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Yukon Protected Areas Strategy

Work Plan

1999 - 2000

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Publications of the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy

The Yukon Protected Areas Strategy is made up of seven Technical Papers and the summary booklet, *Wild Spaces — Protected Places: A Protected Areas Strategy for the Yukon*. All publications can be obtained by contacting the Department of Renewable Resources, details at the bottom of this page.

Technical Papers

- No. 1: Roles and Responsibilities for Implementation
- No. 2: Types of Protected Areas and Criteria for Selection
- No. 3: Planning and Establishing Protected Areas
- No. 4: Protected Areas and Yukon First Nation Final Agreements
- No. 5: Socio-economic Assessments of Protected Areas
- No. 6: Interim Protection and Third Party Interests
- No. 7: Reviewing and Updating the Strategy

Work Plan

Implementation details can be found in the Protected Areas Strategy Work Plan which is updated annually. The current Work Plan is available on request.

Copies of the Technical Papers, Work Plan and the summary booklet can be obtained by contacting your local Renewable Resources office or:

Government of the Yukon
Department of Renewable Resources
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Fax: (867) 393-6223 Phone: (867) 667-5648
Outside Whitehorse call toll free 1-800-661-0408, extension 5648.

Introduction

This work plan identifies targets and priorities for YPAS implementation that can realistically be achieved in the next two years, 1999 and 2000.

This includes the following priorities.

Making progress

1. Establishing new Goal 1 protected areas in ecoregions that are not adequately represented and where Yukon First Nation Final Agreements are already in effect.
2. Protecting wetlands (Goal 2) where Yukon First Nation Final Agreements are already in effect.
3. Implementing commitments to Special Management Areas where Yukon First Nation Final Agreements are already in effect.
4. Implementing commitments to new Special Management Areas that will be established as part of new Yukon First Nation Final Agreements.

Continuing to develop the strategic framework

1. Establishing the Yukon Protected Areas Secretariat.
2. Amending the Yukon Parks Act.
3. Establishing formal linkages with other jurisdictions for cooperation on trans-boundary issues.

The following sections describe each one of these initiatives in more detail.

Making progress

1. Establishing new Goal 1 protected areas in ecoregions that are not adequately represented and where Yukon First Nation Final Agreements are already in effect.

A priority of the Strategy is to complete the establishment of Goal 1 areas to adequately represent the ecoregions of the Yukon. The 1999 - 2000 Work Plan focuses efforts on establishing new Goal 1 areas in regions where:

- data collection is already underway;
- the affected First Nations and Renewable Resource Councils have shown an interest in protected areas planning;
- potential areas of interest have already been identified; and
- there is a potential to create partnerships with other agencies and governments in planning and establishing protected areas.

Priority areas for planning during 1999 - 2000 include:

- The Arctic Circle/Dempster Highway area, within the British Richardson Mountains and Eagle Plains ecoregions. Considerable resource inventory work, including an initial mineral assessment, has already been completed for this area.
- The Fishing Branch expansion area, within the North Ogilvie Mountains ecoregion. This area has held map notation status since the 1970s as a park reserve.
- The Gooch Aa (Wolf Lake) area, within the Yukon Southern Lakes and Pelly Mountains ecoregions. This area has been identified as an area of interest at the national level for representation of Natural Region No. 7.

Targets

Initiate 3 Local Planning Teams	as soon as possible
Approval of 2 - 3 study areas	Spring 1999
Designation of 2 - 3 new Goal 1 protected areas	Spring 2000

Continuing research will also be done in other ecoregions that are unrepresented in order to identify areas of interest for future planning.

2. Protecting wetlands (Goal 2) where Yukon First Nation Final Agreements are already in effect

There are a number of important wetlands in the Yukon. Some of these wetlands have already been identified in Final Agreements as Special Management Areas. Other wetlands are known to be important, but do not yet have any formal protection.

Consultation on YPAS indicated that there is broad public and stakeholder support for the protection and designation of important wetlands in the Yukon. A suitable type of designation for wetlands is the Habitat Protect Area (HPA).

Targets

- Completion of strategic framework for wetlands protection Spring 1999
- Designation of Horseshoe Slough and Nordenskiold HPAs Fall 1999
- Designation of additional priority wetlands Fall 1999
- Designation of Lhutsaw and Needlerock HPAs Spring 2000

3. Implementing commitments to Special Management Areas where Yukon First Nation Final Agreements are already in effect

Yukon First Nation Final Agreements that are already in effect include commitments to establishing Special Management Areas. These Special Management Areas will contribute substantially to the overall system of protected areas in the Yukon.

Final Agreements specify implementation schedules for these SMAs. The following targets reflect existing commitments to implementation.

Targets

- Designation of Fishing Branch Ecological Reserve. Spring 1999
- Designation of Tombstone Territorial Park Fall 1999
- Designation of Tatshenshini Heritage River Fall 1999

4. Implementing commitments to new Special Management Areas that will be established as part of new Yukon First Nation Final Agreements

Yukon First Nation Final Agreements that are currently being negotiated will include commitments to the establishment of new Special Management Areas. These Special Management Areas will further contribute to the system of protected areas in the Yukon.

Completed Final Agreements will specify implementation schedules. The following targets reflect these anticipated commitments to the establishment of new SMAs.

Targets

- Klutlan pending schedule in YFNFA
- Kusawa pending schedule in YFNFA
- Coal River pending schedule in YFNFA

Continuing to develop the strategic framework

1. Establishing the Yukon Protected Areas Secretariat

The Yukon Protected Areas Secretariat will be established to coordinate implementation of the Strategy. The Secretariat will be created within the Department of Renewable Resources of the Yukon Government. It will be made up of Yukon Government staff responsible for implementing and providing technical support for the initiatives identified in this Work Plan.

Targets

- Establish Secretariat office as soon as possible
- Establish linkages with other groups and agencies to coordinate implementation. Includes Parks Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, DIAND, mandated boards and councils, YFNs, etc as soon as possible

2. Amending the Yukon Parks Act

Current legislation is not adequate to meet the requirements for protection as outlined in the YPAS. Amendments will have to be made to current legislation to enable implementation of the YPAS as outlined in the Strategy.

Targets

- Draft amendments approved for public review Spring 1999
- Public review completed Fall 1999
- Preparation of final draft Fall 1999
- Introduction into the Legislature for proclamation Fall 1999

3. Establishing formal linkages with other jurisdictions for co-operation on trans-boundary issues related to protected areas

The Yukon Government already has accords with British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and Alaska on a number of matters. The Yukon Government will pursue inter jurisdictional cooperation on the planning and establishment of protected areas in trans-boundary areas in a manner which is consistent with these accords.

Targets

- Inter jurisdictional accords drafted and signed as required

Work plan monitoring and review

Quarterly progress reports

The work plan will be monitored every three months through brief progress reports that will be submitted to the Minister for review.

Annual reviews and updates

The implementation work plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis. This review and update will identify the work, progress and products completed to date. It will also identify key issues and concerns and set work plan priorities for the next two year time frame.

The annual work plan review and update be prepared by the YPAS Secretariat, in consultation with the agencies and teams actively involved in implementation. It will be submitted to the Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources for review and approval.

Once approved by the Minister, the annual work plan updates will be made available to the public.

