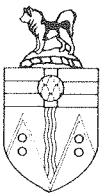


Yukoners' Views On Managing Our Renewable Resources

A REPORT BY THE
SELECT COMMITTEE OF
THE LEGISLATURE



**YUKON LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY**

December, 1986

STATEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE

In keeping with the terms of reference of the Select Committee on Renewable Resources, public hearings were held in most Yukon communities during February and March, 1986. The purpose of these hearings was to receive input on a Green Paper prepared by the Government of Yukon entitled "The Future of Yukon's Renewable Resources." More than 500 individuals attended these hearings, many of whom made comments in a spontaneous manner. As well, there were 48 written submissions and a number of prepared oral presentations in response to the Green Paper.

Committee Members found the dialogue to be stimulating and enlightening. The Green Paper covers a broad range of complex topics and issues and it is not surprising that the opinions offered on these were very diverse. For example, although the two diametrically opposed viewpoints of "conserve everything—exploit all" were expressed, the majority of participants believe that economic development, while essential, must proceed in a manner which does not jeopardize the unique cultural, recreational and time-honoured values associated with the Territory's natural resources. The general theme on which all our recommendations are based reflects this principle and is in tune with the growing recognition and acceptance by Yukoners of a responsibility to ensure that future generations will continue to enjoy a quality of life which includes a rich wilderness experience.

The Minister of Renewable Resources asked us to listen to the people of Yukon. This we have done. It is our hope that the essence of their feelings and opinions has been captured in this report. It is our belief that the recom-

mendations, which we all endorse, will serve as a guideline to Government in its efforts to improve renewable resource management and to enhance the quality of our natural heritage.

Bill Brewster, MLA
Kluane

Art Webster, MLA
Klondike
Chairman

Roger Coles, MLA *
Tatchun

* *Mr. Coles resigned from the Yukon Legislative Assembly on October 30, 1986.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee wishes to acknowledge with sincere thanks the dedication, assistance and advice of Missy Follwell, Clerk to the Committee, which was freely offered so cheerfully throughout the entire Select Committee process.

We are indebted to Deborah McNevin, our researcher for two months, who worked earnestly to make our task a much easier and more enjoyable one.

The assistance of Department of Renewable Resources officials during the public hearing process was most appreciated. In particular, the Committee would like to recognize Stephan Fuller for his prompt attention and thorough replies to all its requests for information.

Thanks to Lilly Schuler for her patience in deciphering and typing the many drafts of this report.

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Joe Slaggard and Solomon Albert returning to Dawson from Headwaters of White River (Yukon Archives Photo)

The Bands may be prepared to consider a cooperative reporting procedure to more accurately determine a baseline data system for big game in the Yukon. Although there is no obligation on our part to report, we recognize the importance of maintaining an integrated wildlife system for Yukon.

Council for
Yukon Indians

People should realize that hunting in the 20th century is not a right, but a privilege. For example if we need to accurately determine the harvest of moose or other animals, we should institute a mandatory reporting system wherein people who do not report are not eligible to hunt the next year.

Jim Hawkings,
Whitehorse

Should population enhancement and maintenance (of Big Game) mean further hunting regulations including method controls, habitat protection, and restrictions on the use of all terrain vehicles, then this is advised.

John Lenart,
Dawson City

BIG GAME

The underlying theme of all presentations related to large wildlife is the need to enhance game populations. Everyone stressed that numbers are down and attribute this fact to several reasons:

- i) an increase in hunting activity in small concentrated areas close to large population centres
- ii) an increase in predators, including man
- iii) greater ease of hunting game by use of new access roads and the use of all-terrain vehicles
- iv) unregulated and unmonitored subsistence hunting
- v) inadequate enforcement of hunting regulations.

As a result, numerous suggestions to introduce more restrictions to protect game and more regulations to govern hunting were offered.

Subsistence Hunting

The first area most believe requires immediate attention is that of 'subsistence hunting.' As there are few guidelines or regulations governing subsistence hunting, it is too vulnerable to abuse. Thus it is recommended that:

'Subsistence' should be defined by factors such as heritage, lifestyle and economic necessity to consume game, and those recognized as subsistence hunters should adhere to basic regulations respecting registration, limits, and reporting of the harvest.

Many participants, both native and non-native, believe it is time to adopt a more realistic approach to subsistence hunting. Only those who truly 'qualify' as subsistence hunters, be they native or non-native, should be allowed this right. All such hunters should be required to register with the Department and to report kills in order that a more accurate account of wildlife populations, on which decisions respecting hunting regulations and predator control programs are based, can be made. The Government should consider the idea of introducing a limit of one moose per household.

Predator Control

Although most believe that predator control as a temporary measure to correct 'imbalances' of wildlife is necessary, the real controversy focuses on what animals, including man, are to be included and the methods employed to 'control' them. Dealing with the first question, it is recommended that:

In game management zones subject to predator control, the hunting of threatened species should be banned to everyone except subsistence hunters. If it is found that such an area does not support a harvestable yield of certain species, then even subsistence hunting should be banned until conditions improve.

With the exception of truly qualified subsistence hunters, it makes little sense to permit man to continue to hunt, for even shortened seasons, in areas where threatened wildlife populations must be protected through predator control.

In regard to methods employed to remove wildlife predators, it is recommended, with respect to grizzly bears, that:

The Department of Renewable Resources, in conjunction with the Big Game Outfitters Association, should establish a procedure by which bears in a 'problem' game management zone are harvested in the Spring hunt.

Recognizing that relocating bears is not a viable option for predator control, as animals make every effort to return to their home range, a procedure should be established whereby a number of outfitters, selected by their Association, would conduct a Spring bear hunt in 'problem' game management zones rather than in their own outfitting areas.

The advantage to participating outfitters of being involved is that they can realize the financial gains of a Spring hunt without removing grizzly bears from their own areas where the populations of this predator are not excessive. The advantage to the tax-

If the Department is worried about their public image in relation to the predator control programs, they would do well to engage in a more extensive PR campaign. Many people even in the areas where the programs were implemented were not aware of the background information that prompted the Department to start the programs.

Elizabeth Hofer and
Peter T. Upton,
Silver Creek

There are divided views on predator control. The majority are in favour of predator control only when proven needed in specific areas and under the strictest monitoring and control systems.

John Lenart,
Dawson City

Therefore we are petitioning for the establishment of a no-hunting corridor of at least 3 km on each side of the Dempster Highway for the purpose of hunting caribou.

Petition signed by
72 Dawson residents

The Dempster Highway corridor must be widened. At present the corridor is so narrow that the unethical hunters who shoot right from the road stand little chance of being prosecuted, and are thus encouraged to ignore the law. This display of poor sportsmanship does nothing good for the public image of hunters. The job of the conservation officers is much more difficult than it would be with a wider corridor.

Jim Hawkings,
Whitehorse

As far as the use of all-terrain vehicles for hunting, I find the use of them of value to the harvest of big game. However, there are those who would and do abuse their use. They do enable a better utilization of wild meat, and also enable hunters to reach some areas a bit farther from roads, lakes, and rivers, thus helping to spread the hunting pressure.

I think that in certain areas there could and may be some abuse, but feel that it should and can be handled area by area, not on a Yukon wide policy to ban all ATV use for hunting.

Stan Reynolds,
Dawson City

It has come to our attention several times that slaughter type hunting is taking place along the Dempster. The issue is not who or why this is happening but that it is happening! We are asking that a 5 mile no hunting zone on either side of the Dempster be reinstated and enforced.

Old Crow
Indian Band

How long can we expect the wildlife to hold up to the onslaught of bull-dozed roads, ATVs, aircraft, and walkie talkies? When the harvest numbers begin their inevitable descent you have your answer. Control of hunting techniques, protection of habitat, appropriate seasons and designated areas are essential.

Wolf Reidl,
Haines Junction

Concerning ATV's, these units must definitely have controls placed on them. They certainly increase hunting pressure on the big game animals. And shouldn't the use of snowmobiles be examined with regards to hunting?

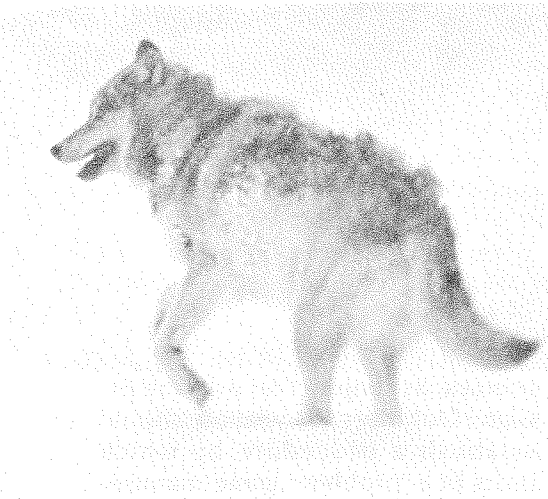
Richard Clark,
Haines Junction

payer is the reduction of government expenditure for predator control.

On the subject of baiting bears, participants were divided in their opinion. Proponents believe this is a necessary ingredient for success while opponents, some of whom incorrectly associate baiting with the use of poison, object in principle to the practice. It is suggested that the idea of baiting bears in problem areas be given more consideration.

With respect to the removal of wolves in problem areas, it is recommended that:

Trappers should be offered a bounty of \$200, in addition to possession of the hide, for wolves killed in identified problem areas before March 1 in any given year.



(Yukon Government Photo)

The most often suggested practical and orderly way of partially reducing wolf populations in problem areas was to reinstate a bounty for which only trappers would be eligible. An effective measure proposed by Indian elders is to take some wolf cubs in the den, but not the entire litter. The advantages of these methods is that a more accurate account of both numbers and sex of animals removed can be made. Only if these measures fail should last resort options--shooting wolves from helicopters or using poison--be considered.

Game Management

The broad subjects of game management and hunting regulations received, as expected, a great deal of attention. Given that the goal is to enhance wildlife populations and to give wildlife a fair chance in the sport of hunting, the following recommendations result:

No-hunting corridors of 2 kilometres should be implemented on all highways and major roads, with the exception of the Dempster Highway which should be 8 kilometres.

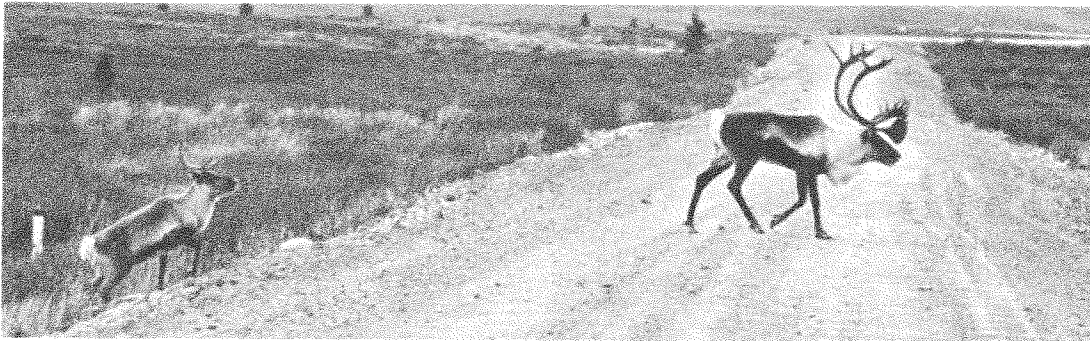
The imposition of a two-kilometre corridor (one kilometre on each side) on Yukon highways would reduce risk associated with the discharge of firearms along roads and would foster a more sportsmanlike element in the pursuit of game. Such corridors already exist on the Annie Lake Road and the Takhini Hot Springs Road. With respect to hunting adjacent to the Dempster Highway, representations made by most participants requested that the no-hunting corridor be increased to eight kilometres. This suggestion was born out of fears of a potential slaughter as a result of easy access to game.

The use of all-terrain vehicles and 4x4s should be banned in remote areas recently made accessible by new roads and restricted in areas of sensitive environment.

A rapid reduction of game stock in areas once plentiful with wildlife often occurs immediately following the construction of new access roads. The advantages accrued to the hunter through the increased use of all-terrain vehicles in these areas are excessive and unnecessary.

In areas of sensitive habitat where protection of the environment is necessary, such as those adjacent to the Dempster Highway, specific locations permitting the traverse of tracked vehicles should be designated and marked by Department officials.

It was commonly expressed that existing regulations, for example, those governing the use of aircraft (especially in respect to harassing game) and the operations



Caribou crossing Dempster Highway
(Yukon Government Photo)

Protection of significant habitat is crucial to the long-term survival of all wildlife species and thus the Department should consider the habitat protection of prime importance.

Yukon Conservation Society

The argument is put forth that road access provided by the mineral industry permits excessive harvesting of moose, sheep, etc. and therefore further accesses should be prohibited. This argument proposes treating the symptom rather than the cause. The most practical recourse is to control the hunting in a more proactive manner, not to control the mineral exploration and the access it provides.

Yukon Chamber of Mines

"Elk and other species" which are farmed for "wild meat for restaurant use, for local sale and export" are clearly livestock and not wildlife. While they may be a specie found in the wild, once they are domesticated for commodity usage they then become a livestock animal. For further clarification I refer you to the Income Tax Act, Stats Canada, and Agriculture Canada.

Yukon Livestock and Agricultural Association

The sale of game and meat was common during the Gold Rush.
(Yukon Archives Photo)

and conduct of outfitters, are not being enforced adequately. More on this subject appears in the ENFORCEMENT section.

Measures should be taken to protect and enhance wildlife habitat.

Many participants strongly advocate habitat improvement, such as controlled burning supervised by the Department, as a means to foster wildlife population growth. Habitat protection is considered in the PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS section and habitat enhancement is dealt with in the SMALL GAME section.

Hunting regulations should be better enforced. In the event wildlife populations continue to decline, a policy on allocation among users of big game should be developed.

There is a prevailing view that subsistence hunting should take priority over sport hunting and that resident sport hunters should have priority over non-residents. And although many do not want to see this taken to an extreme with the elimination of big game outfitting, there is some question as to why other regulations which encourage non-resident sport hunts, such as those available through Special Guiding Permits, are permitted at all, particularly in the game zones which are over-hunted.

Wasting meat was a major concern expressed at all public meetings, prompting this recommendation:

Measures to encourage maximum utilization of the carcass should be introduced.

It was suggested, for example, that field dressing of game should be included as core material in a mandatory hunters' education

course for new hunters. This is discussed in greater detail in the NEW PROGRAMS section.

Big Game Ranching

Regarding big game ranching, it is recommended that:

Big game ranching in the Yukon should be encouraged. Such wild game should be considered domestic stock.

The Government of Yukon recently sponsored the importation of elk to the Territory and is studying the feasibility of big game ranching. From participants' comments, it would appear these initiatives have support. Sale of domestically raised wild game should be permitted for local use and for export.



SMALL GAME

We note that the Government of Yukon has joined in the counter attack against [the] anti-trapping lobby and we are prepared to lend every assistance and resource we have, to join in the fight against this most destructive lobby campaign.

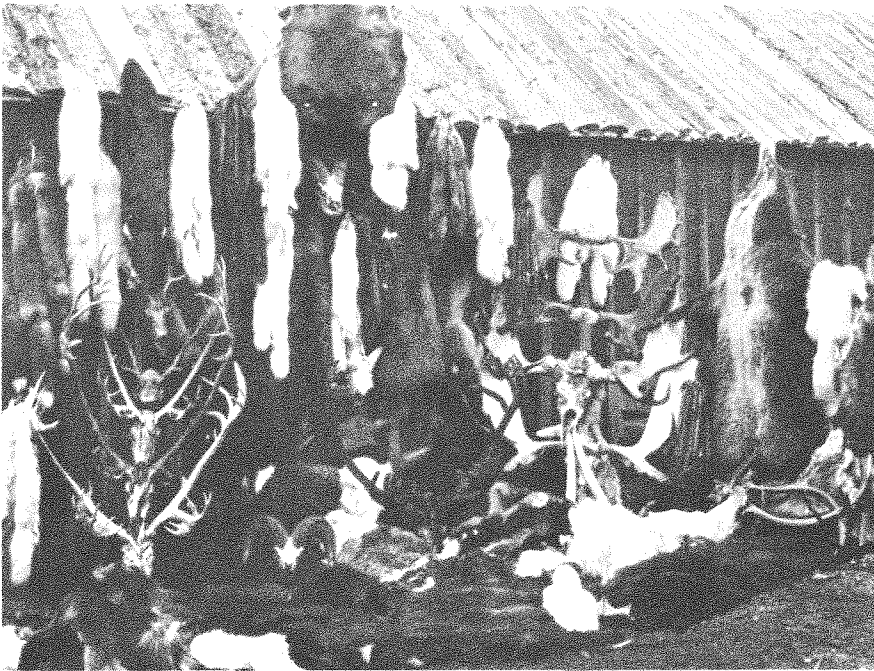
Council for
Yukon Indians

It [Trapping] is more than a way to earn money—it is a lifestyle, both social and cultural that must be encouraged.

Don Marino,
Carmacks

Anti-trapping Lobby

Yukoners appear to be fairly united in their support of the fur industry which provides a partial income to over 700 Yukon households. It is not surprising then that the anti-trapping lobby dominated discussions related to this sector. As suggestions for ways the Government of Yukon should counter-attack this lobby have already been acted upon, it will not be dealt with in this report.



*Furs of the Yukon
(Yukon Archives Photo)*

Habitat Protection

The second most-often voiced concern was that of habitat protection and enhancement for both furbearing animals and waterfowl. While the subject of critical habitat protection is considered in the PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS section, the following recommendation applies to habitat enhancement:

The Government of Yukon, in cooperation with local community groups and special interest associations, should develop a policy on habitat enhancement and a strategic plan for its implementation.

A coordinated approach, involving the Yukon Wildlife Advisory Committee, local Indian bands, rural Yukoners and special interest groups, is required to develop a policy and to carry it out. As users have already recognized their responsibility to ensure habitat is enhanced, the timing to undertake the most effective and efficient means to improve a specific area or waterway would be a prime consideration. Please refer to the PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT section for further comments.

Fur Farming

On the subject of fur farming, two major issues were raised: that of its merits within the Yukon and the live export of animals. With respect to the former, it is recommended that:

Fur farming should be permitted within the Yukon and animals should be treated as domestic livestock.

Fur farming should continue to enjoy its long history in the Yukon. Similar to the case with big game ranching, there is support for the suggestion that furbearers raised in captivity should be considered domestic stock and be managed accordingly.

In regard to the live export of animals, it is recommended that:

It should be illegal to export live furbearing animals for any purpose whatsoever.

This recommendation has been suggested by many associated with the fur industry in order to reduce the potential of jeopardizing the economic long-term viability of the industry. As there can be no guarantee that the offspring of animals exported will not be used as furbearing stock, a total ban is necessary.



(Yukon Government Photo)

Trapping

Of-peated suggestions related to trapping result in the following recommendations:

Trapper education programs and community workshops should be continued.

It should be mandatory for all new trappers to take a trapper education program before receiving a licence. In addition to instilling a professional attitude and a great deal of pride among Yukon trappers, the program should focus on practical matters such as proper pelt preparation and trapping methods.

Regulations should be introduced which restrict a person from holding more than one trapper's assistant licence per season and which permit only one assistant per trapline.

It is felt that with trappers' assistants holding licences which enable them to work more than one line there is a tendency to over-trap areas easily accessible and to ignore areas inconvenient to trap. With only one licence, this is avoided.

Trappers should be compensated when their traplines are adversely affected by other developments.

Consultation between parties before proposed development occurs may resolve potential conflicts. If, however, it is determined that such development will indeed have adverse effects on a trapper's livelihood, guidelines for compensating the individual, such as those suggested by the Council for Yukon Indians (in an appendix to their written submission), should be followed. The 'conflict' subject is dealt with in greater detail under the PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT section.

More effective and humane ways of trapping should be investigated and developed.

More humane harvesting methods would not only save the animals needless suffering but would also do much to improve the image of the industry. Government can play a role in promoting these advances. For example, if a better trap were developed, Government could offer an incentive for trappers to exchange their traps for the more updated models.

In this respect we would oppose any export of fur bearing animals as this has the potential of introducing adverse competition.

Council for
Yukon Indians

It is apparent that when a significant number of ranch raised lynx and marten reach the market, drastic price declines will be experienced in these species and could eventually undermine the market for wild furs. We therefore strongly recommend that the export of all live fur-bearing animals for breeding purposes be stopped immediately.

Yukon Trappers
Association

Setting a snare.
(Yukon Government Photo)





Preparing furs for shipment in front of the Taylor and Drury Post at Ross River, 1928. (Yukon Archives Photo)

The WLLFC supports and welcomes the department's valuable assistance in the presentation of trappers workshops, and recommends they continue to do so and suggest they be expanded.

Watson Lake Local
Fur Council

The WLLFC encourages all trappers new and old to take part in trapper education workshops. We feel the trapper is the best manager of his resource, but recognize that some trappers need guidance; we request that all new trappers must take part in a trapper education course before obtaining a licence.

Watson Lake Local
Fur Council

We also feel that no person should hold more than one assistant trappers licence in any season. And that the number of assistants on a line, other than family or group trapping members, be limited to prevent over harvesting.

Watson Lake Local
Fur Council

Migratory Birds

One final subject relates to Migratory Birds. It is recommended that:

The Government of Yukon should lobby the Government of Canada to amend regulations to the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*, in order that Yukoners can harvest waterfowl.

The hunting season presently in effect for ducks and geese is too late in the year and should be changed so that Yukoners can take advantage of the hunt.

AGRICULTURE



Fields under cultivation on the north end of Klondike City in July, 1903. (Yukon Archives Photo)

Why the need for agriculture in Yukon? Yukon agriculture currently produces less than 2% of the total food consumed in the Territory. An expanded agricultural industry in Yukon can reduce dependence on distant food supplies and provide a more diversified economic base in the Territory.

Yukon Livestock and Agricultural Association

This [the availability of agricultural land] is of course the key issue, and nearly the only issue at the present. Once again, based on the current and potential amount of land being considered the reason for the extreme hesitation to release land is not evident.

Hal Mehaffey,
Mayo

Land Availability

Proponents of agriculture believe it is a viable industry in the Yukon which, without government subsidies, could make high-quality, fresh products available to the local market at prices competitive with imports. The major roadblock restricting development of the industry, however, is the availability of land suitable for agriculture. It is therefore recommended that:

The suggestions made by the Yukon Livestock and Agricultural Association with respect to reviewing requests for land and processing applications should be accepted by the Government of Yukon.

Although this proposal (see Appendix V) has already been supported through a motion passed during the 1986 Spring Sitting of the Yukon Legislature, it warrants repetition. Many participants decried the length of time it takes to process land applications, citing needless red tape as a prime culprit. Inexplicable delays for even the most straightforward of applications are a source of much frustration to those intent on developing their plans, be they related to agriculture, forestry or any other renewable

resource-related activity. It was suggested that the Government should establish a time management framework within which all applications should be considered. If delays are encountered for any reason, then the applicant should be notified immediately and advised of an expected completion date.

The development of an agricultural policy which determines the nature, location, and amount of land released for specific farming purposes is long overdue. Therefore, it is recommended that:

A Yukon Agricultural Policy should be developed in conjunction with the industry regarding the release of land giving due consideration to

- i) real evidence of an applicant's knowledge and capability to develop land for agricultural purposes
- ii) potential damage to the environment through erosion and fertilizer pollution in water systems
- iii) potential conflicts with wildlife including loss of stock to predators, loss of habitat, and the spread of diseases.

The above are the obvious safeguards

I submit that the role of government is to make every reasonable effort to ensure the applicant is successful in their operation. Not only is this responsibility of government important to the individual and his family, it is also important to the successful establishment of a viable agricultural industry as a legacy for future generations of Yukoners.

Brian R. Werlin,
Beaver Creek

The projections for Yukon agriculture estimate a land base requirement by the year 2010 of only .06% of Yukon's total land mass. Most of which will be centered around communities such as Whitehorse, Watson Lake, Dawson City, Mayo and Haines Junction. The feared conflicts with wildlife habitat will be so insignificant as to be virtually non-existent.

Yukon Livestock and Agricultural Association

I would suggest that policy for release should be based on evidence of capability to develop the land—both financial and technical—rather than a "market demand". On the issue of capability, B.C. now requires a development plan listing assets, equipment, and schedule, prior to land release.

Hal Mehaffey,
Mayo

Steet vendor with vegetables grown in the Klondike, 1900. (Yukon Archives Photo)



that must be included for consideration in such a policy so as to provide the necessary guidelines for a conscientious and orderly development of the industry.

of resolving problems related to resource management is dealt with in the PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT section.

Meat and Poultry Inspection

Finally, on the topic of Agriculture, it is recommended that:

The Government of Yukon should provide meat and poultry inspection services.

Meat and poultry inspection services should be contracted out on an 'as required' basis by the Department, using local people wherever possible. The construction and operation of an abattoir should be left to the private sector.

Livestock Control

Although the matter of livestock control received a great deal of attention during the public hearing process, the Committee decided that, as a Discussion Paper on Livestock Control had been developed by the Agriculture Planning Advisory Committee and Government has made a commitment to action, the subject would not be considered in this report.

Co-operative Coexistence

It is imperative to point out that agriculture can coexist with, and often be complementary to, developments and endeavours in other resource sectors. For example, expansion of farm lands creates adjacent buffer areas which are of benefit to some furbearers, game birds, and ungulates. However, if conflicts do arise between trappers and farmers, or foresters and farmers, cooperative approaches to problem solving should be encouraged before the matter is referred to an arbitration board. This subject

Policy development for grazing lands, meat inspection services, control of pesticides and herbicides, ensuring that quality products imported into Yukon are free of noxious weeds, retailing of poultry products, grading of produce, etc. All of these policies must be developed to meet the needs of agriculture in the Yukon and not necessarily be models of what is now the practice south of 60.

Yukon Livestock and Agricultural Association

PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS

Protected Areas

Many believe there is a need to introduce measures which will conserve and protect our natural heritage. The question to be answered is what extent of protection is required for what type of area or natural feature. With this in mind, it is recommended that:

The Government of Yukon, in cooperation with the Federal Government and in consultation with the public, should identify critical habitat and environmentally sensitive areas for their preservation.

Areas throughout the Territory, varying in size, are invaluable habitat preserves for our wildlife and waterfowl. These, as well as fragile areas unable to sustain even normal levels of use by man, should be protected from any type of development.

The Committee supports the selection criteria for protected areas that were suggested in the *Report of the Task Force on Northern Conservation*. (See Appendix VI)

Territorial Parks

The Government of Yukon should develop a policy to establish a Territorial parks system.

A policy to establish a Territorial parks system would formulate site selection criteria for parks designation and a range of protection measures appropriate for each. Ideally, a broad range of features such as unique landscapes, historical and cultural sites, recreation opportunities, etc. should be included in this parks system.

Wherever large tracts of land are identified for Territorial Park status, the park should be designated 'multi-use.'

Although the idea of establishing a parks system is generally well received, most are reluctant to risk alienating considerable areas of land from development or from traditional uses. The implication of a multi-use label for a territorial park is that although most any activity would be accept-

able, such activity and its development would be closely monitored. It would also permit traditional uses of the area, such as hunting, trapping, and placer mining, among other things, to continue.

Territorial Campgrounds

With regard to Territorial campgrounds, the following recommendations are put forth for consideration:

No new Territorial Campgrounds should be built.

With the possible exception of Old Crow, Mayo and Ross River, it is agreed that there are a sufficient number of campgrounds throughout the Territory. To accommodate any additional demand by travellers who use these facilities, preference should be given to expanding existing areas. While enlarging these campgrounds, mistakes in their original design and lay-out should be corrected in order to better utilize and take greater advantage of the area's natural features. New recreational vehicle (R.V.) parks, which offer a higher standard and greater variety of services than territorial campgrounds, should be developed by the private sector.

There was a general consensus that more rest-stops for day-use only, particularly at locations of historical interest or spectacular vistas, are needed.

Local residents should be hired to work at larger campgrounds to perform the following duties and responsibilities:

- i) collect fees
- ii) maintain a clean litter-free site
- iii) act as 'park interpreters.'

If individuals were hired to perform the above duties at major campgrounds, and in particular activities related to the latter which are discussed more thoroughly under CONSERVATION EDUCATION, it would provide tourists with a more interesting and enjoyable experience. It would also ensure that campground fees would be collected, just as they are at private operations.

The Task Force [on Northern Conservation] found that some of the most progressive approaches to the conservation of natural and cultural resources did not necessarily involve huge tracts of lands, but rather involved the creation of a system of protected areas that offered necessary protection to small but critically significant areas. Often the protection was seasonal in nature, often the approach involved a protected core area with a buffer zone or corridor of protection.

Nancy MacPherson,
Whitehorse

Protection is needed for some of the Territory's most important wetlands, such as Tagish Narrows, Shallow Bay, Nisutlin Delta, and McClintock Bay.

Jim Hawkings,
Whitehorse

The Council for Yukon Indians believes that the Government of Yukon in consultation with other Yukoners should explore a method of protecting critical and sensitive habitat areas other than through the establishment of Territorial Parks.

Council for
Yukon Indians

The concept of multiple use of resources must be made paramount so that all Yukon people have an equal and fair opportunity to use a resource.

Serious consideration should be given to the identification of resources or potential resources in proposed parklands.

Klondike Placer Miners
Association

To set aside large areas of Yukon and say no mining or no hunting would be a mistake. It is better to have in place a policy for land use and likewise a fair policy for use of all other natural resources and yet be flexible enough to preserve Yukon as we know it and as people want to see it.

Stan Reynolds,
Dawson City

When considering the future of Parks and Land Use in the Territory, mining and prospecting should be treated as important and not necessarily incompatible industries. With strict regulations, mining can be carried on in areas where people and wildlife need not be adversely affected. That is, these possibilities should be carefully considered before any area is simply closed to development.

Elizabeth Hofer and
Peter T. Upton,
Silver Creek

Implementation of any program which further withdraws large land areas from public mineral access is damaging to the long term economic viability of the Territory.

Yukon Chamber
of Mines

We feel that there need not be any conflicts with Territorial Parks. As parks will have a minimum use during the winter, we see no reason why trapping cannot continue in these areas.

Yukon Trappers
Association



(Yukon Government Photo)

WILDERNESS RECREATION

Outfitters and Wilderness Guides

Our Territory is so large in size, and so diverse in natural heritage, that the two major commercial enterprises involved with marketing wilderness recreation activities, namely outfitting and wilderness guiding (or the so-called 'consumptive' and 'non-consumptive' users), can co-exist and develop without conflict if some effort to cooperate and to avoid confrontation is made.

Thus, the only real issue in this sector relates to regulation of the wilderness recreation industries. Recommendations on this subject are as follows:

Wilderness guides should be bona fide Yukon residents who are certified and licenced.

It is important that wilderness guides be trained to ensure a high quality experience and the highest level of safety for clients without risk of damage to the wilderness. A system of standards currently embraced by our local professional guides and those common in other jurisdictions should be introduced over a three-year period. Only upon attaining such standards, and upon subsequent certification, should a guide receive a licence to operate.

Outfitters of hunters and anglers should be bona fide Yukon residents and regulations governing their operations should be reviewed and enforced.

Although outfitters are presently licenced and regulated, the public is concerned that regulations need to be 'tightened up' to eliminate incidents of abuse of wildlife and the wilderness. The subject of improved enforcement of regulations, which is dealt with in greater detail under the ENFORCEMENT section, was also suggested.

A training program for all guiding and outfitting activities should be established in the Yukon.

Recognizing that opportunities for Yukoners to become involved in a wider range of guiding activities will increase, training programs, perhaps offered through Yukon College, should be introduced in the near future.

The fact of the matter remains that no one has exclusive rights to wilderness lands, and certainly not to the wildlife which inhabits it.

Brent Liddle,
Haines Junction

Yukon Outfitters should have no right to prohibit the access of people to any wilderness area at any time.

Petition signed by
32 Faro residents

I feel that wilderness guiding and fishing guides should be regulated so that they will not destroy present outfitting businesses, nor do harm to wildlife and fish populations in those areas where there may be no other outfitting business or activity of other types. They are consumptive users! They can do serious harm to wildlife populations and have in many areas of North America.

Stan Reynolds,
Dawson City

Although there appear to be conflicts, the prominence given to these in the document's subheadings (Green Paper) is excessive. We feel that many of the problems that arise between individuals could be resolved in a satisfactory manner by the individuals or by an arbitration process as a last resort.

Yukon Association of
Wilderness Guides

The wilderness recreation area is becoming increasingly important to the Yukon and it is important that we have individuals who are trained and experienced in non-consumptive wilderness recreation involved in this industry.

Yukon Conservation
Society



Hunting party, Donjek River, about 1945. (Yukon Archives Photo)

FISHERIES

Inland Fisheries Management

The promotion of catch and release fishing is an excellent idea long practiced by fly fishermen and should be encouraged by others.

Richard Clark,
Haines Junction

Many other locations have had notable success with 'catch and release' programs, and we feel this should be promoted heavily in the Yukon. Emphasis on growing times for the larger fish might make people more inclined to return a fish to the water unharmed.

Yukon Fish and
Game Association

A common complaint among Yukoners is that the inland sport fishery is in a poor state of affairs. Several indicators reflect a deteriorating condition: 1) declining stock of indigenous species due to over-fishing; 2) too many 'scavenger' fish; 3) fewer 'trophy' specimens; 4) increased damage to habitat; and 5) excessive commercial fishing not only in the large 'southern lakes' but also in smaller remote lakes throughout the Territory. The accusing finger points directly at the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans which, in addition to being severely understaffed, concentrates its energies on the salmon fishery. Thus, there is insufficient staff to compile data on even the most elementary aspects of this freshwater resource--species, size, distribution, yield capabilities, habitat--thereby resulting in serious errors in management. Consequently many Yukoners want responsibility for freshwater fisheries to be devolved to the Government of Yukon as soon as possible.

Recommendations concerning responsibility and improved management of Yukon's Inland Fisheries are:

The Government of Yukon should continue negotiations with the Government of Canada to ensure the transfer of responsibility for inland fisheries takes place within two years.

The Government of Yukon should immediately allocate funds and manpower for fisheries management. These resources, in conjunction with those of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, should be used to:

- i) conduct a comprehensive inventory of our fish resource which concentrates on identifying the condition of the stock, their yield capabilities, and other matters pertinent to effective management,
- ii) formulate new policies and programs related to fisheries management,
- iii) ensure the transfer of authority will be done in a most efficient and effective manner.

Considering the previous mismanagement of the resource, it is expected that until devolution is complete the majority of funding to undertake these inventories and programs would come from the Federal Government.

Improving Fresh Water Fish Stock

The vast majority of suggestions to improve matters focused on measures to protect and enhance existing stock. This is clearly the first priority, followed by an ongoing expanded program to restock pothole lakes close to communities.

Recommendations to conserve and enhance native fish stock include:

1. The introduction of a 'Catch and Release' program which promotes the use of barbless hooks and the sporting nature of fishing.

(Yukon Government Photo)



A program similar to Manitoba's should be introduced immediately to convince Yukoners and visitors that it is better to 'Let it go..Let it grow' than to keep more undersized fish than necessary. Manitoba's promotion of this volunteer compliance program through the use of decals and slogans has been so successful that it is financially supported by fish-related industry. In fact, even fly-in operators have established an annual quota of trophy lake trout that can be removed from Manitoba's lakes.

2. The adoption of more discriminating fishing regulations to take into account conservation requirements of specific lakes and river systems.

Once knowledge of the resource has been gathered and considered, more stringent regulations should be introduced for those lakes and river systems which require increased protection for certain species. Such a flexible approach would permit, for example, the introduction of measures to limit the catch of large lake trout taken from our 'trophy lakes' to one.

3. The removal of 'scavenger fish.'

Scavenger fish such as white fish and suckers have drastically increased their numbers throughout the Yukon at the expense of native sport fish. Harvesting programs to reduce their numbers such as the one proposed for the Bennett-Tagish Lake system to be undertaken jointly by the Carcross/Tagish Indian Band, Carcross Community Club, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, should be expanded.

4. The improvement of fish habitat.

Programs by local volunteer fish and game associations and rod and gun clubs to remove debris from lakes and streams to improve the quality of habitat for all water-life, and, in particular, spawning fish, should be encouraged.

The Yukon Fish and Game Association is to be commended for its recent efforts to improve the Wolf Creek habitat.

5. The sponsoring of Fishing Derbies which promote the sport of

fishing while encouraging the conservation of fish.

All Fishing Derbies, such as the one sponsored in the summer of 1986 by The Sportsodge and CKRW and held in conjunction with the Yukon Fish and Game Association, should embrace the following principles before being granted a licence:

- i) fishing pressure is not concentrated on only one species of fish
- ii) the use of barbless hooks is encouraged
- iii) healthy fish in excess of one's needs are carefully released
- iv) the keeping of larger and more productive fish is discouraged
- v) a portion of the proceeds are used for fish enhancement programs.

6. The closure of fishing during spawning season.

7. The reduction of commercial fishing.

Overfishing by commercial interests has severely depleted stocks in lakes both large and small throughout Yukon. Petitions to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans which call for a stop to commercial netting, such as the one recently signed by more than sixty residents of the Carcross-Tagish area regarding Bennett Lake, is a clear indication that the concern is serious enough to warrant careful consideration of such action.

8. The development of guidelines to regulate fly-in fishing operations.

- Regulations are needed which would
- i) offer one operator a priority status on a lake, so as to ensure the operator would manage and maintain it properly
 - ii) control the number of operators that fish on a lake
 - iii) ensure resident sport-anglers are permitted an equal share of the fish quota assigned to the lake.

9. The reporting of fishing violations.

The unethical angler violates fishing regulations, damages the resource and reduces fishing opportunities for all sports-

A program should be instituted to encourage sucker fishing. The Native People blame the decline [of lake trout] on suckers eating the trout eggs. The regulation increasing 3" mesh to 4" is blamed for the rapid increase in suckers.

Carcross/Tagish
Indian Band

I am concerned with the number of fish taken from only a few lakes through netting. The catching of the large lake trout from a lake can have a devastating impact on the numbers and size of fish in the lake. This is because those large lake trout are the heavy spawners producing the great number of eggs needed for a healthy fish population.

Richard Clark,
Haines Junction

men. Yukoners should be given greater incentive and encouragement to record accurately observations of infractions, and to report these in confidence to officials. This principle, which appears in the annual Sport Fishing Regulations/Synopsis, must be reinforced.

Fish Farming

The only other subjects related to this sector which received some attention were fish farming (aquaculture) and the anadromous fishery. As the Pacific Salmon Treaty negotiations for the Yukon River will deal with all aspects of the anadromous fishery, it will not be considered in this report. With respect to Fish Farming, the following is recommended:

Aquaculture should be encouraged. Where it is proposed for a pothole lake, a process should be in place which would permit public input to review any application to 'privatize' such a lake.

(Yukon Government Photo)



Restocking Lakes

In general, we urge you to set up a serious restock program, and to do it now, before our stock is gone and so is the tourist. Pothole lakes and easy access lakes close to communities are vital, and are being cleaned out faster than they can replenish.

Yukon Fish and
Game Association

The following recommendation is in regard to the restocking of lakes:

Lakes and open water systems near communities and close to Yukon highways should be restocked on a continuous basis to provide more angling opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Rebuilding native fish stocks should be a priority but 'exotic,' or non-indigenous fish species could be introduced to closed pothole lakes only.

FORESTRY



(Yukon Government Photo)

As a local industry we would like to see local government (meaning the Yukon Territorial Government) taking on an increased role of responsibility. This does not mean there should be no role for the Federal Government.

Yukon Forest
Industries Association

A forest management policy should be ready when the Yukon Territorial Government takes over forestry from the Federal Government.

Carcross/Tagish
Indian Band

Comments related to this sector centered on four major areas: responsibility for forest management, harvesting methods, reforestation, and fuelwood. It was clearly stated that problems exist with the manner in which our forests are currently being managed and that present policy does not encourage the proper and full use of all timber harvested.

Not surprisingly, representatives of the forest industry focused on a variety of economic and regulatory matters.

Forestry Management

Recommendations concerning responsibility for and improved management of Yukon's forests are:

The Government of Yukon should continue negotiations with the Government of Canada to ensure that the transfer of the following responsibilities for forest management takes place within two years:

- i) habitat improvement, including reforestation and controlled burning
- ii) forest inventories
- iii) issuing timber permits
- iv) fuelwood lot management.

Select cutting and small clear cut areas encourages a good varied forest habitat.

John Lenart,
Dawson City

With selective logging as at present for the local market we truly have a renewable resource and at no time is the forest endangered nor is the wildlife in it.

Yukon Fish and
Game Association

Hauling wood for the Dawson market.
(Yukon Archives Photo)



It is reasonable to suggest that the Territorial Government should have greater management responsibility for the forests as this resource constitutes the habitat on which another important resource currently managed by the Territorial Government is dependent, namely wildlife. As fuelwood lot management is closely related to habitat improvement, and as roads to these areas are often constructed by the Government of Yukon, this too should be included as a responsibility to be transferred.

With regard to reforestation, the Government of Yukon should immediately establish nurseries in order to provide the forest industry with seedlings for reforestation.

Fire protection and major research activities should remain in the domain of the Federal Government for the near future.

The Government of Yukon should immediately allocate funds and manpower for forestry management.

The Government should work in cooperation with the Federal Government and industry representatives to:

- i) conduct feasibility studies related to the economic viability of a Yukon forest industry which investigates
 - a) forest yields

- b) transportation
- c) marketing
- d) mill capacity and processing technology/techniques
- e) product quality
- f) grading standards and product use in construction.

Not until such information is available can governments establish policies and programs and can industry make major decisions such as whether or not to construct a kiln.

- ii) formulate new policies and programs with respect to
 - a) long-term cutting plans
 - b) reforestation
 - c) habitat enhancement
 - d) environment protection
- iii) ensure that the transfer of authority will be done in a most efficient and effective manner.

Harvesting Practices

Recommendations pertaining to the harvesting of this resource are:

Emphasis should be placed on selective cutting practices as opposed to clear cutting wherever possible.

Many participants indicated that they would not wish to see forest 'wastelands' such as those found in many areas of British Columbia once logging has concluded. Yukon foresters should follow practices which will ensure the integrity of the environment.

Marketable timber should be salvaged before forests are razed for development purposes.

Prior to land being cleared for agricultural, mining or any other purpose, the timber should be harvested. The Government of Yukon must take the initiative in this regard when constructing new roads and accesses.

In the harvesting of pine cones, a policy of cutting specific branches, as opposed to the whole tree, should be implemented and enforced.

Fuelwood

Two recommendations regarding fuelwood are:

- Well-planned access roads to more burn areas should be constructed.
- An improved woodlot management policy should be introduced.

For instance, harvesting fuelwood by thinning out fire-killed areas would serve to improve habitat for wildlife.

Industry Incentives

Representations by the industry and a few participants resulted in the following recommendation:

- The Government of Yukon should establish a low-interest loan program available to members of the Yukon Forest Industries Association.

Some funding must be available to entrepreneurs to update technology and to revitalize the industry in general. Similar programs designed to assist with financing capital expenditures exist in other jurisdictions.

*Total Forest Products, Mayo Road.
(Yukon Government Photo)*



WATER

Issues concerning habitat, wildlife or land cannot be separated from water uses and thus the Department must become involved in issues to ensure that the environment is adequately protected for all Yukoners.

Yukon Conservation
Society

Government of Yukon Involvement

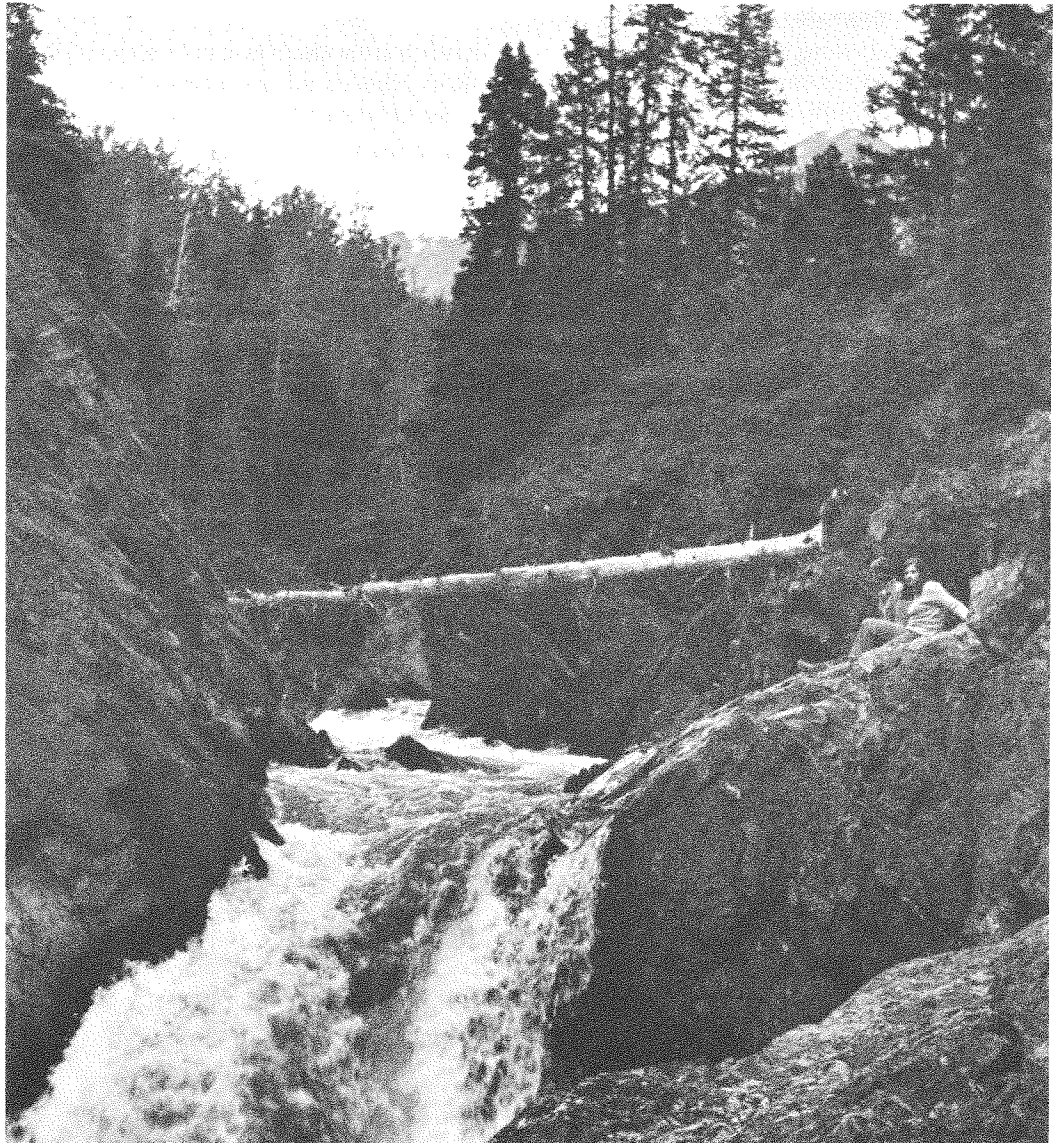
Suggestions on this sector were confined to two areas of concern, namely the role of the Government of Yukon, and protection of water quality.

With respect to the former, it is recommended that:

The Government of Yukon should become more active in water-related matters through the development of management and protection regulations.

The lifestyle of Yukoners depends heavily on water resources for transportation, recreation, support of fish and wildlife, industrial, and domestic use. Until recently, competition among users of this resource has been insignificant. Lately, however, water use conflicts have emerged, as witnessed by debates over the regulation of placer mining, hydroelectric development and municipal waste disposal. A further indication has been an increase in applications to the Yukon Territorial Water Board (the licencing agency) for conservation purposes, that is, the protection of wildlife habitat and the

*Million Dollar Falls
(Yukon Government Photo)*



maintenance of a guaranteed supply of quality water for domestic use.

In a licencing system which does not recognize a priority use for water among competing interests, it is imperative that the Yukon Government become actively involved as an intervenor in public hearings conducted by the Territorial Water Board. Further, the Yukon Government should establish a list of criteria on which to base decisions regarding priority use and multi-use of this resource as a first step in the gradual process of assuming responsibility for water management.

Protecting Water Quality

Although the subject of water quality as it relates to placer mining was raised at many of the public hearings, it was evident that many participants are awaiting the conclusion of the ongoing review by experts which should determine an effluent standard acceptable to all parties. For this reason, the Committee decided it would not comment.

In general, participants feel strongly that water quality has to be better protected and that governments must demonstrate greater responsibility in this area. There are a wide range of measures that could be considered. The following are but representative examples:

Internal combustion machines should be prohibited from use on landlocked lakes which do not have permanent feeder or exit streams.

Policies should be developed on the controlled use of herbicides and pesticides.

Kettle Lakes like Fisheye Lake have no feeder streams or any stream leaving the lake. This traps all petroleum pollution in the lake. For this reason considering the size of the lake all internal combustion engines should be prohibited on such lakes.

Petition signed by
32 Faro residents

Since the Yukon should be relatively free of the adverse effects, ground water contamination, wildlife kills etc. occasioned by unwise use of agriculture chemicals in Southern Canada, it should be kept that way. I would suggest very stringent limits on chemical use, instead stressing cultural practices which are proving successful elsewhere.

Hal Mehaffey,
Mayo

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

How you involve local people in the future will be one of the main measures of success in your efforts to manage our wildlife.

Dawson Indian Band

Northern Land Use Planning is a proposed joint, cooperative and community based initiative to develop land use plans for regions of the Yukon. This program will take into account Federal, Territorial, Council for Yukon Indians and private enterprise positions in developing a land use plan.

Northern Affairs Program, DIAND

Since all renewable resources are absolutely linked to the land and water, it is essential that all management approaches to renewable resources be firmly linked in a broad scope, land management regime.

Selkirk Indian Band

The management of renewable resources cannot be done in isolation. Non-renewable resource development, residential and commercial land development and the impact of tourism all have an effect on renewable resources. Comprehensive land use planning is critical to the management of renewable resources and must be addressed at the same time.

Dawson Indian Band

We see that many competing uses for the land do not recognize the wholeness of the land. The land, the environment, and that which live on the land, whether man or wild life, are all an unity. We want to preserve that unity. We want to see a planning and management regime that ensures that unity now and forever.

Selkirk Indian Band

Conflicts are bound to arise when other land uses are proposed that affect trappers. In a lot of cases these conflicts could be minimized if the trappers directly involved, the land use applicant and the Territorial Government were to officially get together to reach a compromise that would allow all concerned to operate.

Yukon Trappers Association

No doubt a significant number of Yukoners appreciate the opportunity of being consulted about matters affecting them. They recognize the importance of establishing avenues through which their interests are represented on issues requiring cooperative approaches to problem solving.

The two areas in which greater participation by the public should be encouraged relate to land use planning and renewable resource management.

Land Use Planning

It is recognized that in addition to striking committees which enlist representatives of all affected interest groups to focus on the use of land in various sub-regions of the Territory, there is a need for a separate Commission to consider the Yukon as a whole. With that in mind, the following recommendation is offered:

A Yukon Land Use Planning Commission, comprised of representative sectors and appropriate government officials, should be established.

Specific duties and responsibilities should include:

- i) developing a master plan for the optimum use of land and resources

Such a master plan will provide for both conservation and development. In determining how to achieve the optimum use of our land and resources a set of criteria should be established which would assist in the formation of priorities.

This reference priority-use list would consider factors such as economic benefits, aesthetic or recreation value, local preference, effect on subsistence economy, way of life, etc.

- ii) developing a coordinated strategy for the management of resources

Presently, applications for use of land and water are considered independently without regard to an overall plan. The fact that activities associated with one invariably affect the other sug-

gests an integrated approach to water and land use management is imperative.

- iii) resolving land use conflicts

Although the Green Paper made many references to conflicts among users of renewable resources, the message delivered at public hearings was that such conflicts are more apparent than real. However, when consultation between affected parties over any land use conflict does not resolve matters, a subcommittee of this Commission should assume the responsibility of making a decision, and award compensation according to an established policy.

- iv) communicating with the public

A public participation program designed to provide information and to obtain input is essential for a successful land use planning process. Public meetings would provide useful discussions and different ideas for consideration in the continuous, ongoing process of defining and fine-tuning a master plan.

Renewable Resources Management

The development of a management system for renewable resources should involve a process of public participation. However, the degree of such public involvement is more dependent on factors such as time and money available to travel and to attend meetings than interest and concern. This makes meaningful, ongoing participation at the local level difficult to achieve. With this in mind, it is recommended that:

A Renewable Resources Management Advisory Committee comprised of Yukon residents be established to advise the Minister on all matters pertaining to renewable resource management.

This new Committee would incorporate the existing Wildlife Advisory Committee with additional representation from non-

consumptive users and from rural Yukon and would deal with the broad spectrum of renewable resource management. To encourage public participation, this Committee would be empowered to conduct public meetings for the purpose of soliciting opinions on specific issues of local concern.

It was emphasized by a number of participants that once Government has determined a policy on a specific matter based on input from the public participation process and expert advice, it must have the conviction to pursue that policy even in the face of dissension.

Trappers are harvesters of a resource that depends on habitat remaining undisturbed and intact, therefore trappers should be consulted before major agriculture developments take place or habitat enhancement programs are developed. Compensation levels should be reached thru a board made up of trappers, agriculturists and independent people.

Watson Lake Local
Fur Council

Such integrative planning should fully consider public opinion and goals with respect to the renewable resources of the Yukon; a public participation strategy should be formulated now to ameliorate future resource conflicts.

Yukon Conservation
Society

I would like to re-iterate the need for the Wildlife Advisory Council to be reactivated with a broader base of representation. It should be frequently advised and consulted by the Department on wildlife matters.

Jim Hawkings,
Whitehorse

Our grandfathers and generations before have chosen this area to live, and who better to understand how to insure resources for the future than ourselves? By this we mean it is very important that natives sit on management boards regarding renewable resources.

Old Crow
Indian Band

Any management system for renewable resources must continuously involve public participation and the evolution of policies on matters such as water and fisheries must include extensive consultation with the Yukon public. This continuous public participation program would eradicate many of the past misunderstandings of the public.

Council for
Yukon Indians

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Conservation Education Program Delivery

While most participants applaud the Department of Renewable Resources for the variety and quality of its educational and information services, the consensus of opinion is that more can be done. Suggestions to improve conservation awareness centre on delivery, either through the education system or directly to the public.

Outdoor Education Programs
(Yukon Government Photo)



Recommendations are as follows:

The Department of Renewable Resources, in consultation with the Department of Education, should work to provide improved conservation education programs for use in the Yukon school system.

Programs designed to instill a greater awareness and appreciation of all of Yukon's renewable resources, which include subjects such as

- i) principles of conservation
 - ii) hunting, fishing, and wilderness recreation ethics
 - iii) species identification and
 - iv) the role of all species in the ecosystem
- should be made compulsory in our school system. Course material and presentations could be given by conservation officers, biologists, technicians, and representatives of organizations such as Yukon Trappers Association and the Yukon Livestock and Agricultural Association.

The Department should increase its efforts to ensure that all Yukoners receive the Renewable Resources bulletin and are aware of and have access to other publications of the Department and of the Government of Yukon which relate to Renewable Resources.

The Department should foster a greater awareness and appreciation of Yukon's renewable resources through educational information programs delivered in Yukon Campgrounds.

Duties of personnel hired in some of our major campgrounds, as suggested in the PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS section, should include

- i) the delivery of information pertaining to those programs offered in the school system
- ii) the construction and maintenance of self-guiding nature trails
- iii) lectures on local natural features
- iv) the promotion of an anti-litter campaign
- v) the promotion of campground ethics (to be prepared in a brochure for distribution to all campers)
- vi) audio-visual presentations and campfire talks on all subjects which increase public awareness of environmental and conservation issues in the Territory.

ENFORCEMENT

Conservation Officers

The need for more and improved enforcement was a subject raised at every public meeting of the Select Committee. The many concerns and suggestions related to enforcement result in this recommendation:

A review of duties of Conservation Officers should be undertaken with the purpose of making the best possible use of their time and expertise with respect to enforcement responsibilities.

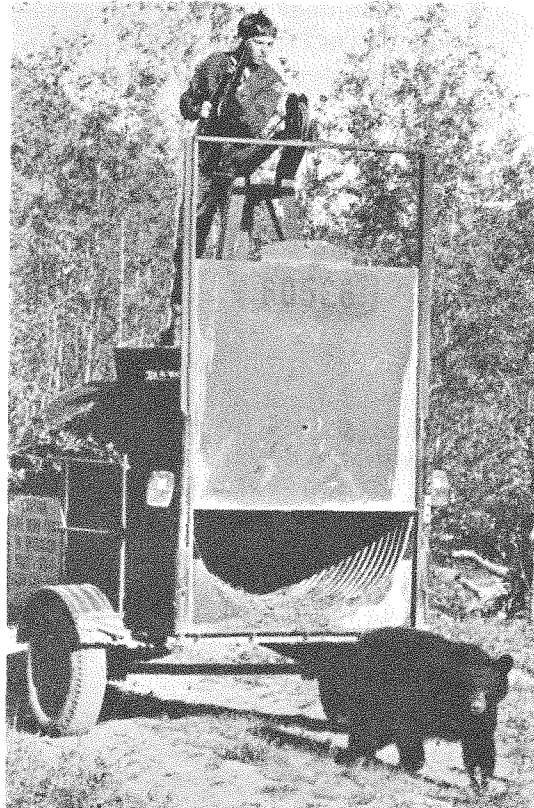
There is general agreement that Conservation Officers spend too much time on matters unrelated to their profession such as campground maintenance and supervision at the expense of addressing enforcement concerns. Many believe Conservation Officers should be available at times such as the weekend when the need for their services is evident. In fact, some suggest that Conservation Officers should not be permitted to take annual leave anytime during the hunting season. Areas such as the Dempster Highway need additional Conservation Officers to provide the special attention to enforcement duties demanded during peak hunting periods.

Many feel that Conservation Officers should be fully trained in public relations, especially in light of their extensive dealings with the public on particularly sensitive situations. Once assigned to a region, they should be given an intensive orientation session to familiarize themselves fully with the area before assuming their duties. Finally, many expressed the opinion that Conservation Officers should not carry handguns.

Improved Enforcement

Recognizing the inevitable budgetary constraints for the hire of additional staff to improve enforcement, Yukoners accordingly have offered the following recommendations:

The role of the Department's biologists should be reviewed for redefinition of responsibilities and relocation to regional offices.



(Yukon Government Photo)

It is a common known fact that some, not all, resident hunters shoot animals each year just because they have a licence to do so. They then toss the head in a shed, or sell it. The hide or cape may be sold for a few dollars. This is at present illegal in most cases but it is difficult to enforce.

Stan Reynolds,
Dawson City

There is no point in having rules if you cannot enforce them. Poor enforcement leads to lack of respect for our laws. During critical times during the year enforcement must be geared up to full strength and members must see this as part of the job.

Wolf Reidl,
Haines Junction

With only 12 permanent enforcement officers it is unrealistic to expect that regulations and legislation is being adequately enforced. Consequently, the Society urges the Department to increase its enforcement staff.

Yukon Conservation
Society

I would like to see the rest of Yukon managed by a flexible, sensible policy which will allow it to provide employment for Yukon families and also ensure the natural beauty and variety of wildlife we currently enjoy.

Stan Reynolds,
Dawson City

Enforcement cannot be achieved without men in the field. Let's decentralize some of the office staff and put them in the field where they are more useful.

Richard Clark,
Haines Junction

It has been suggested that over a three-year period the Department should decentralize a number of biologists to the outlying communities where they would function as general biologists for all wildlife in their area. It is not necessary for every biologist to be based in Whitehorse and to function as a specialist concentrating on one species.

Establishing regional general biologists in our smaller communities would undoubtedly improve rapport between the Department and rural Yukoners. It is also believed that better communication would evolve between these individuals and local trappers, natives, guides, and outfitters, thereby resulting in an improved understanding of wildlife concerns and issues in the area. By living in and being part of the community, regional general biologists would be more accessible to perform a host of related duties from offering programs in schools, to informing the public of Department activities and research results, to assisting Conservation Officers at critical times with enforcement duties.

Give auxiliaries some specialized training and the responsibility to go along with it and they will help you develop the local responsibility to manage the resources.

Tom Naughton,
Dawson City

The Volunteer Auxiliary Conservation Officer Program should be better promoted to encourage enlistment.

As involvement in the capacity of Volunteer Auxiliary Conservation Officers would provide excellent apprenticeship training, it should be promoted among those considering a career in this profession.

Encouragement should be given to Yukoners to train to be Conservation Officers who, once qualified, should be hired to work here. The feasibility of offering a course through Yukon College should be investigated.

Public Participation in Enforcement

The public should be encouraged to report hunting and fishing infractions.

In addition to becoming involved in the Volunteer Auxiliary Conservation Officer Programme, public participation should be encouraged through the reporting of all violations, as suggested in the FISHERIES section.

Litter

One other area requiring improved enforcement that is of common concern pertains to litter. At least one and often several individuals at each meeting expressed dismay at the unsightly condition of Yukon's roadways, pull-offs, day-use areas and campgrounds. The profusion of paper, can and bottle litter is a deplorable eyesore which spoils not only our scenery and perception of the pristine wilderness but in some cases puts man, beast, and the environment at risk.

Bearing in mind the success of the beer bottle returns through an increased deposit from five to ten cents, the following recommendation is made:

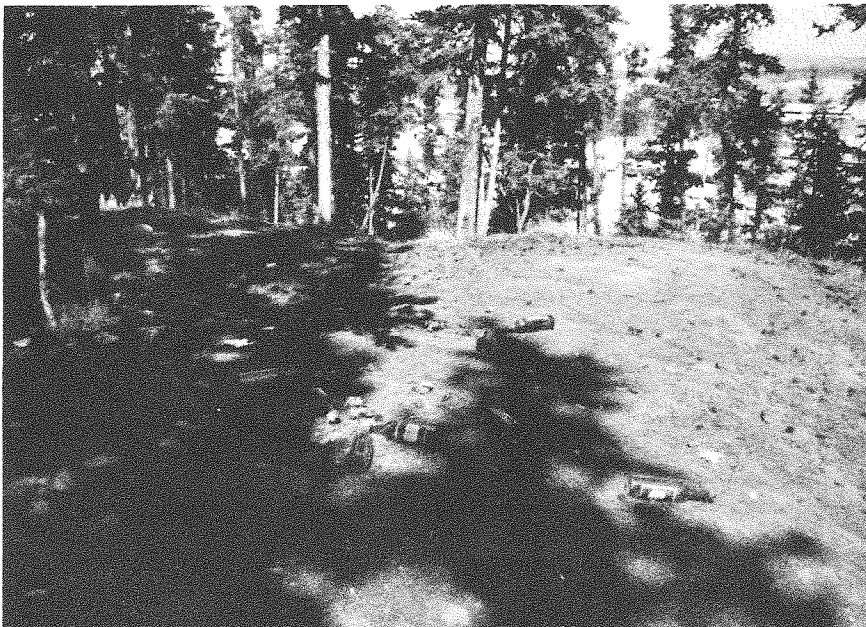
A twenty cent deposit on wine and liquor bottles should be introduced.

Although there are two major drawbacks to adopting this recommendation, namely increasing the price accordingly of a bottle of wine or spirits and having the Government of Yukon liquor outlets serve as collection agencies which would then be responsible for either destroying or recycling the container, the Committee believes it is justified. It is anticipated that success in this area would foster an anti-litter consciousness in the public that would have application to pop cans, bottles and paper.

The Government of Yukon should launch an education campaign promoting a litter-free environment.

Government must take an active role in fostering an anti-litter consciousness through an aggressive advertising campaign. It could also set an example by ensuring that garbage containers at pull-over sites, day-use areas and campgrounds are not neglected.

(City of Whitehorse Photo)



RESEARCH

Research Awareness

Suggestions to the Select Committee in this area focused on procedures for conducting research and on specific areas that need to be researched.

Dealing with the former, it is recommended that:

Yukoners residing in areas in which research will be conducted should be informed of such activity and, upon completion, results should be made public.

Rumours concerning inappropriate methodology and work in the field gone astray abound when information and results are not released. The Committee was surprised to learn that even Conservation Officers are sometimes not aware of details of research being undertaken in their own area. This clandestine approach fosters

suspicion and does little to promote trust and goodwill between the public and researchers.

In general, the Department should conduct public meetings to ensure Yukoners are informed of Renewable Resources programs and research projects, and should publish any research findings. Further suggestions are made in the CONSERVATION EDUCATION section.

The Department should consult with other jurisdictions before proposed research is undertaken.

It is believed that a considerable number of subjects to be researched here have already been dealt with in other jurisdictions. Attention to similar work completed in Alaska should be the first step in any study/research procedure to avoid duplication of results and a waste of our time, expertise and tax dollars.

The wildlife people should listen more to the longtime users and look at similar situations in other places to help develop policies rather than the present drawn out biological study process.

John Devries,
Watson Lake

The W.L.L.F.C. would like to see the dissemination of such study results more widely circulated, by direct contact with department officials and biologists, thru the Yukon Trappers Association and local fur councils. The WLLFC and the YTA wishes to maintain a co-operative relationship with the department.

Watson Lake Local
Fur Council

I believe the Department is badly lagging in providing coherent and timely reports of its programs to other professionals and the general public.

There should be a strict schedule for progress reports and final reports on each project. These should be technical reports suitable for professionals. From time to time condensed and simplified versions should be prepared for the general public.

Jim Hawkings,
Whitehorse



Field Research
(Yukon Government Photo)

In this respect we are prepared to undertake joint studies to prepare an inventory base for big game in Yukon. This inventory base is essential for any future management of big game in Yukon.

Council for
Yukon Indians

Equally important is getting your research house in order. For the last several years, each set of hunting regulations appears to counteract those of just the year before: cow season/no cow season/bulls only 3 months/bulls only 2 weeks/grizzlies in trouble/too many grizzlies ... and so it goes.

Wolf Reidl,
Haines Junction

The WLLFC would like the assistance of the Department in researching and, if found feasible, developing secondary industries related to trapping, tanneries and fur garment industries in particular.

Watson Lake Local
Fur Council

Research Subjects

With respect to specific areas that most Yukoners identified as subjects for study, it is recommended that:

█ Inventories of wildlife and fish should be a top priority.

Many Yukoners have lost confidence in the Department's ability to 'manage' wildlife when data on their numbers differ widely from year to year. Without comprehensive information on numbers of fish and game, it is inconceivable that estimates of harvestable limits can be established with any accuracy or that predator control programs can be justified.

█ Agricultural research should be increased.

Both individuals and representatives of the Yukon Livestock and Agricultural Association are desirous to study ways to increase productivity of foods both native to the Territory and those suitable to our environment.

█ A feasibility study on the viability of a local tannery and a secondary fur industry should be undertaken.

The processing of fur and the manufacture of fur products would be a means of diversifying Yukon's economy and merits investigation.

█ A survey of public attitudes with respect to wildlife, the environment and conservation should be undertaken.

A survey of Yukoners by the Department to determine attitudes would provide useful information in designing new educational programs and in assisting managers of renewable resources.

NEW PROGRAMS

New Programs

A mandatory hunter safety training course for new hunters should be implemented.

A compulsory program similar to the one currently offered for a nominal fee in British Columbia which involves 24 hours of course instruction culminating in both practical and written examination should be introduced in the Yukon to anyone hunting for the first time. Although successful completion of this course would not be a requirement for those who have previously held a licence, all hunters should be encouraged to become involved in the program. Since the

course came into being in 1974, B.C. has witnessed a substantial decrease in firearm fatalities and a reduction in hunting violations which can be attributed to special emphasis on hunting ethics.

A firearms safety/conservation education program for students should be implemented.

An improved version of the student hunter safety course once offered at Silver City, in conjunction with proposed educational programs in the school system as discussed in the CONSERVATION EDUCATION section, was repeatedly suggested as a mandatory measure for young people to be properly introduced to the sport of hunting.

The remarks made [at the Faro public hearing] concerning possible hunter training courses for young persons and/or first licencees make much sense to me. I know I might well have profitted from such a course, especially as it might be expected to deal with field care and dressing out of an animal, safety precautions re firearms, and perhaps first aid essentials and a smidgin or two of general bush savvy.

Paul Silverman,
Faro



*Firearms Safety
(Yukon Government Photo)*

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

BIG GAME

Subsistence Hunting

'Subsistence' should be defined by factors such as heritage, lifestyle and economic necessity to consume game, and those recognized as subsistence hunters should adhere to basic regulations respecting registration, limits, and reporting of the harvest.

Predator Control

In game management zones subject to predator control, the hunting of threatened species should be banned to everyone except subsistence hunters. If it is found that such an area does not support a harvestable yield of certain species, then even subsistence hunting should be banned until conditions improve.

The Department of Renewable Resources, in conjunction with the Big Game Outfitters Association, should establish a procedure by which bears in a "problem" game management zone are harvested in the Spring hunt.

Trappers should be offered a bounty of \$200, in addition to possession of the hide, for wolves killed in identified problem areas before March 1 in any given year.

Game Management

No-hunting corridors of 2 kilometres should be implemented on all highways and major roads, with the exception of the Dempster Highway which should be 8 kilometres.

The use of all-terrain vehicles and 4x4s should be banned in remote areas recently made accessible by new roads and restricted in areas of sensitive environment.

Measures should be taken to protect and enhance wildlife habitat.

Hunting regulations should be better enforced. In the event wildlife populations continue to decline, a policy on allocation among users of big game should be developed.

Measures to encourage maximum utilization of the carcass should be introduced.

Big Game Ranching

Big game ranching in the Yukon should be encouraged. Such wild game should be considered domestic stock.

SMALL GAME

Habitat Protection

The Government of Yukon, in co-operation with local community groups and special interest associations, should develop a policy on habitat enhancement and a strategic plan for its implementation.

Fur Farming

Fur farming should be permitted within the Yukon and animals should be treated as domestic livestock.

It should be illegal to export live furbearing animals for any purpose whatsoever.

Trapping

Trapper education programs and community workshops should be continued.

Regulations should be introduced which restrict a person from holding more than one trapper's assistant licence per season and which permit only one assistant per trapline.

Trappers should be compensated when their traplines are adversely affected by other developments.

More effective and humane ways of trapping should be investigated and developed.

Migratory Birds

The Government of Yukon should lobby the Government of Canada to amend regulations to the Migratory Birds Convention Act, in order that Yukoners can harvest waterfowl.

AGRICULTURE

Land Availability

The suggestions made by the Yukon Livestock and Agricultural Association with re-

spect to reviewing requests for land and processing applications should be accepted by the Government of Yukon.

A Yukon Agricultural Policy should be developed in conjunction with the industry regarding the release of land giving due consideration to

- i) real evidence of an applicant's knowledge and capability to develop land for agricultural purposes
- ii) potential damage to the environment through erosion and fertilizer pollution in water systems
- iii) potential conflicts with wildlife including loss of stock to predators, loss of habitat, and the spread of diseases.

Meat and Poultry Inspection

The government of Yukon should provide meat and poultry inspection services.

PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS

Protected Areas

The Government of Yukon, in co-operation with the Federal Government and in consultation with the public, should identify critical habitat and environmentally sensitive areas for their preservation.

Territorial Parks

The Government of Yukon should develop a policy to establish a Territorial parks system.

Wherever large tracts of land are identified for Territorial Park status, the park should be designated "multi-use."

Territorial Campgrounds

No new Territorial Campgrounds should be built.

Local residents should be hired to work at larger campgrounds to perform the following duties and responsibilities;

- i) collect fees
- ii) maintain a clean, litter-free site
- iii) act as "park interpreters."

WILDERNESS RECREATION

Outfitters and Wilderness Guides

Wilderness guides should be bona fide Yukon residents who are certified and licensed.

Outfitters of hunters and anglers should be bona fide Yukon residents and regulations governing their operations should be reviewed and enforced.

A training program for all guiding and outfitting activities should be established in the Yukon.

FISHERIES

Inland Fisheries Management

The Government of Yukon should continue negotiations with the Government of Canada to ensure the transfer of responsibility for inland fisheries takes place within two years.

The Government of Yukon should immediately allocate funds and manpower for fisheries management. These resources, in conjunction with those of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, should be used to:

- i) conduct a comprehensive inventory of our fish resource which concentrates on identifying the condition of the stock, their yield capabilities, and other matters pertinent to effective management,
- ii) formulate new policies and programs related to fisheries management,
- iii) ensure the transfer of authority will be done in a most efficient and effective manner.

Improving Fresh Water Fish Stock

With regard to improving fresh water fish stock, the following should be considered:

1. The introduction of a "Catch and Release" program which promotes the use of barbless hooks and the sporting nature of fishing.
2. The adoption of more discriminating

fishing regulations to take into account conservation requirements of specific lakes and river systems.

3. The removal of "scavenger fish."
4. The improvement of fish habitat.
5. The sponsoring of Fishing Derbies which promote the sport of fishing while encouraging the conservation of fish.
6. The closure of fishing during spawning season.
7. The reduction of commercial fishing.
8. The development of guidelines to regulate fly-in fishing operations.
9. The reporting of fishing violations.

Restocking Lakes

Lakes and open water systems near communities and close to Yukon highways should be restocked on a continuous basis to provide more angling opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Rebuilding native fish stocks should be a priority but "exotic," or non-indigenous fish species could be introduced to closed pothole lakes only.

Fish Farming

Aquaculture should be encouraged. Where it is proposed for a pothole lake, a process should be in place which would permit public input to review any application to "privatize" such a lake.

FORESTRY

Forestry Management

The Government of Yukon should continue negotiations with the Government of Canada to ensure that the transfer of the following responsibilities for forest management takes place within two years:

- i) habitat improvement, including reforestation and controlled burning
- ii) forest inventories
- iii) issuing timber permits
- iv) fuelwood lot management.

The Government of Yukon should immediately allocate funds and manpower for forestry management.

Harvesting Practices

Emphasis should be placed on selective cutting practices as opposed to clear cutting wherever possible.

Marketable timber should be salvaged before forests are razed for development purposes.

In the harvesting of pine cones, a policy of cutting specific branches, as opposed to the whole tree, should be implemented and enforced.

Fuelwood

Well-planned access roads to more burn areas should be constructed.

An improved woodlot management policy should be introduced.

Industry Incentives

The Government of Yukon should establish a low-interest loan program available to members of the Yukon Forest Industries Association.

WATER

Government of Yukon Involvement

The Government of Yukon should become more active in water-related matters through the development of management and protection regulations.

Protecting Water Quality

Internal combustion machines should be prohibited from use on landlocked lakes which do not have permanent feeder or exit streams.

Policies should be developed on the controlled use of herbicides and pesticides.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Land Use Planning

A Yukon Land Use Planning Commission, comprised of representative sectors and

appropriate government officials, should be established.

Renewable Resources Management

A Renewable Resources Management Advisory Committee comprised of Yukon residents should be established to advise the Minister on all matters pertaining to renewable resource management.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Conservation Education Program Delivery

The Department of Renewable Resources, in consultation with the Department of Education, should work to provide improved conservation education programs for use in the Yukon school system.

The Department should increase its efforts to ensure that all Yukoners receive the Renewable Resources bulletin and are aware of and have access to other publications of the Department and of the Government of Yukon which relate to Renewable Resources.

The Department should foster a greater awareness and appreciation of Yukon's renewable resources through educational information programs delivered in Yukon Campgrounds.

ENFORCEMENT

Conservation Officers

A review of duties of Conservation Officers should be undertaken with the purpose of making the best possible use of their time and expertise with respect to enforcement responsibilities.

Improved Enforcement

The role of the Department's biologists should be reviewed for redefinition of responsibilities and relocation to regional offices.

The Volunteer Auxiliary Conservation Officer Program should be better promoted to encourage enlistment.

Public Participation in Enforcement

The public should be encouraged to report hunting and fishing infractions.

Litter

A twenty cent deposit on wine and liquor bottles should be introduced.

The Government of Yukon should launch an education campaign promoting a litter-free environment.

RESEARCH

Research Awareness

Yukoners residing in areas in which research will be conducted should be informed of such activity and, upon completion, results should be made public.

The Department should consult with other jurisdictions before proposed research is undertaken.

Research Subjects

Inventories of wildlife and fish should be a top priority.

Agricultural research should be increased.

A feasibility study on the viability of a local tannery and a secondary fur industry should be undertaken.

A survey of public attitudes with respect to wildlife, the environment and conservation should be undertaken.

NEW PROGRAMS

New Programs

A mandatory hunter safety training course for new hunters should be implemented.

A firearms safety/conservation education program for students should be implemented.

APPENDIX I

SELECT COMMITTEE ON RENEWABLE RESOURCES

Terms of Reference

On October 28, 1985, the following motion was passed by the Yukon Legislative Assembly:

THAT a Select Committee on Renewable Resources be established;

THAT the Honourable Members Mr. Webster, Mr. Brewster, and Mr. Coles be appointed to the Committee;

THAT during a period when the Legislative Assembly is in adjournment, a Green Paper on Yukon's Renewable Resources shall be transmitted to the Committee by the Minister of Renewable Resources;

THAT the Committee hold public hearings on the Green Paper in Whitehorse and in at least one community in each of the electoral districts outside Whitehorse;

THAT the Committee report to the Legislative Assembly its findings and recommendations on the Green Paper during the Third Session of the 26th Legislature;

THAT the Committee be empowered to call upon the Department of Renewable Resources for technical advice during its review and the public hearings on the Green Paper; and

THAT the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly be responsible for providing the necessary support services to the Committee.

Substitution

Mr. McLachlan (M.L.A. for Faro) substituted for Mr. Coles at the hearings in Old Crow and Dawson City.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON RENEWABLE
RESOURCES****SCHEDULE OF HEARINGS
1986**

Saturday	February 15	Old Crow
Sunday	February 16	Dawson
Monday	February 17	Mayo
Tuesday	February 18	Elsa
Wednesday	February 19	Ross River
Thursday	February 20 (afternoon)	Pelly Crossing
Thursday	February 20 (evening)	Carmacks
Monday	February 24	Carcross
Tuesday	February 25	Haines Junction
Wednesday	February 26 (afternoon)	Burwash Landing
Wednesday	February 26 (evening)	Destruction Bay
Thursday	February 27	Beaver Creek
Monday	March 3	Whitehorse
Tuesday	March 4 (morning)	Whitehorse
Tuesday	March 4 (evening)	Watson Lake
Wednesday	March 5 (afternoon)	Upper Liard
Wednesday	March 5 (evening)	Teslin
Thursday	March 6	Faro
Monday	March 10	Whitehorse
Tuesday	March 11 (afternoon)	Whitehorse
Tuesday	March 11 (evening)	Carcross

APPENDIX III

SELECT COMMITTEE ON RENEWABLE RESOURCES

LIST OF SUBMISSIONS

(listed as presented or received)

1. Old Crow Indian Band
2. Norma Kassi, MLA, Old Crow
3. Stan Reynolds, Dawson City
4. Dawson City Indian Band
5. Dawson City Recreation Board
6. Tom Naughton, Dawson City
7. Hal Mehaffey, Mayo
8. Ross River Indian Band
9. Selkirk Indian Band, Pelly Crossing
10. Don Marino, Carmacks
11. George Nassiopoulos, Carmacks
12. Dawn Charlie, Carmacks
13. Kenneth E. Taylor, Haines Junction
14. W. Brent Liddle, Haines Junction
15. Ray Frey, Haines Junction
16. Wolf Riedl, Haines Junction
17. John Ostashek, Burwash Landing
18. Brian Werlin, Beaver Creek
19. Gary Ogletree, Whitehorse
20. M.J. Walker, Whitehorse
21. Larry W. Carlyle, Whitehorse
22. Yukon Prospectors' Association
23. Watson Lake Local Fur Council
24. John Devries, Watson Lake
25. Petition from 32 Faro residents
26. Yukon Conservation Society
27. Yukon Fish & Game Association
28. National Firearms Association
29. Yukon Association of Wilderness Guides
30. Don Sumanik, Whitehorse
31. Jim Hawkings, Whitehorse
32. Yukon Chamber of Mines
33. Northern Affairs Program, D.I.A.N.D.
34. Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce
35. Yukon Livestock & Agricultural Association
36. Klondike Placer Miners' Association
37. Yukon Forest Industries Association
38. Yukon Trappers' Association
39. Nancy MacPherson, Whitehorse
40. Paul Silverman, Faro
41. John Cramp, Dawson City
42. Andy Tamas, Whitehorse
43. I.R. Armstrong, Whitehorse
44. Carcross/Tagish Indian Band
45. Richard Mahoney, Haines Junction
46. John Lenart, Dawson City
47. Council for Yukon Indians
48. Elizabeth Hofer and Peter T. Upton, Silver Creek

SELECT COMMITTEE ON RENEWABLE RESOURCES

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS - PUBLIC HEARINGS

OLD CROW February 14, 1986

Formal Submissions:

Old Crow Indian Band

- Howard Linklater

Norma Kassi, MLA

Participants:

Grafton Njootli

Stephen Frost

Don Sax

Charlie Peter Charlie

Stan Njootli

Alice Frost, Interim Chief

Reg Reinhardt

Jean Gordon

Robert Hagar

Dan McDiarmid

Betty Sveinson

Ed Sveinson

Eric Tolton

Fred Green

ELSA February 18, 1986

Participants:

Don Curry

Stan Kula

Ralph Mease

Senley Yuill

DAWSON CITY February 16, 1986

Formal Submissions:

Stan Reynolds

Julie Frisch

Dawson City Indian Band

- read by Jim McLachlan

Dawson City Recreation Board

- Peter Menzies

Glen Bowers

Tom Naughton

Jack Fraser

Participants:

Rene Mangold

Peter Horsnell

Newt Webster

Mark Bergeron

John Cramp

Bob Durham

Helmut Schoener

Henry Reiniak

Mike Howley

John Lenart

ROSS RIVER February 19, 1986

Formal Submission:

Ross River Indian Band

- Hammond Dick

Participants:

Nancy Dieckmann

John Trotter

John Witham

John Jennings

Ivan Bolton

Glenda Eberlein

PELLEY CROSSING February 20, 1986

Formal Submission:

Selkirk Indian Band

- Lou Johnson

Participants:

Dan Van Bibber

Roger Alfred

CARMACKS February 20, 1986

Formal Submissions:

Dan Marino

George Nassiopoulos

Dawn Charlie

Participants:

Clyde Blackjack

MAYO February 17, 1986

Participants:

Jim Boyd

Hal Mehaffey

Blair Andre

Wilf Gordon

David Tom
Bob Coles
Luke Lacasse
Peter Silverfox
Kenny Roberts
Taylor McGundy

CARCROSS February 24, 1986

Participants:

Johnny Johns
Russ (Roby) Rose
Art Johns
Willard Phelps
Bobo Laroque
Chuck Ford
Leon Haert
Claudia MacPhee
Patrick James
Lloyd Reid
Mark Whelan
Jane Strong
Bill Pringle
Leslie Wedge
Ken Gabb
Albert James
Don (Buck) Fraser
Brian Twigge
Elijah Smith

HAINES JUNCTION February 25, 1986

Formal Submissions:

Brent Liddle
Ken Taylor
Ray Frey
Wolf Riedl

Participants:

Elizabeth Hofer
Al Mahoney
Doug Thomas
Smokey Guttman
Peter Upton
Steve Osborne
Al MacLean
Scott Gilbert
John Polard
Mary McDonald
Joanne Schick

BURWASH LANDING February 26, 1986

Formal Submission:

John Ostashek

Participants:

Charlie Eikland
Bob Cofer
Phil Temple
Grace Chambers
Darrel Duensing
Lena Johnson

DESTRUCTION BAY February 26, 1986

Participants:

Jean Broughner
Marsha Flumerfelt
Tracey McBride
Inge Eikland
Linda McBride
Yvonne McBride
Jim Flumerfelt
Marge Braun

BEAVER CREEK February 27, 1986

Formal Submission:

Brian Werlin (read by Roger Coles)

Participants:

Cole Wrixon
Tom Bradley
Alma Washpan
Al Twigge
Gerry Mogenson
David Dixon

WHITEHORSE March 3, 1986

Formal Submission:

Gary Ogletree

Participants:

Mike Stutter
Randy Lewis
Len Walchuck
John Peacock
John Cramp
Doug Craig
Jim Hawkings
Cathryn Paish
Rob Moore
Irwin Armstrong

WATSON LAKE March 4, 1986

Formal Submissions:

Watson Lake Local Fur Council

- Jerry Botti
John Devries

Participants:

Leo Heisz
Rhea Stockman
Mabel Robson
Steve Peconi
Claude Gamoche
Doug Simian
Kevin Riston
Gerald Edzerza
Butch Midgett

UPPER LIARD March 5, 1986

Participants:

Emma Donnetree
Mabel Robson
Marilyn Norey
Rhea Stockman
Leo Heisz
Michael Johnny

TESLIN March 5, 1986

Participants:

Richard Sydney
David Keenan
Pearl Keenan
Watson Smarch
Doug Smarch
Brandy Greenwood
Doris Bhom
Terry Clark
Hank Foster
Kelly Johnston
Elmer Johnston
Sam Johnston

FARO March 6, 1986

Participants:

Jorg Schneider
Mel Smith
Rod Nichol
Nora Wilkinson
Bob Gingra
Tony Wilkinson
Dave Power
Lynn Nichol
Ted Bartsch
Paul Turbot
Paul Silverman
Ken Anderson
Mario Murphy
Colin Cameron

WHITEHORSE March 10, 1986

Formal Submissions:

Yukon Conservation Society

- Violet Van Hees
- Jennifer Stanforth
- Tom Munson
- Bob Van Dychen

Yukon Fish & Game Association

- Chuck Buchanan
- Clay Pugh
- Wally Vincent

National Firearms Association

- Ted Wagner

Yukon Association of Wilderness Guides

- Hector Mackenzie

Jim Hawkings

Don Sumanik

Participants:

Lorne Metropolit
Stan Njootli

WHITEHORSE March 11, 1986

Formal Submissions:

Chamber of Mines

- Dennis Prince

DIAND - Renewable Resources Division

- Joe Ganske

Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce

- Eric Mamen

Fort McPherson Band

- Chief James Ross
- Councillor David Krutko
- Councillor John Blake

Hunters and Trappers Association

- John Itsi
- Johnny Charlie
- Charles Koe
- Peter Kaye Sr.
- Charlie Snowshoe

Yukon Livestock and Agricultural
Association

- Al Alcock

Klondike Placer Miners Association

- Marion Schmidt

The Yukon Forest Industries Association

- Dave Harder
- Bill Bowie

Yukon Trappers Association

- Bill Sinclair
- Darlene Richardson

Nancy MacPherson

CARCROSS March 11, 1986

Participants:

Johnny Johns
Stan Tooley
Jane Strong
Willard Phelps
Leon Haert
Bill Pringle
Art Johns
Bobo Laroque
Barry Scott
Henry Carmiegon

Only those who actually spoke and identified themselves at the Hearings are listed. The Committee apologizes for any misspellings.

Extract from the submission presented by the Yukon Livestock and Agricultural Association

THE FUTURE OF YUKON'S AGRICULTURE

— Orderly Release of Land

FIRST, we recommend that all agriculture applications be transferred to the Lands Branch of Community and Transportation Services immediately. This program has all the skills required to review the application at the preliminary level upon request for such things as metes and bounds, overlaps with other requests, etc.

SECONDLY, that the government advise DI-AND immediately of all applications currently on hand and subsequent receipt of new applications so that a priority request list may be established to avoid other later requests for lands taking precedent, such as the request for commercial leases which fall under the responsibility of the Federal Government.

THIRDLY, that the proposed Agriculture Branch of Renewable Resources be the unit responsible for addressing the merits, from a professional perspective, as to the agriculture capability of the application, dealing with such matters as soils, etc.

FOURTH, we propose that a time limit be established to process applications from date of submission to final disposition, and we believe this time limit should not exceed 60 days. This is ample time for whatever consultative process to take place with the government.

FIFTH, throughout this process we recommend that the applicant be kept informed at all times as to the disposition of his application, and that the contents of the application remain confidential, unless the applicant consents otherwise.

SIXTH, that the applicant be allowed to meet with whatever government committee or individuals to explain his application should questions arise.

SEVENTH, during any consultative process with an Indian Band in the area concerned that the applicant be present during the consultative process, and that this not take more than one week in total, and finally;

EIGHTH, if it is the decision of the government not to proceed with the application that a process be put into place to allow for an appeal, to be heard within 21 days of notification of such intent.

APPENDIX VI

Extract from the Task Force on Northern Conservation
December 1984

PROTECTED AREAS

In addition to the integrated resource management proposal for the two territories generally, the Task Force also advocates that certain limited areas be set aside as part of a comprehensive network of land and/or water areas subject to special protection.

The rapid alteration of natural and man-made environments has created a need for categories of management that will restrict or control human intervention and destructive outside influences. Six such categories or systems are identified, as shown in Figure 1.

These protected areas would be designated in order to preserve their primary use for cultural, scientific, educational, aesthetic, recreational or biological purposes, so as to maintain natural conditions or preserve certain features such as artifacts in the case of important archaeological sites. Such protection might be permanent seasonal (as in the case of caribou calving grounds or migration routes) or temporary, depending on circumstances.

Within each protected area, primary and secondary uses would be identified, and the secondary uses permitted when compatible with the primary value of the area.

A carefully planned network of protected areas is required to deal with these management needs, reflecting concerns at local, territorial, national and international levels. Some territorial legislation is now in place—for example, territorial parks and heritage site ordinances—and there is a larger body of federal legislation based upon national objectives such as the *National Parks Act* and the *Canada Wildlife Act*. Additionally, Canada has some special obligations arising from international commitments such as those under the *Migratory Birds Convention Act*. The task here is to meet the special needs of the North while

respecting the broader obligations of the national and international communities.

- a) Selection Criteria for Protected Areas
- In order to qualify for consideration as protected areas, land and/or waters would have to satisfy one or more of the following criteria:
- i) contain sites of significant cultural, archaeological, historic or traditional resource-gathering value;
 - ii) contain examples at specific sites of outstanding or unique landforms or geological features such as the pingos of the western Arctic;
 - iii) contain habitat essential for the survival of a significant portion of a migratory bird, terrestrial or marine mammal, or marine or freshwater fish population;
 - iv) contain outstanding examples of representative land or seascapes;
 - v) contain sites necessary for the preservation of genetic diversity;
 - vi) contain habitat essential for the preservation and enhancement of rare and endangered species; and/or
 - vii) contain outstanding areas for public recreation and tourism.

Annex A provides an illustration of the manner in which the criteria might be applied to select protected areas. As noted in this Annex, the subjective nature of the judgments about the individual selection criteria is acceptable to the Task Force only because there is no obvious alternative. We believe, however, that the shortcomings inherent in such a subjective approach are offset to a considerable extent by the opportunity that would be provided through public hearings and other means to take account of the views of northern residents, resource managers and technical specialists. It is evident from the selection criteria recommended in

this report, that there is an obligation on specialists to make their case to the communities through the land-use planning process that a proposed protected area is either unique or representative, or that it contains outstanding, rare or endangered features.

b) Protected Area Guidelines

The Task Force considers that the requirement for a network of protected areas in the North is beyond question. Indeed, a new or better defined category specifically to protect marine areas may be required. Whether lands are public or private, it is proposed that guidelines for the establishment of a comprehensive network of protected areas—including terrestrial and marine—be as follows:

- i) protected areas should be established to protect values that will be adversely affected by human activity; the degree of protection should be consistent with the associated risk and may be permanent, seasonal or temporary; and activities that have proven to be compatible may be permitted;
- ii) areas should be sufficiently large to ensure protection of those elements that are at risk, plus—where appropriate—a reasonable buffer zone;
- iii) several classes of protected areas should be incorporated within a single designated area where feasible;
- iv) where appropriate, alternative sites should be identified that might meet the specific conservation objectives; where comparable alternative sites exist, priority should be given to protected areas that have the lesser potential for conflict in resource use;
- v) sufficient resource inventory on potential sites should be conducted to justify the need for, and importance of, a protected area prior to the final establishment of its boundaries;

- vi) specific traditional resource-use areas should be considered for protection so as to contribute to the greatest extent possible to the continuation of traditional life styles consistent with the maintenance of renewable resources;
- vii) evidence should be presented to demonstrate that protected area proposals take into account local knowledge and sensitivities respecting resource uses of the area;
- viii) the network should be managed to promote a better understanding of conservation and, where appropriate, encourage research;
- ix) the designation of certain private lands as protected areas should not be precluded and they may become part of the protected area network under private management; and
- x) provision should be made for periodic review of protected areas related to their creation, modification and management in order to ensure that the original objectives are being met.