

# Coffee Lake Timber Harvest Plan



## FOREST MANAGEMENT BRANCH

This transitional planning document is identified in Schedule 4 of the Forest Resource Regulations and according to Section 85(1), indicates the plan as an existing Timber Harvest Plan under the Forest Resources Act.

**Forest Development  
Plan For**

**Coffee Lake**

**Ross River**

Forest Management Unit: **Y09**

A Publication of:  
Yukon Government  
Forest Management Branch  
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## **Executive Summary**

This development plan fulfills a portion of the wood supply recommendations identified in the Kaska Traditional Territory. This plan has been developed to provide small volume timber permit opportunities to the community of Ross River, Yukon Territory.

The 380-hectare (ha) area identified in this plan was determined as a result of a landscape level plan (IFS, 2003) and public consultation process initiated by the Kaska Forest Resource Stewardship Council (KFRSC). The harvesting areas within this plan include four operating units totaling 53 ha, which contain an estimated volume of 10,752 cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) of roundwood for the local community. However, in keeping with a recommendation from the KFRSC, a maximum (total) of 5,000 m<sup>3</sup> will be made available for permits over the first three years.

This document implements the recommendations brought forward by the Ross River community and the KFRSC. As per one of the recommendations made by the KFRSC, management decisions regarding activities in this harvest area will be made by the Forest Management Branch in conjunction with the Ross River Dena Council. Permits for volumes of 1,000 cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) or less will be issued and administered by the Client Services and Inspections (CS&I) Branch of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

A *Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU) was signed, July 29, 2002, between the Kaska First Nation and the Yukon Government. The MOU empowered the *Kaska Forest Resource Stewardship Council* (KFRSC) to create a forest management plan for the Southeast Yukon in forest management units Y02, Y03, and Y09. This plan was developed as a result of recommendations made by the KFRSC towards wood supply needs in the Kaska Traditional Territory.

In September 2003, a landscape plan was completed by the Interim Wood Supply Technical Working Group established under the KFRSC. The landscape plan identified Coffee Lake and Buttlet Creek as two potential areas for meeting local timber needs (IFS, 2003).

In June, 2004, Forest Management Branch initiated a development plan for the Coffee Lake area. The objective was to develop a harvest area for primarily small volume (less than or equal to 1,000 m<sup>3</sup>) timber permits.

On May 26, 2005, KFRSC provided these specific recommendations (See Appendix 1):

- That the Coffee Lake area be managed as a “Community Forest” as is currently occurring in British Columbia. [This would be managed] between the Ross River Dena Council and Forest Management Branch.
- That the Coffee Lake area be managed to maintain visual quality from adjacent lakes, the Robert Campbell Highway and Order-In-Council lands and the area will be harvested and accessed as local interests occur over time.
- That large clearcuts will not occur, but the blocks are management boundaries for smaller openings to access small volumes of timber.
- That the access into Coffee Lake be developed as local need arises to access the timber.
- That the main access will occur off the Robert Campbell Highway in a designated area.
- That levels for interim wood supply in the vicinity of Ross River not exceed 5,000 m<sup>3</sup> (total) over a three-year period (KFRSC, 2005).

All recommendations were incorporated into this development plan. To clarify the idea of a “community forest,” the Yukon currently does not have such a tenure designation; however, the intent is that the area will provide local access to timber for the Ross River community. Additionally, the Ross River Dena Council will be treated as a partner in respect of management decisions affecting this harvest area.

## **2.0 PLANNING AREA**

The planning area covers 380 ha although the actual harvest area is 53 ha within four operating units, comprising an estimated volume of 10,752 m<sup>3</sup> (IFS, 2003)(Appendix 2).

### **2.1 Ecoregion, Drainage and Location**

The area under the plan is located within the Boreal Cordillera, Yukon Plateau, North Ecoregion. The area drains into Coffee Lake which flows into the Lapie River and then into the Pelly River system (Smith, 2004).

The development area is located approximately 25 kilometres southeast of Ross River. It is bound by Mud Lake to the west, an unnamed lake and associated drainage to the north and east and the Robert Campbell Highway to the south. Access is located near kilometre 351, on the north side of the Robert Campbell Highway.

## **3.0 LANDSCAPE LEVEL CONSIDERATIONS**

### **3.1 General Vegetation Types**

The development plan area is composed of forested uplands, dominated by a late seral white spruce stand. Vegetation types represented in the area include type V11 and V13 (Zoladeski, 1996). The V11 vegetation type is described as a closed white spruce forest. These are tall, white spruce dominated forests, occasionally including black spruce, lodgepole pine or paper birch. V13 is described as a closed white spruce–black spruce forest with occasional lodgepole pine.

### **3.2 General Fish and Wildlife Considerations**

There are no fish-bearing streams within the identified operating units.

The area east of Operating Unit 4, adjacent to an unnamed lake, has been identified as high potential for moose habitat (KFRSC, 2004). The operating unit is 100 m from the lake and avoids this habitat.

The operating guidelines (section 8.3) provides harvesting requirements and criteria to minimize impact to avian and wildlife habitat within the planning area.

### **3.3 Recreation and Visual Quality Concerns**

The Ross River community and the Ross River Dena Council expressed concerns with the impact on visual quality. Coffee Lake is an important traditional use area for the Ross River Dena people. The concern was that the road and the harvest blocks would be visible from the Robert Campbell Highway and Coffee Lake. The harvest prescription, small volume permits, and ample retention, aims to mitigate these concerns over visual quality.

## 4.0 STAND LEVEL CONSIDERATIONS

### 4.1 Ecosystem

Located in the Simple Upland Natural Disturbance Zone (NDZ 3), this zone is subject to stand replacing events such as fire and insect infestation (Forest Resources, 1999). The fire cycle runs on a 100 year average interval resulting in an average stand size of 1,000 ha and ranging between 10-100,000 ha. Insect infestations occur on a 40 year average cycle, once the stands reach maturity, resulting in an average stand size of 300 ha ranging between 1-1,000 ha.

The V11 sites (dominated by white spruce), are in late seral to mature stages of forest succession. The V13 sites (dominated by white/black spruce & lodgepole pine), are in the same stages of forest succession.

### 4.2 Silviculture System

The intent is to develop a series of small volume (less than or equal to 1,000 cubic metres) timber permits within the four operating units. The silvicultural system implemented within the operating units will be a **patch cut silvicultural system**. The blocks developed for these permits will be small patches with block size related to the volume of the permit.

Retention within the operating units is comprised of the reserves identified on the attached maps as well as a 100 m setback between blocks. The setbacks can be considered for harvest once their adjacent patches have been deemed sufficiently re-stocked.

### 4.3 Cultural Concerns

Yukon Government Heritage Branch completed an archaeological overview assessment in January, 2004 (Thomas, 2004). Currently, there are no known archaeological sites within this planning area. As recommended by Thomas (2004), the edge of any terrace or hill within harvest areas that cannot be buffered, will have an impact assessment conducted on them before reforestation ground treatments are initiated.

This area has traditionally been used by the Ross River Dena people and a retreat has been established on the southwest shore of Coffee Lake. There is an intricate trail network that the Ross River Dena Council uses to move between lakes for fishing and hunting. The proposed development does not impact the trail network (Ross River Dena Council, 2005).

Harvesting operations will cease immediately if a heritage trail or archaeological site is discovered. The discovery must be reported immediately to the (CS&I) Natural Resources Officer, who will advise the appropriate authorities and the Ross River Dena Council. Harvest operations will be re-located to an appropriate site until the issue is resolved.

## 5.0 HARVEST SECTION

### 5.1 Operating Units

Operating unit areas are outlined in Table 1. The total area of disturbance is approximately 64 ha.

**Table 1 Operating Units**

Operating Unit	Gross Size (ha)	Reserves (ha)	Net Area (ha)	Estimated Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )
1	8.0	1.0	7.0	1414
2	9.5	1.7	7.8	1573
3	31.1	5.6	25.5	5143
4	15.0	2.0	13.0	2622
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>10,752</b>

### 5.2 Harvest Schedule and Season

Demand will determine the harvest schedule however, no harvesting shall occur between May 1 and July 31.

Winter shall be the preferred season of harvest. Harvesting may also occur in dry summer conditions. To protect against unnecessary rutting and erosion, operations shall cease if conditions become too wet.

## 6.0 ACCESS AND ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN

### 6.1 Access

The Coffee Lake mainline road accesses the Coffee Lake Wood Supply Area. The route ascends along a ridge, sequentially accessing all four operating units. Given slope constraints, this is the most practical route. Once the road reaches the boundary of Operating Unit 1, a 200 m buffer conceals the road from the Robert Campbell Highway.

### 6.2 Access Management Plan

An access management plan has been developed to minimize erosion and mitigate wildlife concerns. The remaining mainline will be constructed as local demands merit. Forest Management Branch was responsible for the construction of the mainline up to Operating Unit 1. This access road has been constructed and is ready for operations as of December 1, 2005. Maintenance and any further road construction will be the responsibility of the harvesting proponents. As stated earlier, access development is dependent on demand, and defined harvest levels for the first three years.

Access to the harvest area was located as far from private property as was feasible given the slope constraints and access visibility restrictions.

All roads will be temporary and in block roads will be deactivated upon completion of harvesting activities. Depending on the status of harvesting activities, the mainline will be seasonally deactivated ensuring that water bars and cross-ditches move spring run-off from the road surface. This will serve to limit access to all-terrain vehicles only as requested by the Ross River Dena Council. Once the harvesting blocks have been completed, and reforestation activities are complete with adequate assessments which indicate that they are satisfactorily restocked, the mainline access road will be deactivated.

## **7.0 MONITORING PLAN**

The monitoring of timber permits within the development plan is the responsibility of the CS&I Branch. Audits will be conducted by the Forest Management Branch to ensure that all permit activities meet the objectives of the final development plan.

### **7.1 Harvest Monitoring Plan**

This development plan is to be used as a guideline for harvesting activities on the land base. CS&I Branch staff will ensure that all timber permit terms and conditions are adhered to.

### **7.2 Reforestation Monitoring Plan**

All areas impacted by timber harvesting activities will be monitored and treated to ensure they are satisfactorily restocked. All assessments will be conducted as per the *Yukon Silviculture Manual*.

## **8.0 OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES**

The following guidelines are to apply for harvesting activities pertaining to harvesting within this planning area.

### **8.1 Permits**

Permits for volumes of 1,000 m<sup>3</sup> or less are issued and administered by the CS&I Branch. Decisions regarding configuration of the cut blocks within the operating units were made by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, in consultation with the Ross River Dena Council. This co-management approach will be used to direct future activities in this timber harvest area.

### **8.2 Riparian Management**

The operating units have been configured in such a way as to avoid any riparian areas and wetland complexes present in the area. Operating Unit 4 is 100m away from the unnamed lake to the east and the non classified drainage (NCD)

associated with the lake (on the accompanying map, this drainage appears to be a stream). As such, there is no need for any riparian management areas. Any ephemeral draws that may be located within actual cut block boundaries (as they are developed) will be maintained by establishing 5m machine-free zones and using directional falling (away from the NCD).

### **8.3 Wildlife**

There is evidence of large mammal use (moose and bear) throughout the wetland and drainage areas outside the operating unit boundaries. Appropriate buffers established in the configuration of the operating units will maintain these habitat areas. Harvesting activities will not be permitted from May 1 to July 31 in order to avoid the migratory bird breeding season.

### **8.4 Road Development and Reclamation**

All access to the area is temporary and will be deactivated after harvest activities are complete. The Forest Management Branch will build the mainline road to a Class 2 standard, as per Timber Harvest Planning and Operating Guidebook. This is an all season road with an 8 m road bed and up to 20 m right of way width. The remainder of the mainline road will be developed as demand grows for further access. This main road will follow the route shown in the accompanying maps. Additional in-block access to landings in small volume permit areas will be developed as the permits are issued. Permit holders will be responsible for development of all in-block roads. All in-block roads will be rehabilitated after activities are complete, and will become part of the net area to reforest (NAR).

### **8.5 Cultural Concerns**

As described in Section 4.3, harvest operations will cease immediately if a heritage or archeological site is discovered. The find will be reported to the Ross River Dena Council by the Natural Resource Officer.

### **8.6 Reforestation Description**

Guidelines will be followed as per the *Yukon Silviculture Manual*, to determine planting requirements. Spruce/Pine will be the preferred species for restocking. Regeneration assessments will be carried out, after harvest, within 5 years (early stocking) and 15 years (late performance).

As stated in section 4.3, the edge of any terrace or hill within a harvest area will have an impact assessment conducted on them before reforestation ground treatments are initiated.

## 9.0 OPERATING UNIT SUMMARY

### 9.1 Operating Unit 1 Summary

#### **Boundary**

Operating Unit 1 is 8 ha with two 0.5 ha internal reserves. The south boundary follows the upper terrain break on the southern portion of the unit. The east boundary is defined by a large draw. A distinct forest type boundary forms the north operational boundary. The west boundary is formed by a forest type, terrain break, and is located 650 m east of the private lot (Appendix 3).

#### **Ecology and Site Conditions**

ECO-REGION				VEGETATION TYPE			SOIL TYPE		
Boreal Cordillera Yukon Plateau-North Region				V11			S3		
ELEV	SLOPE %	ASPECT	TERRAIN	SLOPE POSITION	MOIST. REGIME	SOIL DRAINAGE	LFH(OM) DEPTH	SOIL TEXTURE	
850m	0-30	South	Rolling	Upper	Very Fresh	Well	10-30cm	Sand/loam	

#### **Harvest Stand Description**

MERCH. AREA	VEGETATION TYPE	CROWN CLOSURE	AGE	HEIGHT	AVG. DBH	EST. VOL/HA
7	V11	55%	120	20.3	24.7	202

#### **Riparian Considerations**

There are no streams or wetlands within or adjacent to this operating unit.

#### **Terrain Stability**

No concerns exist inside the operating unit. There is a steep (up to 80%) gravel hill to the south; north of the Robert Campbell Highway. Operations avoid this area.

#### **Visual Sensitivity**

Parts of this unit have a high visual sensitivity rating because of the Coffee Lake recreational area. To mitigate the visual impact, the southern boundary was moved uphill to the highest terrain break as well openings will be small and gradual.

#### **Cultural Heritage**

There are no known archaeological sites within this unit however the south boundary follows the edge of a terrace.

#### **Forest Health**

There are no known forest health issues within this operating unit.

## 9.2 Operating Unit 2 Summary

### **Boundary**

Operating Unit 2 is 9.5 ha with 1.7 ha of reserves. The south boundary follows the deep draw and then the upper break of the hill. There is scattered aspen and spruce between this boundary and the upper edge of the steep sand hill. The east and west boundaries are formed by different forest types. The north boundary follows the break of a deep draw (Appendix 3).

### **Ecology and Site Conditions**

ECO-REGION				VEGETATION TYPE			SOIL TYPE		
Boreal Cordillera Yukon Plateau-North Region				V11			S3		
ELEV	SLOPE %	ASPECT	TERRAIN	SLOPE POSITION	MOIST. REGIME	SOIL DRAINAGE	LFH(OM) DEPTH	SOIL TEXTURE	
850m	0-30	South	rolling	Upper	Fresh Moist	Moderate	10-30cm	Sand/ loam	

### **Harvest Stand Description**

MERCH. AREA (ha)	VEGETATION TYPES	CROWN CLOSURE	AGE	HEIGHT	AVG. DBH	EST. VOL/HA
7.8	V11	55%	120	20.3	24.2	202

### **Riparian Considerations**

There are no streams or wetlands within or adjacent to this unit.

### **Terrain Stability**

No concerns exist inside this operating unit. There is a steep (up to 80%) gravel hill to the south; north of the Robert Campbell Highway. Harvesting activities will avoid this area.

### **Visual Sensitivity**

This unit has a low visual sensitivity rating. No visual impact to the Robert Campbell Highway or Coffee Lake.

### **Cultural Heritage**

There are no known archaeological sites within this unit. The Ross River Dena Council maintains a recreational site at the southwest side of Coffee Lake.

### **Forest Health**

There are no known forest health issues within this operating unit.

### 9.3 Operating Unit 3 Summary

#### **Boundary**

Operating Unit 3 is 31.1 ha and contains internal reserves totaling 5.6 ha. The south boundary follows a major draw and the upper break of the hill. The east boundary follows a major terrain draw. The north boundary is located on the edge of a swampy leave strip between this unit and Operating Unit 4. Progressing west, the boundary follows the forest type (Appendix 3).

#### **Ecology and Site Conditions**

ECO-REGION				VEGETATION TYPE			SOIL TYPE		
Boreal Cordillera Yukon Plateau-North Region				V13			S3		
ELEV	SLOPE %	ASPECT	TERRAIN	SLOPE POSITION	MOIST. REGIME	SOIL DRAINAGE	LFH(OM) DEPTH	SOIL TEXTURE	
900m	0-30	South	Rolling broken	Upper	Fresh Moist	Moderate Well	10-30cm	Sand/loam	

#### **Harvest Stand Description**

MERCH. AREA	VEGETATION TYPE	CROWN CLOSURE	AGE	HEIGHT	AVG. DBH	EST. VOL/HA
25.5	V13	55%	121-150	20-24	20.8	202

#### **Riparian Considerations**

There are no streams or wetlands within or adjacent to this operating unit.

#### **Terrain Stability**

No concerns inside the unit. There is a steep (up to 80%) gravel hill to the south, above the Campbell highway. Operations avoid this area.

#### **Visual Sensitivity**

This operating unit has a low visual sensitivity rating. The elevation and aspect of the unit mitigate the visual impact to the highway and lake.

#### **Cultural Heritage**

There are no known archaeological sites within this unit. The Ross River Dena Council maintains a recreational site at the southwest side of Coffee Lake.

#### **Forest Health**

There are no known forest health issues within this operating unit.

## 9.4 Operating Unit 4 Summary

### **Boundary**

This operating unit is 15 ha and contains 2 ha of internal reserves. The southwest and north boundaries follow the edge of a swampy depression covered by willows, black spruce and heavy peat moss. There is an unnamed lake to the northeast of this operating unit. The east boundary avoids a Non Classified drainage (NCD) extending south from the lake. This boundary also defines the eastern edge of the planning area (Appendix 3).

### **Ecology and Site Conditions**

ECO-REGION				VEGETATION TYPE			SOIL TYPE	
Boreal Cordillera Yukon Plateau-North Region				V11			S3	
ELEV	SLOPE %	ASPECT	TERRAIN	SLOPE POSITION	MOIST. REGIME	SOIL DRAINAGE	LFH(OM) DEPTH	SOIL TEXTURE
900m	0-30	South	Rolling	Crest	Fresh Moist	Moderate Well	10-30cm	Sand/ loam

### **Harvest Stand Description**

MERCH. AREA (ha)	VEGETATION TYPE	CROWN CLOSURE	AGE	HEIGHT	AVG. DBH	EST. VOL/HA
13.0	V11	65%	121-150	20-24	23.5	202

### **Riparian Considerations**

A 100 m setback has been established to buffer the unnamed lake to the northeast of this unit. An NCD exists east of the operating unit and south of the unnamed lake. The ground in the NCD is low lying, wet, and has seasonal surface flow. The boundary stays at least 20 m away from the NCD.

### **Terrain Stability**

No concerns exist inside this operating unit. The area is flat to evenly-sloped with some dry draws.

### **Visual Sensitivity**

This unit has a low visual sensitivity rating. No visual concerns.

### **Cultural Heritage**

There are no known archaeological sites within this operating unit however the southern boundary follows the edge of a terrace. The Ross River Dena Council maintains a recreational site at the southwest side of Coffee Lake.

### **Forest Health**

There are no known forest health issues within this operation unit.

## 10.0 REFERENCES

**Forest Resources, Department of Indian and Northern Development. 1999.** *Timber Harvest Planning and Operating Guidebook (THPOG). Incorporating Environmental and Human Values into Timber Harvesting.*

**Industrial Forestry Services Ltd. (IFS). 2003.** *Interim Wood Supply plan for Forest Management Units Y02, Y03, and Y09.* Prepared for the Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council and the Forest Management Branch.

**Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council (KFRSC). May 26, 2005.** *Letter regarding the Final Ross River Recommendations.*

**Ross River Dena Council and Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council.** pers comm. Conversation between ROSS RIVER DENA COUNCIL, KFRSC and Scott Cole, RPF, District Forester Watson Lake, Yukon Government Forest Management Branch, dated June 2, 2005.

**Smith, C.A.S., Meikle, J.C. and C.F. Roots, 2004.** *Ecoregions of Yukon Territory, Biophysical properties of Yukon Landscapes. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, PARC Technical Bulletin04-01, Summerland, British Columbia, 313p.*

**Thomas Heritage Consulting Group. 2004.** *Overview Assessment of Potential Heritage Concerns East Hyland, Watson Lake, West Rancheria, and Ross River Planning Areas.* Prepared for Heritage Resources Branch Unit and Forest Management Branch.

**Zoladeski, C.A., Cowell, D.W. and Ecosystem Classification Committee. 1996.** *Ecosystem Classification for the Southeast Yukon Field Guide.*

## **APPENDIX 1:**

Background Letters from  
Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council

# Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council

P.O. Box 342, Watson Lake, YT Y0A 1C0

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September 2, 2005

Robin Sharples  
Environmental Assessment Coordinator  
Yukon Government  
Forest Management Branch  
867-633-7919  
[robin.sharples@gov.yk.ca](mailto:robin.sharples@gov.yk.ca)

Dear Ms. Sharples:

## **RE: Environmental Assessment of the Coffee Lake Wood Supply Plan**

I am pleased to submit, on behalf of the Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council (KFRSC) and the Technical Working Group, our proposed interim wood supply for the Coffee Lake area for an environmental screening. The Coffee Lake plan was developed to provide Ross River access to timber for local uses as specified in the KFRSC Terms of Reference.

The plan area has been designed to identify four operating areas that will be opened sequentially as local interests for timber are met in each operating area. The timber harvesting is planned to meet needs for small volumes of timber (less than 1000 cubic meters) and local operators will harvest in small openings within an operating area. Once that area is completed, the neighbouring operating area will then be accessed.

The KFRSC is requesting a 30-day public review be considered for this plan.

This plan will be distributed by your office to be screened. The KFRSC will make the information available on its website, and at its Watson Lake office. The KFRSC requests that the material be available to local residents, at Yukon Government Energy, Mines, and Resources offices within the Kaska Traditional Territory.

I am available for further discussion or questions at your convenience.

Thank you,



Norm MacLean  
Chair  
Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council

JUN 6 2005

**Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council**

PO Box 342, Watson Lake, YT, Y0A 1C0  
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FOREST MANAGEMENT  
BRANCH

Email: [kfrsc@northwestel.net](mailto:kfrsc@northwestel.net)

May 26, 2005

**To:**

Hammond Dick  
Tribal Chief  
Kaska Tribal  
Council

Dave Porter  
Chair  
Kaska Dena Council

Liard McMillan  
Chief  
Liard First Nation

Jack Caesar  
Chief  
Ross River Dena Council

A. Lang  
Minister  
Energy, Mines, and Resources  
Yukon Government

Walter Carlick  
Deputy Chief  
Daylu Dena Council

Kathy Lee  
Chief  
Dease River First Nation

**RE: Interim Wood Supply Final Recommendations**

The Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council has by consensus agreed to final recommendations on our obligation to provide an interim wood supply for the Kaska traditional territory in southeast Yukon.

Now that the environmental assessment has been completed on the East Hyland Plan Unit, local timber needs have been addressed for Watson Lake and Ross River, and a salvage timber plan is being reviewed through an environmental assessment, it is expected that approximately 310,000 cubic meters of green timber would be available over the three years of interim wood supply. In addition, approximately 340,000 cubic meters of salvage timber could be available as part of the interim wood supply (KFRSC has indicated that salvage timber is considered commercial and meets the definition of interim wood). The Council through an open, community-based process has provided these opportunities.


The KFRSC is pleased to provide the Southeast Yukon Forest Management Committee (SEYFMC) these plans to implement and begin developing opportunities in forest activities for the area. In addition to these plans, the KFRSC recognizes that there are short windows to access salvage timber, as well considerations to the best blending of the green timber on an annual basis, and needs for multi-year access to timber. The Council looks to the Kaska

and Yukon Government to provide direction to the KFRSC and SEYFMC on how to best provide local benefits to area, and support new initiatives.

Finally, the KFRSC is providing our consensus recommendations for review and approval by the Parties of the *MOU on Forest Stewardship for the Kaska Traditional Territory*. If concerns have not been provided by June 15, 2005, the KFRSC will assume that there are no concerns on interim wood and regional planning will continue to be the focus of the Council.

The Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council is available for further discussion or questions at your convenience.

Yours truly,



Norm MacLean

Chair

Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council

Cc: Dave Crampton, Co-chair, Southeast Yukon Forest Management Committee  
Greg Komaromi, Co-chair, Southeast Yukon Forest Management Committee  
Gary Miltenberger, Director, Forest Management Branch, Yukon Government

# FINAL ROSS RIVER WOOD SUPPLY RECOMMENDATION

## Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council Recommendation

May 26, 2005

### CONTEXT:

1. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Forest Stewardship for the Kaska Traditional Territory was signed July 29, 2002
2. Clause 9.2 of the MOU reads "The Council will choose an interim wood supply area or areas within Y02 and Y03, making best efforts to avoid areas of high conflict with non-timber values, and lands that are under selection by the Kaska for active negotiation in the land claims process."
3. Council has been requested, and has discussed that some interim supply should be made available in the vicinity of the community of Ross River so that members of this community can also entertain forest activities during the planning process.
4. The interim wood supply for Ross River is not part of Interim Wood Supply for Y02 and Y03 (up to 128,000 m<sup>3</sup>/year for three years) and will managed separately from that wood supply.
5. Council has since January 2004 provided interim recommendations in the identification of an interim wood supply for the community of Ross River.

### RECOMMENDATIONS (PLEASE NOTE ALL RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE A UNIQUE SEQUENTIAL NUMBER)

- 14. That an interim supply has been identified in the Coffee Lake area to provide local opportunities for small volumes of timber in the vicinity of Ross River.**
- 15. All recommendations provided to date will be considered as management direction for implementing the interim wood supply and have been attached to this final recommendation.**
- 16. That the Coffee Lake Area be managed as a "Community Forest", as currently occurring in British Columbia, between Ross River Dena Council and Yukon Forest Management Branch.**
- 17. That the Coffee Lake area be managed to maintain visual quality from adjacent lakes, highway, and OIC lands, and the area will only be harvested and accessed as local interest occurs over time.**
- 18. That large clearcuts will not occur, but the blocks are management boundaries for smaller openings to access small volumes of timber.**

# FINAL ROSS RIVER WOOD SUPPLY RECOMMENDATION

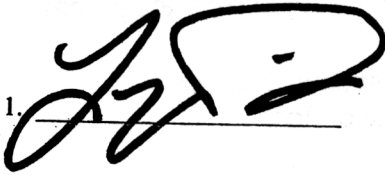
19. That the access into the Coffee Lake area will only be developed as local needs arise to access timber.
20. That the main access will occur off the Campbell highway at the designated area.
21. That the levels for interim wood supply in the vicinity of Ross River not exceed 5000m<sup>3</sup> over 3 years.

**DETAILS:** See attached recommendations for details of the interim wood supply

**BACKGROUND:** No

Recommended by:

Date:

1. 

May 26, 2005

2. Allen Lomeau

May 26-05

3. Dan Hous

May 26/05

4. John Derris

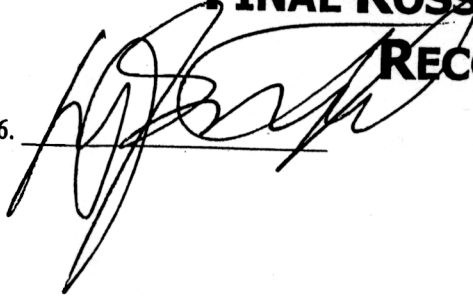
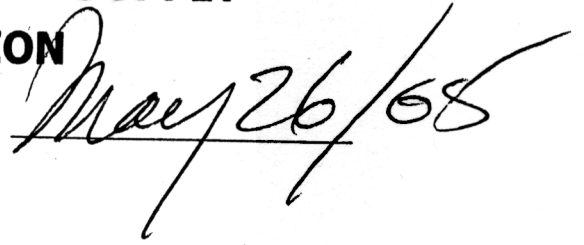
May 26/05

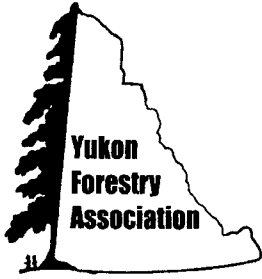
5. Corinne Foster

May 26/05

**FINAL ROSS RIVER WOOD SUPPLY  
RECOMMENDATION**

6.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line.A handwritten date "May 26/08" in black ink, written over a horizontal line.



2 October 2005

HAND DELIVERED

Forest Management Branch  
Dept. of Energy, Mines & Resources  
Box 2703 (K918)  
Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

Attn: Robin Sharples  
Environment Assessment Coordinator

**RE: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RESPONSE FOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR COFFEE LAKE**

Yukon Forestry Association appreciates the opportunity to respond to this Environmental Assessment application and for the opportunity to voice the concerns of its members.

The Association has received feedback on this Development Plan from its membership in Ross River.

After reviewing this plan, the Association concurs with its membership on the issue of the road being to close to private property. The Association has concerns with the risk of eventual damage, such as run-off, fuel spills, load incidents, etc., to the private property.

In Section 6.2, the plan states that "the proposed access to the harvest area was located as far from private property as was feasible given the slope constraints". The Association does not agree that because there are topographical constraints that is acceptable that the private property be jeopardized.

The Association wants to see timber harvest areas being made available to interested parties and agrees with harvesting in this general area. Nevertheless, private property owners have the right to have their land kept from, what is perceived in this case as, negative effects resulting from logging.

Yukon Forestry Association therefore recommends that an alternative access to the proposed harvest area be opted for, one that poses no risk to private property.

On behalf of the  
**YUKON FORESTRY ASSOCIATION**  
and its members,

Jean-François Nantel  
President



Striving to serve industry.

**APPENDIX 2:**

1:20,000  
Overview Map



**Coffee Lake  
Proposed Interim Wood Supply Area  
Ross River District  
August, 2005**

**Legend**

Proposed OU Boundaries	Contour Line
Reserve	Stream
Private Property	Waterbody:Other
Highway - Secondary	Proposed Road

**Forest Label Codes**

<b>Species Codes:</b>	<b>Height Class:</b>	<b>Crown Closure:</b>	<b>Age Class:</b>
SW: White Spruce	1: 0-4 m	A: 1-15%	1: 1-20 yrs
SB: Black Spruce	2: 5-9 m	B: 16-25%	2: 21-40 yrs
P: Lodgepole Pine	3: 10-13 m	C: 26-30%	3: 41-60 yrs
L: Larch	4: 14-16 m	D: 31-35%	4: 61-80 yrs
A: Aspen	5: 17-19 m	E: 36-45%	5: 81-100 yrs
B: Balsam Poplar	6: 20-24 m	F: 46-55%	6: 101-120 yrs
W: White Birch	7: 25-30 m	G: 56-75%	7: 121-150 yrs
F: Alpine Fir	8: 31-35 m	H: 76-100%	8: 151-180 yrs
			9: 181+ yrs

Site Class: L:<10m P:10-14m M:15-19m G:20+m

**Yukon Forest Management Branch**  
August, 2005

Meters

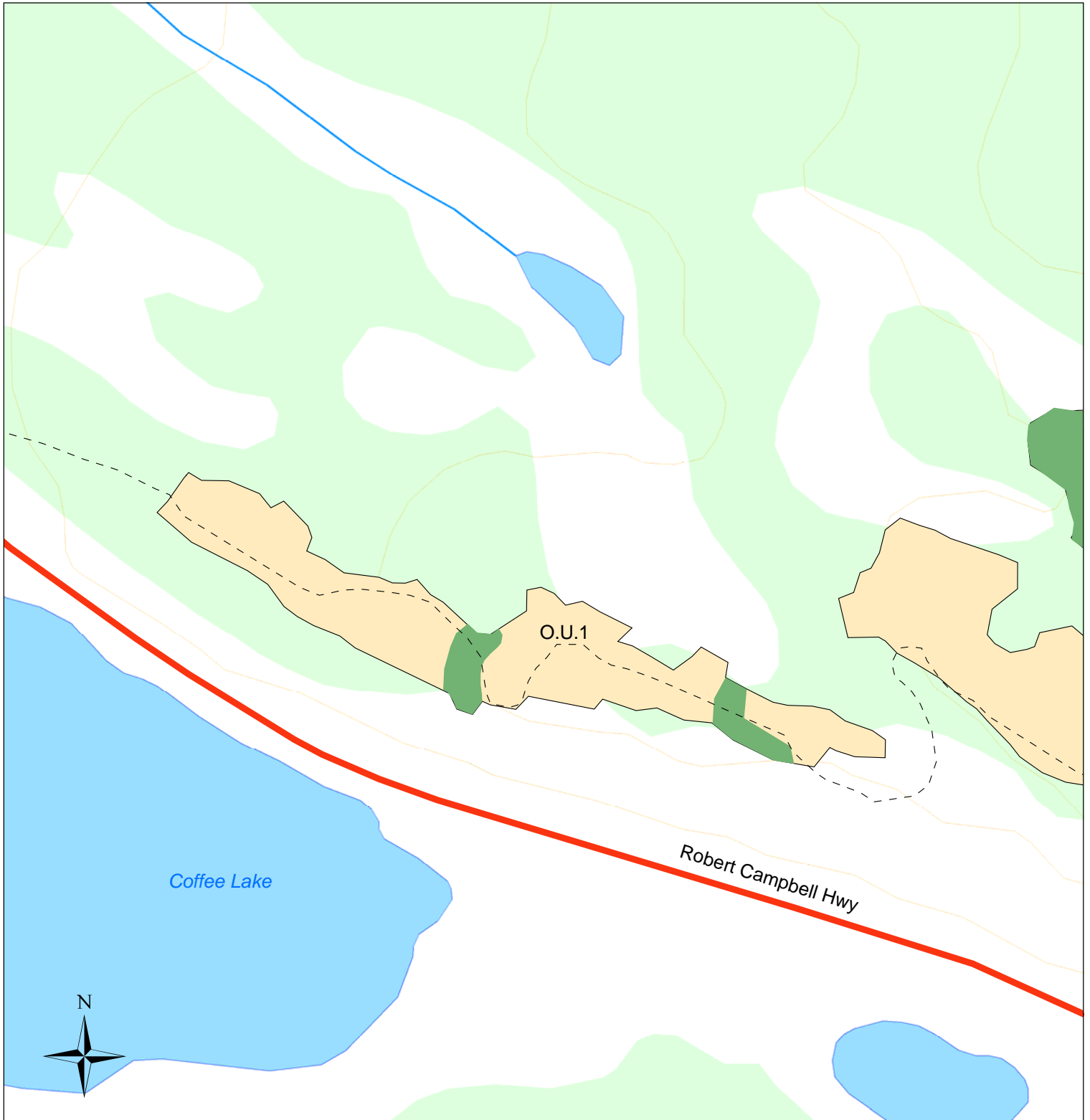
**Yukon Albers Equal Area Projection (NAD 83) 1:20,000**

National Topographic Data Base (NTDB) compiled by Natural Resources Canada at 1:50,000.



**APPENDIX 3:**  
1:5000  
Operating Unit Maps

**Operating Unit 1  
Coffee Lake Proposed Development  
SE Yukon Interim Wood Supply**



MAPSHEET		LAT./LONG.		SILV. SYSTEM		VOLUME
105F/16		61° 54", 132° 24'		Patch Cuts		1,297 m <sup>3</sup>
TOTAL AREA (Ha)	NP NAT	IMM.	MERCH. AREA	RESERVES	NP UNN.	NAR (Ha)
8.0	0.0	0.0	7.0	1.0	0.0	7.0



**Yukon Forest Management Branch**  
August, 2005

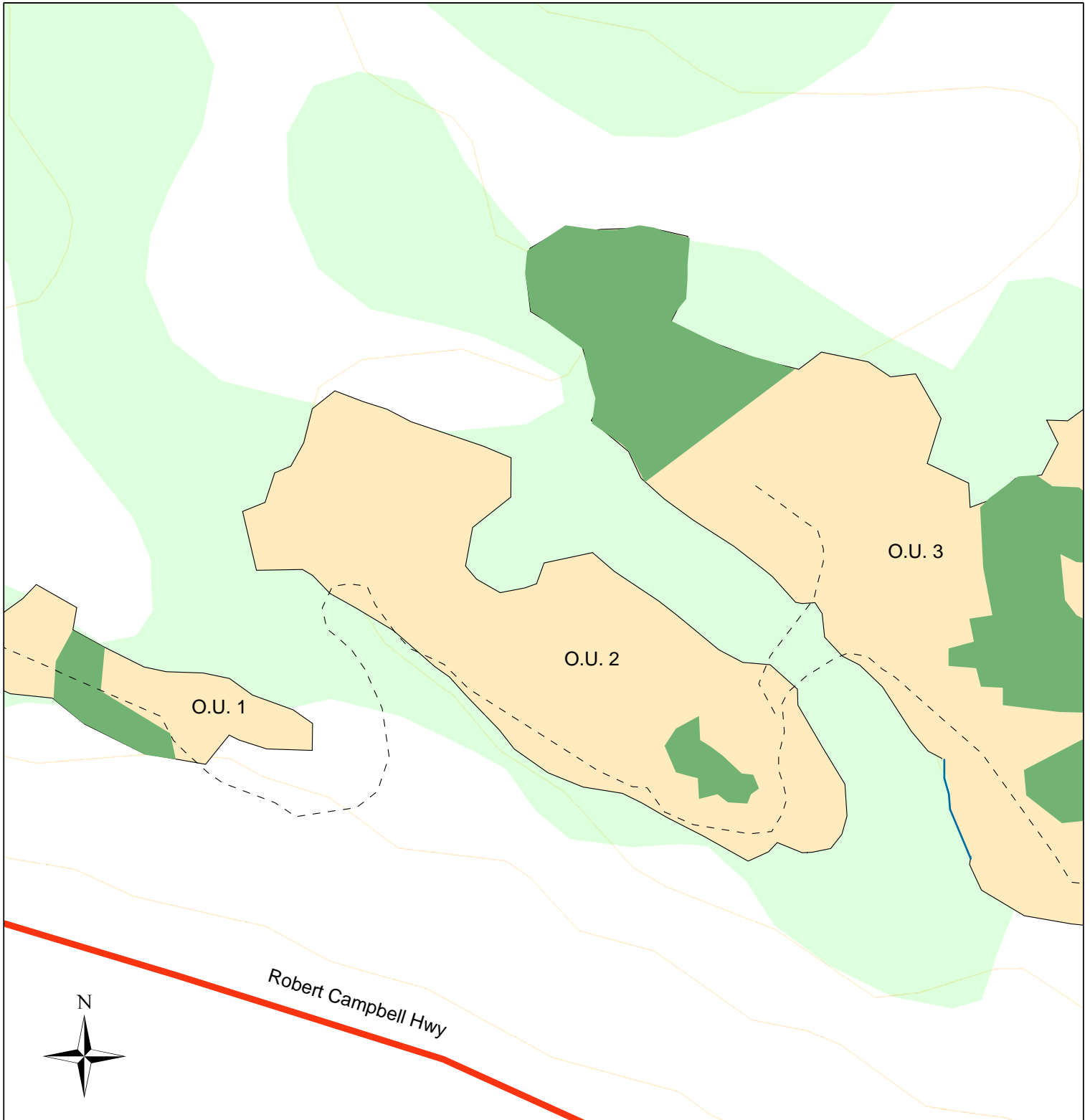
Yukon Albers Equal Area Projection (NAD 83) 1:7,500

National Topographic Data Base (NTDB) compiled by Natural Resources Canada at 1:50,000.

**Legend**

<b>FEATURES</b>	<b>Road Network</b>
Proposed O.U. Boundaries	Highway - Secondary
Reserve	Proposed Road
Contour Line	
Stream	
Waterbody:Other	<b>FOREST COVER LEADING SPECIES</b>
Wetland	White Spruce

**Operating Unit 2  
Coffee Lake Proposed Development  
SE Yukon Interim Wood Supply**



MAPSHEET		LAT./LONG.		SILV. SYSTEM		VOLUME
105F/16		61° 54", 132° 24'		Patch Cuts		1,836 m <sup>3</sup>
TOTAL AREA (Ha)	NP NAT	IMM.	MERCH. AREA	RESERVES	NP UNN.	NAR (Ha)
9.5	0.0	0.4	9.1	0.4	0.0	9.1

**Yukon Forest Management Branch**  
August, 2005

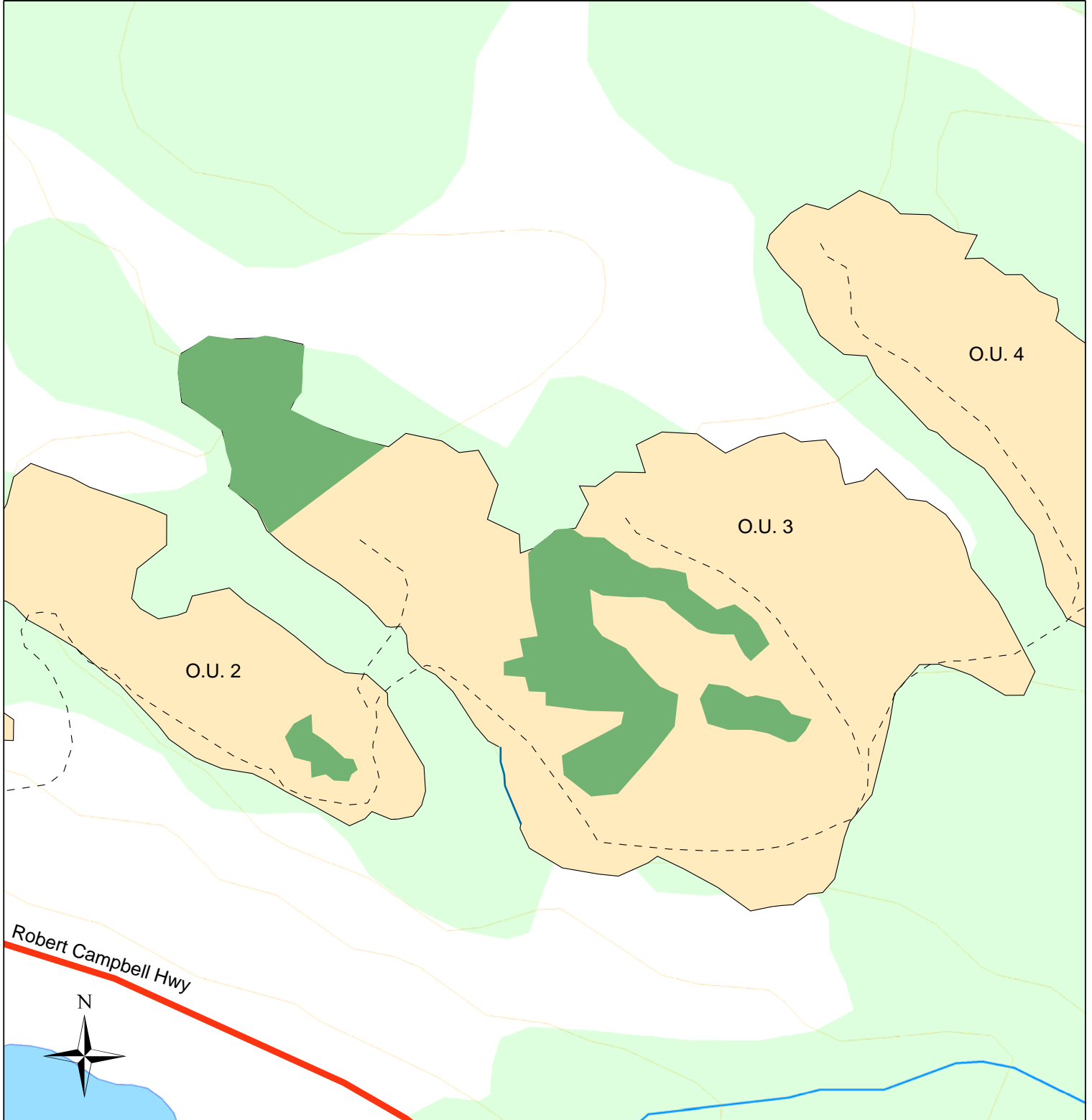
Yukon Albers Equal Area Projection (NAD 83) 1:50,000

National Topographic Data Base (NTDB) compiled by Natural Resources Canada at 1:50,000.

**Legend**

<b>FEATURES</b>	<b>Road Network</b>
Proposed O.U. Boundaries	Highway - Secondary
Reserve	Proposed Road
Contour Line	
Stream	
Waterbody:Other	<b>FOREST COVER LEADING SPECIES</b>
Wetland	White Spruce

**Operating Unit 3  
Coffee Lake Proposed Development  
SE Yukon Interim Wood Supply**



MAPSHEET		LAT./LONG.		SILV. SYSTEM		VOLUME
105F/16		61° 54", 132° 24'		Patch Cuts		5,143 m <sup>3</sup>
TOTAL AREA (Ha)	NP NAT	IMM.	MERCH. AREA	RESERVES	NP UNN.	NAR (Ha)
31.1	0.0	0.0	25.5	5.6	0.0	25.5



**Yukon Forest Management Branch**  
August, 2005

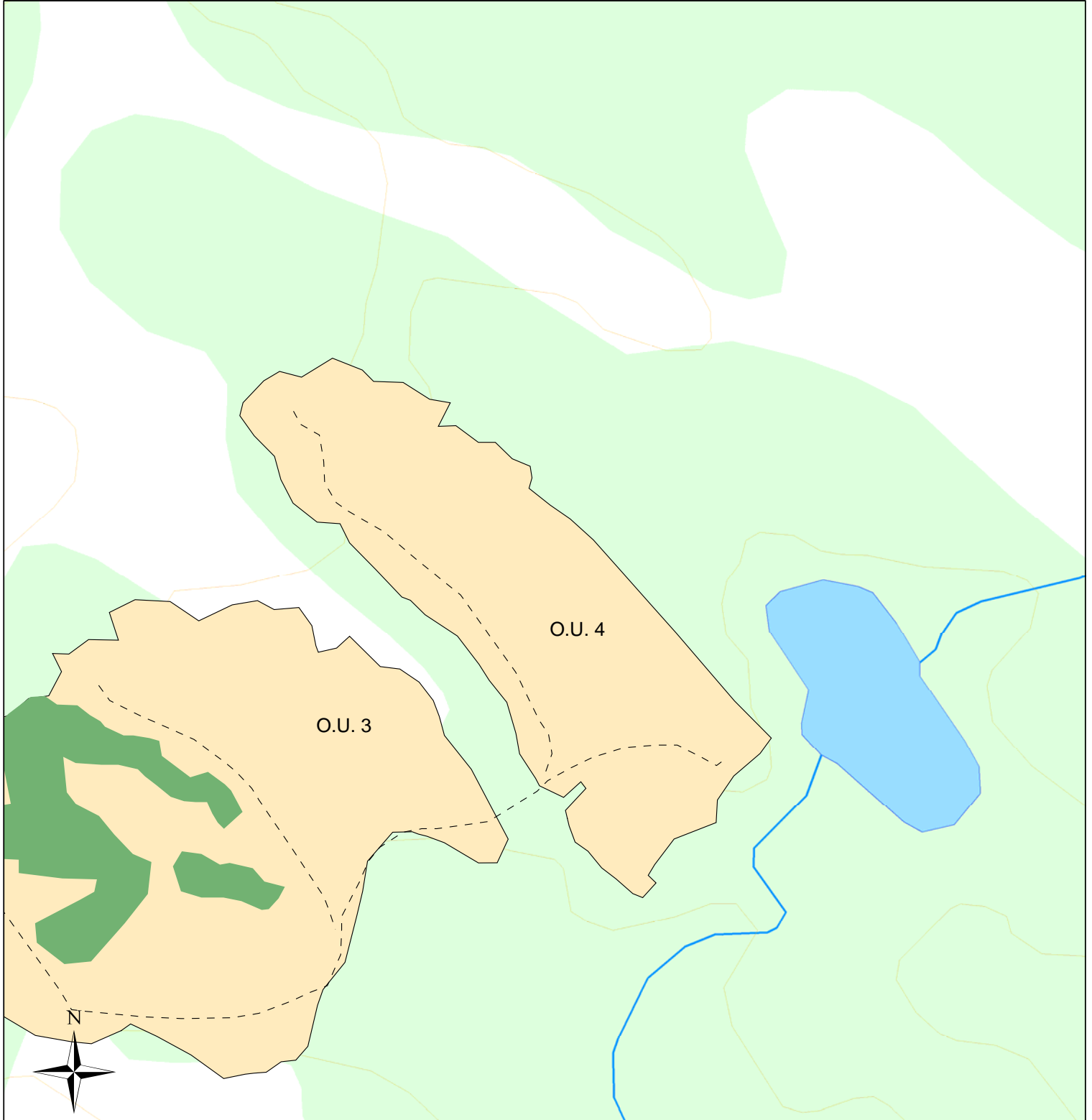
Yukon Albers Equal Area Projection (NAD 83) 1:6,500

National Topographic Data Base (NTDB) compiled by Natural Resources Canada at 1:50,000.

**Legend**

<b>FEATURES</b>	<b>Road Network</b>
Proposed O.U. Boundaries	Highway - Secondary
Reserve	Proposed Road
Contour Line	
Stream	
Waterbody:Other	<b>FOREST COVER LEADING SPECIES</b>
Wetland	White Spruce

**Operating Unit 4  
Coffee Lake Proposed Development  
SE Yukon Interim Wood Supply**



MAPSHEET		LAT./LONG.		SILV. SYSTEM		VOLUME
105F/16		61° 54", 132° 24'		Patch Cuts		3,026 m <sup>3</sup>
TOTAL AREA (Ha)	NP NAT	IMM.	MERCH. AREA	RESERVES	NP UNN.	NAR (Ha)
15.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	15.0



**Yukon Forest Management Branch**  
August, 2005

Yukon Albers Equal Area Projection (NAD 83) 1:6,500

National Topographic Data Base (NTDB) compiled by Natural Resources Canada at 1:50,000.

**Legend**

<b>FEATURES</b>	<b>Road Network</b>
Proposed O.U. Boundaries	Highway - Secondary
Reserve	Proposed Road
Contour Line	
Stream	
Waterbody:Other	<b>FOREST COVER LEADING SPECIES</b>
Wetland	White Spruce