

Talking Yukon Parks Compilation of all comments

Anonymized comments gathered from April 16 to September 10, 2018 through the Talking Yukon Parks public engagement. November 2018.

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1a. Vision & principles

- Preservation of wilderness values and guided / managed use. No point in promoting in tourism market if the parks are not ready to handle the influx.
- Yukon Parks should be an integral part of a network of protected spaces in the Yukon
- Vision: communities see Parks as integral to their sense of self
- What is the purpose of our parks and campgrounds?
- What is the level of service standards campgrounds should strive for, and why?
- Who is our audience(s)?
- What is the philosophy behind what we are trying to do?
- What is the vision? Will we be bold? What do we want?
- Why and how do we integrate different objectives?
- Can we develop real and measurable objectives?
- Why should parks or campgrounds be with Environment? Why not Tourism? Why not a separate Agency?
- What is the political leadership?
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- Opportunity for me to contribute to the future, and for the system to contribute to our collective future
- Integrated system connected to Y2Y, and the importance of 'wildlife corridors'
- "Nature Needs Half"
 - Why not here as part of Canada's conservation goal of 17%
 - The window is closing, so there needs to be a goal even here
- A better sense of value. There is a case to be made about 'fees'...and to instill higher value and appreciation of parks...and it still need to be accessible.
- Link 'value' so politicians value the role of parks and campgrounds in our society. There is a message.
- I would pay a fee if I knew it went to 'park improvement'
- In the future, Yukon society places a greater value on parks, and there is more conservation. Especially with the changing face of Yukoners
- More opportunities for more 'needs'
- Opportunity with land claims
- Enough campsites for supply / allocation
- I see Yukon Parks in 20 years, has unique sustainable, authentic and beautiful ecosystems, that I still have access to
- Keep it natural based
- Better access for alpinism, mountaineering, ice climbing etc.
- Parks should be about protecting ecosystems. Human wants should be a distant secondary
- Parks for nature
 - Focus on rare species habitats
 - Managing human use to minimize disturbance
- Yukoners' interests, not tourists
- FUN!
- Access and sustainability
- More staffing in remote campgrounds (Dempster etc) also including more enforcement & stiffer fines

- *Set up area for long term parking (Ie. All summer). Charge for reserving campsites, violators fined*
- *Increased monitoring of wildlife attractants at campgrounds*
- *Define "nature"*
- *Yukoners first.*
 - *Longer camping season*
 - *Promote 'staycations'*
- *Permanent/semi-permanent observation hides/photography blinds at key spots, where observers can sit, wait, not disturb and see what they see*
- *The Firewood is perfect*
- *How do we maintain 'the Yukon', as ' the Yukon'? How to balance keeping it open with common sense?*
- *How do we diversify the parks system for different users?*
- *Who will pay for the resources required to match the demand for more cultural experiences?*
- *How do we create a bold vision that respects the Umbrella Final Agreement, the Land-Use Planning process, and settled / non-settled First Nations?*
- *How do we meaningfully engage Yukon First Nations throughout this process?*
- *Will resources match the increased demand? And are we open to other funding sources beyond government?*
- *How will we get substantial eco-region representation?*
- *Can we reach a consensus that some areas be free of hunting?*
- *How can we apply the notion that 'Nature Needs Half' in the Yukon?*
- *What is the balance between use and protection?*
- *How will we connect these areas; physically and through policy?*
- *What are all the mechanisms for creating 'parks'? What do we have now, and what else is possible?*
- *How do we best leverage this political window of opportunity?*
- *How do we balance a new vision with the colonial roots of 'a park'? How can we ensure the new vision is inclusive of multiple worldviews. Including the idea of 'wilderness' for Indigenous peoples?*
- *Intergenerational nature*
- *Importance of public access for wider accessibility*
- *The jumping-off point for adventure*
- *Impact of experiencing 'wilderness' - outside parks - and how important that is*
- *Park = Good*
 - *Generally, a positive association*
 - *Important to maintain*
- *Ability to cure disconnect people have with nature*
- *Place of employment for government and business with great spiritual and aesthetic meaning*
- *Parks goal should be to keep our wildlife, provide recreation, save our unique heritage. Camp grounds should provide a comfortable and safe place to park for a holiday, a rest, and out door recreation.*
- *1. Protected heritage areas need to be large enough to be viable representations of the many and varied eco-systems represented in Yukon.*

- 2. Parks specifically created for road accessible camping should be circumscribed to the footprint required for attractive and well spaced units, walk-in units should be further isolated by forest barrier or natural features to provide suitable separation from motor sounds.
- All in all the campgrounds that I have been to are amazing. Some just need some up dating especially of the playgrounds for the children, at wolf creek, fox lake and million dollar falls. Those are ones that I have been too.
- Parks has not done a particularly good job at figuring out where the in an overall park system are because they don't have a clear vision of what a comprehensive parks and protected areas system should look like. Many studies have been done and not acted on nor has Parks made much of a contribution to the regional planning process. Put politely ,they have been treading water for years. Parks has had resourcing issues for years but until my tenure as Park Director they weren't even looking at asset management or system rationalization because it was too much of a hot potato politically. Staff seem to be easily distracted into focusing on management planning at the wrong scale. We don't need management plans for every campground for example . We do need clear policy on how they are to be managed and operated as a whole. We do need to set level of service standards and thresholds that trigger management intervention. The concept of limits of acceptable change has been around since the early 1980's. It works most effectively if base line conditions are collected at time of establishment and properly monitored based on the original purpose for creation. Use and protection objectives need to be clearly expressed and worked on in a strategic fashion. The use and protection objectives also need to be clearly spelled out. We need to ask the basic question of what business are we in and what is our role and purpose. What are our s wide education objectives. With the exception of Tombstone, interpretive programming is virtually non-existent.
- **Principles:** CPAWS Yukon recognizes that parks and campgrounds fulfil multiple and sometimes competing roles including conservation, cultural preservation, recreation, and economic development and diversification. If parks are to protect our cultural and natural heritage over the long term, the most important principle for park planning and management must be to maintain (or restore) both ecological and cultural integrity. Linking and prioritizing the principles of ecological and cultural integrity recognizes that Yukon's "wild spaces" are the result of millions of years of evolving ecological processes and the enduring influence of Indigenous peoples. This is consistent with the guiding principles for the draft Dàadzàii Vàn Territorial Park management plan.
- **Priorities:** Territorial campgrounds and parks are only some of the tools available to protect our significant wild spaces; other tools include habitat protection areas, wilderness management plans, special management areas, and, at a federal level, national parks. Indigenous Protected Areas are also emerging as a way to protect large landscapes. Uniting these different pathways to conserving land under a territorial conservation strategy would be the most effective way to protect the full range of Yukon's natural regions. In the absence of such a strategy, however, the Yukon Park Strategy should include a framework that enables greater collaboration between Yukon Government departments, the federal government, and First Nations. Given emerging interest in Indigenous Protected Areas across Canada, CPAWS Yukon also recommends

that Yukon Parks leads an initiative, in partnership with Indigenous governments, to explore what policy and legislative changes are required to support the establishment of Indigenous Protected Areas, created and managed by Indigenous governments.

- **Goals:** CPAWS Yukon envisions a park system that both celebrates and protects the territory's range of wild landscapes and its ecological and cultural diversity. We suggest that the best way to achieve and measure progress toward this goal is to aim to protect a significant portion of each of Yukon's 20 major ecoregions, and to consider protecting portions of Yukon's 3 smaller ecoregions. These natural regions represent the mosaic of wild spaces in the Yukon and they harbour unique wildlife habitats and patterns of biodiversity. In addition, each ecoregion has influenced and been influenced by Yukon people, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, and these ecoregions are an integral part of Yukon's cultural mosaic. The discussion document for the Yukon Park Strategy notes that "one of the goals of Yukon's system of parks is to protect areas within each of Yukon's 20 ecological regions." However, most protected areas in the Yukon will likely now be identified through regional planning, and not directly through a Yukon Parks process. To achieve the goal of ecological representation, the Yukon Park Strategy must therefore be strongly tied to the regional planning process. CPAWS Yukon suggests that a commitment to identify large, ecological representative protected areas should be included in the terms of reference for each forthcoming regional plan, including the Dawson Regional Plan which is currently being revived. Of course, the identification of protected areas should also be guided by Indigenous knowledge, and consider places significant for cultural and spiritual reasons, recreation, rare species and ecosystems, scenic value and so on.
- There are a handful of principles, priorities, and goals a new Yukon Parks Strategy should consider. Yukon parks and campgrounds will best be served if an inclusive model is adopted that allows all people with interest to be involved in the decision making through public and government to government consultation. This means indigenous input is incorporated into park management and establishment as well as other non-government organizations such as DUC. Ensuring all voices are heard, and accommodated whenever possible, will allow for more efficient management and better relationships with park users. Additionally, improving indigenous involvement in park management, for example using guardians, is a step in achieving reconciliation.
- We believe that the strategy should address the management of both existing parks and the development of new parks. Most goals and priorities will be applicable to both existing and new parks such as managing environmental aspects of the park. However, the strategy needs to provide direction for Yukon Parks, Government of Yukon as a whole, and for boards, councils, and commissions (e.g. future land use planning commissions) to aid in determining where, how many, and how large new parks should be. Examples of the type of direction we are suggesting can include setting of goals for ecological representation, maintenance of ecological function, climate change mitigation/adaptation, and connectivity of protected areas. This goal should also define Yukon's role in achieving Pathway to Canada Target 1 goals.
- The strategy should provide clarity on how parks will be used by people. In other jurisdictions, parks have excluded most uses of the park by people. Commonly this has

included limiting traditional activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping, and other subsistence uses of the land, particularly for indigenous people. While we recognize that some activities will require active management, similar to the backcountry of Tombstone Park today, we would like to see people's uses of the land allowed as much as possible. We believe that parks play an important role in maintaining and increasing people's connection with nature. This should be a core tenet of the strategy.

- *We suggest the strategy address the ability of Yukon Parks to increase their flexibility for managing and establishing parks. Different parks will have different management objectives and there needs to be the tools in place to achieve these goals. Parks should have a continuum of protection and conservation measures that can allow everything from very strict protection to sustainable land use. Parks have historically had a very limited definition. Newer models are being created, such as "other effective conservation measures" and indigenous protected areas that offer a novel approach to park implementation and management. We encourage this strategy to consider a broader suite of options for future park management.*
- *What principles, priorities and goals should be considered in a vision for the future of Yukon territorial parks and campgrounds?*
 - *Parks are established on the homelands of Indigenous peoples and therefore require consultation in their establishment, cooperation in their development and sharing in their management*
 - *Untrammelled wilderness is a significant and diminishing Yukon quality, characteristic, and value that needs protecting*
 - *Protecting biodiversity is critical*
 - *Parks are the world's best way to protect biodiversity if the park/park system is well funded and managed*
 - *Bigger parks are better and connected parks are best*
 - *Good governance of parks/park systems is needed*
 - *Good management of parks/park systems is required along with the necessary funding*
 - *Connecting people with nature is essential to protecting biodiversity*
 - *Ensure people with all abilities can experience nature at Yukon Parks and Campgrounds is a priority*
 - *No motorized access to parks is an important characteristic of a park experience*
 - *Ensure the number of enforcement staff matches the need for public safety, visitor satisfaction, and biodiversity protection*
 - *Fees should recoup the cost of providing a personal benefit versus a public good and reflect public support*
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- *Sustainability, accessibility, education, protection, connection with nature*
- *Human use not to impinge on ecosystems. The main principle/priority/goal that Yukon Parks and Campgrounds should have is: to maximize human enjoyment of natural spaces in Yukon without compromising the health and wellbeing of the wildlife who inhabited it first.*

- Yukon Parks encompass some of the most beautiful sites in the Yukon and therefore need to be protected areas both from mechanized travel and in some cases from hunting and heavy usage by human traffic. They are our greatest resource for tourism and consequently are at great risk from overuse.
- I think that the parks and campgrounds in Yukon are real treasures that will benefit Yukon, the people and the wildlife for many, many years.
- Of course, there are pressures now on campground facilities and the few trail routes and backcountry camping sites that currently exist. While the usage numbers are vanishingly small when compared with the visitor numbers for some of the world's better known parks like Yellowstone, Yosemite and so on, providing facilities, amenities and opportunities to those who visit-while at the same time putting conservation in the fore-will require both good planning and continued investment.
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- **What should be the Same in 10 years**

- Wilderness
- Free firewood (not crappy wet wood) x2
- Native use shouldn't change
- Cleanliness
- Reflecting FN use around parks, working with FN
- environmentally friendly facilities
- Natural setting
- Cultural values
- Continue monitoring
- Fish types in lakes, are the numbers healthy?
 - Are fishing values protected
- Impact of visitors on wildlife
- Protect CGs from new developments
- Deny access to motocross bikes A.T.V.'s etc.
- First nation heritage branch
- First Nation Government
- Conservation
- David Suzuki
- RRC's if honoraria gets increased to handle the workload

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- **What should be Different in 10 years**

- No ATV's in CGs
- More campgrounds (carefully planned)
 - Environmental
 - Social concerns
 - First nations respects
- Continue/improve maintenance
- Better planning/consideration of fishing pressure at CGs
- Tourism as a viable economic opportunity for the affected FN

- *More educational about territorial parks taught in schools and in government organizations*
- *All signage and place names and stories on plaques should be written in the FN language of the affected FN*
- *More signage*
- *create opportunities for FN tourism guides*
- *make more use of interpretive centres to include oral histories and FN culture*
- *better regulations for more respectful and clean use of areas*
 - *better for management and adaptation*
- *user fees raised*
- *more signs*
 - *educational*
 - *Fishing regs.*
- *no off road vehicles*
- *no buildings*
- *landscape*
- *walking trails*
- *dog runs*
- *better enforcement and bigger fines for offences like littering or disturbance*
- *some lakes to be non-motorised*
- *more fishing regulations that are well posted*
- *no hunting camps*
- *increase the regular cleaning*
- *need to be ONLY for day or weekend use, not for long term*
- *no reserved spots for days on end*
- *Better dumping sites*
- *Increase cost for RVs*
- *Develop trails + limit ORV use*
- *More education*
 - *Local area, people etc.*
- *Winter camping*
 - *E.g. bison hunting*
- *No need new*
- *More facilities*
 - *I.e. water pumps, structures*
- *Expand existing campgrounds (i.e. not more CGs, some larger ones)*
- *Free FN camping*
- *Roads to resources must not be financed by the public, maintaining roads would be the user or multiple users of this road. The manage project from start to reclamation.*
- *In the Alsek, we have our adequate share of parks surrounded by parks. We should share in the development & implementation as First Nations, to work efficiently with government to seek a clear & concise planning process. To insure all people prosper from Yukon parks.*

- **Six Word Stories**

- *Sitting comfortably by fire, quiet rustic wilderness setting*
- *Beauty discovered within, but also without*
- *Places to simply connect with nature/wilderness*
- *Balancing visitor impacts in protected places*
- *As visitors grow, parks grow. Protection & expenses grow*
- *Old growth expectations discover new communities*
- *Vision*
 - **Proactive management**
 - **Accessible for all**
 - **Resource protection**
 - **Keep traditions alive**
 - **Sustainable use**
- *Education through reconnection of people and land*
- *Natural spaces heal a fractured world*
- *Vision*
 - **Protection**
 - **Available to all**
 - **Respect for all**
 - **Keep it wild**
 - **Stewardship**
- *Unique, sustainable, Authentic, beautiful, accessible, Ecosystems*
- *From a park we built a community*
- *Passion for wilderness, thirst quenched, hungry for more.*
- *Leader in wilderness adventures, front and back*
- *Preserved for all nature, including us.*
- *Place of connection to real nature*
- *Our true north wild and free*
- *Just as I saw it. Respect*
- *Sustainable animal populations to feed families*
- *Through the wilderness, no seeing people*
- *More diversified, integrated; cultural and ecological representation*
- *People, plants, animals: living in harmony*
- *Co-managed, cultural learning opportunities, biologically diverse*
- *Clean water, plentiful wildlife, wonderful experiences*
- *Well funded park "and ecosystem" branch*
- *Hopeful future: nature's options fully realized*
- *More protection, what's protected stays protected*
- *Ecological integrity while maintaining healthy / positive culture*
- *Room to roam and find yourself*
- *Bigger is better, connected is best!*
- *Modernize the parks Act and Regulation*
- *A set of enforceable regulations, phrase*
- *Ecologically Maintained, financially stable, recreational paradise*
- *Twice the users but feels like half*
 - *(avoid campgrounds becoming too dense)*

- Recreation, Relaxation, Ecological integrity in parks
- The beauty, the environment, for all
- Clean, Sustainable, enjoyable, campgrounds for all
- Good times, great places, forever wild!
- A healthier cleaner, active camping culture
- "you can't fix the bell curve"
- Tenting space, trails, handicap accessibility
- Large intact protected areas for everyone
- Safe, fun, available for all users
- Attractive, logical, environmentally/publically friendly, cooperation
- Large intact protected areas for everyone
- Safe, fun, available for all users
- Attractive, logical, environmentally/publically friendly, cooperation
- Yukon Park officers in more locations
- Big, diverse, intact, connected, protected, forever
- Outdoor experience, enjoyment for all!!
- Ecologically representative, connected system, providing nature immersion
- Same service with improved quality
- Natural unhindered accessibility for future generations
- Welcoming, ecologically intact venues providing recreational opportunities
- Zero waste, noise free, traditional territory acknowledgement
- Better Gov. and public relationship soon
- Clean safe water, authority, monitoring, Environment, affordable
- Etiquette, Financial stability, Ecological integrity
- Don't forget we are THE Yukon not BC/AB
- Longer season, more campgrounds, bring happy people
- Please fix the permit system, thanks
- Thriving, protected for the next generation
- Commitment to conservation, integrity and Yukoners
- Still "Yukon", manageable(expectations), adequately resourced, leaders

1b. What is working well?

- Fabulous Staff
 - Attractive career, scheduling, we are parks people, team cohesion, feel welcome, cross-functions, we get paid (no phoenix)
- Programming
 - TPP, Trails, interp signs,
 - Interp as management tool
- Accessible
 - Online booking-you can't find a place to stay
- Affordable
- Advertising/marketing
 - Good T&C does it for us, but...
 - For CGs was non-existent until UN
- FN involvement

- Eg TTP
- You won't be turned away
- Simplicity
- No gate, seamless
- South & north regions = different
- CG designation
 - Public doesn't know Highway, destination, rec. sites
- Self-registration
- Strategy process so far
- Campgrounds:
 - Lots of options and geographic spread
 - High-use can lead to great appreciation: link of front-country to backcountry
 - The facilities are appropriate (e.g. clean toilets)
- Regional Land-Use planning in North Yukon and ultimately - we think - in the Peel
- Managing high-use in Tombstone backcountry
- Committed staff
- Overall campground experience, and a move to start addressing diverse needs
- Campsite spacing and vegetation
- Number of visitors that parks and campgrounds can accommodate, both the quality and quantity and diversity of expectations
- Staff actually want to understand how to improve the parks system
- Free firewood
- Cost and accessibility of campsites, and general availability
- Management Planning does happen
- Tombstone Interpretive Centre
- Opportunity to get off the beaten path
- A diversity of resources and partnerships
- 'Feel' balance between safety and 'wild' experience, that is not over-regulated
- Ability to be both spontaneous and have access
- Move towards gender-neutral facilities
- Free wood that the public appreciates
- Tombstone backcountry system
- Keeping up on facilities such as outhouses
- Great reputation with respect to cost, cleanliness and care
- Management supports operational staff
- We have incredible natural capital which is why people come
- Momentum to make changes
- Our system is unique in that there is no reservation required
- This isn't provides employment
- Staff are engaged, committed and have pride
 - We work together as a group
 - We like our work
 - We believe in our work
- Visitor experience
- We provide a low level of service and do it well, for example no Wi-Fi
- We are starting to get better at considering access ability

- Rustic Yukon feel, feels like a getaway
- Elbow Room in campgrounds
- No cell service
- Well situated campgrounds
- Sense of safety
- Affordability
- Campgrounds are generally well spaced apart
- High demand

1c. What needs to improve?

- Public outreach and engagement
 - Ie. Presence in communities
- FN. Presence
 - Operations & staff
 - Elder & youth engagement
 - Improve processes
 - Eg permit reviews
 - G to G
- Backcountry Registration
 - Platform, interface, cancellations – people don't
 - Different fees, BC/FC on reservation fee etc.
- Regulations
- Decentralized decision making
- Cooperation between departments
- Seasonal vs casual positions
- *More staff , \$ interpretive programs etc. panels, bilingual positions,
 - job security, backcountry presence, permanent staff
- Treat Campgrounds like parks
- Extend season (gates)
- Fees
 - Kill annual pass
 - Different fees for different campsites: locations, busyness, etc.
 - Round #'s
 - Fees for interp. Programs: for commercial groups
 - Day use?
 - Increase overall
 - Retain revenue
- Separate commercial/noncommercial users
- Separate campers
 - Eg. generators & tents
- Reservation system for CGs
- Campground hosts
- Commercial groups
 - Relationship
 - Fees
 - Internal discussion
 - Sharing, data analysis
- Marketing vs capacity

- Better informed marketers
 - Eg parks to take T&C on Family Tours
- Free poplar (bad) firewood
- New logo doesn't work
 - Vehicles, uniforms etc
- Recycling in north region
- Too easy to unprotect parks under PLCA
- Distinction OTG between day use & camping
 - Define day use
- Bring back CYP (Celebrate Yukon Parks)
- How to deal with being full
 - Efficiency of process
 - Branch, Dept, YG,
 - Wheels are turning, slow people coming fast
- Trail signage and end points (TTP etc)
 - Design, trailheads, stop points
 - More trails
- More:
 - Kiosks
 - Accessibility
- Constant change; costs change with time
- North region: distance between campgrounds and lack of access to potable water
- Funding mostly focussed on campgrounds over parks (though that is what is needed now)
- People don't see campgrounds as 'parks'
- Campgrounds mostly along roads, which is an opportunity to access 'wilderness' parks, and yet the system needs more parks
- Ad hoc activities like random trails in campground park reserves
- Lack of a comprehensive system strategy
- The diversity of 'space' in campgrounds, for the range of users (e.g. RVs with generators to tenters)
- Ecological monitoring is limited across the system and focussed mostly on Tombstone and Herschel Island
- Lexicon is confusing: what is the difference between a campground and a park?
- People wanting earlier campground-opening dates
- Why do park management planning processes, and gaps between, take so long?
- Lack of distribution of parks geographically and by ecoregion
- More First Nation and Inuvialuit people 'in' and 'at' the parks and campgrounds
- There needs to be more focus on park-related opportunities and licenses for Yukon First nations and Inuvialuit businesses
- The desire and ability to leverage more revenue from sustainable park experiences, such as cabins, which could fund other programs like biological monitoring and local business-development opportunities
- Tombstone has limited front-country trails/routes for individual and commercial use
- Better recognize the diversity of commercial interests and need to have more responsive and adaptive 'rules'

- This process needs to pay attention to fiscal sustainability which is key to any strategy's implementation success, and that includes clarifying shortfalls
- Better engage Yukon First Nations and recognize their capacity
- Partnerships
- Desire for a greater diversity of experiences, linked by 'amenities' and 'infrastructure'
- So long as the system is under-resourced in terms of dollars, people and expertise, planning will fail and management will be reactive
- In this next chapter of the Yukon parks system, we need to better step into our 'system', such as coordinate conservation opportunities
- "It's not rocket science; it is far more complicated"; we need a mechanisms, such as different worldviews, to better address the needs and aspirations of the system
- The Yukon parks system needs to be considered alongside other park systems
- A system is too low especially for the season's pass because it has not increased as costs have increased
- The day-use fee of \$12 is awkward. Make it 10 or 15 or 20
- There will need to be more Park officers especially with the change in regulations to 24 hours. Plus there are more users and people like to talk to someone at the campgrounds
- Chronic abuse of the system namely regulations. As a result there is an unofficial reservation system that consists of a lawn chair and this is leading to a sense of unfairness
- Alcohol abuse and limited ability to respond due to legislation gaps especially around festivals
- Length of patrols which are too short and not able to deal with all issues despite a 10-hour shift due to big distances to travel
- Increasing size of campers, more waist, and hard to fit in existing campsites
- The park officer time and space issue. Outside Whitehorse, attendance feel they are alone to do compliance tasks which is not fair
- Some communities have no mechanics
- Capacity issue, supply and demand imbalance, and resulting conflicts in both front country and backcountry
- Continual need to improve internal communication
- Compliance of annual pass holders who do not fill out they use passes which means our data is less reliable
- Options for tenting in campgrounds. Some people want a different experience and some would even like a pull through option
- Increase recycling
- Lacking tools to do the job properly, such as planters working with Yukon First Nations when there is limited response and capacity
- Not enough focus on ecological components of the system
- Working with Yukon First Nations especially with high turnover of staff
- Parking of boat trailers, there are more of them and bigger rigs and the campgrounds are not designed for the sizes
- Tension of the Undiscovered Campaign which is encouraging more driving and yet what about climate change?
- Waste: garbage cardboard boxes and recyclables
 - Well, I'm on holidays so whatever
 - Disconnect of keeping garbage in campers to avoid bears
 - People bringing home residential garbage to campgrounds

- Generators, noise, solar power?
- Dogs not on leashes and sense but my dogs don't leave my campsite so what's the problem?
- People leaving their RVs and generators running
- Improve playgrounds and water wells
- Theme of more camping etiquette required
 - For example consideration of others and their space both physical and visual auditory
 - Need for education and believe that most people want to do the right thing
- Attitude of entitlement
- Interpretation generally needs a refresh
- Improved trail systems
- Forgetting about ecological integrity
- More backcountry options
- Besides sleeping there are minimal front country opportunities
- Range of opportunities generally in front and back country
- Dedicated noisier activities, there should be focus of impact
- Campground footprints and how to optimize that these are actually Park Reserves
- Lack of revenue through compliance, fees and firewood. there is no incentive to generate Revenue because it goes into the general government system.
- Level of operational subsidy is too high
- Ability to enforce rules and wondering if the fines are too low for example theft of firewood?
- End-of-season fire smarting
- Better compliance on check out times
- The recreational impacts on the Heritage River (and rivers generally)
- Leave No Trace - let's be more explicit
- Wilderness tourism legislation is outdated
- Lack of systematic conservation planning
- Role of Yukon Parks in delivering other strategies and commitments

1d. How can a parks strategy help achieve parks goals?

- Efficiency
- Practicality
- Tools for an easier job
- Happiness; Users and workers
- Clarity, Direction, objectives
- Consistency
 - Same rules apply to everyone
- Coordinate legislation
- Clarify what parks are
- Stability, jobs, positions
- Maintain authenticity
 - Of experiences
 - Of doing my/our job
- Community engagement, credibility in communities

- Define who we are "Yukon Parks"
- Know the parks strategy
 - Awareness -> empowerment
- Unified – more mobile positions in YT
- Shift from CG ops to park management
- All on same page; less ambiguity
- Longer term solidify our priorities
- Better inform upper management
- Longer than political cycle
- Jobs, security
 - Buy-in from the public
- One CG reservation system
- Maintenance assessment, asset management, priorities
- Priorities for our work
- Give officers teeth
- Needs to have timelines and teeth. Work plans need to have a mandate and resources from above and more than just the fluffy requests
- Appropriate resources
- Gap between managing and operational issues which lead to more knee-jerk then strategic decision-making
 - For example Grizzly Lake campsites where we solve one problem and create another
- Strategy will allow us to leverage more resources
- Better position to be more strategic, we are too often reactive
- Prioritization so we know where to focus
- Clear sense of vision and purpose that's resonates with staff, the public, and our partners
- Greater Clarity and promotion of camping etiquette for both staff and users. For example have dog on leash versus have dog under control
- Measures that reduce workload on things like garbage, to focus on the more important tasks
- Holding people accountable in campgrounds. There is a tension of policing people's holidays but there also needs to be common sense

2. Healthy people

[See also several relevant comments under happy campers.]

- We take our community youth to campgrounds for nature based experiential learning
- How do Yukon Parks support your healthy living?
 - Build/maintain soft tread (non-motorized) trails
 - Infill is working
 - Great job at tombstone
 - I like the "long RV" sign, it works
 - Gets you out enjoying places you might not go or get to or know about
 - Relaxing in the outdoors reduces health risks and tensions
- Ideas for enhancing the ways Yukon Parks promote healthy living
 - Access to backcountry, low impact camping on established campsites, allow place to camp to explore areas nearby
 - Playground equipment for the young
 - Responses to post
 - Stay in Whitehorse, nature is our playground
 - Do you want free iPads as well? (hahaha)
 - Play with Rocks and Sticks
 - Diversity of well designated trails
 - Self-guided canoe 'routes' on lakes
 - Keep it affordable
 - More diversity in backcountry alpine campsites. Current policy crowds people together
 - Enhance nearby hiking trails
 - More running races in parks would be AMAZING!
 - Yukoner First reservation system
 - Citizen wellness should be supported by YTG. No fee increase
- Outdoor living provides family time, relaxation time, which in turn gives health benefits, wildlife viewing opportunities. A playground in some parks is good for the younger generation, also opportunities to hike, fish and boat are great.
- throughout the document the term "in nature" is used frequently. since it is so important it should be defined.
- 1. Paddling trips along rivers are important to our family. Present designation of the 30 Mile Canadian Heritage River and associated services are much appreciated. Our experiences have strengthened our bonds with place and heightened our respect for our shared lands.
- 2. Appears that river travel education is making a difference, a recent trip on upper Yukon revealed mostly clean sites, toilet paper on fringes of larger sites suggests a need for enhanced education material for larger groups.
- Learning to relax and have fun in the outdoors and the taking care of nature is important to me and my family.
- A fundamental approach of doing business for Yukon Parks must remain the value it sees in connecting people with nature. Through the application of this thinking, Yukon Parks will permit itself to explore and be open to new approaches to connect people with nature. This may mean park officials will need to revisit their ideas about what are acceptable uses in parks. Mountain biking, paddle boarding and fat tire bicycles demonstrate how technology affects outdoor recreation opportunities. Inevitably, the interface between the users of outdoor recreation technology and where it is taking place, is often a park. Park professionals must continue to be on the leading edge of identifying trends in outdoor recreation activities and the technology that is serving that

interest. Proactively engaging with the outdoor recreation industry and users will assist Yukon Parks in strategically addressing emerging issues.

- Yukon Parks must increase its efforts to design, build and/or provide amenities that meet the needs of people of all abilities. Washrooms with lifts, trails that meet grade requirements for wheelchair users, strollers and visitors with ambulatory challenges, picnic tables and parking areas that account for requirements unique to abilities of the visitor are necessary public expenditures.
- Multi-generational camping and outdoor recreation experiences should be considered. Yukon Parks that plan for and encourage families to experience nature together are to be supported. This may mean that campground designs account for larger numbers of permitted campers that may require tent space, car/truck/trailer space and RV space.
- Have more trails/routes. Offer guided hikes. Offer transportation to those remote places. Have limited time for generator from RV
- Camping at a Yukon campsite brings things down to the basics of starting a fire, cooking your food, setting up your place to sleep. It takes away all the distractions and things that seem 'important' but maybe are not so important. Shows you what life could be at its most basic. Feels good to be in contact with the weather, with cooking your food, maybe meeting the person next door. The hikes associated with the campsites are great. Seeing a natural river, being able to walk along it or through a forest, just feels good. Makes you feel more able to think straight and face the day, more alive.
- "One Health" refers to the interactions that exist between human, animal, and environmental health. Healthy ecosystems and wildlife directly impact the health of humans in many ways. Programs that promote this interconnectedness and preserve the biological integrity of wild spaces will inevitably benevolently affect the health of human beings. This concept should exist at the core of the Yukon Parks and Campgrounds Strategy, and the Strategy should work to enhance this principle.
- We have been using Yukon parks every year in all seasons. We love the areas we camp in and really appreciate being able to see the wilderness in the Yukon. Lately, I have found our campgrounds very noisy with parties and campers using generators. I think areas of a campground need to be managed with quiet zones kept far away from those areas with group campsites or generator zones. That way those who need to reflect on nature and destress can use the campgrounds. They are extremely important to my sense of well being and we exercise, write, get inspired and connect with the land by using these spaces. I would not live in the Yukon if we didn't not have the wilderness. Keeping quiet zones throughout the day- ie no loud music- requires campground checks by staff members and education to Yukoners.
-

3a. Happy campers - frontcountry

- *Noise in campgrounds*
 - *I would pay more to have more enforcement*
 - *Campground Host can work but you need the right people. The worst is if someone takes on the 'god complex'*
 - *Maybe have focussed campgrounds, areas that are 'ok' for more late night noise. At least on long weekends. Like Atlin Music Festival?*
 - *But we don't want the Whistler situation where no fires after 9 pm!*
- *Tents*
 - *Dedicated sites*
 - *Separated from the big rigs*
 - *Demand from cyclists and motorcycle tourists*
 - *Cycle-specific signage*
 - *Can be more dense*
 - *Walk-in and drive-in options (e.g. Ethel Lake)*
 - *No gravel but mix of dirt and sand to support drainage*
 - *More walk-in sites to get away from generators*
- *Group sites*
 - *Multi-family opportunities*
 - *Free up other sites for more camps*
- *Day-use*
 - *Day-use options to free up overnight sites. Witnessed Filipinos families will take a sit, have a BBQ, set up a tent, have a great time - but leave around 10 pm and not sleep there*
- *Trails*
 - *More access to backcountry from campgrounds*
 - *Trails with interpretation. Local stories. Signs so people know they are legit trails because people need to feel safe*
 - *More roadside options*
- *Waste management*
 - *Recycling and compost bins, for sorting*
 - *Way to not attract wildlife*
 - *Incentivize good behaviour*
 - *Prevent litter*
 - *Simple wayfinding to bins to encourage good behaviour*
- *Campsite boundaries / density*
 - *Privacy is important*
 - *Leave trees and vegetation instead to open spaces*
 - *Maintain sense of escape experience...don't want to shake hands with the neighbours!*
- *Accessibility*
 - *Improved and increased options for range of needs*
 - *Assistance if needed (e.g. firewood)*

- Where are handicap ATV's allowed?
- Consider 8-80 principles (Google it)
- Flatten surfaces
- Outhouses
 - More quantity
 - Cleaned more often
 - Solar-powered lights
 - Chalk so people can write, but still be cleaned
- RV's / bigger trailers
 - Larger spaces, especially around busy campgrounds
 - RV plug-in's, some full service sites
 - More drive-through sites
 - Less RV sites (they are noisy)
- Campground 'host' program
 - Monitor good behaviours: noise, garbage, unfair 'reserving' of sites
 - Target seniors, many have gear, and target those who want to target hospitality and welcome campers / tourists
 - Collect fees and check permits
 - Liaise with Officers
 - We used to have this model...why did we get rid of it? Other places use it, what has been their experience? Does it make sense now?
 - Provide information ranging from interpretation to services available in closest community
 - To have 'eyes' on the campground
 - Need to target the right people...not 'trigger-happy-wanna-be-cops'...more like airport ambassadors to help, not direct
- Children
 - More and improved playgrounds
 - Use the 'natural playground' model
 - Larger sites for kids to play
 - Love the zipline-model, like at Conrad
 - Safer campgrounds as vehicles rush by to 'secure' campsites
 - Differentiate big-kid and little-kid play areas
- Firewood
 - Wood without paint
 - Better wood: split, dry, not so heavy, and fire-sized
 - Some restrictions on amount of wood taken...can be ridiculous
 - Kindling...for a fee
- Duration
 - Long-term camping sites
 - Limited amounts of time people can be at a campsite
- Boating
 - More dock space on popular lakes like Lebarge

- Upgrade boat launches: quality and length for longer season (so vehicles don't get stuck)
- Educate about and monitor invasive species on boats
- Specific Campground recommendations
 - Conrad > better water access
 - Lake Lebarge > expand
 - Teslin Lake > bigger and further west, new small boat launch on west side, more sites
 - Tatchun and Frenchman > better signage from highway
 - Fox Lake > payphone for emergency
 - Cogden Creek > relocate picnic tables and reclaim loops
- Programming and interpretation
 - Popular and great idea, like yoga, diversify the experience
 - Focus on kids for families
 - Cookshack sessions was draw people to the campgrounds, especially less-used
 - Visiting scientists at Tombstone was awesome\
 - Ranger talks to connect people to the parks and learn
 - Educational programs or plaques explaining on ecosystems and how to preserve and experience them
 - Responsible campfire talks
 - More information on geography, history etc.
 - Have apps you can download at VIC that works remotely at parks and campgrounds
 - Trails with interpretation
 - Information about local plants and animals; seasons for growth, edible plants, and how to identify wildlife
- New campgrounds and campsites
 - More to relieve pressure around Whitehorse
 - More opportunities on small lakes
 - New options near attractions, like Carcross for mountain biking
 - Would more day-use areas free up campground supply?
 - More campsites on water
 - Specific location ideas:
 - Campground on Top of the World highway
 - What about old Tutshi site in BC? Great site...creative partnership?
 - More space at SNAFU
 - Do not put a campground on Atlin Lake by Camp Yukon
 - Do not mistakes of Conrad again: location on hill, no bench access, safer kids area
- Miscellaneous
 - Mosquito-screened shelters
 - It is important to be clear if water is or is not potable
 - Solar-shower facilities
 - Defibrillators and medical / First Aid at every campground

- 'Glamping' options: investing in a camper or tent is not an option for me, so this allows me to show-up and enjoy without the big and long-term investment. Wall tent?
- Time period
 - Year round use: we are active in winter too, and opportunity for more employment
 - Open sites earlier and close later
 - Have part of campground for off-season
 - Pilot winter campgrounds: Kusawa, Fox, Conrad, and Pine Lake. People are more year-round.
-
- Yes - reservation system (12 comments)
 - Would give me certainty with my limited time off
 - I don't like wondering if I am going to be camping on the side of the road
 - If reservation system, Yukoners should be priority
 - Our summers are short. I hate driving and not knowing; it adds stress. I would trade spontaneity for certainty.
 - Would a reservation system work without someone at the campground? Maybe this is a reason for a campground host?
 - Online
 - Ability to select exact site
 - Ability to secure a site (like you book a campsite on an interior canoe-tripping lake, but not the exact site...just certainty you will have something)
 - I think reservations are inevitable. However, how do we make it so there is a limit on how many you can book? We don't want Fraserway booking all the sites Feb 1st. I don't like the frenzy that has happened in BC.
- Hybrid - reservation show-up blend (13 comments)
 - Combination of reservable and show-up
 - User should pay for ability to reserve, even seniors. It is a privilege and not a right
 - Reservable for long-weekends only
 - Less than 40% of sites reservable
 - For busy campgrounds only
 - It is embarrassing when tourists can't find a site...then what? And what story do they tell to their friends later?
 - Allow reservation for a certain percentage of sites for a fee
- No - reservation system (4 comments)
 - I didn't move to the Yukon to live in a hyper-reserved system, like BC. We value being more laid back.
- Annual permit
 - Remove permit system in busier campgrounds. Cash only for busy sites.
 - Getting rid of the annual permit as the best way to get rid of abuse. Only day-use. Or at least at the busy sites.
 - People use the close-to-Whitehorse campgrounds as cottages. We all know someone who does it. Consider not allowing annual permits at the lake / poplar

campgrounds. That will free up more space and incentivize people going further from Whitehorse.

- Enforce time limits - there should not be parking for the season
- *Impact of behaviour on economy*
 - I am a Vice Principal and just moved to Whitehorse from NWT. I now know why everyone is 'mysteriously sick' on Friday's; to get their campsite. I actually think this is so pervasive that it is having an impact on the economy. Get a reservation system so people can relax and not skip work.
- *Present ad hoc 'reservation' system*
 - Thrilled about 24 hour rule
 - Enforce the 24 hour rule, hammer people early and hard
 - Can there be an exception to the 24 hour rule for hunting?
 - No more lawn-chairs, logs, and empty tents as 'reserved' sites
 - I find it funny that many people resist a reservation system, despite the fact we already have one. It just isn't clear or fair. People will always leverage a system to their advantage, and government's job is to maximize fairness where possible
- *Paper-slips*
 - Crack down on one-night / no-pay campers
 - Is there a more efficient way for people to show when they are at the site and when they are done? Left white tags can be confusing.
- *Noise*
 - Less partying
 - Quiet time midnight to 8 am
 - Fairness between those who party and those who want peace: balance
 - Some control over large group take-overs and noise levels
 - There should be a curfew: hard to get kids asleep if parties don't stop
 - Restrictions on generators; more quiet zones and generator free areas
- *Dogs*
 - Loose dogs not under control; dangerous for kids
- *Motorized recreation vehicles*
 - Enforce ATV's, side-by-side and dirt bikes
-
- *Quiet camping, clean, opportunity to see wildlife (birds)*
- *More sites at existing campgrounds*
- *I would like a picnic table, a fire pit and some wood, some trees, well water is a great asset. A place for the kids to play is also a asset.*
- *why do we not have volunteer campground hosts as other jurisdictions have? they would perform a great service by ensuring that campgrounds are not raided for wood, nor the scene for drunken parties etc. improving the relationship between parks and highways in order to ensure safe campground roads would improve camper experience.*
- *We enjoy the nature and the solitude of the campgrounds we go to. When we bring grandkids a playground is beneficial but not always necessary.*

- *I have not been to every campground but there most definitely could be more of them. Some of the day use areas could be made into campgrounds. One that comes to mind that would be great is Kookatsoon Lake.*
- *I'd like to see a significant strategy initiative to enhance trails ... more trails identified, marked and maintained at the campgrounds. Aishiak is well suited for boating, but there seems to be little else. Tatchun Lake has a nice short walking trail on a scenic lookout over the lake, photo attached. This should be described in the camping guidebook. It requires only a minor amount of care to remove a few logs and to put a trail sign up for visitors. Of course, there are many opportunities in other parks as well. I think there could be an active partnership with YukonHiking.ca to link trails to the campground pages. This would be a helpful service to campers. There could also be a fun and helpful camper volunteer effort to map and submit trails with their GPS units. Many visitors are into geocaching and this capability could be harnessed. Give campers the 'how to' and let them go. This is also a higher means of engaging people in nature, and in a valuable way. This could extend to a trail caretaker role, similar to HPWs highway litter pickup sponsorship.*
- *when i recently camped at congdon creek campground inside the electric fence, i noticed a change in social behaviour.. in most campgrounds each occupant of a campsite has their own table and fire pit. at the tenting site at congdon, there are up to 8 (i think) campsites but only three tables and two fire pits. this makes it possible and maybe necessary for campers to interact and share -- tables, fires, food, coffee, information, stories. the list goes on and on. unintentionally the set up at congdon has resulted in a social network forming each night as the residents change. to summarize, i met several interesting people during my stay at congdon. i was then thinking about how this experience could be incorporated into the usual one site,one table, one fire arrangement. my idea is to design one section of a campground in a circle with the road going around the perimeter. the parking/tenting spaces are on the outside of the circle and the tables and fire pits are on the inside. but not as many as there are campsites. this would foster the same type of teamwork and socialization that the congdon tenting site does. i sometimes feel that the campgrounds are like hotels in that no body meets or talks to the person next door. this would change that for the people who want to.*
- *Have interpreters visit campgrounds and speak with campers to see how they are enjoying their visit and if they have any concerns or ideas for improvement.*
- *No parking ahead or placing tents or chairs to hold a spot. There has to be a physical presence. This is a very common complaint made by Yukoners who camp on a regular basis.*
- *More Park Officers are needed to enforce regulations. Everything is always in crisis management.*
- *11.00 pm is far too late to turn off generators in family oriented parks. 8pm or times specified.*
- *Larger groups need to book in advance for specific larger group site areas or park specific. Use.*

- Some parks designated adult only quiet and adult only party.
- Yukon has lots of Parks and could start to meet visitor specific needs.
-
- Post the phone number in the parks for reporting abusive occupants or dangerous situations.
- 1. Do not allow commercial operations in territorial campgrounds.
- 2. Do not allow commercial operations in territorial campgrounds that impinge on others enjoyment and undermine the visitor experience tourism is aiming for.
- 3. If you do allow this kind of operation, require them to operate quietly - solar, battery - and have a strict policy if you receive complaints about their operation, personalities... and promptly shut it down.
- 4. Restrict generator use to within a shorter window. 2-4? Not lunch time, not dinner time, not quiet sitting around the campfire time. Or ban them all together - have Yukon benefit from its high level of Yukon sunshine and require a solar set up.
- Thank you for establishing a fine for people who hog campground spaces starting Tuesday but don't show up until Friday night. Please levy those fines-not just educate. Fine. This year.
- Raise the camping fees please. \$50/year is ridiculously cheap.
- I'm a car/tent camper with a kayak, so I appreciate being able to park somewhere close to the water so that I can keep an eye on the kayak and do not have to lug gear a long distance.
- We are happy with smaller lakes to explore, so a few new campgrounds would be nice.
- Tent campers often share a camp site-might have three people, but three cars with a kayak each. Make it easy for us to find some spaces, with outhouses close by.
- I understand that some campers use up a cord of wood over a weekend, but that is not everyone. We enjoy cooking over the fire, but do not keep a fire going all day. Buying wood might encourage people to chop down trees. Tough call.
- I appreciate the clean outhouses, stocked with TP4.
- Nice to see recycling containers in some of the campgrounds now.
- How about starting a few Tiny Libraries in the campgrounds?
- Congdon Creek is a lovely campground, but the bear situation scares people away. Is there a solution?
- We need a campground between Teslin and Watson Lake.
- Carcross and Tagish used to be very popular, but they are no longer well kept, so not well used. Too bad.
- The campground behaviour has improved since officers patrol on the weekends-money well spent.
- I look forward to retirement so I can use the campgrounds Monday-Thursday and avoid the weekend crowds.
- Thank you for making our campgrounds available and well kept-much appreciated.
- This document implies that overall we are doing a good job noting positive feedback in the 2016 survey. Without seeing how the survey was designed and executed it is hard to comment on the interpretation of the results. Similarly, did the survey capture resident

and visitor perceptions and was there any correlation between needs, preferences and expression of their experiences between the two audiences.

- Hopefully there are plans for another few campgrounds soon
- Any plans for more campgrounds in the Yukon?? It's much needed! So many are full every weekend:(
 - But so many of the campgrounds are empty, too - even on weekends! Only campgrounds within 2 hours of Whitehorse, and Tombstone, get well used.
 - empty?? Which ones and when?? Pine gets full, fox gets full, kusawa full? Marsh lake of course full..
 - As I said, - only campgrounds within 2 hours of Whitehorse (which is all you listed), and Tombstone, get well used. Drive even another hour and you have lots of choices - the photo was shot last weekend at Drury Creek, where 3 of the 10 sites were occupied - a friend drove up from Whitehorse on Saturday and got the beach site beside us.
 - Congdon Creek (our most common campground of choice, including this coming weekend) is rarely more than half full. Johnson Lake at Faro isn't used much at all. And on and on.
 - my parents , the 2 friends and us all go to the campgrounds I listed.. they are always full. We have a 1yr old and cannot drive further than 2hrs on a Friday nite..its too late for him.
- Make it easier to get a site. Stop allowing people to park long term?. Yes it is still happening [5 likes]
- The Wolf Creek campground is too small. I can hear someone snoring in the adjacent campsite. Whitehorse needs another campground close to town with big lots aka Million Dollar Falls.
- Reliably quite. No question ,motor bikes Erving up engines pine lake on the long weekend had way too many quads ,tailors motor bikes. OTher then that it was very clean plenty of wood parks guys were great
- Why not have half the sites be online reservation like they do in BC??? Would be nice to be able to guarentee a spot and not have to deal with the people Who still save spots close to town
- Cut the damn trees at Johnson's Lake campground. Beautiful spot but you cannot see the lake !
- This city to ensure there are enough proper garbage cans at yukon parks i know they have removed some from areas (lazy) because to much garbage was being placed in them well its worse with out for instance miles canyon lookout i see garbage on the ground everytime im there, and the parks crew need to make sure to clean out garbage cans at the designated parks they work at especially during busy weeks more frequently. I'm out at army beach and on the busy weekends i pick up bags of food waste and garbage left in the parking lot including full size ones some of the Rvs are huge and they have large garbage bags that will not fit the small holes perhaps have drections to the local waste facilities and A discount for tourists to dump their waste properly. Further the reason they have not emptied them enough is lazyness im Pretty sure along with people

being to lazy to go to the further away cans and rather ditch their waste vs preventing food attractants putting wild life at risk and the safty of people. they need to increase the amount of times they pick up garbage and make sure all our parks and popular spots during summer have adequate waste disposal and patrols checking for attractants left to ensure a clean future for our parks and safe for us and for wildlife with out human attractants

- Some section of the park should be for people with big camper and generator and some section should be for people that have tent and want peace. Generator should not be running after 10 p.m. Park officer should go around the campground at 10 p.m. just to ensure people respect the quiet rule.
- I like hearing people laugh from a few campsites over, to see people sitting by a fire or cooking their meals out in the open, like we are a tribe in that spot. I do not like to hear generators or super loud talking/yelling (typical of people who are drunk). Generator use should be much more limited than it is. Like 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to charge your batteries, then turn it off. If you need electricity that bad, maybe you should go to an RV park. It destroys the experience to hear loud machinery in a campground / park.
- I was at a campsite just last night and in talking to a couple people there, found that many if not most of the sites were occupied by people who had \$50 yearly passes and who were using the campsites as either their primary residence, (saving money by not renting), or as their personal cottage for the summer. One couple has a house in Riverdale but camps every night during the summer, mostly in the Wolf Creek Campground. The person on the other side was working at Whistle Bend, lives in Quebec, and was using his camping pass to 'stay for free'. He admitted that he had chosen the nicest site and that most days he is not there between 7:30 a.m. and 9 p.m. The night I was there he arrived at 10 p.m. He sleeps in his car and does not even venture out to the picnic table most nights. This is a total waste of that campsite! And these people are occupying the nicest sites. Perhaps there should be an area where people who are not going to be there at all during the day, are not allowed to camp. Like they need to use the peripheral sites. And be strict about the time limits in any given site. Those hanging out all summer should not be hoarding the nicest places.
- I think the outhouse should not be gender segregated (?) but just say toilet.
- I have spent the last 35 summers camping, fishing and hunting in the Yukon. It is sad when one looks at all the lakes we have here, and I don't think we have more than two dozen campsites actually on the water! Most of our campgrounds, such as Teslin Lake, Little Atlin, Tarfu, Snafu, Fish, Laberge, Fox, Little Fox, Pine Lake, Squanga...I can go on and on...don't have near enough campsites on the water!
 - In the old days, one could stay at Pine Lake near Haines Junction, leave your \$20,000 - \$100,000 boat at the dock, and go 1000 yards back to your campsite. Not anymore...if you do this, you will have an empty boat when you get back, so what to do...move tarps, etc and move the camper or motorhome and go get the boat, so it is near your site, and you can sleep at night...then wake up the whole family to move the boat back into the water at 5 am to go fishing???No No No!

- This summer, I had to leave on Wednesday, sleep in the pullouts, parking lots, and 30% of the time I got lucky and got one of the 4 sites on the water (Frenchman Lake) Only 30%, the rest of the time I finally just left and tried to find another Lake.
- I spoke to a lot of tourists and they don't understand how we can have so many large lakes with campgrounds on them, but so few sites on the water...I couldn't answer that, as it is hard to argue with common sense...If we put one (1) mile of road along each lake in the yukon, that would give us at least 50 sites and it would solve our problem...can you imagine how simple this would be?
- And the problems it would solve: It would create employment, more wood, campground staff, income from tourists, take fishing pressure off (the few lakes that have campsites on them are getting hammered!) Plus all the communities have the equipment, personnel and know how to build or extend the existing campgrounds that we have now...Its a win win situation!!!
- Just imagine the tourism boom and increased revenue if we marketed our Yukon with more than a hundred sites on the water! I don't think a 100 more sites is even enough. I mean lets put 25-40 more on each lake and allow our own taxpayers the pleasure of camping at their own campsites that they helped build!..There would always be room for both tourist and locals...You could keep any fish, as it would take pressure off of the existing lakes with the 6 campsites on them. And...can you imagine if we do this and they are all full, Wow! look at the money the tourist is dropping here in the Yukon!
- Come on Guys...get off your butts and lets get on this problem of not enough camping spots in the Yukon... and fix this...It's a WIN WIN SITUATION! Is there any plans to upgrade our campsites and if so...when? Please advise...
- Concerned about safety, i.e. discharge of firearms in areas of concentrated recreation use, e.g. Beaver Pond Trail at the Tombstone Interpretive Centre. It is just a matter of time before there is a serious accident. Experienced high degree of user conflict, between hunting and wildlife viewing, at Tombstone. Would be good if Yukon Parks had the legal tools to manage and coordinate all activities in their parks, including hunting. Especially for public safety, such as establishing zones where discharge of firearms is prohibited. For example within 5 Km of the Tombstone Interpretive Centre and within 1 Km of the road through the park.

●

What do you hope to experience when you go to Yukon parks and Campgrounds?

- To get away from the confines of town
- Not to be harassed by people for enjoying the midnight sun
- Not to listen to loud generators from RVs all night
- limited noise
- No partying
- No off leash dogs (big issue for wildlife in tombstone Park)
- Regular enforcement
- Yukon river Campground, Fort Selkirk

What services, programs or activities would you like to see in the future?

- Interpretive programs (x3)
 - Accessible for all our users
 - Guided hikes
 - Like hear Patty piece for campgrounds
- Backpacking/tent only sites -> Increase them
- NONE- happy with having well managed and maintained campground facilities with proper levels of enforcement
- Host system could allow/provide local knowledge

What Ideas do you have to maintain fair & enjoyable access as our parks become more popular?

- Campgrounds enlarged close to Whitehorse
- Tent specific backpacking sites in campgrounds beyond more options
- More campgrounds
 - Reservable section
 - Unreserved section
 - Long term leases
- Users have changed, we need to adapt
 - Yet don't cater to camping
- Back country opens other spots
- Winter/shoulder season options in parks (x3)
 - Open it up
 - Work with BC to create more winter camping in passes
- Signage for level of service
- More Campgrounds in environmentally sustainable areas, basic campgrounds to keep costs/maintenance low for future years
- Shorten maximum number of days allowed to camp at once
 - I.e. Those who wish to camp all summer can go to Crown land or private owned campgrounds

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3b. Happy campers - backcountry

- More winter camping in Tombstone
- More hiking trails starting in parks
- Have dedicated routes on the fringes. Have greater front-country experiences to build greater stewardship
- I like the idea of bio-island geography and we need to plan nodes of connectivity while we can. We don't want a Yellowstone situation in 100 years
- The people is to allow people to use and enjoy Parks while not loving them to death
- More citizen-science support for park management. Antarctic and Arctic cruise-ship models very active and there is a market.
- Important to have a range of opportunities so that a range of people can enjoy parks; more activities, routes etc.
- Shelters and garbage, a few more amenities even in wilderness', people expect more. And people will pay more. Not everybody wants an RV.
- 30-Mile Heritage River
 - 30-mile model is great. Concentrate use and minimize impact. However, as an operator I clean up the Yukon River to Dawson at the beginning of every season because nobody else does. (Opportunity to partner with a 'river-keepers'-like organization?)
 - There used to be 4 cabins and now there are 2. Firewood is a problem and people will burn anything.
 - Over-time we need to think about garbage bins otherwise people will burn their garbage. People throw glass in rivers. And it is Yukoners who leave garbage, not visitors.
 - There should be an orientation at the VIC and permit for all Yukon River paddlers to teach etiquette. Plus, that can add to the experience and excitement. Like a video. And it can be for tourists too who are curious...just like the Chilkoot video in Skagway.
 - Better manage the 30-mile infrastructure.
- Hut-to-Hut and long-distance trails
- Hut-system in the more remote parks. Linked in backcountry to make it more accessible
- Ability to go longer, more accessible, build stewardship, ageing but active population.
- Builds accessibility, extend the season, winter opportunities, emergency situation, tourism...lots of potential.
- Partnership opportunity with a FN?
- Hiking trail from Dawson to Tombstone. 100 km. Follow The Ditch. Amazing story: California redwood and built by Panama Canal engineers. Opportunity for more businesses to provide support services.
- Percy DeWolfe trail? There must be many routes with stories worth telling and sharing.
-
- Trails: we need people to get places, and we want to manage impact. We are inviting tourists, need the infrastructure. Do it right the first time.

- As our population and visitation rises, we need to expand our park and campground network
-
- More winter camping
- Trail-development, namely in the backcountry
- Winter-camping in Tombstone. There is demand. Could you provide wood? Outhouses? People want a winter experience
- Winter-use probably needs to include snowmachines....not much conflict up here
- Winter matters...it is a big part of the year
- Husky-Bus: almost year round experience, which is the Klondike experience
 - Access is generally an issue in the Yukon
- People are interested in learning more skills and where to go
- Trails
 - Provide certainty (experience)
 - Manage impact
 - Wayfinding
 - Interpretation
- The 'product' needs to keep up with the tourism marketing and we should anticipate more visitation with things like the Tuk Road
- Q: with trail planning, how do we be more proactive over reactive?
 - So what is next? Cost? Sustainability?
 - What is the experience(s) people want?
- Tombstone has mix of objectives
 - Protect the ecosystem
 - Allow people to enjoy it
- Alaska has 'trails' and 'routes': different experience, different impact
- Need to pay attention to 'carrying capacity'
- Great to see well-trafficked trails in Tombstone, how do we spread that demand?
- More loop trails, versus in-and-out
- Yes more experiences, but, does not all have to be in the Park
- How are parks and campgrounds different?
 - Different operational objectives and concerns
 - There must be greater opportunities for linkage and I wonder where the alignment is?
 - Can we see them as a continuum?
 - They attract different target groups
 - Need to think more of an integrated system like how commercial operators use both
 - Where do Heritage Rivers fit in this system? 30 mile campgrounds are ad hoc
 - Campgrounds as staging areas for Backcountry experiences such as the backcountry campsites at SNAFU
 - Tension that some people don't want any trails in the backcountry because of footprints
- My Yukon camping experiences are almost entirely limited to river travel. A modicum of river services - how to run a clean camp brochures - would be great. Recognize that

serviced campgrounds like 30 Mile are probably impractical for YG but perhaps co-operative support for First Nation governments for modest services would work.

- YCS recognizes "crowding" as a serious issue emerging for some Yukon Parks. Crowding must be managed to address visitor satisfaction and environmental impacts. Yukon Parks may need to consider limiting use by closing facilities, employing random permit selection/assignment, and restrictions of users based on time of day or season.
- Solutions to issues arising from increasing popularity are social science based. Yukon Parks requires appropriate analysis vis-à-vis in-house social science expertise.
- Tombstone is offering a great program, always great comments from visitors taking part of it. Please refer to the comment section below as well
- Educational materials about Leave No Trace and staying safe in Bear Country (Wildwise has designed many of these in addition to other materials that have already been created).
- Access to personal bear-proof containers or Ursaks (see previous section) and bear-proof garbage bins.
- Access to bear-spray to rent and requirements for park users to have it within reach in the parks. It is a barrier for people to buy bear spray when they will be flying shortly after and crossing borders; rental programs are a great alternative.
- I am a minimalist camper in that I don't require programs for my enjoyment. That said, the programs help to educate visitors and Yukoners about the natural world.
- For those uncomfortable with bears, guided hikes give visitors a chance to be moved by the environment away from the road.
- When making trails in wilderness areas make minimal changes to the environment so that a trail can be easily maintained. Hire people trained in walking in wilderness areas especially those who understand permafrost to help design these routes. Make only slight markings to indicate a route and keep numbers down on the routes.
- Keep the wilderness wild!
- We do not need helicopters in our parks. They destroy the beauty and quiet in a park faster than any other way. Hikers can be kept to the roadside routes and more roadside routes could be designed if mobility is an issue. Tombstone is a great example of a park that is under stress. Getting to Talus Lake is a challenge and flying large groups by helicopter destroys that challenge and sense of accomplishment for the hikers themselves.
- I think hunting and hiking does not work well in park either. It is dangerous. I do understand the parks that belong to the First Nation Final Agreement should allow their citizens to hunt there but other hunters can hunt outside the park.
- I think that helicopter flights into Tombstone Park to the most commonly used backpacking sites, specifically Talus Lake and the Divide Lake area should be eliminated. The wilderness experience of a person that has spent a couple of difficult days walking into Talus Lake can be completely destroyed by the arrival of a helicopter filled with people to view the area. There seems to be no lack of interest of people wishing to walk into the Talus Lake area. I don't think that the lack of helicopter access will decrease interest in the area.
-

4. Environmental protection

- Connect the parks so they don't become genetic islands
 - Can we use / are we ready for a Protected Areas Strategy? A lot has happened in 15 years
 - Park system is an obvious strategy to achieve conservation goals. Our current system is far from representing that representation. How can Yukon Park's be a driver? What is the role in a Protected Areas Strategy?
 - No hunting, like what is proposed in Alaska (sows, cubs shot in dens, baiting bears)
 -
 - Exciting time for Parks in Yukon
 - Opportunity, if we manage this properly
 - Protected Areas network, economic future...
 - Influence on new / future Parks. Dawson Regional Land Use Plan? Peel?
 - Parks can play a vital role in Yukon's sustainability.
 - Taking care of our landbase
 - Future economy...can we monetize simply being stewards of the land as rationalization of our transfer payment?
 - How to work with other 'park agencies' to achieve national conservation objectives?
 - Keep parks from over use & destroying natural habitat
 - McIntyre creek as Territorial/Municipal protected area
 - Eg. For Caribou connectivity, S. Lakes heard
 - Increased enforcement of decreased wildlife attractants at campgrounds = safer bears & humans
 - Restrict dogs in certain sensitive areas (tombstone)
 - Restrict number of guided hike tours in parks
 - Too many to grizzly lake, takes from the enjoyment of the area
 - TLU + TER
 - Less commercial activity
 - Connectivity of parks
 - Utilize space, better utilize what we have
 - Large parks to growth – a plan to do this. Develop over time
 - Never Charge for firewood. It would be an invasive species nightmare – just like Ontario
 - When will we see a new (large) park?
 - When will Peel plan be approved?
-
- Do not let the parks get over used so the habitat is lost, garbage remains in the garbage can or hauled out in the same it came in. Whether traveling the river or camping in the campground there should be no garbage left behind. No trace camping should be taught and told to each traveller.
 - so far, the Yukon's parks are too small to provide the many services listed on p 6. there is no functional land use planning process underway now. it is fine to say that one of the goals is to protect areas w/in each of the Yukon's 20 ecozones but i see no action leading toward that protection in the document. furthermore there are no effective monitoring programs taking place anywhere in the Yukon. at least not by gov of Yukon personnel. the statement is that monitoring will inform park management. but: no monitoring = no true management.

- *Eco-system representation and protection of unique sensitive ecological niches requires a sufficient land-base and porous regulatory boundaries to ensure protection from destructive impacts without compromising sensitive ways of appreciating place.*
- *I think that is being taken care of now and continuing is VERY important.*
- *Consideration should be given to install informational signage in campgrounds and parks to explain the habitat of the area and if there are any concerns. This interpretive signage could also educate campers on local plant life, animals and bird life and local FN interests. This could be done together with Renewable Resource Councils and local First Nations.*
- *Signage could also encourage clean, safe camping and some information such as where local dumping stations and landfills are located.*
- *Highway rest areas and pull offs are being used for camping by self contained units, even when there is signage that indicates no camping. This should be discouraged and regulations and fines should be enforced.*
- *On page 6 there is reference to one of the goals as being the protection of areas "within each of the Yukon's 20 ecological regions". No background information is provided on how well we are doing in accomplishing that goal. There are the usual motherhood statements and platitudes given as rationale but nothing of substance.*
- *There are already processes in place such as regional planning that are designed to be holistic, inclusive, transparent and comprehensive forums for land and water use management that a far-sighted Parks & Protected Areas System Plan can tie into. In the NWT for example protected area needs were discussed at the same time as development aspirations where the Yukon under the governments of the day had a single focus on supporting mining as witnessed in the Peel Land Use Plan. Parks chose to keep its head down leaving it up to CPAWS, First Nations and others to make the conservation and protected areas case. As such it lost a lot of credibility as a government agency. Again more evidence that it is in the campground business not the parks business.*
- *As mentioned above, CPAWS Yukon believes that the first priority of park planning and management must be to maintain both ecological and cultural integrity. This could be achieved in a number of ways. In particular, we recommend:*
 - *a) Developing a framework to coordinate landscape-level conservation planning in the territory. In the absence of a territorial conservation strategy, Yukon Parks should coordinate with the federal government, other territorial government departments, and First Nation governments and communities.*
 - *b) Aligning and tying the Yukon Parks Strategy to the regional planning process. As mentioned above, the terms of reference for regional planning should include a commitment to identifying ecologically representative protected areas, of sizes large enough to preserve ecological integrity. Given the pressures on Yukon's wild spaces and the value in conserving them, Regional Planning Commissions should not develop regional planning scenarios that do not include protected areas. Scenarios that lack protected areas do not meet the goal of regional planning as identified in the Umbrella Final Agreement, which is to ensure sustainable*

development, meaning “beneficial socio-economic change that does not undermine the ecological and social systems upon which communities and societies are dependent.” Given that conservation science consistently points to protection of 25% to 75% percent of the landbase to ensure the persistence of species and ecosystems, regional planning scenarios that do not include protected areas do not meet the definition of sustainable development under the Umbrella Final Agreement. These types of scenarios are also inconsistent with the goal of the Yukon park system to protect areas within each of Yukon’s 20 ecological regions.

- c) Exploring pathways to create territorial parks outside of the regional planning process. Given that regional planning across the entire territory will take time, and that not all First Nations have final agreements which are required to enable regional planning, the territorial government should lead an initiative, working with First Nation governments, to explore protected area creation outside of the regional planning process. Large scale resource extraction, often at the scale of entire land management units, currently proceeds through YESAB in the absence of a regional plan and the creation of protected areas should be similarly enabled.
- d) Developing management plans to protect the ecological integrity of areas surrounding all campgrounds. Newly created campgrounds will attract people and increase pressures placed on the surrounding ecosystem. These pressures may include:
 - • Increased use of trails, both on foot and by off road vehicles (ORVs)
 - • Informal trail creation, both footpaths and ORV trails
 - • Additional hunting and fishing pressure
 - • Off-leash dogs harassing wildlife
 - • Spread of invasive species
 - • Increased presence of bear and other animal attractants
 - • Cutting and collection of firewood
 - • These pressures should be anticipated, monitored and managed.
- e) Robust monitoring of territorial parks, using both western science and Indigenous knowledge. Monitoring should include ecological, cultural, economic and social impacts, and be used to adaptively protect the integrity of territorial parks and as a yardstick to ensure the sustainable management of land outside the protected areas system.
- f) Ensuring funding is available for monitoring, enforcement and maintenance of a growing park system. Yukon Government should explore additional funding sources, including industry funding. For instance, one of the most recent protected areas in Alberta, Birch River, was largely funded by a large oil company in exchange for conservation offset credits.
- g) Supporting community development of Indigenous Guardians programs, where Indigenous citizens monitor ecological health, maintain cultural sites and protect sensitive areas and species.

- We agree with the statements in the discussion document regarding the role of parks in conservation of land, animals, and water. The list of ecosystem goods and services provided by parks are great examples of the benefits parks provide people. There are a handful of specific things that should be considered to ensure effectiveness at conserving ecosystems, biodiversity and wildlife.
- Currently Yukon parks are spatially biased toward mountainous areas. Much of the most biologically productive areas of the territory are found in the valley bottoms. Waterfowl use valley bottoms for migration and breeding habitat and moose commonly use valley bottoms in winter or for calving. Future parks should strive towards ensuring all ecosystem types are included in the park system. This may need to include a concerted effort to incorporate valley bottoms into the park system.
- Parks are one of the few tools that can be deployed to maintain ecological function. In many instances, large protected areas are the best way to maintain ecological functions such as predator-prey dynamics, fire, and hydrological cycles. This strategy should discuss how park size will be incorporated into identifying new protected areas as a means to maintain ecological function. Similarly, as mentioned in the discussion document, parks are able to reduce risk and impact of natural disasters and climate change and support storm-water and flood management. To help achieve this outcome, parks should be managed from a watershed perspective. Ideally, park boundaries will include the entire watershed but in circumstances where the park does not span an entire watershed the park management plan should be able to guide activities outside the park.
- With more and more people expected to visit Yukon parks in the future, environmental impacts are inevitable. Visitors to Yukon's parks must be informed and educated about how to protect them. The human and financial resources needed to support this effort is essential.
- Wildlife is one of the primary reasons people visit Yukon's parks. Observing wildlife must be done sustainably. Educating visitors on how to view wildlife without disturbing any animals is crucial. This can occur before visitors enter a park, perhaps at the park entrance or on their journey to the park.
- Litter and waste disposal is an anthropogenic problem many natural spaces encounter. With more people entering Yukon parks, there will be more waste. Stringent littering fines and policies should be set up in order to limit and hopefully eradicate the practice. Furthermore, more easy and accessible trash disposal systems should be implemented throughout Yukon parks. For those venturing not too deep into parks, more trash cans could be placed where they can feasibly and constantly be emptied. To address this complex issue, Yukon Parks may wish to explore removing all waste receptacles and implement a pack in – pack out approach to garbage. Perhaps, through Leave No Trace education, visitors can learn to dispose of their garbage responsibly back at home or in a nearby community that is able to accommodate recycling and garbage.
- Monitoring programs should be expanded as more people entering Yukon parks means more human impact on the environment. Monitoring programs are a great way to provide local employment on the land. To assist Yukon Parks in addressing complex

management issues associated with human behaviour, Yukon Parks requires dedicated social science staff to build a comprehensive social science program for the park system.

- New territorial parks should continue to be established. They should be large enough in size and shaped to protect critical habitat for plants and animals that are vulnerable or at risk. Used in combination with other available options such as conservation corridors, Yukon Parks can significantly contribute to the conservation of Yukon's plants and animals. Anticipating a changing climate, the Yukon Parks system needs to be responsive to conditions that affect species health and mobility.
- Yukon parks need to be staffed and funded properly in order to: (a) provide a safe workplace and visitor experiences; (b) protect the plants and animals for which the park was established; (c) interpret to visitors the importance of the cultural and natural environment within the park; and (d) connect people with nature in a way that helps them understand our place in it.
- Canada has agreed to conserve 17% of its land mass as protected areas by 2020. While the Yukon has made significant progress toward achieving the target through a variety of protected area classifications, the 17% target should not be the ceiling but rather the floor. Therefore, with only 3% of the Yukon's landbase protected through territorial park designations, there is considerable opportunity for the Yukon parks system to grow.
- Education! Kids don't learn enough about environment protection and climate change in schools!
- Animals move with climate change, if they can't they extinct!
- Yup climate change will get us, Yukon NWT and Nunavut will be last resources to survive
- No hunting, logging, resource extraction. Camp only at designated sites - don't want people cutting down trees, littering, setting up sites all over the place. Consider time of year - kayaking down a river in early summer results in young migratory water birds being separated from their parents (I have seen this); and forces the birds to move away from what they perceive as danger. Flying when they should not have to. Many issues need to be considered when we encourage / allow people to go into our parks.
- Yukon Parks should demonstrate and commit to an appreciation for the integral value of wildlife in Yukon by building capacity to study, monitor, prevent, and respond to human-wildlife conflicts (HWC). The utmost goal should be for no bear in Yukon Parks and Campgrounds to be destroyed or relocated due to human negligence. Yukon Parks commitments in order to meet the goals above should include:
 - - Required installation of bear-resistant dumpsters and trash receptacles in all Yukon Parks and Campgrounds (mismanagement of attractants is a leading cause of HWC)
 - - Required installation of bear-resistant food storage lockers in all Yukon Parks and Campgrounds
 - - Required education and usage of bear-resistant canisters or equivalent (e.g. Kevlar bags <https://www.ursack.com/>) in all backcountry Yukon Parks and Campgrounds
 - - Signage about bear awareness and HWC reduction measures and solutions at all trailheads and in all campgrounds (see examples attached)

- - Formation of multi-level committee with mandate to minimize HWC and implement Bear Smart programs with,
- - Development of a Parks and Campground specific HWC management plan(s) that identify actions, timelines, and measurable outcomes, using other jurisdictions for reference. We recommend consulting our 'Bear Smart Jurisdiction Scan' for a comprehensive comparison of other Canadian community's strategies to reduce human-wildlife conflict. For example:
 - ○ Alberta BearsMart: <http://aep.alberta.ca/recreation-public-use/alberta-bear-smart/default.aspx>
 - ○ Bow Valley WildSmart: <http://www.wildsmart.ca/index.htm>
 - ○ Bear Conflict Solutions Institute: <http://www.bearconflict.org/>
- - Careful consideration of wildlife habitat use and behaviour in all planning and development processes
- - Increase or enhance the development of 'protected' wildlife corridors and wildlife roadway crossing structures
- Have a better control/regard on hunting in Tombstone. Please refer to general comment section
- Identify the animals who live there. Consider when they are raising their young. There are certain times when mountains should be off limits for sheep for instance, and rivers for water birds, etc.
- Campsites along rivers or trails should be SET. Like make it mandatory that people stop in approved, prepared sites. People should not be able to play Davey Crockett, setting up their little homestead wherever they want, starting fires, burning wood (which might be habitat containing bugs etc. rather than dry firewood), pulling up canoes into areas where frogs are breeding, going to the toilet in the woods and leaving behind toilet paper, etc etc. There is so much inadvertent destruction that should not be happening.
- It is important to acknowledge that the development of parks and promotion of their use has potential to increase negative interactions between humans and wildlife and to clearly identify a plan to mitigate these. There are many examples of successful strategies throughout Canada and the US that connect people with wilderness through park planning (Banff, Whistler, Yellowstone, Great Smokey Mountains, etc.) and all have had to develop and invest in strategies to deal with the negative consequences for wildlife, particularly related to human mismanagement of wildlife attractants. Building mitigations in at the forefront of expansion and management changes will help planners avoid liability and reduce costs in the long run.
- Helicopters: It also uses a lot of fuel to get the hikers in which is counter to the environmental stewardship of a park.
- I feel that a great deal more baseline and background research should go into the expansion of and creation of new trails and camp sites in territorial campgrounds and parks. People with the appropriate knowledge to assess vegetation, soils and hydrology should be consulted to determine the best sites for permanent camp sites and trails. My experience is specific to Tombstone Park and campground. Examples of poorly thought out camp sites are both the Grizzly Lake and Divide Lake sites. Both sites have sections that have been poorly placed on very fine frost susceptible soils and consequently a

great deal of damage has been done to the area. Remediation work has been done to these sites which is successful to some degree but if a proper assessment had been done originally the need for remediation would be unnecessary. There are better locations for the camp sites quite close to the existing sites. The expansion of the Tombstone Campground which occurred about twenty years ago needed remediation work done for several years because it is placed in the runoff area of the surrounding wetland. The new campsites were flooded and eroded in late May and early June during the spring freshet. Trenching and culverts were required to help alleviate the problem caused by the poorly researched location.

- We are the South Klondike Local Advisory Council in Carcross. Thank you for the invitation to weigh in on the Yukon Parks Strategy. We apologize for our tardiness, we would like to have an opportunity to get more information about what a Desert Territorial Park or Beach Park regulations could look like because citizens are bringing a number of concerns to our meetings for these areas.
- Is this Parks Strategy development an opportunity to think about re-organization of all territorial protected areas administration within Yukon Environment? The reason I ask is that I think there could be efficiencies in system planning, management planning, consultations with FNs, monitoring and other functions if all protected areas were brought together within Yukon Parks Branch. Specifically, that would mean moving the HPA management program out of Habitat and adding it to Parks. There may be other components too, that I don't know about..
- Access to parks and campgrounds by visitors, Yukoners, hunters (where now legal) fishers and other folk needs to be maintained and not limited by the desire of some to have a park experience that precludes contact with other humans. I feel that "purity of pursuit" is not a helpful touchstone when developing a strategy for a public resource-where the operations are funded by the public purse.
-

5a. Thriving communities

- Have a bulletin board so people can post local services; i.e what is going on in Mayo. Or a 'did you know' for the area...
- We need to look to international parks as our markets. Canada is not the only 'wilderness': Russia, Scandinavia and Eastern Europe...they are investing and we are not.
- Cycle-tourism has a lot of exposure through blogs, and specific signage is attractive like La Route Verte in Quebec
- Potable drinking water in campgrounds: a must for commercial operators, and something customers notice that
- Being a Yukoner is about sharing. Let's make sure our visitors can experience the Yukon in a positive way. Not in a pullout somewhere because the campground is full.
- Make cruise ships pay more to access Herschel Island to support Inuvialuit business development
- Pull together the Dev Corps to find out how parks and campgrounds can support local business development. Like a concession or local wares, such as the ones for sale at the NND main admin building?
- We know tourists are going to keep on coming - and that is good - so do we need more campground supply?
- While I like free firewood, could this be a business opportunity for local suppliers? What else could locals sell?
- I'm not really sure businesses have really thought about how Parks can support local communities. Not many examples here...maybe need to showcase other Park systems like New Zealand? Like a hut-to-hut system?
- Why not have a place at certain campgrounds where you could rent a bike, a canoe etc. and work with Dev Corps. Or guided hikes!
- Campgrounds are an important part of tourism infrastructure, and visitors love them
- As a commercial operator, it is really important that we can block off campsites at Kusawa. Our business requires that certainty.
- Provide more reasons for people to stay longer in the Yukon. More than bathrooms on the highway.
- Long-distance trail or route opens up many direct and indirect business opportunities
- Like a Parks Day, how about a Yukoners Day in the spring and offer something special by showcasing an area? "Experience Haines Junction"
-
- Campgrounds at end of goldfield
- Value added opportunity with other business
- Economically, Yukon should play to our unique strengths: real wilderness and real winter.
 - Hut to hut trail, Dawson to Tombstone
 - Huts manage and direct use and impacts better than camping
 - Eg. Yukon Ditch ("yes")
- I don't feel like Tombstone is as well integrated into Dawson, as much as it could be. Many would see it as a benefit; Dawson is unique that we have this marqui park. The connection needs to be stronger in terms of representation and social integration

- Limited connection to Tombstone from Dawsonites, though perhaps that is changing with tourism and economic development opportunities, and more events
- Why do Whitehorse and Dawson Parks offices exist in industrial areas? Why not a more exciting 'frontage'?
- Q: who are the Parks for? Yukoners? Visitors? What type of experiences should they offer?
- General recognition of increased usage
- Dawson has a very 'town' and urban focus. There is some 'wild' experience, but there could be more. Could Yukon Parks be the compliment to the Parks Canada Klondike story?
 - Is the 'park demand moving away from Klondike?
- Enforcement in parks
 - Like a voce
 - What is allowed & what is not
 - Staffed permanently
 - This takes money
- Pay for firewood
 - Sold by independent business's
 - Labour too expensive to supply or sell firewood
- Seasonal lease campground spots an option
- Winter camping support + infrastructure particularly in: tombstone, White pass, Haines Pass, Carcross
- Ford Tractors option in parks
 - Local culture/bannock
- Campground host program – economic driver
- Partner with FN
 - Presented tours
 - Signage
- Growth of campground
 - Want a new project for plan of growth over time
- Customers to bring paid firewood supplied by stores
- Firewood could be another economic driver for a business to sell
- Charging fees for firewood
 - Response
 - If pay for it then want take a lot to the site firewood
- Local people can be trained to monitor the parks. Other can get wood for camp grounds as well as take payment and check on cleanliness.
- [referring to discussion document] first bullet: replace "nature" with "parks and campgrounds". every yukon community should have a nearby campground. is this the case?
- A food truck on high volume weekends might actually work, watch out for waste though.
- Not sure there should be economic opportunities in our campgrounds.
- Internal jurisdictional disputes between departments has been a longstanding problem resulting in numerous missed opportunities. Conrad is a perfect example. Going into land claim negotiations I identified on behalf of Parks the opportunity and potential to develop a small park at both Conrad and the Carcross Dunes. Conrad would have been the systems first heritage park and it would have had a mining history theme. The long range objective was to set the precedent for the international Gold Rush Park initiative that would run from Seattle to Skagway, over the Chilkoot Trail and down the Yukon River

to Dawson City where a new mining themed heritage park would be established in the tailings around Bear Creek. The existing Carcross campground would have been turned over to CTFN in exchange for land west of the highway to the lakeshore to help protect the dune system. The idea in part was to use Conrad as a way to delay travellers coming from Skagway so they would stop at Conrad and reach Carcross at noon spending more time in the community. We also considered trying to get hold of the WP&YR right-of-way between Carcross and Whitehorse and converting the tracks into a cycle path. There was no real appetite for this form of integrated long range thinking where departments worked together for a common goal that would enhance the quality of park offerings and experience for residents and visitors alike. Efforts were effectively sabotaged by vested interests and lack of political vision. Sadly neither the governments of the day or staff (and I include both Parks and Environment Department as a whole had the courage or will to tackle the big picture. The Northwest Territories and Nunavut have done a much better job in this regard especially balancing conservation, tourism/recreation and competing resource access needs (e.g. mining, forestry, oil & gas exploration).

- Many of Yukon's current and future protected areas are or will be located in remote areas, far from roads or communities. CPAWS Yukon recommends that Yukon Government support placing visitor centres in communities that act as a "gateway" to these parks. These visitor centres would welcome and orient visitors, provide ecological and cultural interpretation, and provide communities with a sustainable economic opportunity. In particular, we recommend that Yukon Parks explore how to support a visitor centre in Mayo, one of the major gateways to the future protected areas within the Peel Watershed.
- Within the park system, CPAWS Yukon would like to see Yukon Parks continue to focus on nature-based and cultural visitor experiences. We recommend that Yukon Parks continue to work with Indigenous peoples and communities on opportunities for interpretive and storytelling programs rooted in traditional activities and traditional knowledge.
- As mentioned in the previous section, CPAWS Yukon also recommends the Yukon Government supports the creation, expansion and sustainable operation of Indigenous Guardians programs and initiatives in Yukon parks.
- Nature-based sustainable tourism: An example of this could be a network of world-class trails, connecting communities with parks, bolstered by huts. A first trail could be from Dawson to Tombstone. It is likely that trails such as these could rank with the Chilkoot and West Coast trails.
- Authentic cultural tourism: Opportunities for Indigenous-led excursions onto the land that deliver story telling, Indigenous knowledge and first-hand experiences that connect people with nature. These can be short hikes, day hikes or extended overnight experiences.
- Services that incorporate the highest standards for recycling, management of wildlife attractants, and healthy food choices. A high priority for the provision of services should be that the suppliers are local to the park.
- Please don't forget the protection of Tombstone park for the next generation. Think twice about the side effects of dog sledding, snowmobile or horseback riding companies.

- Allow small non-facility backpacking tours companies(1 guide per 6 guests max), with a special Leave no trace training and a maximum per zone per week.
- A small restaurant serving like, chilli and toast, grilled cheese sandwiches, omelettes etc. The same structure could contain a little shop for bug spray, drinks, Firestarter, souvenirs, etc. Just an idea. Not like a big cafeteria, just a little place for people to gather and for convenience for those who are there for only a day and don't want to pack the kitchen sink.
- Perhaps a kiosk for daily activities at nearby tourism businesses, where buses can come get people. Or to see a local band downtown or a show at the arts center / guild hall, an art exhibit... and get a ride back to the campsite.
- Bear spray and bear-proof canisters or kevlar sacks (eg. <https://www.ursack.com/>) could be rented or sold to people in both the back and front country in order to create some income for Yukon Parks and Campgrounds.
- I don't see the need for economic opportunities in the park except to maintain the park itself. The economics of tourism in an area are far reaching anyways.
-

Provide local experiences

- Work with local FN's to visit parks and campgrounds
- Knowledge of local festivals
- Learn how to traditionally cook fish
- Share traditional knowledge
- Story-telling

Programming infrastructure

- Why not have a space at Laberge where Ta'an could do some programming in the heart of their traditional territory?
- Local flora and fauna
- Old mine tour, walking tours
- Local food

Do we want to be a campground destination?

- Like PEI...do we pull people here for the season, and provide a bunch of products and services
- NWT does this, but markets themselves as the 'end of the road'
- If yes, we will need more long-term destinations. How to work with the private operators?

Maximizing Alaska-bound traffic

- How do we get people to stay a little bit longer en route to Alaska? They have 'big animals' which is a major draw, maybe we are First Nations experiences? Don't compete against Alaska, compliment them

New services in campgrounds?

- *Contract out food trucks in campgrounds, or day-use areas, like @ Fox Lake fishing derby?*

Diversify audience of campers

- *Glamping - there are many people who just want to 'show-up'*
 - *Yurts? Tree-houses?*

Learn to love the outdoors > new-Canadians

- *Yukon Tourism Education Council*
 - *Open to exploring a partnership*

Fair campground management and impact on tourists

- *We don't want tourists to say "don't go to Yukon, you can't get a campground, Yukoners reserve them with lawn chairs"*
- *Reservation needs to be fair. At the end of the day, fairness is what people remember.*

The importance of 'fairness', and secondly, 'certainty'

- *As a manager of a public good, that should be your focal point. From there, what are some strategies on delivery?*

5b. Working with Yukon First Nations

- *Develop old FN trails as interpretive walks especially at Kusawa*
- *YFN's could come and provide a cultural experience? Incentive to go further than Whitehorse, opportunity for local storytelling, economic development*
- *Supply-demand. Maybe YFN's would like to develop their own campgrounds with unique offerings and experiences?*
- *Importance of traditional place names*
 - *Check-out www.gwichin.ca and see the 'online atlas'.*
 - *Names have stories too.*
 - *Elders willing to tell stories on video as legacy to future generations*

- Soooooo important. A solid step towards reconciliation, for which Parks can be a solid partner

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5c. Other partnerships

- Tie into the 'Canadian Mountain Network'
- Work with City to develop a low-profile campground in Chadburn Lake Park
- Agreements between Yukon Parks and Parks Canada
- Organize shuttles to and from rivers
- Work with local RRC's and Dev Corps who have contacts. They know who has what.
- More research can and should be undertaken on willingness to pay in the Yukon context. This could be done in cooperation with Yukon College/University or University of Alberta.
- The Congden research and management partnership has been a success, and more such partnerships should be a part of the Strategy.
- While good strides have and are being made, improving camper information is another needed initiative. I have been observing an interesting model that could be useful in the YP context: Escape Trailer Industries in Chilliwack make trailers, and they stand behind their quality. There is an Escape User Forum separate from the business, run by their committed owners. It provides a treasure drive of information -- by the users and for the users. YP should be an enabler here and facilitate the creation of something like this.
- These kinds of initiatives take time and money. The strategy needs to be supported with human and financial resources. I suggest a new position to focus on engaging users in value-added initiatives.
- Section 5 talks about thriving communities and the link to tourism, again using generalizations. Reference is made to opportunities for public-private partnerships and the tie in to tourism and economic development but there is no mention of the fact that at least 4 departments (Environment, Tourism & Culture, Economic Development, Highways & Public Works) have a role to play yet continue to work within their respective silos with minimal internal coordination and cooperation. There is no discussion of the need for coordinating structures to break down silo barriers or for clear, integrating territory wide sector specific policy statements that provide a framework for management operations. There is no mention of the need for internal administrative structures at the senior management level to ensure coordination and cooperation going forward with appropriate accountability measures that reward interdepartmental cooperation and penalize those who erect barriers.

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Partnerships with Yukon Parks

- *Municipalities*
- *FN's*
- *RRC's*
- *FWMB*
- *Youth groups*
- *FN Gov'ts*
- *YG department partnership*
 - *Environment, wildlife*
 - *EMR, ORV, CS*
- *RCMP campground*
- *LAC*
- *Increase campground rules to insure better safety*
- *Work more with FNs*
- *Increase education about area*
- *Interpretive signs*
- *Local FNs – local context and customs*
- *ENGOS or cultural organisation*
- *FNs need more involvement management and partnering with YG because these areas infringe on our rights creating in some cases overlaps with other FNs*
- *Enforcement is a huge issue, FNs laws need to be incorporated into Parks management*
- *RRCs have to have full participation to Park Act*
 - *E.g.: trap lines, fish, wildlife habitat, L.U.P., A.T.V. use*
- *Work with FN dev. corps to develop economic strategies for parks and CGs. Include heritage, language and FN culture*
- *Listen RRCs!*
- *Stick to plans, keep affected boards and committees included in final decision making process*
- *Hire more locals*
- *Training in the history of FN people*
- *Utilize our FN game guardians*
- *Involve dept. of education*
- *Use FN language on some signs*
- *Make each park unique to their community*
 - *E.g. Language, history, traditional history*
- *Work with the FNs*
- *Partnership in YG campgrounds is not a good investment*
- *Culture incorporated into parks*
- *Talk is cheap!! Action plans for development*
-
- *Q: how do we build passion for future generations, to support parks?*
 - *School kids!*

- Things like TH taking kids out
- Build local champions
 - E.g. employment opportunities?
 - RRC does salmon restoration projects @ \$20 per hour
 - Better use of Y2C2 by targeting more locals from around the Yukon
- Better enable the 'Friends of' mechanism
 - Vehicle to connect people
 - Can play a different role than government
- Partnerships > vehicle for opportunity, e.g. working with a local FN
- Importance of good process to build trust
- Could Yukon Parks totally, or partially, move to Dawson?
 - What would decentralization look like?
 - What would be the benefits and drawbacks?
- What is the outreach like to schools and communities? We know Wildlife Viewing @ YG does a great job, can we work with them? Like a 'Parks Show'?
 - Don't get stuck on government as the vehicle; first the objective, and then the vehicle and 'who' is best. Sometimes it is government, and sometimes it is not, and that is ok. It is about the objective!
-

6. Financial sustainability

- *Raise prices: totally or partially (18 comments)*
 - *Higher public prices will drive some users to private campgrounds to free up supply*
 - *Charge the appropriate amount. Current fees outdated*
 - *If we pay more, we will value it more and that is a good thing*
 - *Charge everyone including seniors*
 - *Please raise the fees...soon!*
 - *Raise the price to reflect the value we get. Not fiscally responsible of government. Annual pass should be \$150-200, but keep free firewood*
 - *No more free firewood*
 - *I am over 65 and appreciate the free camping, though I would be willing to bring my own wood*
 - *Raise the fees but keep firewood free*
 - *Higher fees for RV campers than tent campers*
 - *Charge more, but not too much more*
 - *I would pay triple and not blink*
- *Status quo (4)*
 - *It was us 'seniors' who worked for, paid taxes for the campgrounds. What have you done?*
 - *Yukoners should still be able to pay \$50 for annual pass*
 - *Keep seniors program*
 - *Leave things alone*
- *Convenience*
 - *\$12 is annoying. Allow credit card option or make it \$10 or \$15, or even \$20. Especially for visitors*
- *Fee based on residency*
 - *There should be 3 fees like in BC: Yukoner, Canadian and non-Canadian*
 - *Annual Pass should be available to Atlinites please. Yukoners camp down here.*
- *Accessibility*
 - *How can we have more camping opportunities for low-income families or those without vehicles?*
 - *Deals for students*
-
- *What is 'financial sustainability'?*
 - *For profit?*
 - *Revenue-neutral?*
 - *More revenue, as fee-based?*
- *Why bother? Will increase fees even make a difference? Should be more about value*
- *Are there cheaper ways to deliver the same services? Contract out things like firewood*
- *Q: What is the value-add of Yukon Parks and campgrounds to the over economy, and society? As an investment? Externalities?*

- Search and Rescue capability not keeping up with growth in use. Follow-up on communication protocols.
- The current fee is low for a nights camping and you can charge for wood as well as people who hog campsite, or leave piles of garbage.
- why should parks and campgrounds be financially solvent and sustainable when the mining industry isn't. the gov provides many benefits to that sector with NO financial return. don't mention the gold royalty as it is a farce.
- the concern about firewood might be largely due to theft in some campgrounds. this data needs to be reviewed to determine if the increase in the use of firewood is higher in those campgrounds near rural communities.
- Camping in the Yukon is a birthright.
 - - That said there does need to be some user commitment to ensure the provision of services and maintenance of facilities. No objection to the increase of campground fees.
 - - Yukon River camping currently appears sustainable, though there have been significant increases in the size of camping areas all along the river. In the not so distant future I think there should be some serious thought about how to manage river travel and camping. A passage fee might be a good thing, though this must be done in co-operation with riparian First nation governments.
- A small increase in fees would be needed to continue to operate and maintain our campgrounds. Possible an increase to \$15 a night and \$60 for Yukon resident season pass. Keep the fee free for seniors.
- I would like to see a strong statement and actions about advancing financial sustainability. It is clear that existing levels of government funding are insufficient to ensure clean and safe facilities and services, much less improve with emerging services of interest to the camping public.
- Fees should definitely be increased. The public (especially Yukoners) should somehow be educated on the costs of the parks and campgrounds in the Yukon.
- Heading 6 on page 8 is labelled "Sustainable Future" yet the sole focus is all about financing which is only one aspect of sustainability. I am not suggesting these are not valid and pertinent questions to raise as asset management and level of service standards are key considerations and must be discussed . Some of the data presented can be misinterpreted if taken out of context. For example, we only have one interpretive centre at Tombstone and part of the increase in visitation is directly attributable to how Holland America has reorganized its land-based tours. The only backcountry camping is also offered at Tombstone. We also know from Parks own data that certain campgrounds and day use areas are used significantly more than other sites. The paper indicates that camping fees only cover about 9% of operating costs but don't say why or how that compares to other jurisdictions except to say some parks agencies recover 90%. The context is overlooked. Political interference is again a factor here but then I would argue that you cannot address this aspect if you don't really know what shape your assets are in and haven't established level of service standards that balance expectations with economic realities. There is a lot of discussion around symptoms without getting down to root causes. One also has to wonder why some longstanding issues like the cost of firewood are still not addressed or changes to current

regulations for commercial film use that would require an OIC change have not been acted upon. Is it laziness, fear, ignorance or political interference/

- To answer this question YCS supports Yukon Parks developing a public survey so that respondents can identify levels of service they wish to receive with corresponding cost ranges and options for collecting those costs i.e. direct fee for service or increased entrance fees.
- YCS recognizes opportunities for overnight accommodations in the forms of cabins, wall tents, yurts, and traditional Indigenous shelters as opportunities that might contribute to new revenue sources. As well, comprehensive tourism products based on a range of experiences, delivered by private sector suppliers, may be worth exploring. However, the expertise needed for product development within a park and/or park system is required.
- \$ 12 for how many years ???? incl Firewood, take a look what it cost in BC, Alaska. Did ask Pars Canada 8 years ago to get higher. \$ 15, 18, \$ 20 for 2019, 2020., 2021 Yearly for locals \$ 75. Before I got hit by Yukoners. I am one.
- Tour companies need to start paying to use our ecosystems as the backdrop for their tours. At the very least there has to be cost recovery for cleaning up after their tourists, and in reality they should be paying a fee for the value of what we are protecting. This is especially true of tour companies that are run by foreign nationals who only come here to conduct tours, then leave when the season is over.
- Campsites should be for the recreation of Yukoners first and foremost. Not free housing (\$50 a year), and though it is not a problem yet up here, not massively subsidized camping opportunities for tourists / tour operators. It should be affordable recreation for Yukoners - a place for them to go on the weekend or on vacation.
- We need to allocate money, not to sell the parks or advertise them but to protect them for all generations. Left alone they thrive but by making them parks we create a great influx of human made problems. That said, with a well designed plan and money to allocate that plan we can protect these precious resources.
- The yearly fee should be much more than \$50. I would suggest \$200. \$12 is cheap as dirt anyway. That's \$360 a month. Those using the sites all summer long can fork over \$100 a month, easily!
- Have campgrounds at \$20 per night with a maximum of 2units (annual permit at \$100). \$15 for a walking site that fits 1 tent. It is not fare for private business as well. Tombstone backcountry at \$25(then less no-show, which is an issue).
- Sell small stove propane, basic food, matches, kideging,...and make some profit on it.
- Have someone in non-remote campgrounds and in Tombstone bringing free wood at 7pm every night only and for a specific amount, so people wont abuse and people staying in wall-tents could bring their own wood or pay for more.
- Charge a small fee for commercial groups in Tombstone and paragliders.
- Charging for firewood makes a lot of sense. People have fires going all day and night and even admit that they are 'hoarding' wood. Selling a bag of split, dry wood for five bucks would not kill anyone. Or even for 2 bucks. But it should not be free. Then again, policing that is going to cost more than you'd collect and you'd need a strong program in place to stop people from going into the forest and taking wood to burn.

- More importantly, the yearly fee is ridiculously low. It should be a minimum of \$200 for the summer, or \$100 per month. Even that is too low in my opinion. As I mentioned above, I met people who were using campsites as housing, and who were not there except to sleep. It was a total waste of the site, and they had picked the very nicest sites for themselves. One was working at Whistle Bend, one was working at the nearby golf course. It's free housing to them and nothing more. You have to think that through - I don't think that was the idea of our campgrounds. But maybe it is a good relief valve for our rental market and peripheral sites could be set up for those people at like, \$200 a month. Likewise for those who have houses in town but use the camping pass as a cottage for the summer and have sites 'occupied' every night of the summer.
- Have a different class of pass, or just spike the price of those passes.
- Increasing fees in order to improve the management of Yukon Parks is entirely reasonable, given that increased use of parks will also incur an increased need for improved management to ensure wildlife and their habitats remain a priority.
- I think our campgrounds should charge 20 a night for campers except for those on a bicycle. These should be exempt. Also our Yukon rate should be increased to 90 dollars a year.
- Firewood should be a separate fee perhaps to keep the wood costs down.
- I think the annual fee should be doubled to \$100 and the overnight use fee should increase to \$18. These prices would allow a resident to use campgrounds for two days each month(June, July and Aug.) with an annual permit for a lower price than the overnight fee.
- I don't know what the commercial cost is for overnight usage but I feel that it should be equivalent per person to the private cost per campsite. For example, eight people with a commercial group should pay the campsite price times eight.
- I don't think it unreasonable to charge a fee for the heavily used back country sites such as Grizzly Lake. Sites such as this one are also expensive to maintain.
- Commercial films or other commercial projects should be charged fees that better reflect the costs required by Parks to support the projects.
- A strategy and plans are all for naught without funds sufficient to support capital projects and operations. A good example of this is the current approach to opening campgrounds—This example is very operational, but shows the level of discussion needed to support the development of a broader strategy. An old saying is "without money, conservation is just conversation".
- I suggest that when the weather conditions are suitable in the spring the campgrounds should be open and the gates should remain open in the fall too. Currently, it appears that budgets are limiting the availability of attendants in the spring and this is shortening the summer camping season in the Yukon by several weeks--a modest increase in operating funds would in effect increase the camping night opportunity for Yukoners by 10-15 percent with no additional capital cost.
-

What ideas do you have to make YPs more financially sustainable

- Limit programming
- Ensure current/future campgrounds are simple, low cost construction + maintenance

- Spend money on enforcement
- Increase fees for non-residents (x3)
 - We pay taxes, we should benefit
- Private public partnerships
- Identify areas of high operation cost and find opportunities where it can be reduced

What are your thoughts on increasing fees and/or charging for services currently offered for free

- Stop supplying firewood (x4)
 - Control theft/big fire waste
 - All other parks use paid firewood
- Discourage plastic use of any kind
- Keep fees low for Yukoners (x2)
 - Small Yukoners fee
 - Campgrounds charge \$25-\$50
- Can pay more for campgrounds because the service is so great
- Charge more for the service
- Keep fees reasonable (don't want to discourage users)
 - Perhaps add firewood fee to campsite fee
- We are not Alberta/Ontario [raising fees] will discourage people on getting out
- I agree with nominal fees. Yukon parks are almost the best ive seen and don't mind paying for this
- Winter wall tents, yurts and stuff -> economic driver
- Supply-demand issue?
 - Are we sure use has gone up by people, or by use?
 - How have annual permits impacted this?
 - We have poor data because it depends on who fills in a card
 - Why not a 'compass' dongle like on transit systems?
 - Data: who is moving where and when? How do we model demand?
Technology needs to be part of answer.
 - Accurate demand-modeling will help with operational and planning needs
-

7. Most important considerations, general comments, and top words of advice

- Develop FN history on park signage
- The usage of present CGs/Parks
- Signage for ORVs, Boats, Motorized access
- Communication in FN language & English
- Involve FNs in entire process- gov't-gov't
- Involve RRCs
- The public facing side of the strategy is very exciting but, I can't help but wonder what the department facing side entails and if it has been as extensively considered. The consultation today was great but the bigger question I have is; what does the organization that can best deliver this strategy look like.
- Keep Prices Low
- Resources (people, money) need to be allocated to meet increasing demands, so that the use of parks is SUSTAINABLE!
- People come the Yukon to get away from society. Simplicity goes along way.
- Keep the people happy...but remember not all will always be pleased... Extremists on both sides tend to have the loudest voices :/
- Don't forget the basic Ideas of a park:
 - Protection
 - Accessibility
 - Authenticity
 - This is a leg for other generations
- Keep engaging with parks employees, Yukoners, and all citizens to get what we want
- Don't get lost behind the stacks of papers. Small bites go a long way
- BREATHE, keep perspective
 - Believe that what you are doing is for the absolute good for us all
- Keep it real. Make Yukon Parks Great Again!
- "Big" parks are a huge part of the system!
- Consider ALL land uses (and users) in the Planning process
- Keep us involved, updated and engaged
- Don't forget that the natural beauty is doing almost all the work for parks. As long as you keep the natural beauty of the Yukon You'll be fine
- Stay passionate; this work is so important
- Keep listening
- Please ensure the voices of your committed and passionate park staff are listened to. They are golden
- Is there a role for industry to fund a new protected area, like in Alberta or Chile?
- Education of visitors: why we are who we are, and what we value
- Reflect the 'big shift': what the system was, is and will be
- Yukon is still relatively intact, so there is the opportunity to be a national conservation leader
- Habitat protection from climate change, over-harvesting etc.
- Yukon = Yukon (and does not equal Banff); the importance of Parks and Tourism working together because visitation needs to resonate with Yukoners' values and not be overwhelmed by tourism
- How can we interface this strategy conversation with other 'land' conversations, such as YESA and Land-Use Planning?

- How to keep the strategy collaborative during implementation
- Vision: go big! Representation! Tourism! Yukon First Nations! Maintain and enhance these values
- A new process for land conservation conversations? How can we better work with partners? Break down the silos? And not necessarily to wait for post-land claims? How do we best do this together for a stronger future?
- Political will
- Statement: we operate in a jurisdiction where we take wilderness for granted
- Resourcing realities and needs
- Protection versus / and use dilemma
- Partnerships as a tool to address challenges and opportunities
- To what extent and where is the priority to protect biodiversity?
- Future conversations need to look at the system as a whole
- Need of comprehensive capacity to address the complexity of this topic, and don't forget the social and political aspects
- What is an optimal shared governance system to protect parks and Indigenous protected areas?
- It is really impressive how Yukon Parks takes action on what you hear from the public.
- Fossil fuel free park use
 - Mitigate food, travel mode & equipment
- No forest fires destroying campgrounds, better waste management for the Yukon
- Out of range for POs
 - Time/space
- Day use of firewood, not a paying guest
 - Location specific
- Enforcement past Whitehorse
- Empowering attendants with skills and training to enforce compliance issues that would reduce workload for POs and allow for more effective use of time/resources outside of Whitehorse corridor. All under a defined set of enforceable regulations and guidelines that work alongside a clear vision for Yukon parks as one unified entity.
- Public image
 - Simple, rustic "Yukon feel" (space)
 - NOT corporate
- Engaged staff (professional)
 - Cost
- Expectations (manage/control)
 - We can build/the world provide
 - Need more legislations, \$\$, people policies etc. to provide whatever the expectation is
 - Or set out what are 'reasonable' expectations, for users, tourism, YG/politicians & staff
- Location>Layouts>well kept>Hazards/safe
 - Contact (cell) size of camper – garbage
 - Culture is getting better
 - WOOD ABUSE
 - "you can't fix the bell curve"
 - "A healthier cleaner, active camping culture"

- “A BETTER CULTURE”
- Forward thinking
 - Puts the natural environment first. If we prioritize the needs and wants of most of our users, we may neglect the ecological integrity of the area, which is the same thing we can't get back
- Tenting sites. Density of camping area (environmental impact), with fuel cost rising what kind of sites are needed. What are the alternatives to RVs. For example the increase in motorcycle use.
- Tent sites, Recycling, Clean wells, Higher fees for large RVs
- Fiscal and Ecological sustainability:
 - How do we manage the parks when we can't meet demand? When it impacts the ecological integrity of our parks? When the experience declines?
 - How much visitation is too much?
 - How do you control/limit visitation
- How do we complete our territorial park system in a way that meets conservation objectives with large, intact, permanent, protected areas?
- Environmental protection and impacts
- Compliance based issues
- Enough resources for all levels of parks team
- Educational resources for the public
- Leverage more resources (human and financial)
- Clearly defined vision for parks that we can stand behind
- Further sense of our pride
- Being a more proactive approach than reactive
- Long term sustainability (attainable)
- Better communication/cooperation with patrons/officers/RCMP/management etc.
- More activities- hiking etc.
- Less 'glamping'
- Use of all parks space
- Prioritize/ protect the values/reasons for which the campgrounds/parks were established
 - K.I.S.S. – and sustainable
- A very experienced, educated, compliant, and bonded staff
- A healthy budget
- Detailed and comprehensive legislation
- Appropriate user fees (we have the “tragedy of the commons”; eliminate the annual pass, raise daily fees and charge for firewood)
- Overuse in certain campgrounds & parks
- Maintaining current level of services
- Ecological representation and integrity
- Varied experiences (backcountry, walk in tenting)
- User etiquette
- Resources
- Strengths
 - Cost of staying – residents & non residents
 - Quality attendants – cleanliness
 - Firewood
 - Natural surroundings
 - Good facilities
 - Good reputation

- Positive structure
 - Try to maintain the strengths and increase camper etiquette
- Scientifically diffusible PA gap analysis to guide systematic conservation planning
 - Yay pathway action 3.1 & 3.2 maybe 1.1
- How to keep campsites natural or quality of site excellent with the increase in populations or increase in camper traffic over the next 10 years, without creating many extra campsites
- Diversity of people need diversity of campground offerings. I.e. Hiking boating hanging out with friends, tents/RVs
- Don't forget feedback & ideas from "boots on the ground" staff
- Keep it clean
- Quality of service
- Integrity of all parts
- Users of different backgrounds
- Accessibility Make the camping experience more enjoyable. Campgrounds are not a place to party they should be for families and others to enjoy peace and tranquility
- Off trail vehicle use regulated
- More wildlife to be seen
- First nation cultural component
- educational component
 - bear safety
- convenience
- wi-fi
- emergency contact in remote areas
- Respect natural environment
- Adequate funding
- Proper future forward plan
- Visionary
- Leadership
 - From within, not just from the "tower" or parks/top down
- Utilize the people we have/recognize their abilities to help them grow (if they wish) and not just grow the system
- Ecological impacts of any commitments by government
- People understand and connect to parks & campgrounds, thus building positive support for protected areas in the future.
- Don't ever charge for firewood
- Keep fees reasonable. One all-inclusive fee
- More parks presence, both enforcement and activities/events
- Campground hosts
- Two-way engagement w FNs, e.g.w Carcross so the Strategy can help them manage their CGs too.
- Have a paper survey in the campgrounds
- Partnerships. May opportunities for partnerships. E.g. w mountain biking club to promote that activity or with another partner to enhance enjoyment of a landscape, etc.
- Love my Yukon, protect it and show it off!!
- Keep up the good work on our camp sites.
- The most disturbing (and in my mind glaring error) is to suggest that a campground, day use area or roadside rest-stop is a park. This an absurd characterization. They are not nor

were they ever conceived as such. You are correct in stating that the majority of roadside campgrounds were not planned. Rather they evolved from past locations of highway construction camps. In practical terms they were already being used as convenient, informal and uncontrolled camping spots. This did not start to change until the late 1960's when some locations were repurposed and formalized. There has been very little rationalization. Rancheria was dropped because the adjacent business owner felt it was undermining their business. There is a small campground reserve on Daughney lake that could be developed but has not been pursued. Carcross, Carmacks, Tagish and Minto Landing were dropped during land claim discussions but in general, not much has changed to rationalize the campground sites overall. Most of the existing campgrounds have minimal potential for expansion to become park gateways. A little more thought went into recreation site location and rest stop selection. The first interpretive signs were erected in the 1970's and an overall highway interpretive signage program developed in 1995 by Inukshuk Planning & Development Ltd. The complete plan will be fully implemented with completion of the Top-of-the-World Highway Plan this year. The only substantial park initiatives all emerged through land claim negotiations. Implementation has been slow and convoluted in part because of a lack of political will and leadership by the territorial government. The concept of a true, substantive park system has not really been addressed since my time as Director. There has been little substantive progress in over 20 years as a result. This document simply reinforces the conclusion that the government is still only interested in the campground side of the business. This is not to say that campgrounds cannot become features of a larger park as Snafu and Tarfu make sense within the larger Agay Mene natural environment park. Trying to call a campground or day use area a park is a bit disingenuous at best. There is no mention of heritage rivers nor any explanation why. This is not surprising as little money has been invested in them by Parks. In this document they are simply ignored. Similarly Fort Selkirk is included yet to the best of my knowledge, Heritage Branch retains administrative responsibility and the site is managed as a historic site through a co-management agreement with the Selkirk First Nation.

- A healthy, provocative and transparent discussion is needed yet this engagement process seems to be being stage managed to fly under the radar. Aside from a booth at the Trade Show in May there seems to have been little publicity around this initiative other than "stay tuned for more". As a reader I am left with the impression that Parks doesn't know what to do and it will be business as usual unless you tell us what to do and what you as the public want. I don't see any sense of vision or organized management thinking. We are given tidbits of information rather than a clear picture of the challenges ahead and possible options available. Where is the creative thinking? You ask us to consider financial implications but provide no budget and expenditure history of capital and O&M expenditures for at least the past 5 years. What is the existing asset management deficit? Is the root cause, deferred maintenance due to underfunding or stagnant budgets? Why haven't fees been increased and what percentage of operating costs should be recovered by fees anyway? What operational efficiencies are being missed? When was the last program evaluation conducted? What other recreation services could be offered to raise funds. These are all valuable questions to

asked but they need to be posed in the appropriate context to draw out practical solutions. These are my initial comments and thoughts. I look forward to seeing how this review progresses but my first impression is that it is getting off on the wrong foot for such an important topic.

- Territorial parks should be a significant contributor to an interconnected protected areas network across the Yukon. Utilizing parks and protected areas classification systems, and through the application of the instruments for landscape scale conservation planning found in Final Agreements and Trans-boundary Agreements, Yukon Parks staff are in a unique position to facilitate protected area planning across the Yukon.
- A successful parks strategy will need to account for increasing numbers of visitors to territorial parks. Concepts such as: Social, physical and biological carrying capacities, the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum, Visitor Impact Management and Limits of Acceptable Change, should be revisited by Yukon Parks staff with an eye to their applicability in a modern treaty context.
- In closing, YCS strongly recommends urgent consideration by the Yukon Government to:
 - 1. Establishing parks to protect biodiversity including monitoring and measuring their effectiveness in doing that.
 - 2. Ensuring parks are large enough in size and shape to maintain ecosystem structure and function, and realize ecological integrity.
 - 3. Ensuring effective governance expertise is in place at Yukon Parks in respect of the unique governance arrangements that are required through Final Agreement, Trans-boundary Agreements and other Agreements that might be confirmed with non-UFA signatory First Nations.
 - 4. Ensuring management effectiveness by providing the necessary funding to Yukon Parks to: (a) establish a robust social science program; (b) establish a resource conservation program reflective of conservation science for parks and protected areas; (c) establish expertise in conservation corridor development and implementation; (d) deliver park interpretation through dedicated interpretive program staff that is large enough to account for existing and increasing visitation; and (e) protect visitors and the park's natural and cultural resources through a park warden/ranger program with enough staff to respond to existing and increasing visitation.
 - 5. Plan for sustainability by investigating with the Yukon public what levels of service they expect and their willingness to pay to meet the levels described.
- A significant weakness in park systems is their ability to monitor and report on progress against stated lawful responsibility. Therefore, YCS strongly advises the Yukon Government to establish a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation program to measure compliance to the intent of the Lands Certainty Act. For example, the protection of biodiversity.
- YCS appreciates and recognizes the dedicated staff of Yukon Parks and thanks them for all their efforts to keep people safe, provide great experiences and protect park and campgrounds resources.
- I attended this event and it was great! I love that the public can engage his early in the process for such an important topic.

- *I think it's a danger with lumping together campgrounds and parks, and call them all "parks". Yukon campgrounds are great - better than most other jurisdictions by far! However, a campground is a place to sleep for many, or perhaps to spend a weekend with friends and family to have some fun or to relax. A park should be a place that needs to be protected for the future due to its intrinsic environmental, cultural, heritage or other values. So please don't mix up campgrounds with parks.*
- *I would like to bring up concerns related to hunting in the park, from visitors and other coworkers.*
 - *Before 2016 the Dempster highway had a no hunting zone withing 1km on each side of the highway. I asked a Conservation Officer why this was removed and he told me because First Nation are able to hunt from the road and this was a safety concern for others hunters that had to walk 1km. Now we have a big concern in the park because the majority of hiking happen in this zone. We have a lack of trails and people go a lot off-trail in the park. So we wanted to protect other hunters by removing this buffer, but now we have hikers. We need consistency with this argument. Hikers are worth as much. First nation hunting is not the majority of hunting happening here at all.*
 - *This year we are having more than 30 000 visitors in this park. As well, last week we had a hunter looking at a bull moose by the Beaver pond trail with hikers walking around the pond. This was a real concern for the safety of the hikers in the vicinity. In the same period, some hikers went up Fold Mountain and just after a group of 5 hunters followed them. Right now they have the right and I told them that this is a popular route for day hikers, but that didn't change their mind.*
 - *Tombstone Territorial Park is a popular destination and Yukon Tourism is doing a lot of marketing for it and for wildlife viewing. However with hunting from the highway you remove the chances for visitors to see those animals. As well, ask visitors on the Dempster, they see almost no wildlife, this is a comment we get every day. And when people see hunters next to the highway in the park, they get very concern and upset, then we come in and educate about this park and the first nation traditional territory with the creation of this park and their help in the management of it. With the road to the Arctic ocean we can expect more and more hikers in this park.*
 - *However there are many solutions to accommodate hunters and hikers in the park*
 - *Solutions:*
 - *In the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area in Alaska you can read : "Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area is closed to hunting, however, big game, small game, and fur animals may be taken in the area by bow and arrow only". And it is extending five miles(8km) from each side of the Dalton highway. If you can implement a no hunting zone in Alaska you can definitely do it on the Dempster.*
 - *Solution #1: Implement a no hunting area extending 8km from each side of the Dempster Highway in Tombstone Territorial Park*
 - *Solution #2: Open hunting in the park after September 15th, when the tourism season is over*
 - *Solution #3: You could refer to what they do in Gros Morne National Park(in Newfoundland) where hunting is happening:
<https://www.pc.gc.ca/en/nature/science/conservation/forests-forests/grosmorne/guide>*
 - *1) They do a draw and divide the park in different zones (open from September 22nd to end of January)*

- 2) Zones with trails/routes are closed to hunting. They keep a buffer of approximately 2km.
 - Hope you can find a solution to have happy hikers and happy hunters.
- I was super impressed by the quality of the Wolf Creek Campground, how beautiful and clean it was and how everyone was quiet and respectful of each other. Much nicer than I would ever have imagined and I'm glad I went for a night. It was a good experience. \$12 was very inexpensive and is no barrier whatsoever to 'spending a night camping'. I think it could be \$15 before most people would give it a thought. It's worth more than that, but I like the idea that we are subsidizing camping and I would like to make sure it's going to people who maybe can't afford anything more 'luxurious'. With that in mind, I'd say the tent only sites should be the nicest sites, keeping the big motorhomes in the less attractive areas.
- In conclusion, don't keep putting money into advertising our parks especially Tombstone. We have enough visitors. Instead put the money into the infrastructure needed to keep a park as wild pristine as possible. Use the money for education about leave no trace camping, and make very simple and inexpensive wilderness trails in the front country as well as more campgrounds for people to stay. Keep the campgrounds clean and quiet so people will use them and designate an area for generators or group camping away from the quiet areas. As permafrost minimalist trail makers to create the trails in our park to keep the wilderness feeling of the area. Do not allow mechanized travel in a park especially helicopters or ATV's or find an area far away from backpackers to land them. Charge more and educate people about firewood use. Leave no trace camping is a must for all travellers in any wilderness area.
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What do you hear people say about Yukon Parks?

- Can we separate the "event" campground users as noisy?
- Americans tend to really appreciate our Campground system and I'm not sure why
- Non-residents looking for an annual pass mostly out of convenience and less concerned about cost
 - Why do residents get a deal? What is the purpose of our campgrounds?
- Also, why do Yukon seniors get free camping? If the purpose is accessibility shouldn't subsidies be based on means-testing and not age?
- There is good stuff on social media and there's an opportunity to leverage that more
- It is too cheap for the value provided
- Misconceptions about protected areas, rules not well communicated and understood
- Confusion between Yukon parks and Parks Canada
- Generally user skill safe
- Provide water at campgrounds. E.g. handpumps. Visitors don't like taking water from the lake.
- Roads into campgrounds in rough shape
 - E.g. Watson Lake, Kusawa, Simpson, Aishihik
 - Consider signage about road quality
- Sites at Conrad need to be levelled
- Showers would be nice
- Also love low-service basic camping
- Dump stations (self serve pumpout)
- Love free firewood
- Fees

- Use round number pricing (e.g. \$20). Visitors are often looking to break 20s to pay for camping. \$12 not workable because small change needed.
- Bring in a Visitor pass (e.g. 30 days or 60 days), or prepaid card, coupons
- Visitors have bank cards and can't get cash. No ATMS. And when there are they only get large bills, not change.
- Charge more for large pull-through sites
- Don't charge for firewood. People love that they get something for free.
- People prefer one all-inclusive price.
- Keep fees reasonable
- Fee increases could be acceptable
- Keep firewood
- Have more waterfront sites
- Need more campgrounds
 - E.g. need one on the AK hwy between Whitehorse and the junction that is on the highway (not down the Kusawa or Ashihik road)
 - On between Teslin and Watson
 - Big Creek
 - Teslin bigger
 - Atlin Lake CG – need another at Snafu & Tarfu
 - Tushi (work w BC)
 - Haines pass (need one between million dollar falls and the next one on US side)
- Need to manage helicopter traffic at Tombstone (conflicts with other backcountry users)
- Noise. Radios, generators, etc. needs regulation, education.
- Love the Congdon bear fence. Likely will need more sites.
- High satisfaction level with Yukon parks and campgrounds
- More pullthrough sites
- Easier access to water
- More waterfront sites
- Low noise campgrounds. E.g. designated low noise CGs, others not. (or quiet zones within CG)
- Open Watson Lake CG earlier, May 1 (when VIC opens)
- Yukoners remove tags and steal registered-unoccupied campsites from visitors
- Campground maintenance e.g. everything from clearcut lakefront at Watson to keep all the trees.
- Post a phone # in campgrounds to call in case of public safety concerns
- Campground host (Yukon host) program could alleviate many issues
- Dempster CGs will see more traffic due to Tuk road
- Have a campgrounds passport (e.g. collect stamps)
- Need to deal with hazardous trees
- Add another loop at Conrad
- Diff price points, some serviced some not
- Glamping?
- What's the plan for the boat launch at Congdon, re lake level dropping.
- Carcross needs a breakwater