



Goldfields Timber Harvest Plan

Dawson Forest Resource Management Plan Region



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Goldfields Timber Harvest Plan is located approximately 42 kilometres southeast of Dawson City on the Dominion Road and approximately 48 kilometres east on the North Klondike Highway. It is on public land within the Traditional Territories of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.

The timber harvest plan consists of an area of approximately 9,455 hectares that burned in a 2019 wildland fire starting at Hunker Summit. The timber harvest plan encompasses approximately two thirds of the 2019 fire (Section 4.2: Maps).

Opportunities to develop commercial and personal use harvest areas close to Dawson City and surrounding residential areas are limited due to historical use, natural disturbance patterns (e.g. fire) and other land use activities. This timber harvest plan will meet the objective of providing a fuelwood supply of fire-killed timber to Dawson City.

The timber harvest plan sets operational goals and objectives for the issuance of harvesting authorizations within the planning area. The *Forest Resources Act (FRA)* requires that commercial timber harvesting licences may only be issued where a timber harvest plan is in place. The timber harvest plan provides mitigations and management of identified values.

The Goldfields Timber Harvest Plan identifies five operating units, with a total estimated fuelwood volume of 19,890 cubic meters. Currently, access to the Goldfields Timber Harvest Plan is seasonal via the Dominion Road and year-round from the North Klondike Highway.

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Goldfields Timber Harvest Plan encompasses 9,455 hectares that burned in a 2019 wildland fire starting at Hunker Summit. It is located on public land within the Traditional Territories of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun. The timber harvest plan is within the Flat Creek and Goldfields Landscape Units of the Dawson Forest Resources Management Plan.

The timber harvest plan follows the recommendations of the Dawson Forest Resources Management Plan's strategic direction and planning of the landscape units. Flat Creek and Goldfields Landscape Units are identified as priority areas for timber harvest development planning. Goldfields is identified as high priority for planning while Flat Creek is identified as medium priority.

The planning area is composed primarily of fire-killed spruce. The objective of the timber harvest plan is to provide opportunities for personal use and small to medium scale commercial harvesting (cutting permits under 1000 cubic metres) that is accessible for dry and frozen ground harvesting (all season). Minimal larger cutting permit volumes may be included.

This timber harvest plan identifies five operating units, with a total estimated fuelwood volume of 19,890 cubic metres (m³). Current access to the Goldfields Timber Harvest Plan is seasonal via the Dominion Road and year-round from the North Klondike Highway.

The timber harvest plan has been developed to meet the requirements of the *Forest Resources Act* and associated *Forest Resources Regulation*.

All applications for timber harvesting will be required to meet the submission requirements of Section 19(1) of the *Forest Resources Act*. The pending harvesting licences require notification to the affected First Nations and public in the area of the application. The First Nation and public may make representations to the Director of the Forest Management Branch on the application for a period of no less than 30 days (*Forest Resources Act*, Section 18).

In addition, a Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Board Assessment may be required where a project falls within the requirements of the assessable activities regulations, such as road upgrading and construction.

2 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

2.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

Dawson City has a population of approximately 1,300 people. The predominant industry in the Goldfields area is mining related activities with forestry, tourism, recreation, hunting, and trapping also occurring.

The forests in the Dawson City region provide significant ecological and aesthetic values, cultural, heritage, and recreation values, in addition to providing timber for local markets, energy, economic opportunities, and employment for the region's residents. The local forest industry currently consists of one major sawmill and numerous commercial fuelwood operators. Many of the residents of Dawson City rely on fuelwood as an economical heating source throughout the winter. The current annual timber demand in Dawson City is approximately 1,500 cubic metres of fuelwood.

2.2 ECOREGION AND DRAINAGES

This timber harvest plan lies within the Boreal Cordillera ecozone within the Klondike Plateau ecoregion. Leading species within the region consists of black spruce, white spruce, trembling aspen, and white birch, characteristic of west-central Yukon forests. Understory species include suckering species such as willow, birch and aspen. The most common natural disturbance is fire, with a return interval of approximately 170 years, therefore, early seral communities are most common.

Characteristic terrain features include smooth, rolling plateau topography with moderate valleys and large structural basins composed of level to undulating terrain that were not glaciated during the last ice age.

Loamy moraine and sandy fluvial-glacial parent soil materials are dominant in the ecoregion. Much of the ecoregion is covered by a veneer of volcanic ash 2 to 15

centimetres thick. Permafrost is discontinuous to sporadic with high ice content associated with fine-textured valley deposits.

2.3 WILDLIFE

Characteristic wildlife of the planning area include caribou, grizzly and black bear, moose, beaver, red fox, grey wolf, snowshoe hare, raven, rock and willow ptarmigan, and golden eagle.

The Regional Biologist from the Government of Yukon, Department of Environment has identified key wildlife values within the Goldfields Timber Harvest Plan and corresponding mitigations to avoid adverse effects on wildlife.

Moose: The area is not currently considered high quality moose habitat after the 2019 burn; however, it is expected to become productive 10-15 years post-fire and support high moose densities.

Sharp-tailed grouse: There is reasonable chance nesting occurs within the timber harvest plan.

Beaver/Muskrat: The area overlaps key habitat for beaver and muskrat.

Mitigations:

Moose: As productivity in moose numbers increase in the timber harvest plan (over the next 10-15 years) access management methods, such as gates on forest resource roads and skid trails, will be implemented to limit public access. Once timber harvest and silviculture activities are completed, reclamation/decommissioning of roads and skid trails will be conducted to ensure the plan area can be a refuge for moose.

Sharp-tailed grouse: Every cutting permit issued within the Goldfields Timber Harvest Plan will include a fact sheet on sharp-tailed grouse and the following terms and conditions:

- 1) Sharp-tailed grouse leks found by the permittee shall be reported to the Natural Resource Officer.

2) If sharp-tailed grouse leks are found, harvesting activities shall be avoided:

- Within 500 m of a lek from April 1 to April 20 between 5am and 10am;
- Within 1 km of a lek during the peak attendance period, from April 20 to May 4 between 5am and 10am.

Beaver/Muskrat: All streams and rivers will be protected by the maximum buffer as set in the *Forest Resources Act Standards and Guidelines on Riparian Management on Streams and Lakes*.

General Mitigations: All site plans and operational development within the timber harvest plan will be consistent with approved Wildlife Standards and Guidelines available from the Forest Management Branch and Yukon.ca. The following terms and conditions will be included in each cutting permit to further ensure protection of wildlife:

- 1) All caribou sightings shall be reported to a Natural Resource Officer who will notify the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Fish and Wildlife Branch and the Government of Yukon Regional Biologist.
- 2) If caribou and/or moose are encountered in the timber harvest plan, the operator shall halt operations until caribou and/or moose have moved out of the area.

This timber harvest plan will be accessed from the Dominion Road and North Klondike Highway, rather than from the ridge trail originating at Hunker Summit to Almeda Road where caribou are more likely to be present. The start of forest resource roads will be gated to prevent public access.

See Sections 3 and 4 of this plan for further information on access management, as well as seasonal timing of harvesting operations.

2.4 BIODIVERSITY

To maintain landscape level biodiversity over time, both the harvest rate and cut/leave pattern were considered. Forest harvesting should attempt to emulate the Natural

Disturbance Zone regime, as described in the Dawson Forest Resources Management Plan. Areas with live trees will serve as retention and reserve areas.

2.5 SOILS, RIPARIAN AND WATER RESOURCES

The moisture regime is mesic to moist depending on aspect, with avoidable wet spots at lower elevation. Sandy loam to silty clay loam soils are present.

Harvesting activities will be determined in the site plan using the Soil Conservation Standards and Guidelines to assign the percentage of soil disturbance (no greater than five percent) and associated hazards. Utilizing existing access in the area will help minimize soil compaction in the harvest areas.

The timber harvest plan is bound by Dominion Creek to the southwest, All Gold Creek to the northwest and Flat Creek to the northeast. There are a number of streams and contributing tributaries within the boundaries of the timber harvest plan (See Section 4.2: Map). Operations will avoid streams and appropriate protective reserves (buffers) will be established as per the Forest Management Branch's Riparian Management Standards and Guidelines.

2.6 RECREATION AND VISUAL IMPACTS

The Goldfields Timber Harvest Plan area is not considered a high-use recreation or visitor area. The area has been impacted by non-renewable resource extraction such as placer and quartz mining. Visual impacts to the area from harvesting and associated activities are expected to be low. Irregular boundaries, along with boundaries that follow the natural lines of force and existing disturbance will yield a harvest area that is natural in appearance.

2.7 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL VALUES

Heritage resources and historic features are culturally important to all Yukon people. The preservation of these values is an important consideration when planning any type of development or resource management activity.

Legislation and policy applying to the management and protection of heritage resources includes, but is not limited to, Chapter 13 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement, Chapter 13 of the Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Final Agreement, and the Yukon *Historic Resources Act* and *Archaeological Sites Regulation*. The *Historic Resources Act* protects archaeological and palaeontological objects as well as the sites where they are found (Part 6, *Historic Resources Act*). Under this legislation it is prohibited to survey, document, disturb, alter, excavate, or remove objects from historic sites without a permit. Activities conducted within the scope of this timber harvest plan will adhere to this legislation.

A heritage resource overview assessment was conducted to identify areas with elevated potential for heritage resources within the Goldfields Timber Harvest Plan. Efforts will be made to avoid areas of heritage potential by buffering from harvest activities by a minimum of 30 metres. On-ground heritage resource impact assessments may be required, particularly in areas where there is elevated heritage potential, and the activities have potential to cause significant adverse impacts to heritage resources. Types of harvest activities that could impact ground surface include road building, graded trail building, heavy equipment use, skidding, stream crossings, scarification, and constructing graded landings.

All operations must follow the Forest Management Branch's Historic and Archaeological Resources Standards and Guidelines. These standards require that if historic features or heritage resources are discovered during operations, the timber operator must immediately suspend operations, and inform a Natural Resource Officer and Yukon Heritage Resources Unit of the location of the site and the nature of any found or unearthed resources. Operators must also notify the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Department and the Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Heritage Department upon the discovery of any historic sites or heritage resources within this timber harvest plan.

All permittees will be expected to familiarize themselves with the following Heritage Handbook and Best Management Practices before working in the Goldfields Timber Harvest Plan:

<https://emrlibrary.gov.yk.ca/Tourism/archaeology%20and%20palaeontology%20booklets/handbook-identification-heritage-sites-2007.pdf>

<https://emrlibrary.gov.yk.ca/tourism/land-use-and-land-applications-best-management-practices-for-heritage-resources-2015.pdf>

2.8 DISTURBANCE

The Goldfields area has experienced significant disturbance from mining and mineral exploration activities. There are numerous placer and quartz claims overlapping the Goldfields Timber Harvest Plan, as well as existing access, cut lines and exploration trenches present in the planning area.

2.8.1 Mining Overlap

Section 5.4 of the Dawson Forest Resources Management Plan supports the use of commercial timber on mining claims that are present within a timber harvest plan. Under the *Quartz and Placer Mining Acts*, a claim holder may only cut timber where timber rights have not otherwise been granted prior to the staking of a claim, and may use the timber for mining-related purposes on their claim. The claim holder does not have the exclusive rights to all of the timber on that claim, as it remains the property of the Government of Yukon.

Prior to the Forest Management Branch issuing commercial harvesting permits or forest resources permits, the mining claim holder will be sent a notification by the Dawson mining recorder's office of timber harvesting interests that overlap with their claims. If there is timber on site that the mining claim holder requires for mining purposes, the claim holder must respond to the notification within the two-week time period and give details of the volume and species required prior to the Forest Management Branch issuing a commercial timber permit. The Forest Management Branch will then facilitate communication between the timber permittee and the claim holder to coordinate activities on the land base.

Additional information on the cutting and use of trees related to mining in the Yukon can be found on Fact Sheet 7: Timber on Mining Claims. This fact sheet can be found at

a Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections office, or online at Yukon.ca:

<https://yukon.ca/en/fact-sheet-7-timber-mining-claims>

2.9 OTHER LAND USERS

Registered single trapping concession 54, and group trapping concession 23, overlaps the timber harvest plan area. The concession holders were sent a draft of the plan during the public notification period. No responses were received.

2.10 FOREST HEALTH

The area is a mosaic of recent burns with a healthy understory and presently shows no major forest health concerns. Natural populations of forest insects and diseases exist within the planning area, and play an important role in the function of a healthy ecosystem. Both systematic and general observations and reporting of insect and/or disease continue throughout the region on a regular basis. An aerial forest health survey of Dawson Forest Management Region was completed in summer of 2021. For a more complete list of common pests and diseases that are present in the area, refer to the annual forest health reports found on Yukon.ca.

3 ACCESS MANAGEMENT AND HARVESTING OPERATIONS

3.1 ACCESS MANAGEMENT

3.1.1 Summary

Forest Management Branch regulates the construction, access, maintenance and decommissioning of forest resource roads according to the specifications outlined in the *Forest Resources Act Standards and Guidelines*. See the map in Section 4.2 for more information regarding existing access into the Goldfields Timber Harvest Plan.

Forest resource roads and skid trails are not public roads and may be gated to restrict access to permit holders in order to reduce negative environmental impacts, manage for safety and/or other considerations.

If additional access or upgrades are required, an Access to Highways permit from Highways and Public Works would be obtained. All road construction and upgrades would meet the specifications as outlined by the Access to Highways permit. Construction of new roads or access will require a submission to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board.

Low stump (skid) trails may be developed throughout the operating units; these do not typically require an assessment by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Board. Disturbance will be limited according to FMB's operation standards and guidelines of less than five percent soil disturbance.

All new forest resource road construction will be decommissioned following completion of harvesting and silviculture activities in order to address erosion concerns, and to limit access following completion, unless otherwise stated.

3.1.2 Vanderbilt, Flat Creek and Minnie Bell Operating Units

There are a number of existing access routes in the Goldfields Timber Harvest Plan. An unnamed, unmaintained road that is accessed from the All Gold Creek/Flat Creek area off the North Klondike Highway will be utilized to access a personal use area and commercial harvesting in Vanderbilt, Flat Creek and Minnie Bell Operating Units. As this road is an existing unmaintained road under the *Highways Act*, access cannot be restricted via a gate.

This access will require maintenance before use as a commercial forestry road; therefore, the Forest Management Branch intends to submit to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board for grading, fill and ditching.

Future roads and/or skid trails may be required to branch off of the existing access into Vanderbilt, Flat Creek and Minnie Bell Operating Units.

3.1.3 Chapman Operating Unit

Existing access locally called "Chapman Guard" off the Dominion Road will be utilized to access the Chapman Operating Unit. This route is a catguard constructed by Wildland Fire Management to access the fire when it burned in 2019. This access is now a forest resource road under the *Forest Resources Act*, as it was assigned to the

Forest Management Branch after the fire was extinguished. This route will be utilized to access the Chapman Operating Unit; however, Chapman Guard may require upgrades due to its deteriorating condition (e.g. ruts, wash outs).

3.1.4 Almeda Operating Unit

Almeda Road is an unmaintained public access road which borders the timber harvest plan to the west/northwest. No forest resources were initially identified directly off of Almeda Road; therefore, Forest Management Branch does not intend to upgrade or utilize the road. If further reconnaissance identifies timber resources, utilization and upgrading of Almeda Road may be considered.

Opening harvesting to Almeda Operating Unit may require construction from Almeda Road or Dominion Road (see Section 4.2.6 Almeda Operating Unit for details). If this is pursued, a submission to the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board may be required for road upgrades and/or road construction.

3.2 OPERATING UNIT AREAS AND VOLUME SUMMARIES

3.2.1 Volume Summary

The timber harvest plan covers approximately 9,455 hectares of burned area with five operating units making up approximately 2,194 hectares (23 percent) of the total timber harvest plan area. See Section 4.2 Maps, for an overview of the timber harvest plan and operating units. The five operating units contain approximately 19,890 cubic metres of fuelwood.

Approximately three percent of the total timber harvest plan area is reserved for personal use fuelwood harvesting. This may increase as new suitable areas are identified, and if demand from the public increases. Approximately 23 percent of the timber harvest plan is within an identified operating unit for commercial harvest; however, not all timber in each operating unit is estimated to be merchantable. Approximately 582 hectares are estimated to be merchantable for a total of six percent of the total timber harvest plan area. Approximately 74 percent of the burned area within the timber harvest plan consists of either; non-merchantable timber, non-operable terrain, or reserves.

Forest Management Branch defines a merchantable log as a minimum size of 12.5 centimetres diameter at breast height, at a height of 1.3 metres from the base of the tree, 8 centimetres in diameter at the top, and containing at least 50 percent sound wood.

Table 1 provides a summary of estimated fire-killed timber volumes in the five planned operating units.

Table 1: Operating unit summary, area in hectares (ha) and volume in cubic metres (m³)

Operating Unit	Total Area (ha)	Percentage (%) of Merchantable Area	Merchantable Area (ha)	Average Volume (m ³ /ha)	Total Volume (m ³)
Vanderbilt	213	30 ¹	64	45	2,880
Flat Creek	337	20 ²	68	25	1,700
Minnie Bell	190	60 ¹	114	50	5,700
Chapman	457	20 ¹	137	40	3,640
Almeda	997	20 ²	199	30	5,970
Total	2194	-	582	-	19,890

¹ Estimate derived based on site visits

² Site visit was not conducted. Estimated volume has been determined based on knowledge of the area and using the Vegetation Inventory

The volumes in Table 1 are estimates derived from site visits in the early reconnaissance stage of timber harvest plan development. They are further inferred using the Vegetation Inventory data. These volumes may be adjusted if new data is made available, updated volumes will appear in the site plans that are issued with any cutting permits. As harvesting is completed in a progressive manner and/or environmental changes and further reconnaissance occurs, new operating units may be identified or existing boundaries may be adjusted.

3.2.2 Vanderbilt Operating Unit

The Vanderbilt Operating Unit is 213 hectares in size with approximately 30 percent (64 hectares) of the total area being merchantable timber. Specific areas within the

operating unit have been identified for harvest, and could hold two to four harvest blocks. The initial total volume identified in this operating unit is 2,880 cubic metres.

The northern portion of the operating unit has slopes averaging from 10 to 25 percent in benched terrain. Fire-killed timber on the east aspect slope ranges from diameters of 12 to 44 centimetres. Larger timber is located more downslope and in seasonally-wet drainages.

The southern portion of the operating unit is shown as white birch leading; however, there is a significant volume of mature spruce scattered within. Merchantable volume is more scattered and infrequent than the northern portion, and has an increased presence of blown down timber. The slope is zero to 10 percent, with tree diameters ranging from 12 to 32 centimetres and heights from 10 to 21 metres.

Forest Management Branch intends to develop Vanderbilt operating unit in the initial stages of the timber harvest plan due to the ease of access from Dawson City on the North Klondike Highway and off the unmaintained public road, as well as the potential to keep the operating unit open during winter season. Despite demand for commercial harvesting permits, winter harvesting options in the Dawson Forest Resource Management Plan area are limited by access issues related to road conditions.

3.2.3 Flat Creek Operating Unit

The Flat Creek Operating Unit is 337 hectares in size with an estimated 20 percent (68 hectares) of total area being merchantable timber.

Forest Management Branch did not conduct reconnaissance on Flat Creek Operating Unit, as it did not project initial potential; timber volumes are rough estimates based on knowledge of the area and the Vegetation Inventory data. Flat Creek Operating Unit is included because knowledge of the area suggests merchantable timber is variable and tends to be in scattered pockets. Flat Creek Operating Unit shows potential for scattered merchantable timber; however, the timber is not immediately accessible from the unmaintained public road.

Flat Creek has been included for future potential, but will not be developed during the initial phase of this plan. Forest Management Branch intends to conduct further

reconnaissance within Flat Creek Operating Unit while other operating units are harvested progressively. If merchantable timber is found, it is expected to be in small pockets. Further assessments will determine whether it is economically feasible to construct access to any merchantable timber in the area.

3.2.4 Minnie Bell Operating Unit

The Minnie Bell Operating Unit is 190 hectares in size with an estimated 60 percent (144 hectares) of total area being merchantable timber. The merchantable area is shown as aspen leading but has significant volume of spruce. The terrain is rolling with slopes varying from 5 to 20 percent and southeast facing aspect.

Timber is variable near the top of the slope with diameters of 12 to 25 centimetres. Down slope the timber gets sparse but larger in diameter, between 30 and 50 centimetres with lots of suspended merchantable blown down timber. Approximately five potential harvest blocks were identified in this operating unit. The initial total volume identified in this operating unit is 5,700 cubic metres.

Forest Management Branch intends to develop Minnie Bell in the initial stages of the timber harvest plan due to the ease of access from Dawson City on the North Klondike Highway and off the unmaintained public road, as well as the potential to keep the area open during winter season. Despite demand for commercial harvesting permits, winter harvesting options in the Dawson Forest Resource Management Plan area are limited by access issues related to road conditions.

3.2.5 Chapman Operating Unit

The Chapman Operating Unit is 457 hectares in size with an estimated 30 percent (137 hectares) of total area being merchantable timber.

The existing access road (the Chapman Guard) was established in 2019 by Wildland Fire Management as a fire guard, and was turned over post-fire to Forest Management Branch for use as a forest resource road. The Chapman Guard starts at approximately kilometre 7 of the Dominion Road and climbs onto a ridge top between Chapman and Champion Pup.

The Chapman Operating Unit is characteristic of very open birch and aspen leading stands with significant spruce presence. It varies from 15 to 20 percent crown closure, and terrain is flat across the ridge top where the road is located, but rolls over to 15 to 30 percent slope starting 60 metres from the road edge.

Tree heights are on average between 15 and 18 metres with diameters between 15 and 40 centimetres. However, due to the sparseness of trees, the merchantable volume is low. The total merchantable volume identified in the operating unit is 3,640 cubic metres.

Due to the sparseness of the timber, the operating unit may be better suited for personal use harvesting rather than commercial harvest. The Chapman operating unit is of medium priority for development. As other operating units and personal use fuelwood areas are harvested, Forest Management Branch will assess the need for Chapman Operating Unit for commercial or personal use fuelwood harvesting.

3.2.6 Almeda Operating Unit

The Almeda Operating Unit is 997 hectares in size with an estimated 20 percent (199 hectares) of total area being merchantable timber.

Forest Management Branch did not conduct a site visit to Almeda Operating Unit. Almeda Operating Unit was identified based on the Vegetation Inventory, and helicopter reconnaissance in 2021 and due to similarities in terrain with nearby Mummie Pup Timber Harvest Plan (Section 4.2: Maps).

Forest Management Branch intends to conduct further reconnaissance within Almeda Operating Unit as other operating units are harvested. If merchantable timber is identified, further assessments will determine whether it is economically feasible to build access to the merchantable timber for harvest opportunities. Forest Management Branch estimates a total of 5,970 cubic metres of timber. This estimate is based on knowledge of the area and the Vegetation Inventory; however, slope constraints and difficulties in constructing access may limit the ability to harvest merchantable timber in this operating unit.

3.3 OPERATIONAL HARVEST SCHEDULING

Minnie Bell and Vanderbilt Operating Units have the highest potential for commercial interests, whereas Chapman Operating Unit is medium priority and may be targeted for personal use and Flat Creek and Almeda Operating Unit will be considered for future potential as further field reconnaissance is conducted.

There are suitable soil conditions for both dry summer ground and frozen winter ground road construction and harvesting activities, however this will be assessed further during site plan development. Minnie Bell, Vanderbilt and Flat Creek Operating Units have potential to be open year-round due to access from the North Klondike Highway. Almeda and Chapman Operating Units may be open until the Dominion Road becomes impassable during winter road conditions. Should the proposed Northern Access Route to the Coffee Mine Project open the Dominion Road year-round, harvesting throughout the winter could occur.

Operating units consist of standing dead fire-killed timber. The timber may be harvested by hand or by mechanical methods, as approved in the site plan. All harvesting areas will require site plans containing operational details completed in advance of issuance of the cutting permit approved by Forest Management Branch. The site plan will address harvesting method, soil descriptions, season of operability, slopes and special concerns (constraints), stand and site conditions, roads and landings descriptions, riparian buffers, management objectives, and reforestation commitments.

Once the timber harvest plan area has been harvested for commercial purposes, Forest Management Branch will manage the plan area for potential personal use fuelwood harvesting, reforestation activities and eventual decommissioning. It is anticipated the maximum time to complete these activities is 10 to 15 years for completion of harvesting and silviculture activities before decommissioning.

3.4 SILVICULTURE SYSTEMS AND REFORESTATION

Natural regeneration is the preferred method of reforestation for all operating units. During site plan development, advanced regeneration will be assessed to guide harvest operations to protect advanced regeneration.

Newly bladed trails, roads and landings used during frost free conditions (summer/fall) may require scarification to reduce compaction and aid in the re-establishment of vegetation within the harvest area following harvesting.

After harvesting activities are complete, the harvest areas will be assessed to determine regeneration methods. The Soils Standards (Forest Management Branch) limit the amount of on-block disturbance (less than five percent), and are designed to promote the establishment of early successional forest vegetation. Silviculture activities will be guided by the Silviculture Strategic Plan, and any applicable standards or guidelines.

4 LIST OF APPENDICES

4.1 REPRESENTATIONS PAGE

Representations were received during the notification period of the 2022 Draft Goldfields Timber Harvest Plan which was held from December 15, 2021 to January 21, 2022. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and extreme cold weather limiting staff in the office, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Land & Resources requested additional time for responding to the draft. Representations were extended for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Land & Resources to January 28, 2022.

Representations were received from:

- Department of Tourism and Culture, Heritage Resources Branch, Government of Yukon (YG)
- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Land & Resources Department
- Dawson District Renewable Resources Council (DDRRC)

Stakeholder	Representations (paraphrased from communications)	Mitigation / Response
YG Department of Tourism and Heritage	Details were provided and amalgamated from the draft Goldfields THP and language from the Timber Harvest Plan for the Teslin North and Strawberry Creek Management areas.	The draft version of Section 2.7 Archaeological and Cultural Values was replaced with YG Heritage's more detailed response.
Dawson District Renewable Resources Council (DDRRC)	DDRRC recognizes that traplines are significant, both culturally and economically. DDRRC requests FMB works directly with trappers to ensure no negative impacts. Regular meetings with trappers allow for accommodations of harvesting activities within the THP to avoid negatively impacting trapping concession holders.	Notification letters and a copy of the draft Goldfields THP were sent to the holders of trapping concession #54 and group concession #23. No comments were received. Additionally, timber licences for the Goldfields THP will go through a 30 day public review period and may be found at: https://yukon.ca/en/doing-business/licensing/review-forestry-harvest-licence-applications
DDRRC	Where there are mining claim overlaps within the THP, the DDRRC supports the use of	See Section 2.8.1 Mining Overlap for a detailed approach towards timber on mining

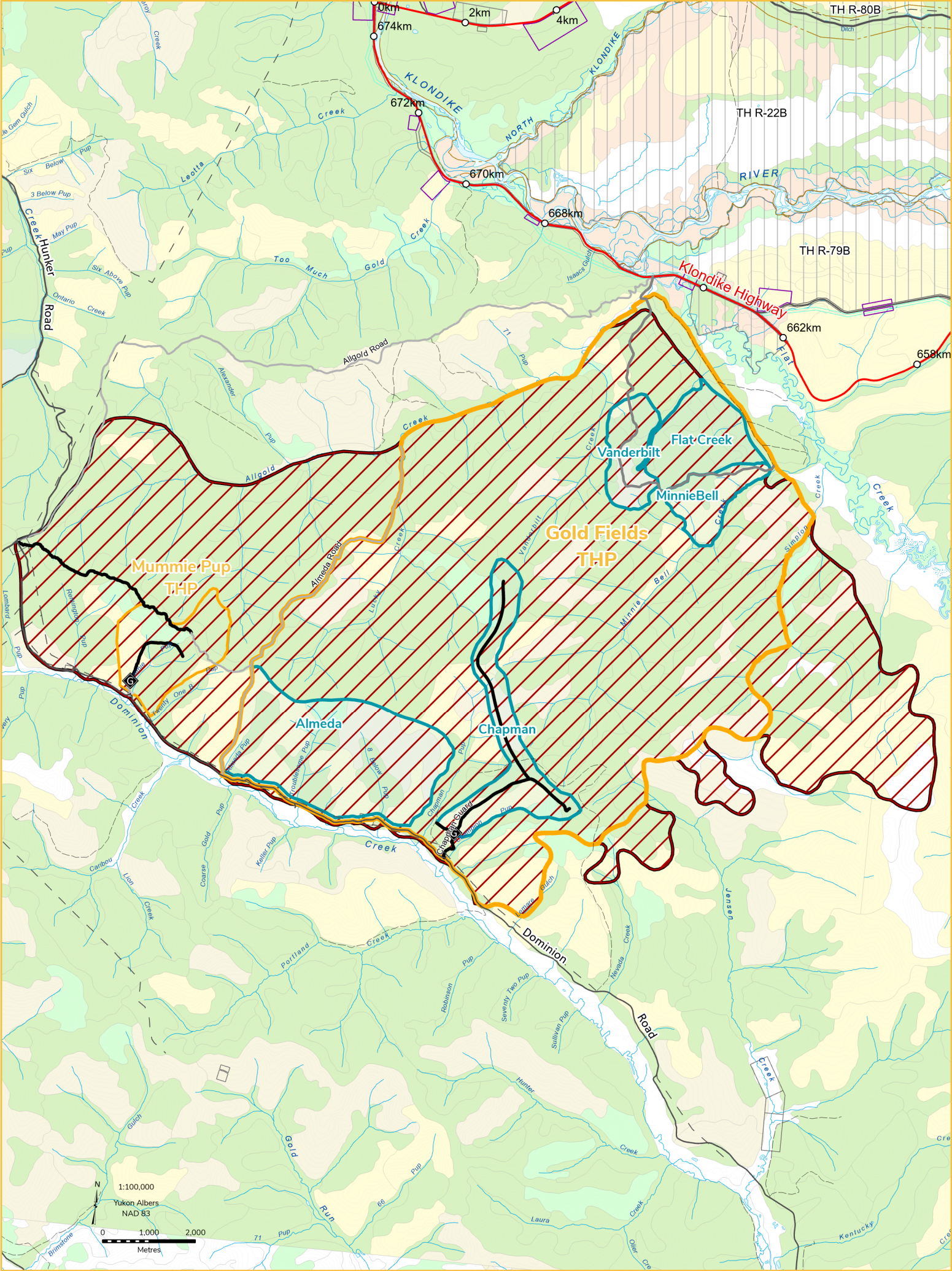
	timber for commercial purposes by claim holders.	claims. Fact Sheet 7: Timber on Mining Claims is available on Yukon.ca. Timber on mining claims will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.
DDRRC	The Council is concerned about the potential for cumulative effects that could occur if the existing road is upgraded, and numerous spur roads are established and requests future roads have a maximum length to reduce impact to wildlife in the area.	New road upgrades and construction will go through a Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board submission. FMB will propose a maximum length of road in the submission which will go through public review. Once approved, road access will not exceed the proposed amount.
DDRRC	Request YG frequently monitor erosion and mitigate wherever possible when constructing or upgrading access roads, especially where roads are located for use up-slope into higher elevations	Road construction and upgrades will follow the Forest Resources Act Standards and Guidelines on Forest Resources Roads. Road conditions will be monitored and maintained.
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in	Any Heritage resources located by the applicant while working within the TH Traditional Territory must be reported to the TH Heritage Department. Forest operators are to refrain from moving or disturbing Heritage resources.	The following term and condition will be included in all permits: "It is incumbent upon the Permittee to report any heritage site, permanent sample plots or any other features that may be impacted by harvesting to the Natural Resource Officer for Klondike District at 867.993.7300. The Natural Resource Officer will immediately contact both the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Branch and the Government of Yukon Heritage Resources Unit."
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in	30 m buffer of no development should be maintained around the 48 previously recorded post-contact Heritage sites in the THP area unless otherwise determined by Yukon Government Historic Sites.	Language regarding the 30 m buffer has been added to Section 2.7 Archaeological and Cultural Values.
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in	Current language adopted and utilized refers to "heritage potential" not "high heritage potential". TH recommends updating language in the Goldfields THP to reflect.	Where it says "high heritage potential" in the THP, it has been replaced with "heritage potential"

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in	If access roads are intended to be developed or activities that disturb the surface in any of those areas identified as having heritage potential are permitted, TH recommends that a Heritage Impact Assessment would need to be undertaken prior to any work commencing.	Language regarding conducting an on-ground heritage resource impact assessment has been added to Section 2.7 Archaeological and Cultural Values.
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in	The area is critical habitat for beaver, moose and muskrat. TH recommends stopping activities if wildlife are sighted, giving wildlife the right of way on roads/trails and discussion with the Regional Biologist to determine suitable buffers around habitat.	<p>FMB discussed wildlife concerns with the Regional Biologist and have included their comments in Section 2.3: Wildlife.</p> <p>The following term and condition will be included in permits for the Goldfields THP: <i>"If caribou and/or moose are encountered in the timber harvest plan, the operators shall halt operations until caribou and/or moose have moved out of the area."</i></p> <p>Streams and rivers will be buffered to the maximum as per the Forest Resources Act Standards and Guidelines on Riparian Management on Streams and Lakes to reduce potential impacts to beaver and muskrat. This has been added to Section 2.3: Wildlife</p>
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in	TH encourages FMB to consider impacts of climate change in future THPs in the TH Traditional Territory. Particularly, that the Dawson Forest Resources Management Plan recommends an adaptive management approach and assessment of 'carbon accounting' for forest management activities and the draft Dawson Regional Land Use Plan recommends the "implementation of an adaptable management approach, whereby forest management and regeneration practices are modified in response to new information" as a means to address climate changes.	No action required within this plan; however, the Forest Management Branch has worked on many climate change projects in Yukon and is actively working to incorporate recommendations and any new information about forest management and climate change into our approach to managing Yukon's forest resources.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in	TH encourages FMB to consider that to date, assessment of harvestable forests takes little account of the considerable impacts of harvesting and subsequent burning on carbon sequestration, storage and release and the implications for climate change. The proposed <i>Clean Energy Act</i> sets emissions targets for heating that must be taken into account when considering fuelwood provision and use.	No action required within this plan; however, the Forest Management Branch has worked on many climate change projects in Yukon and is actively working to incorporate recommendations and any new information about forest management and climate change into our approach to managing Yukon's forest resources. Work on this particular subject is ongoing.
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4.2 MAPS

See following pages.



Fire Boundary: Goldfields Timber Harvest Plan Area

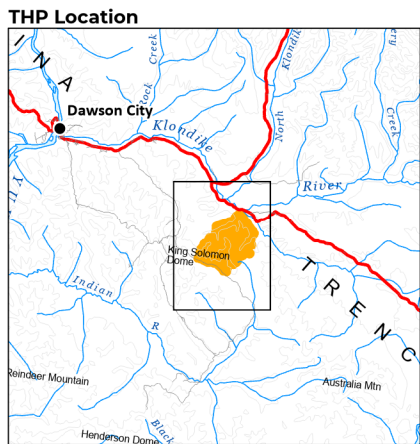
FRMP: Dawson Forest Management Plan

Fire Extent

THP STATS
Dawson NRO District
THP Area: 9454.50ha ±
Date: March 28, 2022

For more timber harvest information, visit our website:
www.yukon.ca

Forestry spatial data managed and maintained by the Forest Management Branch, Yukon Government. All other spatial data provided by Geomatics Yukon.



- Project Specific Features**

 - Gold Fields THP Boundary
 - Operating Units
 - 2019DA020 Fire
 - Existing Access
 - Forest Resource Road (Act)
 - Forest Resource Access (Non Act)
 - Public Access (Non Act)
 - Auxiliary Access
 - Trails
- Land Administration**

 - Land Dispositions
 - Land Notations
 - Surveyed Land Parcels

First Nation Administration

 - Surveyed Settlement Lands
 - Unsurveyed Settlement Lands
 - Interim Protected Lands