

Regional Biophysical Mapping for the North Yukon Planning Region, Peel Watershed Planning Region and Yukon North Slope

By Shawn Francis

The Oil and Gas Branch, MERG, Yukon Environment (Parks) and North Yukon Planning Commission co-funded the production of regional bio-climate and regional terrain mapping for the North Yukon Planning Region, Peel Watershed Planning Region and Yukon North Slope. The additional funding from MERG was used to assist in the completion of this coverage through the use of a contractor. The funding also provided the Commission with the ability to begin the development of regional ecosystem units, through the synthesis of satellite imagery and bio-climate and terrain mapping. The very large geographic scope of the project necessitated the requirement for additional funding. In other jurisdictions, similar exercises have cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. We are very proud that we have been able to accomplish this task for substantially less cost, through the use of focused methods, the full utilization of existing digital data sources, and integration with other mapping efforts.

The final bio-climate and bio-terrain mapping coverage and associated metadata has been provided to the Yukon Oil and Gas Management Branch on CD-ROM. Work will progress over the coming months on the development and documentation of the regional ecosystems that will form the basis for many of the North Yukon regional land use plan management recommendations.