Draft
Dome Road Timber Harvest Plan
within
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in *Traditional Territory*

FOREST MANAGEMENT BRANCH
ENERGY MINES AND RESOURCES
YUKON GOVERNMENT

Prepared: August 2010

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Approved by — Date
Diane Reed, Director Forest Management Branch

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Submitted by — Date
Greg Thompson, Forest Practices Forester

Executive Summary

The Dome Road Timber Harvest Plan (THP) is designed to meet the needs of the Dawson fuel wood industry. Under the Forest Resources Act, all harvesting over 25 m³ must be conducted under an approved THP. The Dome road is a traditional harvest area for Dawson's fuel wood and thus, was selected for the creation of a THP. This THP proposes the harvesting of one block for a total of 48 hectares and an estimated 4800 m³ of fuel wood. This THP is consistent with both the Draft Dawson Forest Resource Management Plan[1] (October, 2009) and direction provided in the Planning Regulation of the Forest Resources Act (FRA).

[1] The Draft Dawson FRMP was released in the summer of 2010.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Dome Road is located approximately 8km east of Dawson City. It is accessed by a rough road that heads east, from the fire tower towards the block. The area has a history of commercial harvesting where white birch and white spruce logging took place. This area's timber is suitable for fuel wood and contains some white spruce that may be viable as commercial lumber or building logs. The selection of Dome Road as a possible harvest area used the following approach:

Stage 1 Investigate current harvest sites and identification of potential fuel wood harvest blocks through aerial photo interpretation.

Stage 2 Conduct field reconnaissance and verification of potential fuel wood harvest areas. This project component also included identification of non-timber values and preliminary road locations.

Stage 3 Finalize proposed fuel wood harvest blocks and preliminary access strategies.

Dome Road was chosen as the location for this THP due to its fuel wood suitability, history as a fuel wood area, high priority planning rating and its recommended short term development time frame (Draft FRMP 2009).

1.2 Eco-region and Drainages

The THP is located within the Boreal Cordillera Eco-zone and located in the Klondike Plateau Eco-region. Characteristic terrain features include smooth, unglaciated, rolling plateau topography with moderate to deeply incised valleys and large structural basins composed of level to undulating glaciated terrain. The harvest block is generally southeast facing, with grades averaging 20%. The area is dominated by white birch with some larger white spruce dispersed within.

1.3 Socio-economic Values

Dawson City is home to approximately 1,300 people. The major economic drivers in the region are tourism and gold mining. The current annual demand in Dawson is approximately 3500m³ for sawlog and 1500m³ for fuel wood. The industry consists primarily of one sawmill and several fuel wood operators. The forests in the Dawson region provide significant ecological and aesthetic values, cultural and heritage values, recreational values, and other non-timber values. Dawson's forests can sustain a vibrant, small-scale forest industry that provides timber for local markets, energy, economic opportunity, and employment for the region's residents (Draft SFMP 2009). Many of the residents of Dawson rely on fuel wood harvesting as an economical heating alternative throughout the winter.

2.0 Planning Area Identification

The total identified area is 48ha with a total estimated volume of 4800m³ (see table below)

TABLE 1: Area and Volume Summary

Proposed Block	Volume/ Hectare (m^3/ha)	Slope (%)	Aspect	Block Size (ha)	Total Estimated Volume (m^3)	Species Composition	Average Stem Height (m)
Dome	100	20	South East	48	4800	90% White Birch 10% White Spruce	18

2.1 Wildlife

All site plans and operational development must be consistent with the most current wildlife standards[2] available from the Forest Management Branch (FMB). These standards have been developed to ensure well thought out and balanced planning with respect to wildlife and forest resources. Throughout the preliminary reconnaissance and consultation, no significant wildlife concerns were noted. This area does not conflict with any fish or wildlife management plans.

2.2 Riparian and Water Resources

All riparian management must follow the most current FMB riparian management standards[2]. No riparian features were noted within the harvest area, one small drainage exists approximately 75m to the east of the block.

2.3 Heritage and Archaeological Sites

The Yukon Archaeological Sites Inventory and the Yukon Historic Sites Inventory did not identify any known historic or archaeological sites in the Dome Road THP area. The Dome Road THP was delineated as low heritage potential and no further work is required. If a heritage or archaeological site is discovered the operator must cease work and contact the local Client Service and Inspections office in Dawson.

(Historic Resources Overview Assessment: Six Proposed Harvest Area in the Dawson Region, February, 2010).

2.4 Soils Conservation

All harvesting operations must follow current FMB soil conservation standards[2]. These standards will ensure that the integrity of soils is maintained across all sites. Harvesting will only be permitted during dry summer or winter conditions in order to mitigate any risks to soil. Utilizing existing access in the area will help minimize any soil compaction

[2] The FMB standards are located in the Timber Harvesting Planning and Operating Guidebook 1999 while new standards are currently under construction and expected to be completed by the winter of 2010.

in the harvest areas. All new roads and landings should be situated to minimize the risk of compaction, erosion, and rutting.

2.5 Traditional Land Users

The Dome road THP is located close to Dawson and is used for some recreation activities and berry picking. These activities have been considered throughout the planning process and are considered compatible with the THP.

3.0 Silviculture System

3.1 Harvesting

25% in-block retention is required; made up of mature trees and snags. All large dead white birch with conks will also be retained. The retained white birch will provide available conks and bark for local First Nation use. The retention will also provide structure now and provide coarse woody debris in the future. Harvesting operations shall minimize unnecessary damage to any regeneration. Harvesting the majority of the mature stems is necessary to increase the economic viability of the harvesting and decrease the number of areas needed to be accessed.

Harvesting methods include both hand and mechanical falling. Harvesting activities are eligible to begin in dry weather conditions and last until break up in the spring of the following year. Harvesting is expected to continue in the area within the seasonal restrictions until harvesting is completed.

3.2 Reforestation

Natural regeneration is the preferred option with artificial regeneration being used to supplement natural regeneration when necessary. The schedule for a post-harvest establishment survey(s) will be outlined as part of the site plan. The results of this survey(s), the Silviculture Regulation and the silviculture standards will guide the decision-making towards regenerating the harvest area.

4.0 Access Management Considerations

The primary objective of access management for the area is to minimize the creation of long-term access. Where possible, existing access will be utilized and integrated with other land users. Appendix 1 illustrates the access into the block. No new roads are proposed for the area.

5.0 References

Environmental Dynamics Inc. Report *"Phase 1 Reconnaissance of Fuelwood Areas the Dawson City/Klondike Region"*. December, 2009.

Dawson Forest Management Planning Team "*Dawson Forest Resources Draft Management Plan"*. October, 2009.

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Dome Road THP Map
Appendix 2: Overview Map

583000

584000

7106000

7105000

Dome

Project Specific Features

- Existing Access Route
- Proposed Access Route
- ....Harvest Blocks

Administrative Features

- ....Surveyed Parcel
- ....Agriculture Tenure
- ....Land Disposition

First Nation Settlement Lands

- ....Category A
- ....Category B
- ....Fee Simple

Forest Cover

- Non Forested Polygons
- White Spruce
- Lodgepole Pine
- Alpine Fir
- Black Spruce
- Balsam Poplar
- Trembling Aspen
- White Birch
- Larch

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Yukon Territory

Date: September 01, 2010
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 7

Digital Data Sources

1:50,000 Canvec features downloaded from spatial data warehouse - www.geogratis.gc.ca. Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, Department of Natural Resources. All rights reserved.

Project specific features such as Existing and Proposed Access Routes and Proposed Harvest Areas were derived/digitized by EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc. Fall 2009.

Digital Elevation Models (30 metre and 90 metre) and land disposition data provided by Yukon Government Geomatics spatial data warehouse - www.geomaticsyukon.ca.

Map scale 1:7,000 when printing on 11"x17" paper.

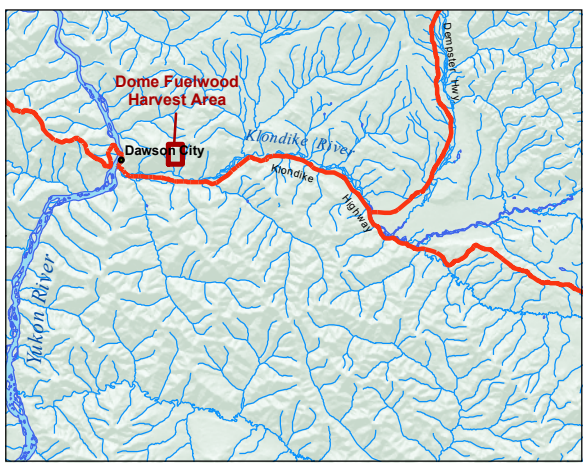
1:7,000

0 100 200 300 400

Metres

Appendix 1
Timber Harvest Plan Area
Dawson City / Klondike Region

Dome Fuelwood Area



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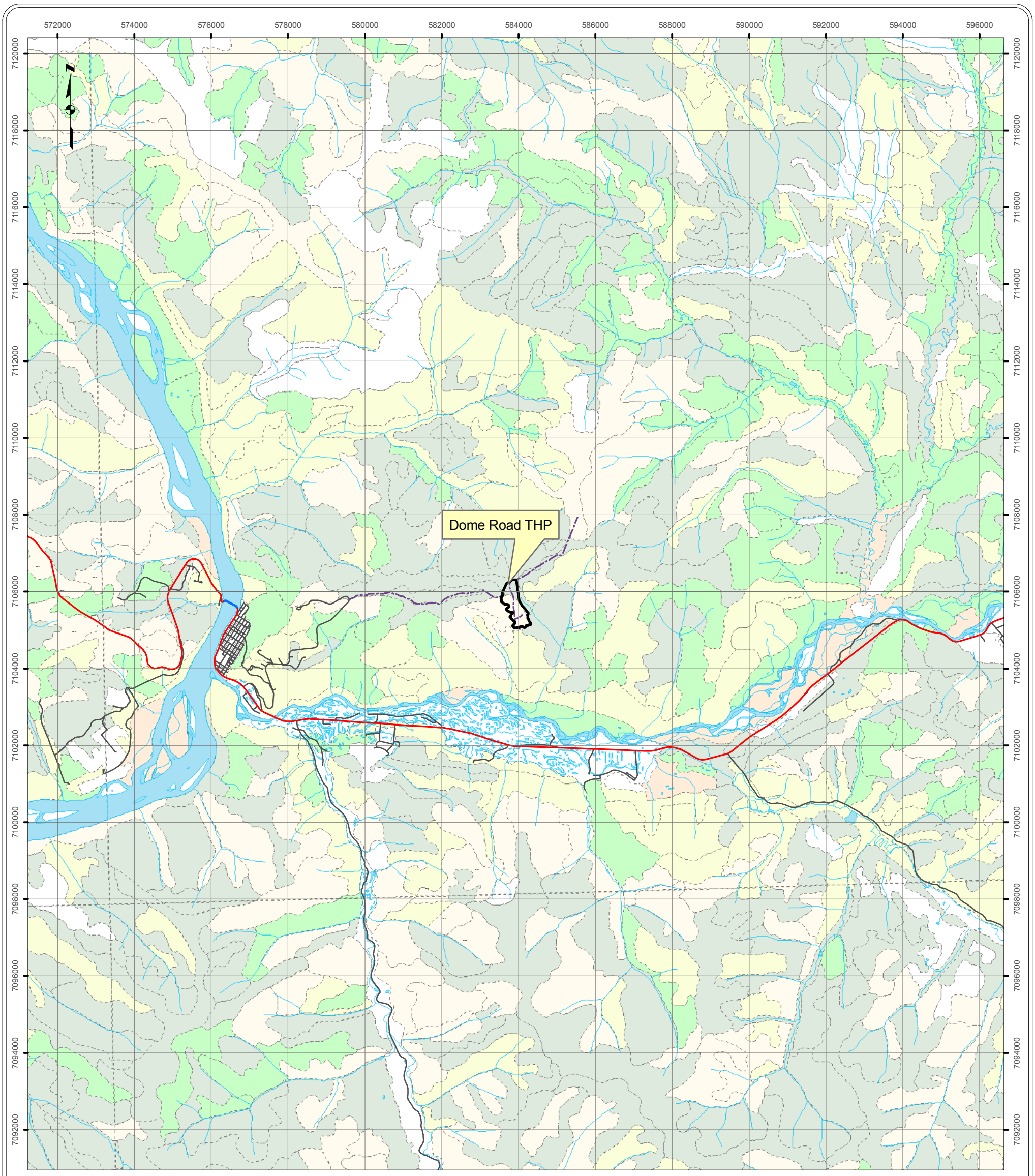

Project Specific Features

- Existing Access Route
- Proposed Access Route
- Harvest Block

Administrative Features

Forest Cover

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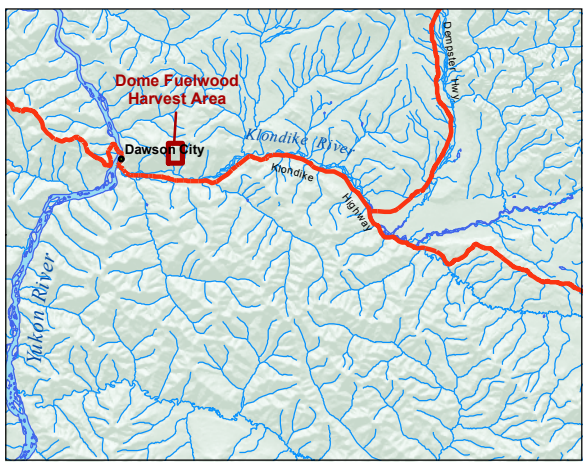
Dawson City / Klondike Region

Dome Fuelwood Area



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