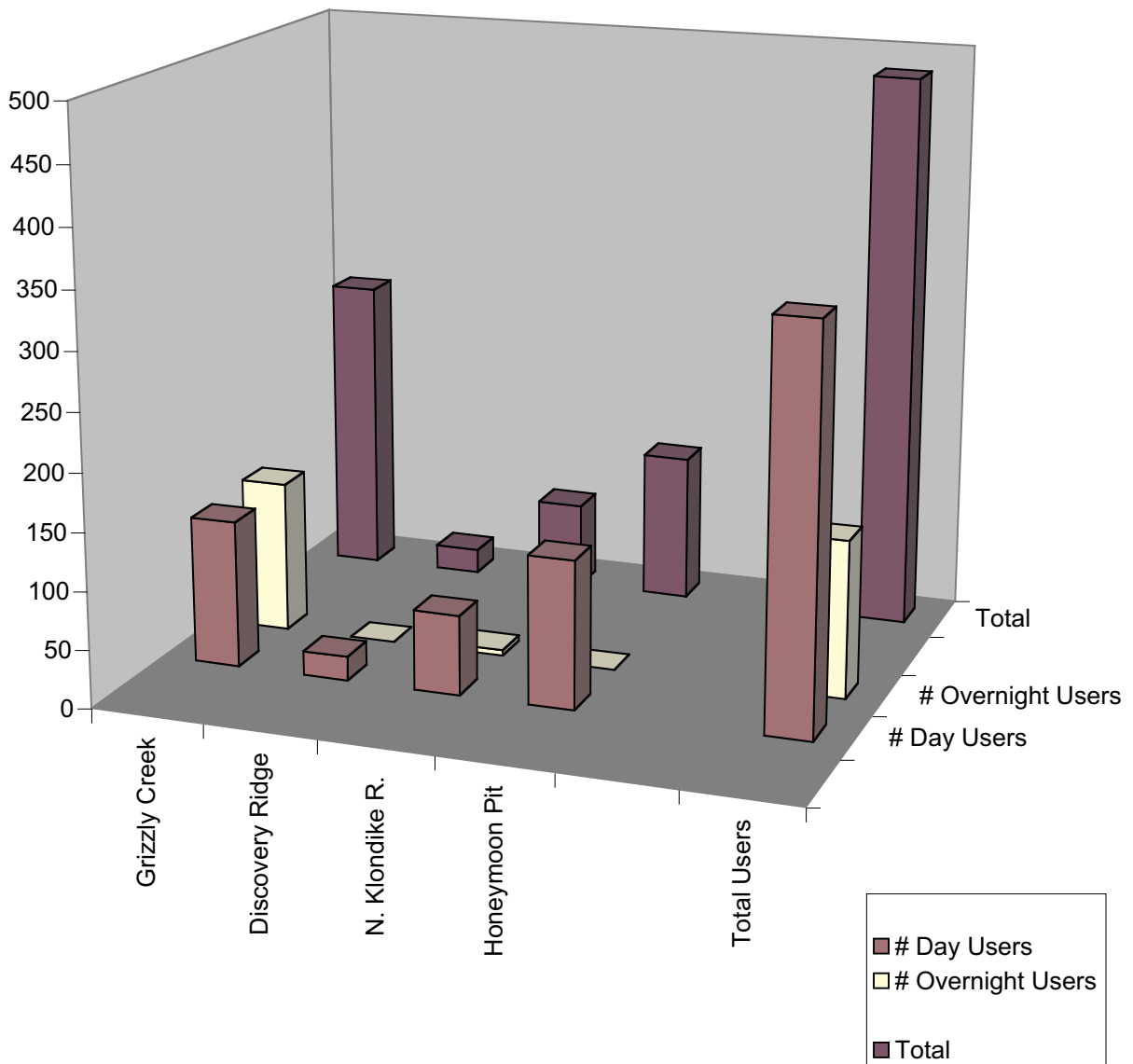


figure 8

Management Principles

1. A variety of recreational opportunities will be available in the Park, with more accessible opportunities close to the Dempster Highway.

Key Actions:

- A Visitor Activity Service Plan will be developed for the Park to outline the type, location and extent of recreational and visitor activities to be provided within the Park.

2. Visitor use will be managed to meet Park objectives, provide a high quality experience and to minimize social and environmental impacts.

Key Actions:

- A registration or permit system will be used to monitor, enhance, and when required, regulate visitor use in the Park.
- The following activities will require a Park Use Permit: overnight use (except Tombstone Campground, which requires a Yukon Campground Permit), commercial activities which are not already permitted through other legislation, aircraft landings, use of non-indigenous species, filming and the use of animal actors (as well as those activities requiring a permit through the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*).
- Voluntary day use registration will continue during the summer months at the Tombstone Visitor Centre.
- Data will be used to evaluate visitor needs, use patterns and levels of satisfaction as well as to identify and avoid conflicts between users and monitor visitor impacts on park resources.
- Park managers will work with aircraft companies, tourism operators and other private companies to ensure that permit or registration requirements are clear and workable.

3. Measures will be taken to reduce impacts on natural and cultural resources to help enhance visitor experiences and protect park resources. Measures may include quotas, facility development, seasonal restrictions and other tools.

Key Actions:

- Visitors will be given clear direction and information on acceptable use and appropriate activities in the Park.
- A Code of Ethics will be provided to park users to help protect park resources and limit conflicts between users.
- Measures will be taken to prevent the food conditioning of wildlife—in particular bears—and to reduce all other human/wildlife conflicts.
- Domestic animals must be in a cage or restrained by a leash, chain or other device that is not longer than two metres. Animal actors will be allowed by Park Use Permit only.
- Sources of drinking water will be identified and information available on proper treatment.

4. Aircraft activity will be managed to enhance visitor experiences and protect park resources.

Key Actions:

- Helicopter landings will only be allowed in designated sites (see Zoning section) south of 64° 34", and north of that latitude by permit. Landings will require a Park Use Permit.
- Park managers will work with local aircraft companies and tourism operators to develop an Aircraft Code of Ethics for the Park.
- Floatplanes will not be allowed to land on the surface of any park lakes. Ultra-lights are treated like any other aircraft.

5. A new Tombstone Visitor Centre will be constructed at Tombstone Campground to facilitate park management, public understanding and appreciation of the Park's natural and cultural history, resources, values and risks, and to provide visitor service and public safety information to assist with trip planning.

Expected Results

Successful implementation of these principles will result in:

- a high quality visitor experience that reflects high visitor satisfaction levels and minimal resource degradation,
- visitors to Tombstone who have realistic expectations of what the park offers, understand what type of uses are appropriate and make well informed decisions during their visit,
- low conflict between user groups,
- proactive management decisions based on sound data that meet park objectives, and
- visitor appreciation and respect for all park resources and values, including Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and First Nation culture and history within the Park.

Recreational Opportunities in Tombstone Territorial Park

Effective visitor use management is required to provide a range of recreational opportunities in Tombstone, while protecting the park's natural and cultural resources for future generations. Tools vary from education to quotas, permits and closures.

Recreational use must be managed proactively, given the fragility of the Park environment and the high expectations of park visitors who are searching for solitude and wilderness experiences.

The following general principles will be used to guide recreational use in Tombstone:

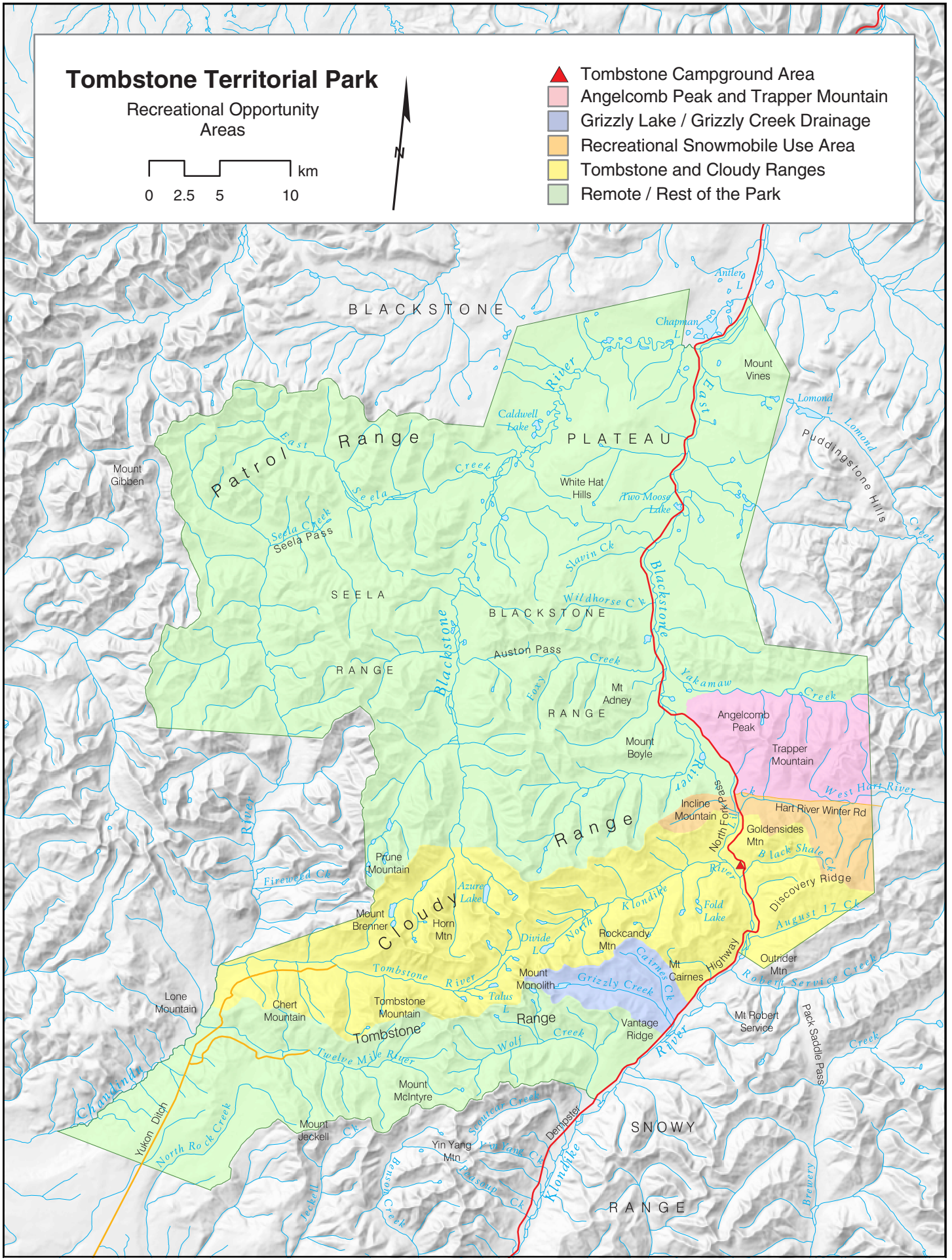
- Recreational activities will be managed to:
 - protect and maintain critical wildlife habitat and movement corridors, distinct geomorphological features, rare and unique plant species and heritage resources; reduce user conflict; and
 - enhance visitor experience, appreciation and public safety.
- Where data is limited, visitor activities will be managed conservatively to protect park resources.
- Subsistence activities will take priority over recreational activities.
- A variety of recreational opportunities will be provided in the Park with few, if any, facilities.
- A Visitor Activities Service Plan will determine where each type of experience will be provided, the level of services and facilities and other management actions.
- Backcountry areas will be managed so visitors can experience a sense of freedom, inspiration, solitude, challenge and self-reliance.
- Commercial and non-profit groups will help visitors learn the skills necessary to safely enjoy the park's backcountry area through guided or outfitted trips.
- Scientific research, traditional and local knowledge, and visitor feedback will be used to guide recreational use management decisions.
- All new activities will be monitored to ensure Park objectives are met and visitor experience is not adversely affected.

Seven geographic areas are used to define the recreational opportunities available in Tombstone Territorial Park (figure 9). These areas were defined based on current visitor use, topography and appeal of the area to users.

1) Tombstone Campground Area

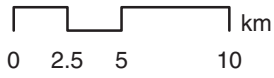
Current Situation:

The Tombstone Campground is located at km 71.5 on the Dempster Highway, a one and a half hour drive from Dawson City. The Campground has been operating since the mid-1970s. It was expanded in 1982 and again in 1998 to its present size of 36 sites. The Tombstone Campground adequately meets current use levels and no expansion is envisioned within the lifetime of this plan.



Tombstone Territorial Park

Recreational Opportunity Areas



- ▲ Tombstone Campground Area
- Angelcomb Peak and Trapper Mountain
- Grizzly Lake / Grizzly Creek Drainage
- Recreational Snowmobile Use Area
- Tombstone and Cloudy Ranges
- Remote / Rest of the Park

figure 9

A water holding tank was constructed in 2001 to provide campers with a more convenient way of obtaining potable water. Firewood and a picnic shelter are provided. Tombstone Campground is used year-round, though it is only staffed in the summer months.

The campground is used in the off-season by hunters, snowmobile enthusiasts, school groups, skiers, mushers, highway travelers, wildlife viewers/birders and for special group and commercial events.

The Dempster Interpretive Centre opened in 1985 to provide interpretive services to Dempster Highway travelers. Currently, this facility is the main focal point for visitor use along the highway between Klondike River Lodge and Eagle Plains. The Centre is staffed on contract from early June to early September. The contract staff also provide personal interpretive services in the Campground and local vicinity.

There is a short interpretive trail on the north side of the Campground. Visitors enjoyed hiking Charcoal Ridge for several years, but this has been discouraged due to erosion and the risk of bear/human interactions in the late summer. The ridge can be seen from the deck of the Interpretive Centre, offering visitors a safe and comfortable means to view wildlife. The Campground is also used as a staging area for longer hikes in the North Klondike River Valley.

Management challenges:

The major management challenges in the campground and surrounding area will be to develop modest, accessible year-round visitor facilities, while minimizing bear/human interactions, impacts on cultural and natural resources and conflict between users.

The new Tombstone Visitor Centre will be built in the near future. Associated visitor facilities may include short interpretive trails and a staff residence.

Objectives for Resource Protection

- To protect and maintain bear habitat in the area, riparian habitat along North Klondike River, willow and other vegetation communities, archaeological resources and unique geomorphological features,
- To minimize the number of wildlife/human interactions in the area, and
- To have zero opportunity for bears and other wildlife to access human food or garbage.

Objectives for Visitor Experience

- To provide a variety of recreational and educational opportunities for families, bus tour groups, and other visitors of all ages and abilities, with appropriate support facilities,
- To provide an area that can support a relatively high concentration of visitors,
- To develop and build a new Visitor Centre to support park operations and provide information and interpretive services,
- To reduce conflict between user groups.

Recommended Actions:

- Maintain Tombstone Campground at its current capacity.
- Test water pumped from the Klondike River for contaminants, including heavy metals and uranium.
- Determine off-season services required through the Visitor Activities Service Plan and in consultation with user groups.
- Design and build the new Tombstone Visitor Centre.
- Develop a site plan for the area as part of the new Visitor Centre development and staff quarters.
- Re-develop or relocate the Charcoal Ridge trail to reduce erosion problems and close the trail when bears are in the area.

2) Grizzly Lake/Creek drainage

Over the past decade, an unofficial trail has developed from the reclaimed garbage dump at km 58.5 on the Dempster Highway to a ridge approximately one and a half hours walk from the trailhead. An outhouse was installed at the trailhead in the summer of 2001, along with a sign board and garbage can.

The ridge provides wonderful views towards Mt. Monolith and Grizzly Lake to the west, and north and south along the North Klondike River valley. This unofficial trail is in reasonable shape and follows an old logging trail in sections. The hike to the ridge is a popular day outing.

Past the ridge, the route is not established and braided trails are becoming evident.

There is no firewood available around Grizzly Lake. Currently there is no outhouse or designated campsites at the lake. Drinking water is available from the lake or creek, but purity of drinking water is a concern given the proximity of cat holes to the water sources.

This valley has spectacular vistas of Mt. Monolith and the surrounding mountains. From Grizzly Lake, hikers can access the Tombstone Valley north through Glissade Pass or the Wolf Creek drainage south through Grizzly Pass.

Management challenges:

Given the linear nature of the valley, the major challenges for managing visitor use in the Grizzly Creek drainage will be to maintain a high quality backcountry experience past the ridge, reduce ecological and social impacts at the lake, minimize trail braiding and trampling past the ridge, and maintain sanitary conditions.

Visitation to the ridge is expected to increase, as well as overnight visitation to Grizzly Lake. An acceptable level of use at the lake needs to be identified. Helicopter overflights have been raised as a concern.

Currently the Area Development Act does not extend south along the Dempster Highway past km 68. This means the Grizzly Creek trailhead is open for ATV use and there are no firearm discharge restrictions. These activities are not compatible with the present or expected future use of this area.

Objectives for Resource Protection:

- To maintain the wilderness character of the valley,
- To maintain water quality at Grizzly Lake,
- To reduce vegetation trampling at Grizzly Lake, and
- To reduce trail braiding.

Objectives for Visitor Experience:

- To provide a well maintained day use trail to the ridge, ,
- To maintain a valley characterized by non-motorized recreational activity year-round,
- To minimize the potential for conflict between hunters and other recreational users at the trailhead and along the trail,
- To provide a route to Grizzly Lake that is relatively easy to follow and minimizes impact on vegetation,
- To provide for a high quality backcountry camping experience at Grizzly Lake characterized by:
 - few encounters with other parties past the ridge,
 - low campsite impacts,
 - support facilities that concentrate impacts, reduce the probability of wildlife/human interactions, and
 - maintenance of water quality.

Recommended Actions:

- Develop and maintain a trail to the ridge.
- Mark a trail to Grizzly Lake to concentrate use on one travel route.
- Designate campsites and support facilities at Grizzly Lake to minimize ecological/social impact (e.g. outhouse, bear platforms).
- Determine carrying capacity for the campsite and develop a registration and permit system to regulate the number of users.
- Work with local pilots to manage fly-overs to reduce impacts on visitors.
- Prohibit helicopter landing at the lake or in the valley.
- Prohibit open fires at the lake.

3) *Angelcomb Peak/Trapper's Mountain*

Angelcomb Peak and Trapper's Mountain are zoned Special Feature due to the importance of maintaining a stringent management regime in the area. This area includes important year-round sheep habitat that is highly accessible from the Dempster Highway and Hart River Winter Road. Wildlife surveys and local knowledge interviews have identified the entire north face of Angelcomb Peak and Trapper Mountain as sheep winter range. Three lambing areas are known along with two mineral licks. The area hosts the most visible sheep population in the Park. It is probably the most accessible sheep population for resident hunters due to access from the Hart River Winter Road.

This section deals specifically with recreational opportunities in the area and the special management principles regarding these activities. This information is also covered in the Zoning section.

A popular ATV and snowmobile route follows the Hart River Winter Road. The effects of ATV and snowmobile use on sheep and raptors in the area have been identified as issues of concern by subsistence and resident hunters, wildlife viewers and scientists. The entire ridge has been identified as key raptor habitat.

The west face of Angelcomb Mountain is used as a popular area for day hikes and wildlife viewing in the summer. The gravel pit known locally as Honeymoon Pit is used as an unofficial campsite.

Management challenges:

Given the popularity and accessibility of Angelcomb Peak and Trapper Mountain, the major management challenge for this area is to develop appropriate use of the area by visitors while protecting key wildlife habitats.

Special feature zoning has been applied to this area and use will be monitored through the life of this plan. Information gathered from area users and monitoring will be used to adjust management principles, if required, during the next plan review.

Objectives for Resource Protection:

- To protect Dall and Fannin sheep winter range, lambing areas and mineral licks,
- To restrict use of the area during spring lambing seasons and around mineral licks, and
- To protect key raptor habitat.

Objectives for Visitor Experience:

- To provide non-motorized recreational opportunities in the area,
- To provide educational materials and interpretive opportunities to highlight the sensitivity of resources in the area, and
- To ensure the natural resources that draw people to this area are not negatively impacted by recreational use.

Recommended Actions:

- Identify a main trail on the west side of the ridge for use by day hikers.
- Conduct a major education campaign about the natural resources in this area and appropriate visitor and recreational use.
- Restrict access to the area to guided hikes from May through early July.
- Prohibit domestic animals from the area from May through-early July.
- Continue voluntary registration at the trailhead at other times of the year.
- Prohibit ATV and snowmobile use in the area.

4) Hart River Winter Road

The Hart River Winter Road starts near the top of North Fork Pass and heads 100 km east to a mineral exploration site abandoned in the late 1960s. The road predates the Dempster Highway Area Development Regulations (1979). At that time, it was identified as the only egress point off the Dempster Highway for motorized vehicles, though the road was developed for winter use only.

Currently, the road is a mud trail with a fairly level grade, good vistas and easy walking that provides access to lands east of the Park. Hikers sometimes see Hart River caribou from the road, as well as sheep on Angelcomb Peak and Trapper Mountain.

Most motorized use on the Hart River Winter Road is ATVs to support hunting efforts, recreational snowmobiles and some limited 4-wheel drive access. The road has two significant mud holes within the Park that make motorized travel quite difficult.

The Hart River Winter Road is recognized as being available for motorized use. Vehicles, as defined under the Highways Act (except snowmobiles), are restricted to the surface of the road.

Management Challenges:

The primary management challenge at present is to ensure ATVs and other motor vehicle users stay on the surface of the road.

Recommended Actions:

- A right of way needs to be formally identified for the existing winter road.

5) Recreational snowmobile use area

Snowmobile use has occurred for many years in the Tombstone Park area to assist trapping, resident, subsistence and non-resident hunting, and more recently for recreational activities.

Snowmobile use to support wildlife harvesting concessions and activities are dealt with through the Natural Resource Management and Use and Commercial Activities sections of the plan.

Winter Travel Route Sub-Zone has been established to provide snowmobile travel from point A to B in the Park.

The Recreational Snowmobile Use Sub-Zone has been established to provide for mountain riding and other recreational snowmobile use. This area is also described in the Park Zoning section. The area is located south of the Hart River Road on the east side of the Dempster Highway to the southern heights of land, and on the west side of the Dempster Highway encompassing Incline Bowl to the heights of land ringing the bowl.

Management Challenges:

The challenge is to develop positive and open relationships between park managers, snowmobile users and non-motorized users.

Objective for Resource Protection:

- To ensure winter sheep, raptor and ptarmigan/willow habitat will not be impacted by recreational snowmobile use.

Objectives for Visitor Experience:

- To provide for recreational snowmobiling within the Park, and
- To separate winter users spatially.

Recommended Actions:

- Provide information on where recreational snowmobile use is allowed and timely updates on opening and closing dates based on snow depth.
- Monitor snow depth to ensure adequate snow is present to protect underlying soils and vegetation.
- Adopt a code of ethics for mountain riding for this area.
- Monitor snow depth and snowmobile use over the lifetime of this plan and review during the next Management Plan review.

6) *Tombstone/Cloudy Ranges*

The Tombstone and Cloudy Ranges lie between the Dempster Highway and the Chandindu River, immediately south and north of North Klondike and Tombstone Rivers. This region of the Park has received high recreational use. The topography and natural features provide a stunning backdrop for extended backcountry outings.

When the Recreational Features Inventory was completed for the Yukon in 1988, this region was noted as the most visually dramatic in west central Yukon. Popular hiking routes in this region include the North Klondike and Tombstone valleys.

Recreational use data has been collected on a voluntary basis since 1986 to assist with recreational use planning in this area.

Management Challenges:

The greatest management challenge for the Tombstone and Cloudy Ranges will be to continue to provide a high quality backcountry experience for visitors, where recreational impacts are managed proactively and conflicting uses are separated, particularly in the summer season. Visitors should expect to see other users while in this area.

Objective for Resource Protection:

- To minimize the negative impact of recreational use on natural and cultural resources.

Objectives for Visitor Experience:

- To manage and protect the high quality wilderness experience inherent in this area, characterized by undeveloped campsites (except where required to reduce visitor impacts), opportunities for solitude, challenging non-motorized activities and self reliance,
- To have a modest number of interactions between visitors in July/August and the late spring, and
- To reduce conflict between users.

Recommended Actions:

- Determine which areas people should be directed to and away from based on resource protection goals.
- Determine what management strategies should be adopted to ensure a high quality visitor experience.
- Monitor visitor satisfaction to be able to respond quickly to emerging problems.
- Develop a code of ethics for aircraft operators.
- Prepare information for main routes in the area and ensure backcountry users receive appropriate information prior to their trip.

7) Remote Areas/Rest of Park:

The rest of the Park will be characterized by no visitor facilities, unless required for resource protection and/or public safety.

Visitors to these areas can expect few encounters with other users. The exception may be hunters in the fall and spring, trappers in the winter and the occasional commercially guided group. Diverse and challenging recreational opportunities are available, and visitors will need to be self-sufficient.

Objective for Resource Protection:

- To maintain the Park's pristine environment in its present state.

Objectives for Visitor Experience:

- To manage and protect the high quality wilderness experience inherent in this area, characterized by undeveloped campsites (except where required to reduce visitor impacts), opportunities for solitude, challenging non-motorized activities and self reliance, and
- To develop an appreciation for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in culture and history.

Recommended Actions:

- Monitor resources to ensure Park objectives are being met.
- Develop appropriate management guidelines as required.

Tombstone Park Commercially Guided Backcountry Use 1999-2001

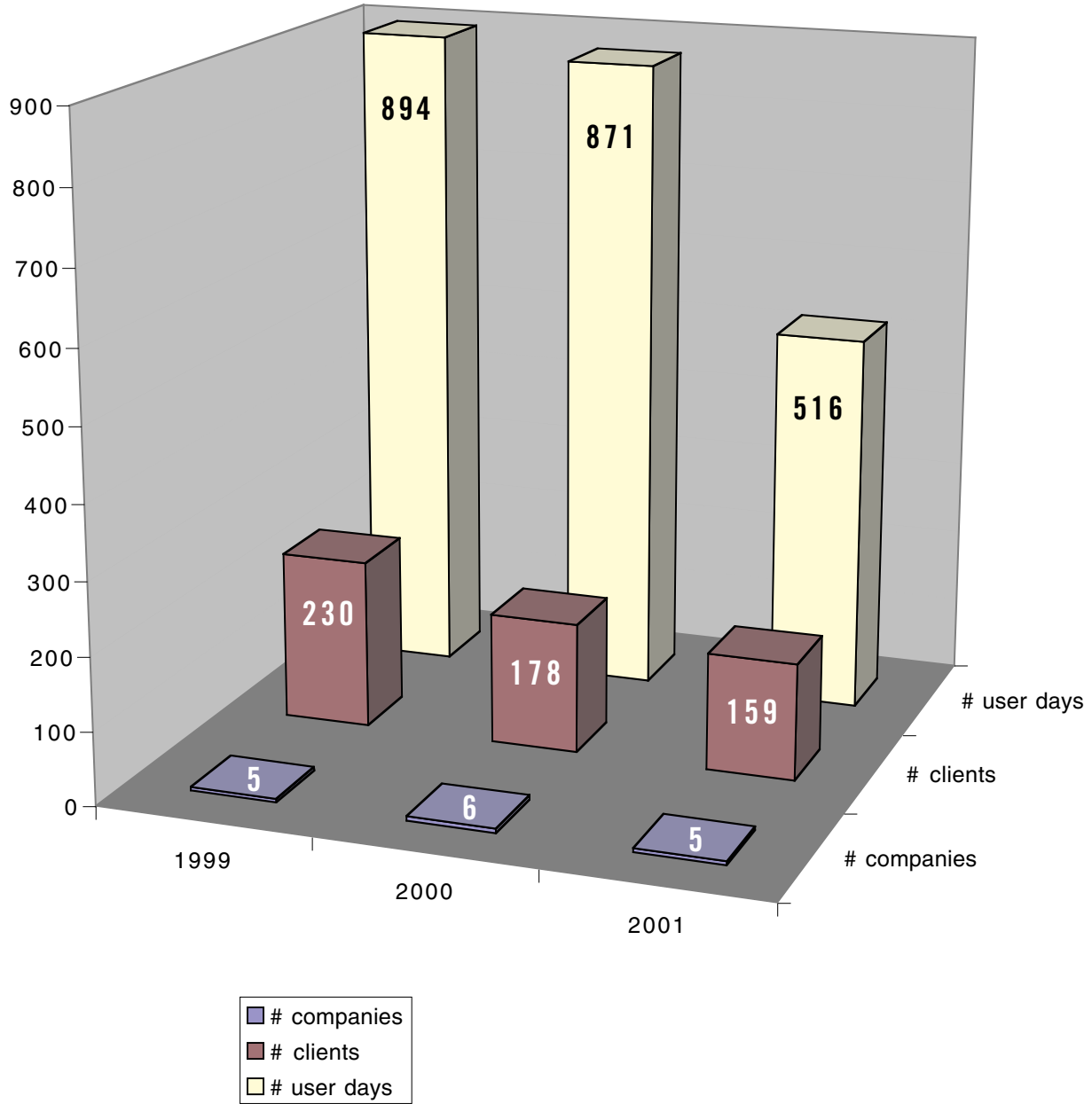


figure 10

Current Situation

Tombstone Territorial Park is already a tourist destination and an important part of many Yukon and Alaska tours. The Park offers a range of outstanding natural, cultural and historic features that appeal to guided and independent wilderness adventurers, day hikers and highway travelers.

Most visitors to Tombstone arrive via the Dempster Highway. With an international reputation as one of the last true wilderness highways in North America, it is the only Canadian highway to cross the Arctic Circle. It provides visitors with spectacular vistas into the Park and exceptional wildlife viewing opportunities, compared to more popular Yukon highways.

Once off the highway, Tombstone Park offers outstanding opportunities for wilderness recreation. Appealing features include rugged, glacially carved granite towers, jewel-like alpine lakes, tundra uplands and taiga valleys with clear, rushing streams. Spectacular vistas are common, and the topography lends itself to day hiking, backpacking and winter touring. The Park offers good wildlife viewing opportunities, and it has a rich cultural and historical legacy to interpret and study.

Protecting the natural, cultural and historic features that attract visitors is critical to maintaining the appeal of the area to visitors and residents alike.

While there are few visitor facilities in the Park, ten years of research and statistics show that the Dempster Interpretive Centre is instrumental in increasing visitor enjoyment. Most visitors stop at the Centre or make it their destination for a day trip.

Visitor Exit Survey data, and Tombstone Campground and Interpretive Centre registrations show that visitation to the Tombstone area has increased steadily over the past decade. The Park appeals to tourism markets in North America and Europe. These include guided and independent wilderness adventure and ecotourism markets, highway travelers/tours, learning travel and aboriginal tourism markets.

About twenty four companies include Tombstone and the Dempster as part of a Yukon or Yukon/Alaska highway tour. Half a dozen Yukon-based operators guide day and multi-day excursions in the park. Several non-Yukon companies also offer Park trips. Wilderness Tourism Licensing Act data shows a decline in guided wilderness adventure tours over the past 3 years (figure 10). Other data and local information shows the opposite for highway and self-guided visitors.

Non-resident hunting is also considered a tourist activity and portions of three concessions are located within Tombstone. The details applying to that activity are dealt with under the Commercial Activity section.

Marketing the Park is an important consideration for park management. Marketing can support tourism related economic opportunities and develop an awareness of the Park in the marketplace. It can communicate Park values, and help ensure that visitors arrive with the right expectations and preparations to enjoy their trip.

Tourism has a role in generating local economic opportunities and supporting and communicating Park values. Treated properly, visitors can be powerful park supporters and help build a constituency for the Park beyond its borders.

Tourism can also impact resources protected by the Park and interfere with local use and enjoyment. The management principles recognize the positive and negative impacts of tourism on park values. They set out ways to identify and address issues so that Park objectives are met, visitors enjoy their experience, and local jobs and economic benefits are generated.

Work to Date

There has been a fair amount of research conducted and work completed to support tourism efforts and park planning for Tombstone. A report on the economic opportunities in Tombstone Park was compiled in 1993 as part of the land claim negotiations work and included references to tourism activities. More recently, a “Study of Tourism Potential in the Tombstone Region” (2001) was prepared to assist with Park management planning.

The Yukon government conducts regular Visitor Exit Surveys, which provide valuable information on tourism trends and satisfaction levels. A Dawson Region Tourism Plan has been prepared as well as a Klondike Region Tourism Marketing Strategy. Annual reports are also available from the Dempster Interpretive Centre. General statistics are available on commercial wilderness tourism activities for the Park through the Wilderness Tourism Licensing system.

More recently, visitor use surveys have been conducted for summer and winter users of the Tombstone area. This information is covered under the Visitor Use and Services section.

Management Principles

1. Enlist the support and active participation of tourism operators, agencies and organizations to achieve Park objectives and enhance visitor experience.

Key Actions:

- Regular discussions will take place between operators, agencies and organizations to share information, discuss Park-related issues and appropriate management actions.
- Co-operative arrangements will be made between Park managers and private operators to collect, measure, monitor and share information on visitor use. This information will be used to manage visitor activities to ensure a high quality visitor experience and protect park resources.
- Tourism operators will be involved in discussions related to any park management activities that may affect their business activities.
- Park managers will work with tourism operators, aircraft and film companies and others to ensure that Park permit or registration requirements are understood and easy to obtain once requirements are met.
- A code of ethics for tourism operators will be considered/adopted for use in Tombstone Park, in consultation with Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in.

2. Commercial tourism activities and special events will be subject to the Park management principles and require a Park Use Permit.

Key Actions:

- Showcase to appropriate media and travel trade, the values and unique experiences related to the natural and cultural history of Tombstone.
- Park managers will work with tourism agencies, organizations, operators and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to ensure key messages are provided to private tourism operators, special event coordinators, FAM and media tours.

3. Tombstone Territorial Park marketing will target visitors whose interests match what the Park has to offer.

Key Actions:

- Park managers will work with Business, Tourism and Culture (BTC) and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to develop marketing messages that accurately reflect what the Park has to offer.
- Park managers will work with BTC and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to determine appropriate and effective images to use for their Park publicity and marketing activities.
- Park marketing, awareness messages and products will be consistent with the Park objectives, vision and management principles.
- Operators, organizations, agencies and others will be encouraged to use appropriate and accurate messages when marketing the Park.
- Park messages and marketing will present Tombstone as a road accessible park with remote areas and modest visitor services. Backcountry visitors will need to be completely self-reliant. Messages will foster appreciation for historic and current use of the Park by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and accurately reflect Park services, risks and infrastructure.

4. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in will be involved in discussions with Yukon Government agencies regarding tourism activities and issues related to the Park.

Key Actions:

- The Yukon government will start discussions to determine the appropriate number and allocation of permits for wilderness tourism operators within the Park in consultation with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.
- Allocation and distribution of permits will respect the provisions set out in Schedule A to Chapter 10, Chapter 22 of the THFA and regulations pursuant to the Wilderness Tourism Licensing Act.
- The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in will provide appropriate cultural and First Nation messages relating to Tombstone to private tourism operators and agencies, media and FAM tours.
- TH and the Yukon Government will develop a spectrum of commercial opportunities that focus on interpreting and fostering appreciation for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in culture and heritage in the Park.

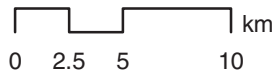
Expected Results

Successful implementation of these principles will result in:

- quality tourism opportunities that result in high visitor satisfaction while protecting Park resources;
- targeted (niche) marketing that successfully reaches visitors most interested in what the Park has to offer;
- levels of use that are consistent with meeting Park objectives
- a close and positive working relationship between Park managers, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Yukon Government, tourism operators and organizations.
- an increased role for TH in tourism-related initiatives and activities in the Park; and
- increased support and advocacy for the Park from satisfied visitors attracted by positive and accurate tourism marketing initiatives.

Tombstone Territorial Park

Outfitting and Trapping Concessions



- 1 Outfitting Concession
- 20 Registered Trapping Concession
- Park Boundary

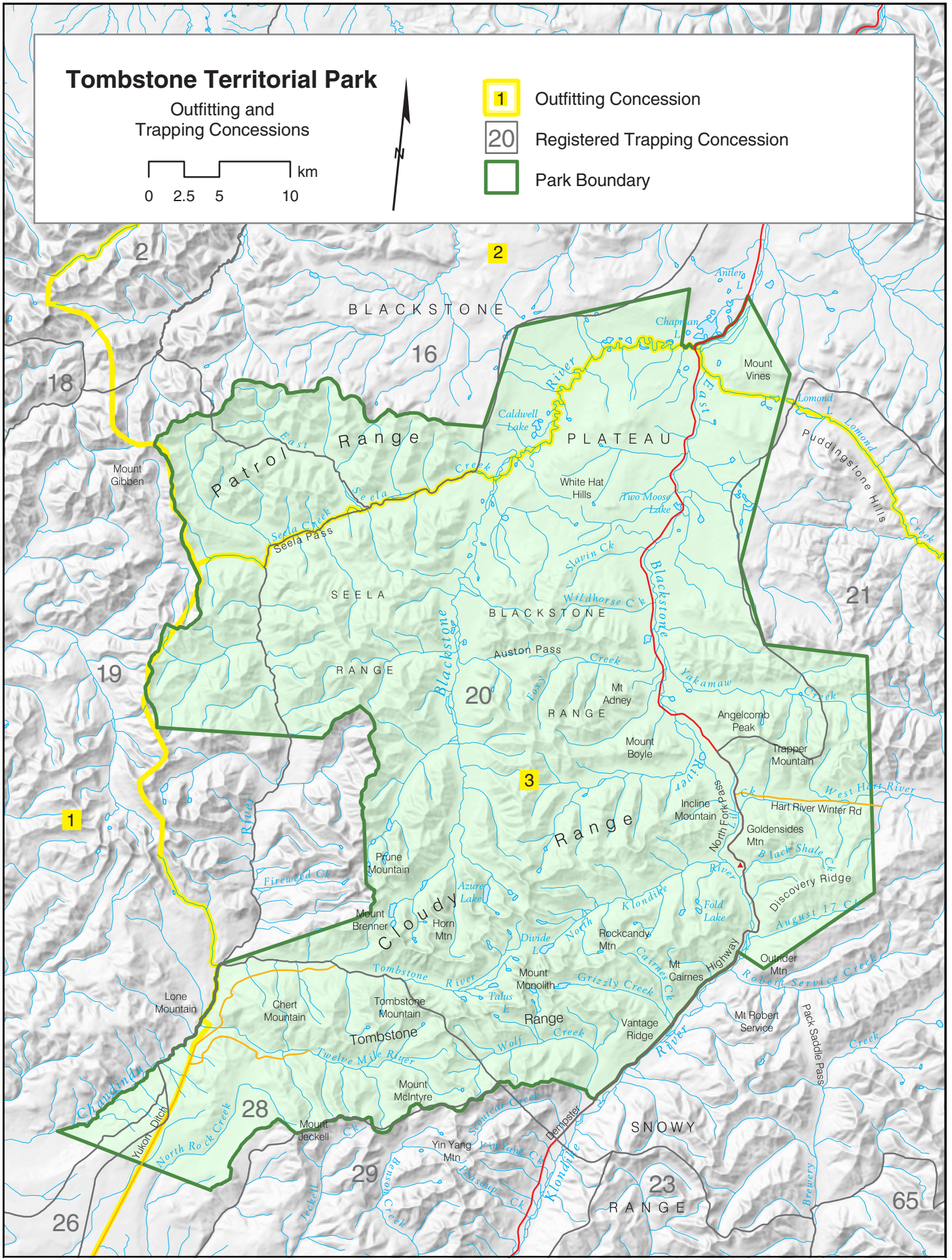


figure 11

Commercial Activities

Current Situation

Current commercial activities in the Park include: three Northwestel microwave site leases (Park and Corridor), helicopter support (research, hiking, mining), big game outfitting/non-resident hunting and trapping concessions, wilderness tourism activities, commercial filming and photography, and contract services for the Dempster Interpretive Centre and Tombstone Campground.

Special commercial events are held in the Park as well, such as the Fulda Challenge and Klondike Institute of Arts and Culture programs. Docudramas, a commercial and the finale of a major TV show were filmed in the Tombstone area in 2001. It is expected that the Park will continue to attract these activities in the future.

Thirty-two quartz claims remain in the Park. Mining and mining land use activities are addressed under the Administration and Operations section.

All commercial activities will require a permit through the Parks and Land Certainty Act or other appropriate legislation such as the Wildlife Act.

Work to Date

The Tombstone Steering Committee has worked with commercial aircraft companies, big game outfitting and trapping concession holders, mining companies and wilderness tourism operators over the last three years.

Schedule A to Chapter 10 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement states that the Management Plan will identify specific economic opportunities for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Tr'ondëk Huch'in in the Park. These recommendations are outlined in the following section, Economic Opportunities for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

Management Principles

1. Existing trapping and outfitting concessions will continue to operate within the Park providing Park objectives are being met (figure 11).

Key Actions:

- All infrastructure associated with the concessions will be identified, recorded and included under the lease agreements.
- In the event that park related activities impact the economic viability of trapping and outfitting, concession holders will be compensated as per existing government policies.
- Concession holders will be involved in discussions related to any park management activities that may affect their business activities within the Park.
- All current activities used to support concession operations will be allowed to continue.
- Activities not directly related to the concession operations will be bound by the management principles in this plan.

- Requests to improve or expand existing infrastructure to support concession activities will be reviewed by Park managers in consultation with the Dawson District RRC.
- The use of existing concession infrastructure for commercial activities not related to the concession will require a Park Use Permit and other appropriate licensing.

2. Commercial infrastructure development in the Park will be temporary and/or mobile. (This does not apply to existing infrastructure.)

Key Actions:

- All infrastructure development will require a Park Use Permit and permit requests will be reviewed by Park managers in consultation with TH and other government departments.

3. The Northwestel microwave sites and existing access roads are not subject to park zoning and will continue as per existing lease agreements (figure 12).

Key Actions:

- The sites will be rehabilitated when decommissioned, unless they are considered appropriate for park related service nodes.
- Visitor use of the existing roads and sites will continue until the roads are gated or Northwestel raises concerns.

4. All commercial activities will follow the management principles outlined in the Park Management Plan unless specifically noted in the plan.

Key Actions:

- The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in will be involved in the review of Park Use Permits issued for commercial activities.
- Commercial activities will not be given preference over other park activities in terms of the use of facilities, permit applications or recreational sites.
- Group and special events (commercial or non-profit) will require a Park Use Permit and will be subject to the Park Management Plan.

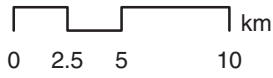
5. Commercial film and photography are recognized as important existing activities that can continue to support the local economy and park management objectives.

Key Actions:

- Park managers will work with the film industry, the Yukon Film Commission and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to develop operational guidelines and a code of ethics to govern commercial film activity in the Park.
- Animal actors will be allowed with a Park Use Permit and may require the approval of a veterinarian (see Natural Resource Management and Use Guidelines).
- Filming activities with minimal disruption to the public will be allowed in the Park.

Tombstone Territorial Park

Third Party Interests



R-Block

S-Site

× Lease / Titled Property

■ Mineral Claim

NWtel Tower

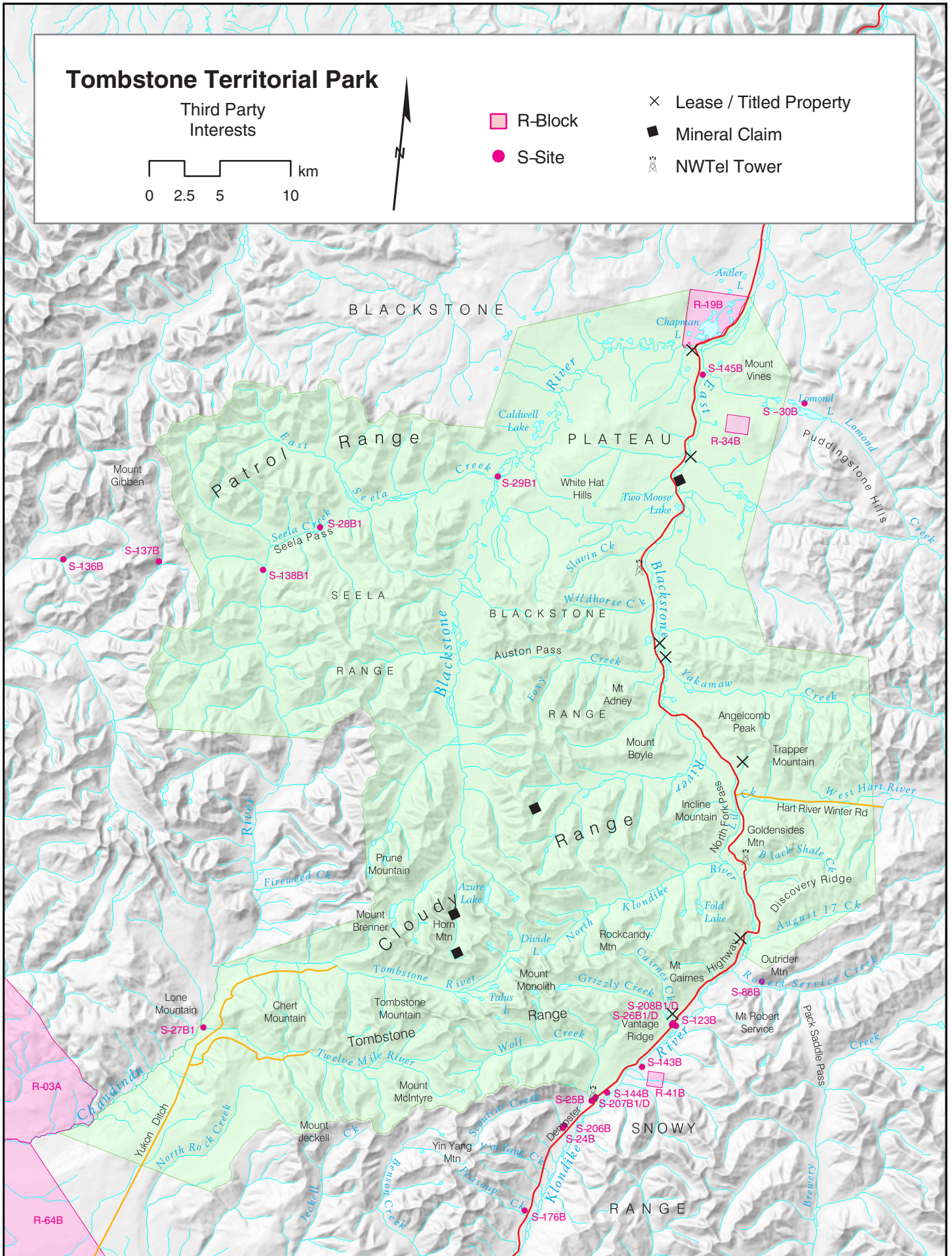


figure 12

- Vehicle and aircraft use to support commercial filming operations will not be permitted where access has been closed to other park users.
 - Filming of advertisements for commercial products or services will not imply that the Yukon or Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in governments endorse the product or service.
 - Filming projects that show activities which are inconsistent with the Park objectives will not be allowed.
6. There will be no commercial harvest of forest resources in the Park.

Expected Results

Successful implementation of these principles will result in:

- commercial infrastructure and activities that support existing leases and concessions that Park resources and contribute to the local economy,
- a respectful and collaborative working relationship between concession holders, commercial operators, companies and park managers,
- an increased appreciation, understanding and support of Park values,
- levels of use that are consistent with park objectives, and
- high quality experiences for clients.

Economic Opportunities for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

Current Situation

Schedule A to Chapter 10 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement sets out one of the park objectives:

“to provide economic benefits to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in in the development, operation and management of the Park, in the manner set out in the Schedule”.

The Tombstone Steering Committee has also been directed through Schedule A to identify specific economic opportunities as part of the Management Plan.

Work to Date

As part of the management planning process, a report was completed summarizing the possible economic opportunities that may result from park establishment. This report also identified possible economic opportunities that may be of interest to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.

In the summer of 2001, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Chief and Council commissioned a door-to-door survey of citizens in Dawson City and Whitehorse. The survey sought input on various aspects of Tombstone Park planning, including economic opportunities. .

Preliminary meetings between the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon governments to discuss these issues have occurred. An initial list of short term and long term opportunities is outlined in Appendix B. Further input will be provided by the governments as their discussions continue.

Management Principles

1. Qualified Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens will be given priority for all public service positions associated with the Park.

Key Actions:

- In consultation with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, YTG will develop training programs to assist Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens obtain the skills they require to become qualified for these positions.

2. Contracts to provide park related services and development will include criteria for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in employment and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in ownership or equity investment in the firm.

Key Actions:

- Existing contracts to provide such services will be reviewed to ensure these criteria have been included (e.g. Dempster Interpretive Centre, Tombstone campground maintenance, planning or construction of the new Visitor Centre and staff quarters).

3. The Yukon government will include Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in human resources staff in the preparation and evaluation of contract bids or public services positions to provide park related services.

4. As per the provisions of Point 10.0, Schedule A of Chapter 10 (THFA), the Yukon government will start discussions to determine the appropriate number and allocation of permits for wilderness tourism operators within the Park.

Key Actions:

- Allocation and distribution of permits will respect the provisions set out in Chapter 22 of the THFA and regulations pursuant to the Wilderness Tourism Licensing Act.
5. TH and the Yukon Government to develop a spectrum of commercial opportunities that focus on interpreting and fostering appreciation for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in culture and heritage in the Park.

 6. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in will participate in the review of Park Use Permits issued for commercial activities.

Expected Results:

Successful implementation of these principles will:

- meet the park objective relating to the provision of economic opportunities for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, and
- give meaningful and real access to identified opportunities for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens.

Current Situation

Tombstone Park was established to protect specific resources that are important to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, all Canadians and people of the world.

A number of research studies have taken place along the Dempster Highway and in the Tombstone Park region over the past 30 years. As part of the park boundary and management planning process, a great deal of this information was collected and reviewed; however, no exhaustive search or compilation of all the data on this area has been completed.

The management planning process identified several activities and resources that will require monitoring over the life of this Management Plan. It will be imperative to gather such information, to provide baseline data, establish benchmarks and to provide accurate, up-to-date information for proactive decision making about park management.

All research and monitoring in the Park are subject to Schedule A to Chapter 10 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement and the Park Management Plan. In addition, researchers will adhere to the procedures outlined in the Guidebook on Scientific Research in the Yukon and will continue to require a permit.

Research and monitoring programs will be assessed based on their impacts to park resources.

Work to Date

Preliminary investigations in the Tombstone Park area started in the 1950s as the Federal government prepared to build the Dempster Highway north to Inuvik. In 1972, UNESCO's International Biological Program (IBP) sent a group of scientists to northern Canada to establish an inventory of internationally significant biological sites. This research resulted in the establishment of two IBP sites in the Tombstone area, and these studies provide the first known comprehensive research on natural values in the park area.

The Geological Survey of Canada produced reports as early as 1965 on the physiography of the Tombstone area, although mineral exploration work had been ongoing since the early 1900s.

Archaeological, heritage and historical investigations took place in the early 1970s through the 1980s by the Northern Pipelines Task Force on Northern Oil Development, the Archaeological Survey of Canada and various Yukon government departments. These research projects were primarily related to impact assessments for the proposed Mackenzie Valley lateral pipeline proposal, Dempster Highway construction and realignment and the Northwestel Mobile Radio System and Microwave Tower Project.

Wildlife, vegetation, terrain and geological research also took place during this time. Information from these studies was used in the development of the Dempster Highway Area regulations which came into effect in 1979. The work was compiled along with a number of tourism related studies to prepare the *Dempster Highway Corridor Background Analysis and Management Recommendations* (1982) and the *Dempster Highway Interpretive Strategy* (1989).

Several independent research and monitoring studies have also taken place in the park.

Further research on a variety of natural and cultural values was conducted as part of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in land claim negotiations in the early 1990s. These reports were compiled for use by the Tombstone Steering Committee in 1999. Based on a review of this information, further research was commissioned by the TSC for use in the boundary delineation work and management planning (Appendix A).

The Tombstone area is of particular interest for researchers of geomorphological permafrost terrain and related natural features. Due to the rich heritage values found in the Tombstone area, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and other First Nations have expressed considerable interest in pursuing further archaeological, oral history, cultural and historic research.

Management Principles

1. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Federal and Yukon governments will share information for planning, management and operation of the Park.

Key Actions:

- All inventory, salvage and research work related to archaeological and heritage resources will include opportunities for participation by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in elders and youth.
- Applied scientific research, monitoring and analysis will be used alongside traditional and local knowledge as a fundamental tool to make informed management decisions.

2. Research of key wildlife/fish/avian habitat and ecological processes, sensitive geomorphological features, natural terrain and unique or rare plant communities will be encouraged.

Key Actions:

- An inventory of fish stocks in alpine lakes will be conducted and sustainable harvest levels will be developed for the next Management Plan review.
- The 30-year ptarmigan study and plot area will be recognized in park planning and decision making.
- Research and monitoring of all harvested species in the Park, will be required to fill information gaps related to sustainable harvest levels and habitat requirements.
- Subsistence activities by First Nation citizens will be monitored by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.
- Ongoing monitoring of raptors within the Tombstone Park will be encouraged.
- Baseline data will be collected and water will be monitored to ensure these factors remain substantially unaltered.

3. A monitoring program will be developed for the heritage sites/zones to assist in adjusting management approaches as required.

4. Archaeological/historical inventory and salvage work will be conducted in areas of known high potential prior to any increases in human use or development.

Key Actions:

- Ongoing oral history work will be needed to identify areas of potential concern.
- All inventory, salvage and research work will include opportunities for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in elders and youth.
- Research on heritage sites and areas will be encouraged to foster a greater appreciation and understanding of the associated values.

5. Human use of the Park and impacts on park resources will be monitored.

Key Actions:

- A registration or permit system will be used to monitor, enhance and, when required, regulate visitor use in the Park (see details under Visitor Use and Services section).
- Data from the registration or permit system will be used to evaluate visitor needs, campsite conditions, use patterns and levels of satisfaction, as well as to monitor and avoid conflicts between users and visitor impacts on park resources.
- All new recreational activities will be monitored to ensure park objectives are met and visitor experience is not adversely affected.
- Determine social carrying capacity for human use at Grizzly Lake.
- All snowmobile activity in the park will be evaluated and monitored to determine whether vegetation and wildlife are being negatively affected. This data will be used to revisit the management principles relating to snow depth and recreational snowmobile use areas during the next Management Plan review.
- Specific requirements for research and monitoring needs for each Recreational Opportunity Area have been identified in that section.

6. Wildlife/human interactions will be recorded and monitored to help reduce bear or other wildlife mortality and maximize visitor safety.

7. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in will be consulted during the review of all pertinent research and monitoring program applications.

Key Actions:

- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional and local knowledge will be incorporated into applicable research projects.

8. Cooperative arrangements will be made between park managers and private commercial operators and non-profit groups using the park to collect, measure, monitor and share information on human use. This information will be used to manage visitor activities to ensure a high quality visitor experience and protect park resources

Expected Results

Successful implementation of these principles will result in:

- decision making based on the best available information,
- proactive management of natural and heritage resources,
- information that provides visitors with an opportunity to understand and appreciate the natural and cultural resources, and issues facing their continued protection,
- inclusion of park users in the gathering of relevant information, and
- decision making that is credible and defensible.

■ Park Zoning

Under the new Parks and Land Certainty Act (2002), Section 22 states that “a Management Plan may provide for areas within a park to be designated as land use zones, and may classify any land use zone, and subject to the Act and the regulations, may provide for developments, activities and uses which may be permitted or which may not be permitted within each zone in the Park.”

Zoning is a tool to assist with managing human activities within a park. The three zones identified for Tombstone Territorial Park are shown on Figure 13. Zoning provides for developments, activities and uses which may be allowed or restricted from zone to zone.

Zones are based on:

- a) the significance and vulnerability of the natural and cultural resources within the Park,
- b) current and anticipated human use, and
- c) recreational values.

The three zones identified for use in the Park are:

- 1) the Wildland Zone, with sub-zones for Recreational Snowmobile Use and Winter Travel Routes,
- 2) the Special Feature Zone, and
- 3) the Multiple Recreation Use Zone (Tombstone Campground area).

The Hart River Winter Road is recognized as an existing egress off the Dempster Highway, and is available for motorized use.

Wildland Zone

The Wildland Zone preserves undisturbed natural landscape and offers backcountry experiences in a pristine environment. This zone provides for non-motorized recreation with controlled access. Special restrictions may apply to specific sites or during particular periods to protect habitat and user experience. Minimal improvements at designated access points on the periphery (e.g. close to the Dempster Highway) for information, safety and/or interpretation purposes will be allowed. No facility development will be permitted in the interior of the zone unless required to protect natural or cultural resources or to provide public safety. Users must be self-sufficient when travelling in this area.

The Wildland Zone applies to the entire Park, with the exception of the Tombstone Campground area which has been designated Multiple Recreation Use Zone.

The Special Feature Zone applies additional management principles and restrictions to specific areas within the Wildland Zone to provide extra protection to resources and to enhance visitor experiences.

Two temporal and spatial sub-zones will be used to provide for recreational snowmobile use in the Park. The intent of providing these sub-zones is to provide for existing activities in the Park while protecting park resources and enhancing visitor experiences.

Nothing in the Management Plan, including prescribed zones, will or is intended to abrogate the rights guaranteed under the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement or Self Government Agreement.

a) Winter Travel Routes Sub-Zone

Falling within the Wildland Zone, the Winter Travel Routes sub-zone is intended to provide for point A to B snowmobile travel through the Park when snow depths are sufficient (see Natural Resource Management and Use section).

Snowmobile users must obtain a Park Use Permit for overnight stays. Travel is to be located in the identified valley bottoms. Mountain riding or other non-travel related snowmobile use is not permitted.

All other provisions outlined in the Wildland Zone apply.

Recommended Actions:

- In cooperation with local snowmobile users, park managers will mark the routes as appropriate.
- A route will be designated to provide access from the Tombstone Campground to the travel route leading up the North Klondike River valley.
- Snowmobile use and snow depth be monitored on these routes.

b) Recreational Snowmobile Use Sub-Zone

Falling within the Wildland Zone, the Recreational Snowmobile Use sub-zone is intended to provide for such activity, when snow depths are sufficient. The area sub-zone is marked on the map.

The sub-zone is located on the east side of the Dempster Highway, south of the Hart River Winter Road to the heights of land at Goldensides Mtn., Blackcap Mtn. and east to Mt. Robert Henderson. The sub-zone also extends to the west side of the highway following the heights of land that encompass Incline Bowl.

All other provisions outlined in the Wildland Zone apply.

Recommended Actions:

- Park managers, in cooperation with local snowmobile users, will develop a snowmobile use code of ethics for the Park.
- Areas in Tombstone Campground and across from the Hart River Winter Road need to be developed for snowmobile users to park, store trailers and off-load. The exact locations will be determined with the assistance of the local snowmobile club in Dawson.
- Snowmobile use and snow depth be monitored in this area.

Special Feature Zone

The intent of the Special Feature Zone is to preserve and protect significant natural, historic and cultural resources, features or processes, and where appropriate, interpret these features to the public. The zone provides for resource and value protection, appreciation, interpretation, educational services and scientific research.

All of the Wildland Zone provisions apply to these areas with the additional overlay of specific provisions for these sites, as identified. The provisions for the Special Feature Zone may vary from site to site based on the resources in question.

Areas that are identified for inclusion under this zone include:

- principal concentrations of heritage, cultural and historic sites as identified in the Heritage Resource Protection and Appreciation section of the plan, and
- Angelcomb Peak and Trapper's Mountain.

a) Heritage, Cultural and Historic Sites

Other than the Yukon Ditch, the heritage and cultural sites in question have not been marked on the zoning map.

Recommended Actions:

- Further discussions between the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon governments will determine how to manage these areas.
- In the interim, the intent is not to draw undue attention to them.

The preliminary recommendations have been outlined in the Heritage Appreciation and Use section.

b) Angelcomb Peak and Trapper's Mountain

Angelcomb Peak and Trapper's Mountain are zoned Special Feature due to the importance of maintaining a stringent management regime in the area. This area includes important year-round sheep habitat that is highly accessible from the Dempster Highway and Hart River Winter Road. Wildlife surveys and local knowledge interviews have identified the entire north face of Angelcomb Peak and Trapper Mountain as sheep winter range. Three lambing areas are known along with two mineral licks. The area hosts the most visible sheep population in the Park. It is probably the most accessible sheep population for resident hunters due to access from the Hart River Winter Road.

A popular ATV and snowmobile route follows the Hart River Winter Road. The effects of ATV and snowmobile use on sheep and raptors in the area have been identified as issues of concern by subsistence and resident hunters, wildlife viewers and scientists. The entire ridge has been identified as key raptor habitat.

Given the popularity and accessibility of Angelcomb Peak and Trapper Mountain, the major management challenge for this area is to develop appropriate use of the area by visitors while protecting key wildlife habitats.

Recommended Actions:

- Use of the area will be monitored through the life of this plan.
- Portions of the area critical to Dall sheep lambing will be closed to human use between May through early July.
- Information gathered will be used to adjust management principles, if required, during the next plan review.
- Recreational use restrictions outlined under the Recreational Opportunities section will be adopted.

Multiple Recreation Use Zone (Tombstone Campground area)

This zone includes Tombstone Campground area and the area between the Dempster Highway and North Klondike River, 400 m north of the Tombstone Campground to the edge of the gravel pit immediately adjacent to the south.

The zone provides for a variety of readily accessible outdoor recreation opportunities that may involve special facilities. Motorized and/or non-motorized activities are allowed (subject to the Highways, Motor Vehicles and Parks and Land Certainty Acts, the Park Management Plan and campground regulations).

Incompatible activities will be separated spatially. Facilities in this zone may range from intensive day use facilities and campground developments to foot trails and backcountry shelters.

Recommended Actions:

- Develop a new Tombstone Visitor Centre south of the current campground in the existing gravel pit.
- Prepare a site plan for the Tombstone Campground area as part of the Visitor Centre development to promote appropriate day use and visitor facilities.

■ Plan Review and Ongoing Public Involvement

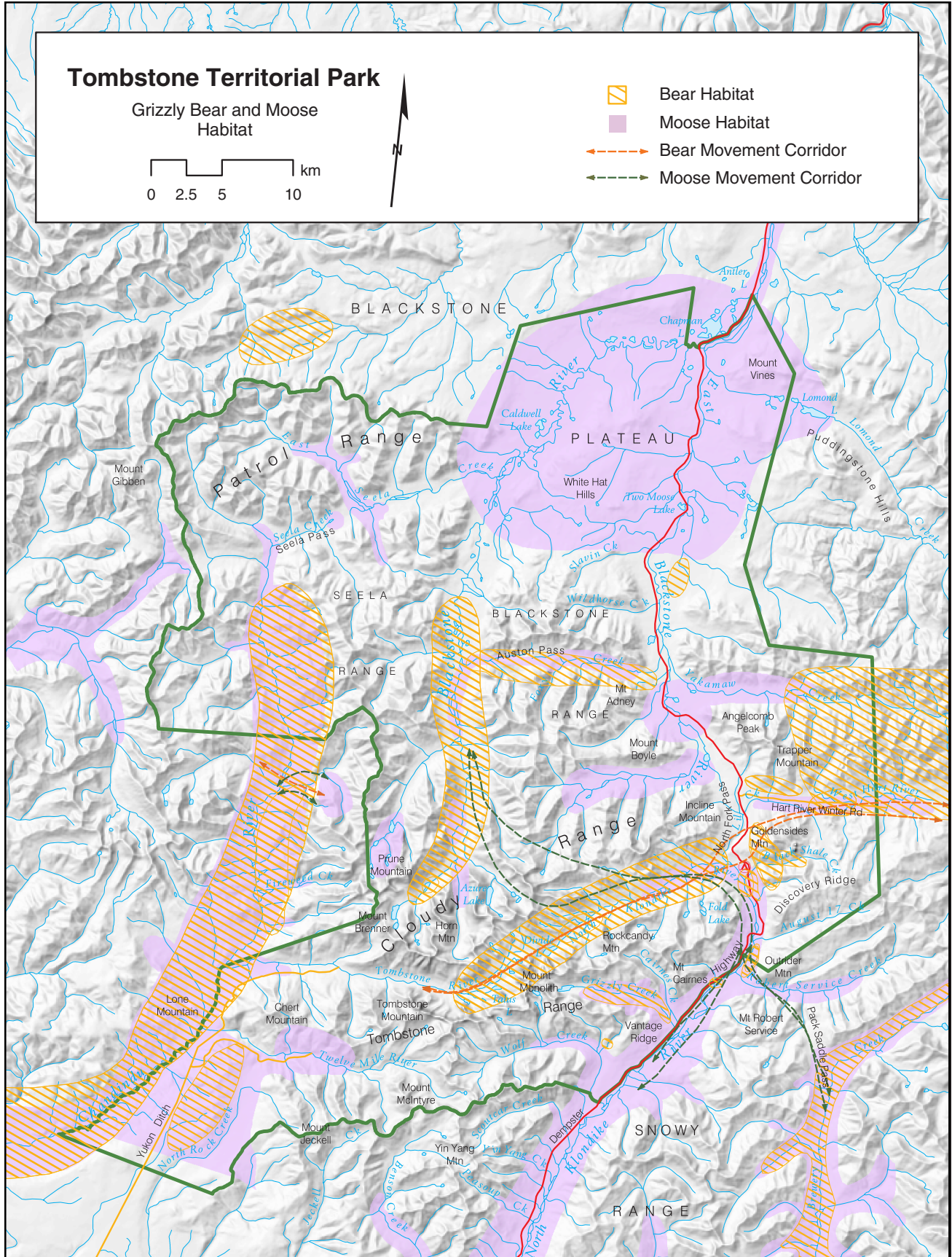
Schedule A to Chapter 10 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement requires the Tombstone Management Plan to be reviewed every ten years by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon governments.

This is the first Management Plan prepared for the Park, it will need to be reviewed sooner. Therefore, the first Management Plan review will take place within five years after approval and then at least every ten years after that.

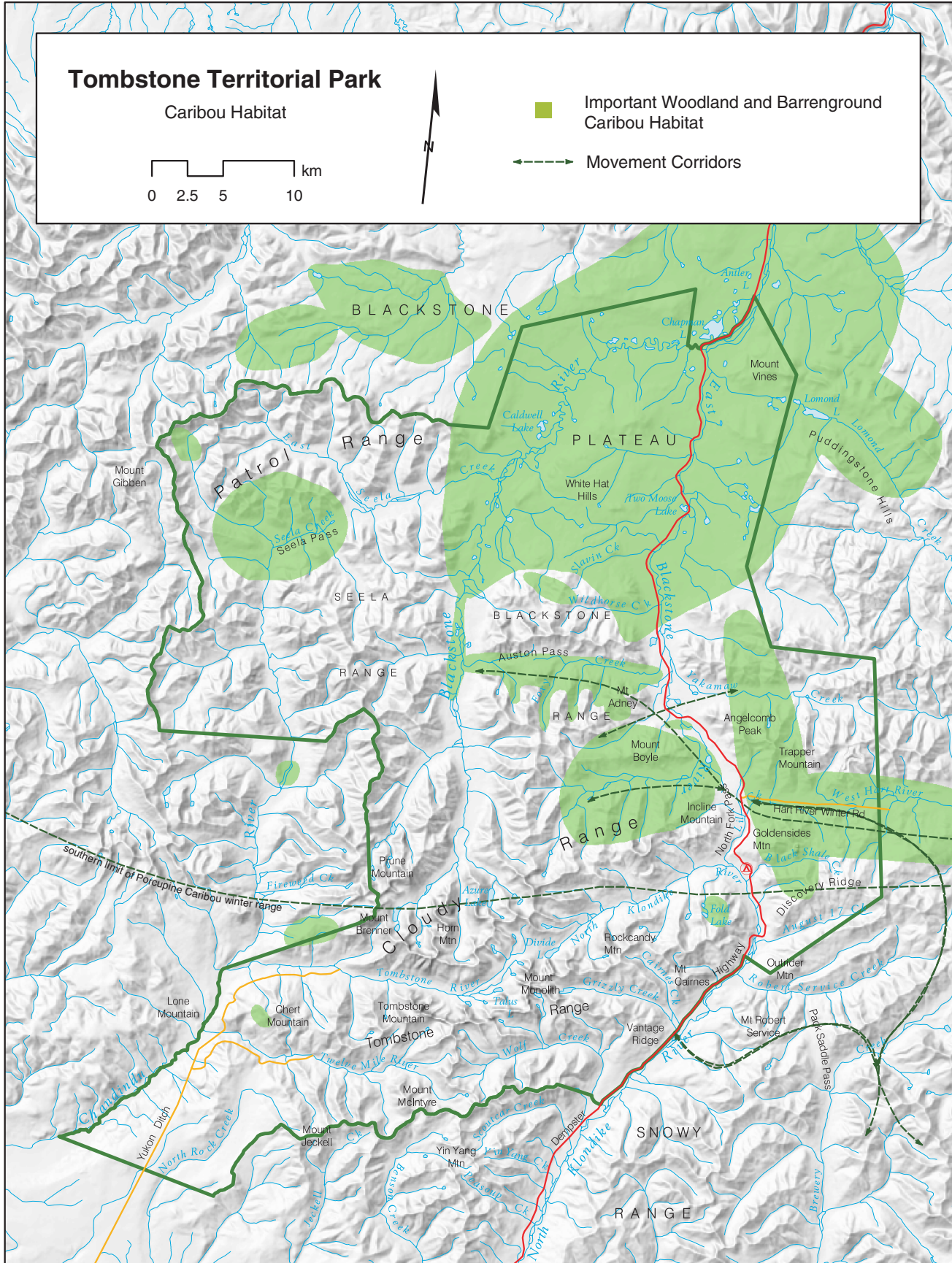
This approach will provide park managers and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon governments with more flexibility to adjust the park management principles as needed.

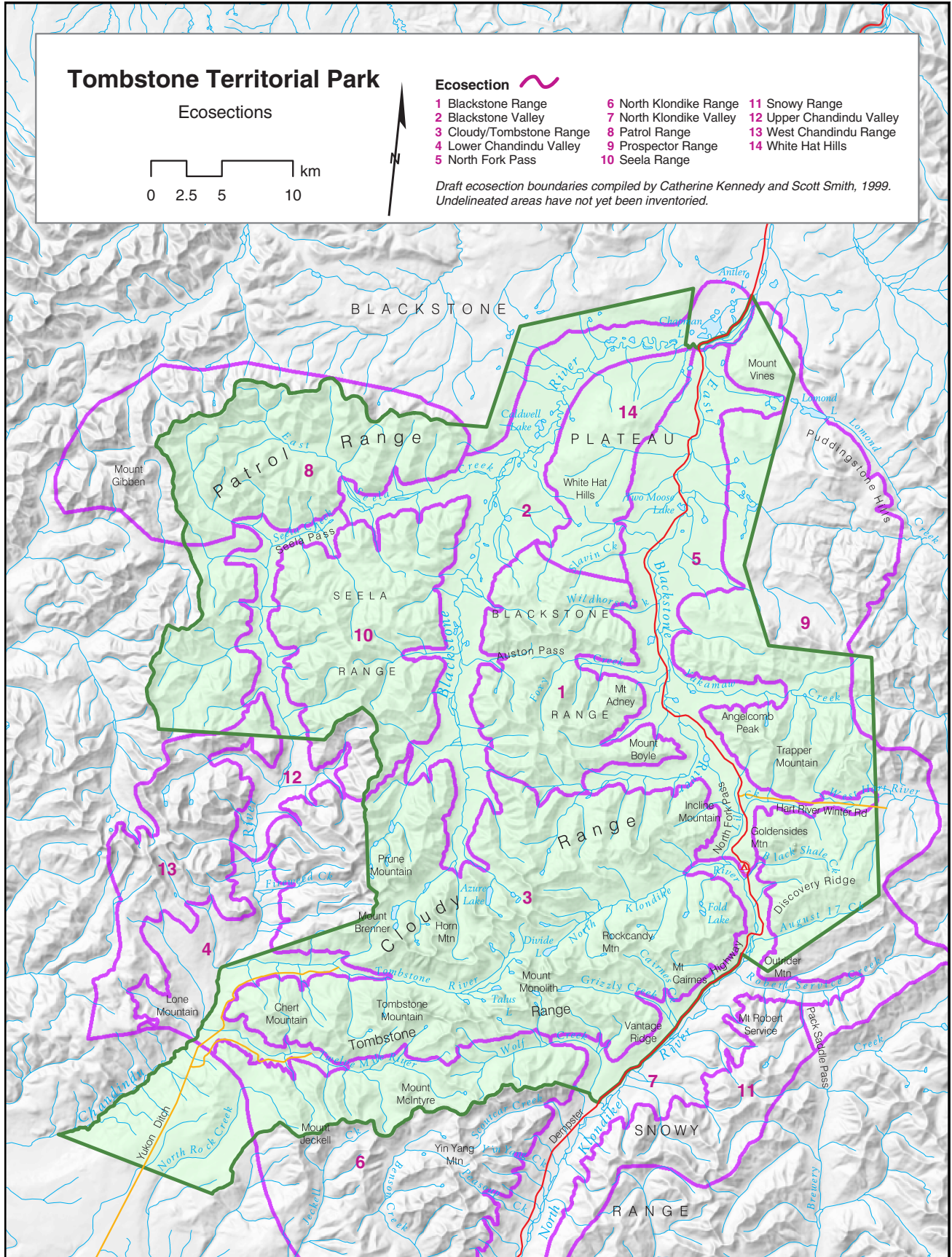
All Management Plan reviews will include a process for full public consultation and will adhere to the requirements of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement.

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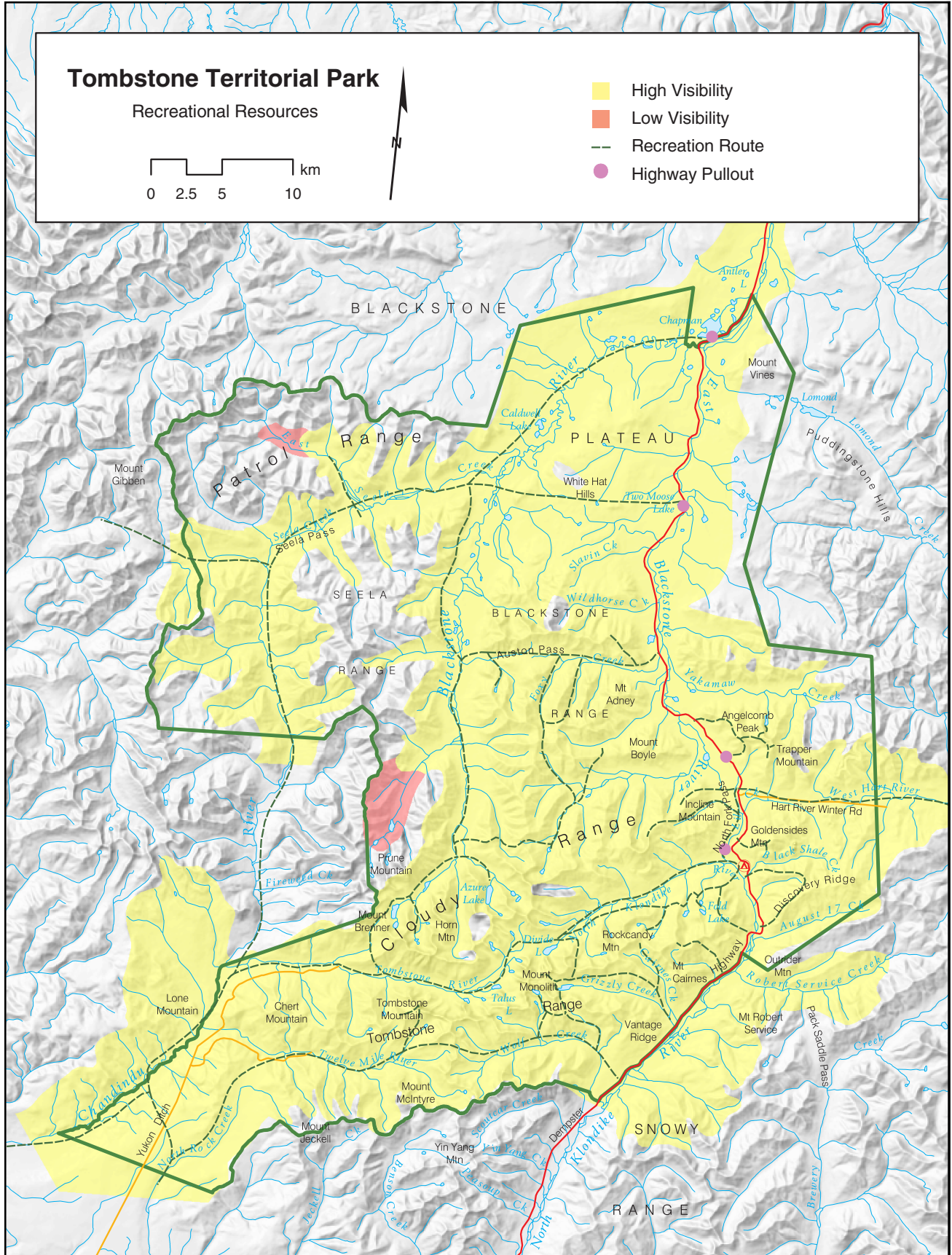


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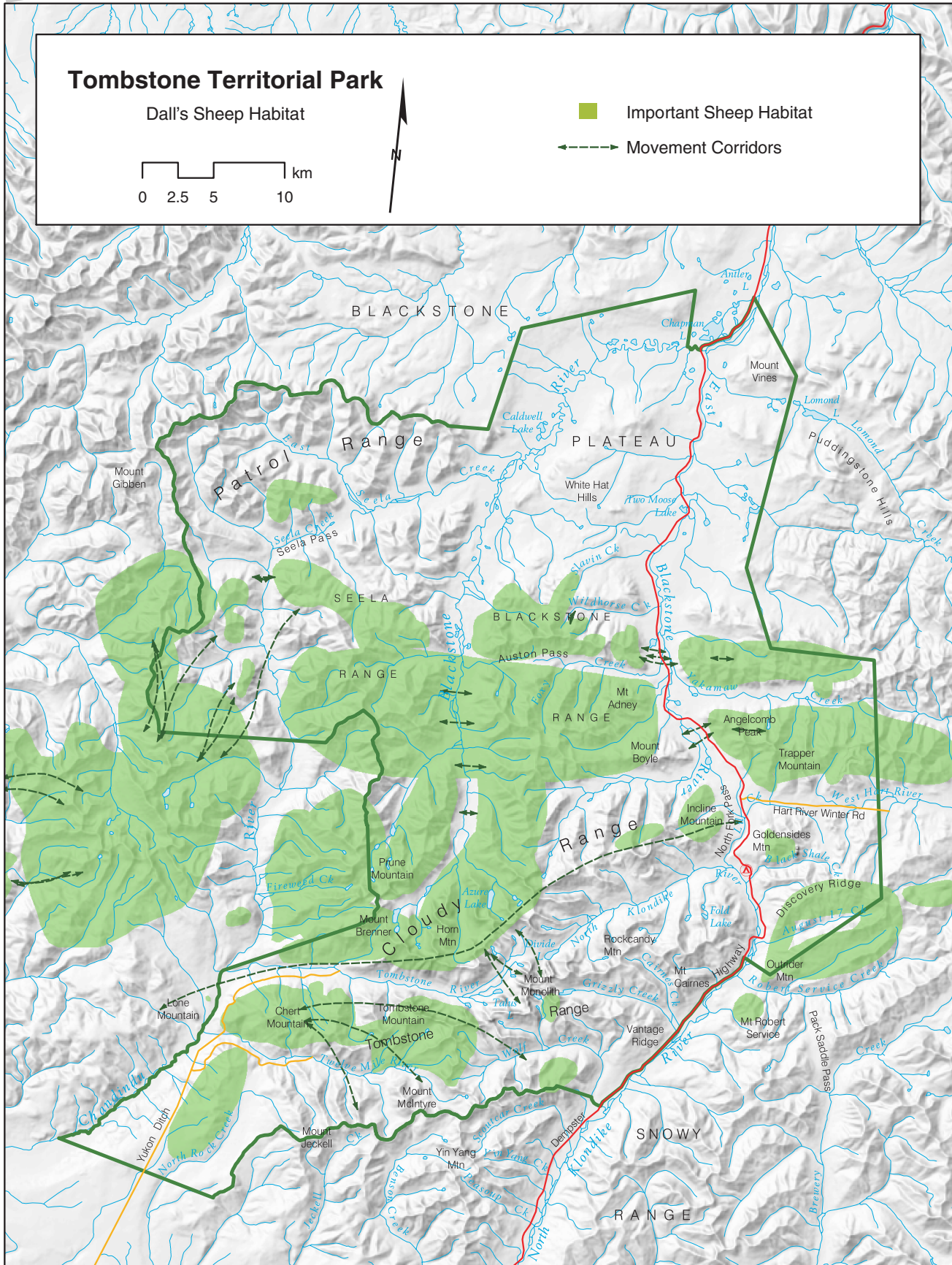




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Specific Economic Opportunities for The Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in and Tr’ondëk Huch’in in Tombstone Territorial Park

Section 6.4.11 of Schedule A to Chapter 10 of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Final Agreement requires the Management Plan to identify specific economic opportunities for the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in and Tr’ondëk Huch’in in the Park. Set out below are a number of economic opportunities in the Park derived from various reports and a door to door survey of Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Citizens in Dawson. The opportunities have not been prioritized. The list is not all inclusive. The approach is broad based and general.

The governments of Yukon and Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in are engaged in discussions on Tombstone economic opportunities, and will be providing additional input to the Tombstone Steering Committee on this issue.

Opportunities in the Short Term & Ongoing	Opportunities in the Mid Term to Long Term	Related Potential Opportunities
	<i>Park Administration</i>	
Employment in Public Service positions for the Park - e.g. Rangers, Conservation Officers,, Interpretive services	Employment in high end Public Service Positions within the Park - managers and supervisors	
	<i>Goods and Services to Park Administration</i>	
Provision of Interpretive Services in the Park	Development of Park Service & Operation Plan	Engagement in retail sales industry within Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Traditional Territory - Park related goods - office supplies
Construction of new Interpretive Centre and Staff Quarters	Construction & maintenance of other Park facilities - outhouses & tent platforms	
Assistance with Research and Monitoring functions within the Park - archaeology, biology, geology, fish, wildlife, culture, history, etc.	Planning and direction for Research and Monitoring functions within the Park - archaeology, biology, geology, fish, wildlife, culture, history, etc.	
Tombstone Campground Operation & Maintenance -firewood -garbage removal -sewage removal - snow removal - light carpentry - fee collection	Producing and Maintaining interpretive signs,	
Provision of fuel to Park facilities & operations - heating oil - propane - diesel - gas	Marketing and Advertising the Park	
Provision of freighting services to Park	Communication and Writing services - signs - brochures - website	
Translation Services - Signs and Place Names into/from Han		
Trail locating, marking & maintenance		

Opportunities in the Short Term & Ongoing	Opportunities in the Mid Term to Long Term	Related Potential Opportunities
	<i>Goods and Services to Park Visitors</i>	
Tourist Trapping	Cultural & Heritage Interpretation associated with Park History & Values within Park and as part of broader interpretation within Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory	Engagement in tourist industry within Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory
Participation in Film and Video production in Park	Producing films and videos within Park	Engagement in retail sales industry within Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory - clothing - fuel - food - camping & outdoor equipment - photo supplies - etc.
Production and sale of handicrafts and souvenirs	Guided Tours - summer & winter - Wilderness tours - Cultural/Heritage tours - dogsled - horseback - climbing	Engagement in rental industry within Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory - clothing - camping & outdoor equipment - etc.
		Construction of tourist facilities on Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Settlement Land along the Dempster - restaurant - destination lodge - campground - RV park
		Transportation - airlines - bus companies - aircraft - helicopters
	<i>Other Economic Opportunities</i>	
		Scientific research and development
		Educational services
		Natural products
		Art & Crafts
		Automobile Repair
		Etc.

Glossary of Acronyms and Definitions

DIAND	- Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
PCMB	- Porcupine Caribou Management Board
RRC	- Dawson District Renewable Resource Council
UFA	- Umbrella Final Agreement, Council for Yukon Indians
TH	- Tr'ondek Hwech'in
THFA	- Tr'ondek Hwech'in Final Agreement
YF&WMB	- Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board
YG	- Yukon Government
Abrogate	- to abolish, annul, repeal as a law
Avian	- Pertaining to the class of vertebrates that comprises the birds
Bracken	- short thick bushes
Cat holes	- small holes dug and used for a toilet
Egress	- the area where one goes out, in this case "off"
Endemic	- plants or animals native to a restricted area
Fish assemblages	- a list including all species found to date within a drainage system
Forest Resources	- includes all flora in a wild state.
Geomorphology	- the development, configuration and distribution of the surface features of the earth.
Heritage	- a cultural tradition, body of knowledge, etc. handed down from past times.
Historic	- memorable or significant facts, personages, infrastructure, or events from the past.
Interpretation	- the act of explaining, assigning meaning, elucidating
Mountain riding	- high marking with a snowmobile, recreational snowmobiling in the mountains
Palaeontology	- the science of ancient forms of life or of fossil organisms.
Physiography	- the description of the physical geography of an area.

- Raptor** - birds having talons or claws adapted for seizing or holding prey e.g. hawks, owls, eagles, etc.
- Spatial** - denoting space or an area
- Temporal** - denoting time
- Tr'ondëk Huchin** - means a person, or persons enrolled under the Tr'ondek Hwech'in Final Agreement in accordance with the criteria established in Chapter 3 of the Agreement - Eligibility and Enrollment.
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in** - the government of the Tr'ondëk Huch'in



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www.klondikeweb.com/tombstone