APPENDIX 19A: LAND USE AND TENURE BASELINE REPORT







Land Use and Tenure Baseline Report

Submitted to:

Casino Mining Corporation

Submitted by:

AMEC Environment & Infrastructure,

a Division of AMEC Americas Limited

Suite 600 - 4445 Lougheed Highway,

Burnaby, BC, Canada V5C 0E4



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ABBREVIATIONS, ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

Abbreviation / Acronym	Definition				
AADT	Average Annual Daily Traffic				
ADT	Average Daily Traffic				
ASDT	Average Summer Daily Traffic				
BC	British Columbia				
BST Bitumous Surface Treatment					
CARS	Community Aerodrome Radio Stations				
CEA	cumulative effects assessment				
CEX4	Carmacks Airport				
FN	First Nations				
GIS	Geographic Information Systems				
GMA	Game Management Area				
GSS	General Social Survey				
Hwy	Highway				
INAC	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada				
LNG	Liquid Natural Gas				
LSA	Local Study Area				
LS/CFN	Little Salmon / Carmacks First Nation				
NR	non-resident				
OC	outfitter concession				
proponent (the)	Western Copper and Gold Corp.				
proposed Project (the)	Proposed Casino Copper and Gold Project				
Res.	Resident				
RRC	Renewable Resource Council				
RSA	Regional Study Area				
RTC	Registered Trapline Concession				
SFN	Selkirk First Nation				
TC	Transport Canada				
TT	Traditional Territory				
VC	Valued Component				
YECL	Yukon Electrical Company Limited				
YESAB	Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board				
YLUPC	Yukon Land Use Planning Council				
YT	Yukon Territory				
YTG	Yukon Territorial Government				



UNITS OF MEASUREMENT

Unit	Definition			
%	percent			
ft. ²	square feet			
ha	hectare			
km	kilometre			
km ²	square kilometre			
m	metre			
mi. ²	square mile			





1.0 LAND USE AND TENURE

1.1 Introduction

The information contained in this Land Use Baseline Report will support the environmental, social, economic, and cumulative effects assessment (CEA) for the Proposed Casino Project (the proposed Project). This report provides a summary of the publicly available baseline data describing land use activities that occur near the Project. A description of applicable land use management objectives for the proposed Project area is presented at the beginning of the section to provide the background for the area. In addition to traditional and domestic use, land uses considered in this section include:

- Protection Areas and Parks;
- Hunting, Trapping and Guide Outfitting;
- Fishing;
- Forestry;
- Recreation and Tourism;
- Mining and Exploration Activity;
- Oil and Gas;
- Water Resources and Licences;
- Other Land Tenures;
- Transportation and Access; and
- Utilities.

Historical, current and future land use associated with aboriginal groups is also discussed in this section. Evidence suggests that humans were living in the area we now know as the Yukon between 15,000 to 30,000 years ago. It is known that a volcano eruption in 800 AD covering the area with ash. It is suspected that the inhabitants may have left the area due to the decreased quality of hunting and fishing. If this was the case, it is unknown when the original residents returned to the area (Yukon Territory, 2013).

In the 19th century Europeans came to the Yukon when the Hudson's Bay Company sent fur traders to the area, which was previously solely inhabited by First Peoples. In the late 1800s a gold rush ensued after gold was found in the Klondike River, attracting an estimated 40,000 gold seekers to the area. Communities like today's Dawson City were quickly established (Yukon Territory, 2013).

In 1898 the Yukon was established as a separate territory and Dawson City as its capital city. With the building of the Alaska Highway (c.1942) the territory was accessible for



development. In 1953 the city of Whitehorse became the Territory's capital city as it had more developed transportation infrastructure (rail and highway). Mining and tourism, specifically eco-tourism (hunting, fishing, etc.) are the area's main industries (Yukon Territory, 2013).

1.1.1 Scope of Work

The land use baseline information review focuses on historical and current baseline characteristics of the local and regional environment. Potential effects that the proposed Project may have on existing and potential future land and resources uses were reviewed to ensure that the study area selected adequately captured potential Project effects. The scope of the land use baseline was determined by reviewing available information and identifying land use activities that required additional research due to their importance (as determined during research and in discussions with stakeholders) in the Project area.

1.1.2 Objectives

The overall goal of compiling the land use baseline information was to ensure that planning and management strategies important for the completion of the Application, as per the information requirements of the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Act* (Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board, 2013) were adequately described. The specific objectives of the land use baseline study for the proposed Project were to:

- · Identify the land and resource uses in the study area;
- Describe the different land uses and management strategies proximate to the proposed Project area to a level of detail that provides enough background to define the Valued Component(s) (VC) to be carried forward into the effects assessment (Section 5 of the proposal); and
- Utilize the information collected during the compilation of the land use baseline to develop the project inclusion list for the EA.

1.2 Methods

1.2.1 Information Sources

The following information sources were used to compile the baseline information:

- Information from various government websites and reports was summarized and referenced;
- Information from Geographic Information Systems (GIS) databases was sorted, summarized, and mapped, where available; and
- Individuals and companies familiar with the proposed Project area were contacted and requested to provide comment.



1.2.1.1 Desktop Data Compilation

The land use information for the report was compiled from baseline reports from other disciplines, such as Wildlife and Social Economics as well as from existing databases. **Table 1.2-1** summarizes the main databases reviewed.

Table 1.2-1:	Example Databases and References Reviewed
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Government Website, Reference or Database					
Yukon Land Use Planning Council	www.planyukon.ca				
Yukon Outfitters Association	http://www.yukonoutfitters.net/				
Environment Yukon	http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/				
Government of Yukon Energy, Mines and Resources	http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/				
Geomatics Yukon	http://www.geomaticsyukon.ca/				

1.2.1.2 Mapping

Environmental Management Systems Research Institute's ArcView 9.3.1 software was used to create all maps. The data used to generate the maps came from a variety of sources, including: pre-existing shape files and geo-databases within the local GIS department; and additional shape files downloaded from the Geomatics Yukon website.

1.2.2 Interviews

Where required, individuals familiar with the site and the surrounding area were contacted and specific information was compiled, where possible, regarding historical, current, and potential future land and resource use in the area.

1.2.3 Study Area Rationale

The study area for land use was selected based on the following site specific details:

- game management areas;
- key wildlife areas;
- · linkages with socio-economics;
- transportation including road and airplane; and
- traditional land use.





The following study areas were used to describe the land use potentially affected by the proposed Project:

- Land Use Local Study Area (Land Use LSA); and
- Land Use Regional Study Area (Land Use RSA).

The study area rationalization also incorporates other study areas including aquatics, terrestrial vegetation, soils, and wildlife, which consider unique ecosystems and natural landform barriers. The Land Use LSA was defined as the maximum area that captures potential direct disturbances from all of the proposed project components being assessed which included:

- Mine site footprint;
- · Water pipeline from the Yukon River;
- Airstrip and associated access road;
- Freegold Road extension; and
- Freegold Road upgrade.

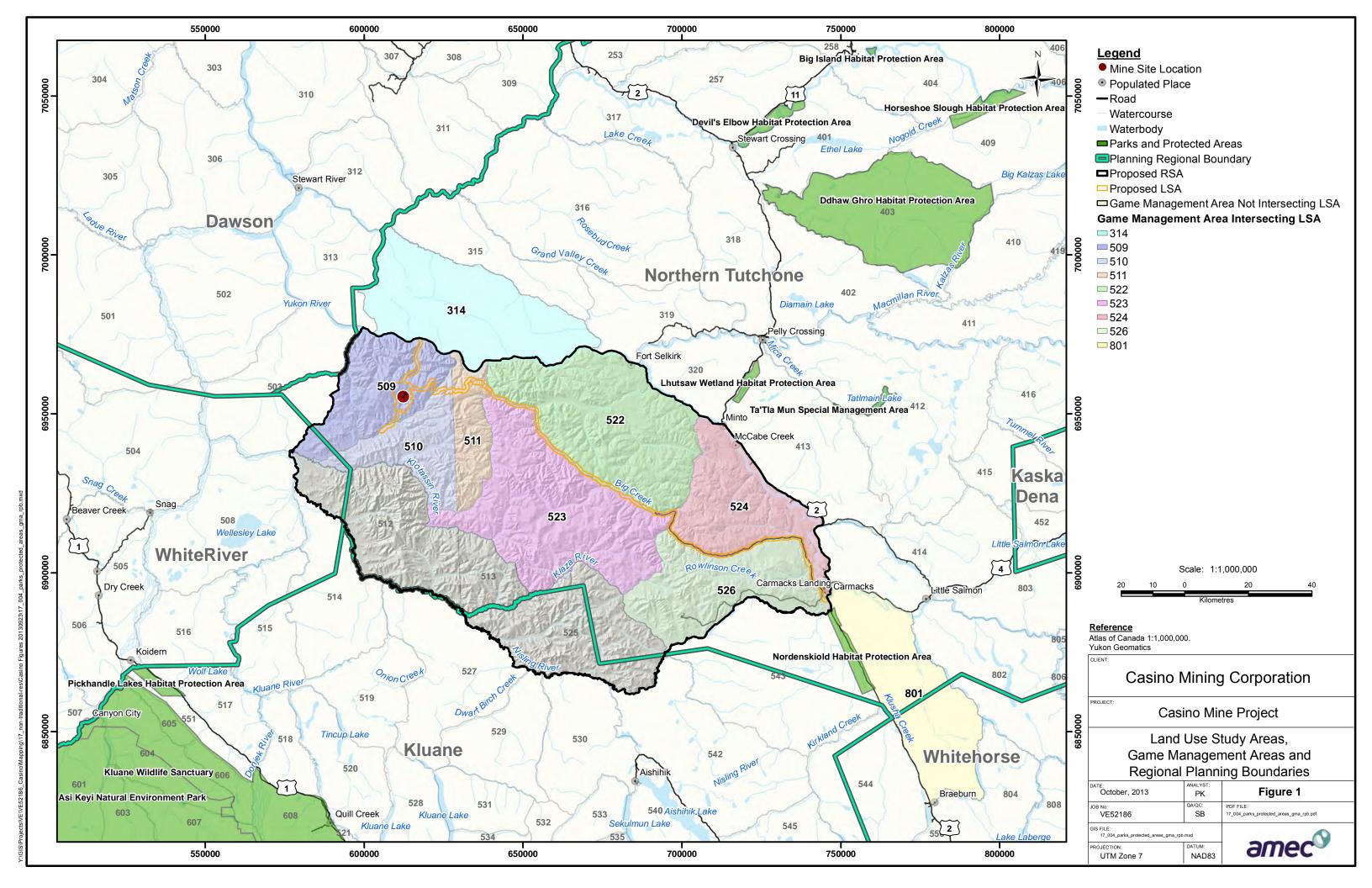
A 500-m buffer around the entire proposed Project footprint was selected to ensure potential direct effects of the proposed Project on land use are addressed. The access road starts at the existing Freegold Road west of Carmacks which will be upgraded as part of the proposed mine. The most western portion of the Freegold Road will be extended and will terminate at the proposed mine site. The rationale and total area for the LSA and RSA study areas are provided in **Table 1.2-2** below. **Figure 1** shows the boundaries of these study areas including area in hectares (ha).

Study Area	Rationale	Area (ha)				
Land Use	Total area around proposed Project footprint (with 500 m buffer):	27,057				
LSA	mine site footprint;	4,202				
	water pipeline from the Yukon River valley;	1,760				
	 airstrip and associated access road; 	1,272				
	Freegold Road extension; and	8,361				
	Freegold Road upgrade.	11,463				
Land Use RSA	Based on defined Game Management Areas (GMAs) that capture the migration area for the local caribou herd. The RSA also provides a representative buffer around the LSA that overlaps land uses potentially indirectly affected by the proposed Project.	1,202,217				
Note: ha - hectare; LSA - Local Study Area; m - metre; RSA - Regional Study Area						

Table 1.2-2: Total Area, in Hectares, for Each Study Area



Information collected and summarized for the Land Use RSA is used to develop the list of other projects and activities occurring proximate to the proposed Project that may overlap temporally and spatially with potential Project effects. This information is incorporated into the cumulative effects assessment.





1.3 Results

1.3.1 Land Use Planning

The LSA falls entirely within the Central Yukon District (which includes the Villages of Carmacks and Pelly Crossing) and the Land Use RSA also overlaps the North and Southwest Yukon Districts.

Most of the RSA and the entire LSA is located within the proposed Northern Tutchone Planning Region. Error! Reference source not found. above provides a summary of the regional planning areas. At present, this planning region is in stage one of five; Land Claim Settlements have been addressed but Commission Establishment, Plan Preparation, Plan Approval and Plan Implementation are still outstanding. The First Nations (FN) in the Northern Tutchone Planning Region who have settled Land Claims are the Nacho Nyak Dun, Little Salmon Carmacks and Selkirk (Yukon Land Use Planning Council, 2013).

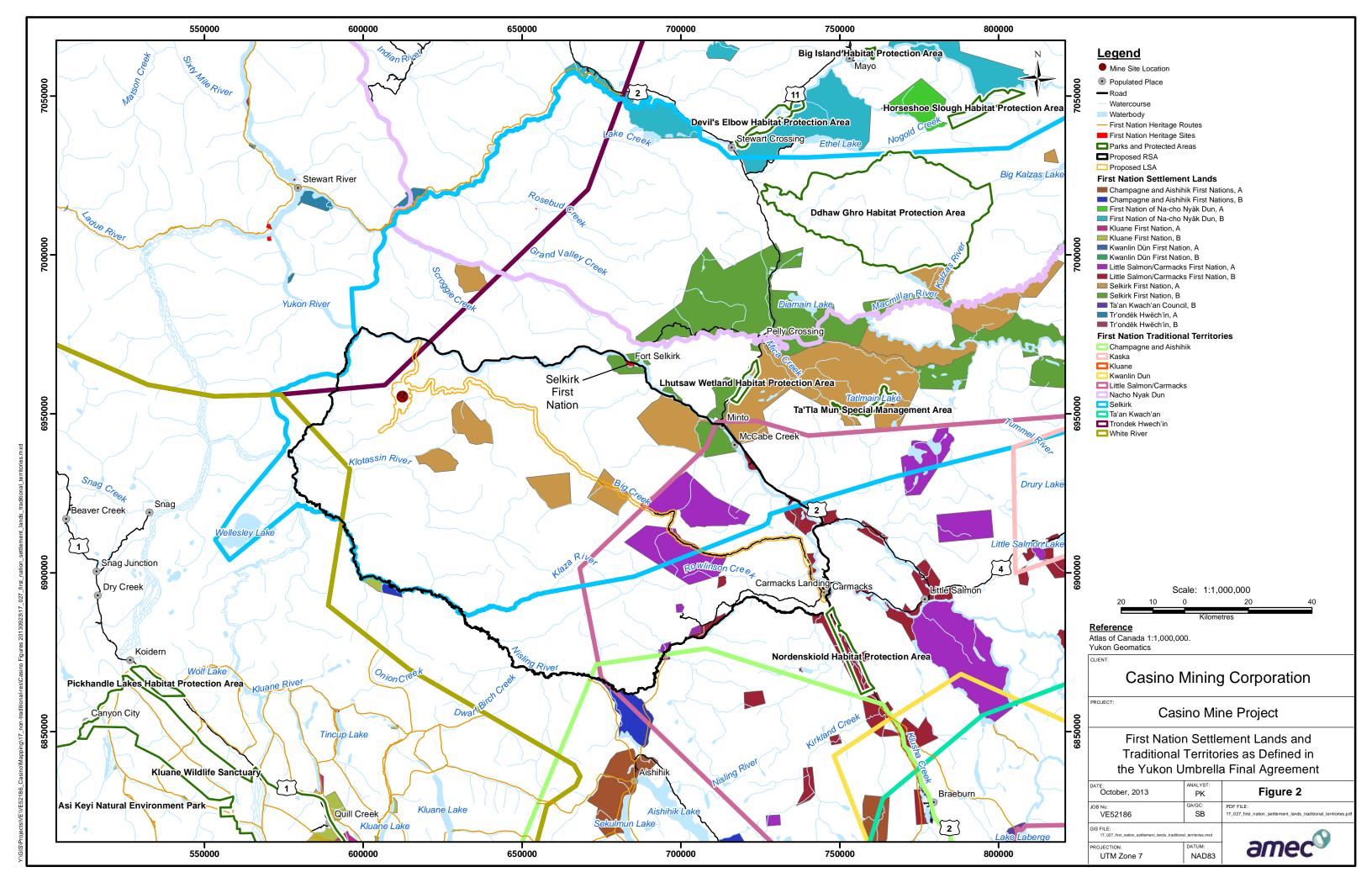
There are 13 Traditional Territories (TT) in total within the Yukon. In areas where individual land claim agreements have been signed, local management bodies, called Renewable Resource Councils (RRC), have been established to provide input into planning and regulatory activities as specifics of the planning process is developed. Comprised of six to ten members from the FN and the Government of Yukon, RRC will provide a voice for local community members in managing renewable resources, such as fish, wildlife, habitat and forestry matters, specific to their TT. As the process is implemented the RRC will collaborate on renewable resource management, specifically fish, forestry, habitat and wildlife matters that fall within the respective territory/council, as per Chapters 16 and 17 of the respective Final Agreements. The Land Use RSA intersects five TT as can be seen in **Table 1.3-1** and **Figure 2**:

Traditional Territory (TT) in the Study Area	Size of TT Overlapping the Land Use RSA (ha)	% Land Use RSA Overlapped by TT		
Selkirk First Nation (SFN)	920,271	76.5		
Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation (LS/CFN)	355,322	29.6		
Trondek Hwech'in	33,935	2.8		
Kluane/White River	33,108	2.8		
Champagne and Aishihik	17,172	1.4		

Notes: ha – hectare; % - percent; TT – Traditional Territory

Source: Yukon Geomatics (2013) – Yukon Land Use Planning Council Planning Region Boundaries







The Land Use RSA is primarily situated in the Selkirk First Nations (SFN) and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations (LS/CFN) TT. Both the project site and the Freegold Road extension are in the SFN TT. The SFN and LS/CFN signed Final and Self-Government Agreements with Yukon and Canada in 1997 and 1998, respectively (SFN, Government of Canada and Government of the Yukon, 1997; LS/CFN, Government of Canada and Government of the Yukon, 1997; LS/CFN, Government of Canada and Government of the Yukon, 1998). As previously mentioned the Land Use RSA is based on defined GMAs that capture the migration area for the local caribou herd. The Land Use RSA also provides a representative buffer around the Land Use LSA that captures land uses that may contribute to potential cumulative effects.

General land use planning is coordinated by the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, who advise the Government of Yukon and potentially affected FN in land use planning, policy, goals, boundaries, and time frames (Yukon Land Use Planning Council, 2013).

The Carmacks RRC has produced two management plans; the Little Salmon/Carmacks Community-Based Fish and Wildlife Management Plan; and the Tsâwnjik Chu Nordenskiold Habitat Protection Management Plan. The Fish and Wildlife Management Plan was developed collectively by the LS/CFN, the Carmacks RRC and the Government of Yukon (Yukon Fish and Wildlife Co-management, 2004). The Tsâwnjik Chu Nordenskiold Habitat Protection Management Plan was approved by the LS/CFN and the Government of Yukon in 2010 (Environment Yukon, 2010a). It ensures the protection of the 77.4 km² piece of land, which is an important wetland area. This management plan is to be reviewed October 2015 and then every 10 years by both signing parties. Any changes proposed by the LS/CFN to that land prior to the first review will have to be reviewed by the Carmacks RRC.

Within the Land Use RSA there are a variety of land tenures for settlement lands, trapping and outfitting concessions, quartz claims and other land uses. The following sections describe the land uses and associated land tenures that overlap the LSA and fall within the RSA.

1.3.2 Traditional and Domestic Use

In addition to hunting and trapping (**Section 1.3.4**) and fishing (**Section 1.3.5**) activities described below, FN in the area participate in a variety of traditional land uses. The collection of plants for food and medicine is a traditional and current practice of FN peoples. The Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area and the Lhutsaw Wetland Habitat Protection Area are designated as Habitat Protection Areas under Yukon's *Wildlife Act* (SFN, Government of Canada and Government of Yukon, 1997; and Government of Yukon, 2002). Habitat Protection Areas aim to preserve habitat, encourage conservation and support FN harvesting practices (Environment Yukon, 2012 pers. comm.).

The Tutchone of the Yukon Territory are a small population whose ancestors were held together in the past by their contiguous territories, intermarriage and closely related dialects (McClellan, 1981). The same basic hunting/gathering cycle was followed by all Tutchone FN from approximately May through October. Salmon and other freshwater fish were caught



and dried for storage. Later in the summer hunting for whatever game was available in the upland areas was pursued and the meat dried and stored in caches scattered around the area (McClellan, 1981). As moose populations increased and caribou dwindled the Tutchone FN became increasingly more dependent on moose (McClellan, 1981). Many large and small animals as well as birds were caught by snares and bows and arrows. Northern Tutchone peoples traditionally relied on the gathering and harvesting of plants as a source of food and medicine or for tools and goods. In the spring, birch bark and sap were used to construct canoes and baskets. In the summer, the Northern Tutchone gathered berries and other edible or medicinal plants (Gotthardt, 1987). This was also a time when stones, copper, birch bark and spruce roots were collected to make tools and utensils. During times of extreme hunger in winter, FN sometimes collected dried roots, berries and mushrooms from squirrel and mouse caches.

The LS/CFN, SFN and Nacho Nyak Dun people are Northern Tutchone, part of the Athapaskan language group. The SFN and LS/CFN have historically lived in the Project area.

The SFN people originally lived in Fort Selkirk where they used to go by the Hucha Hudan name. In the early days, the Selkirk people had a trading relationship with the Coastal Tlingit and would meet to trade during the summer fish camps on the site where Fort Selkirk was to be built by the Hudson's Bay Company (SFN, 2013; Yukon Bureau of Statistics, 2013a). After the fur-trading fort was built, the SFN people settled there on a more permanent basis, continuing to trap, fish, hunt and gather year-round in their traditional areas. With the construction of the Klondike Highway the SFN moved to Minto and later on, settled in Pelly Crossing and other communities. Today, Fort Selkirk is an important heritage site and is comanaged by the SFN and the Government of Yukon. Traditionally, SFN people relied on the land and one another for survival, travelling by foot over long distances for hunting, trading, and celebrations (SFN, 2013). Culture, traditions, customs and survival skills were passed to children, who learned by listening and practicing. SFN maintains strong links to hunting with many members obtaining a significant portion of their food supply through this means (Yukon Community Profiles, 2004a).

The LS/CFN traditional territory is rich in renewable and non-renewable resources. Parts of the year are spent hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering flora for food and medicines in their traditional territory. A wide variety of game, including birds, water fowl, large game, wolf, wolverine, fox and marten, is sought for food, clothing and other uses (Yukon Bureau of Statistics, 2013b). The oral history of the LS/CFN reveals early contacts and trade relationships with explorers and traders in the area. Since earliest times, the people lived on the land, using the rich supply of game animals, fish, birds and plants, and travelling throughout their traditional territory throughout the year. It is known that LS/CFN collect Arctic Raspberry, Labrador Tea, cranberries, blackberries, stone berries and mushrooms in their traditional territory (Nicholson, 2002).





1.3.3 Parks and Protected Areas

There are no parks and protected areas within the RSA. The closest protected area is the Nordenskold (Tsâwnjik Chu) Habitat Protection Area, which runs along the west side of the Klondike Highway (Hwy 2), and is located approximately 5 km south of Carmacks (**Figure 2**). This area has been designated a Habitat Protection Area under the Yukon's *Wildlife Act*, (Government of Yukon, 2002). Both the LS/CFN and the Government of Yukon recognize the importance of this area as a key place because of the river and wetland complexes and associated wildlife. The LS/CFN calls Tsâwnjik Chu the "bread basket" (Yukon Environment, 2010). This wetland has been important for thousands of years. It has provided FN hunters with moose, ducks and duck eggs, muskrat, salmon, other wildlife and fish. In particular, the area provides habitat for breeding and fall staging of ducks, swans and geese.

Several Special Management Areas have been designated by FN Settlement Agreements. **Figure 2** summarizes the settlement lands that overlap the Land Use RSA. The LS/CFN signed the land claim agreement in 1997 that solidified their ownership of 1,553.99 km² of Category 'A' Land, which entitles the LS/CFN to the surface and subterranean land and 1,036.0 km² of Category 'B' Land, which entitles the LS/CFN to the surface of the land only. In addition, as per section 4.3.4 of the Final Agreement, the LS/CFN have 8.47 km² of land allocated for a Special Management Area, the Nordenskiold Wetland (also known as Ts'alwnjik Chu).

The SFN also signed a Final Agreement in 1997. The settlement allocated 2,408.69 km² of Category 'A' Land and 2,330.99 km² of Category 'B' Land. In addition, as per sections 4.3.4 and 10.3.0 of the Final Agreement, the SFN also own lands designated for the following three Special Management Areas, none of which overlap the Land Use RSA: Lhutsaw Wetland Habitat Protection Area; Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area; and Ta'tla Mun Special Management Area (SFN Final Agreement, 2013).

The Lhutsaw Wetland, an important wetland complex covering 31 square kilometres (km²) located along Hwy 2, is approximately 40 km north of the existing Freegold Road (**Figure 2**). Ta'tla Mun Special Management Area is located more than 60 km north of Carmacks (and 40 km east of Hwy 2). The Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area (also known as McArthur Wildlife Sanctuary) is located more than 100 km north of Carmacks.

1.3.4 Hunting, Trapping and Guide Outfitting

1.3.4.1 Hunting

In an effort to manage species population, hunting is designated by GMAs. GMAs are legal boundaries that define an area within which big game management objectives are enacted through the setting of area specific regulations. There are 443 GMAs in the Yukon, which are grouped together into 11 Zones. In general, Zone boundaries follow highway centrelines and Subzone boundaries follow creeks and rivers. GMAs are now used to manage all species of Yukon wildlife. With the exception of National Parks, the entire Yukon is covered





by GMAs. The entire Land Use LSA and RSA falls within Zone 5, Subzones 509, 510, 511, 522, 523, 524 and 526.

Hunters in the Yukon are required to purchase an annual hunting license. Licenses are sold by 'big game' or 'small game' (Yukon Environment, 2013d). Hunters are required to complete an education program when applying for a license. Those from outside of the Yukon who wish to hunt can only do so with a registered Yukon outfitter or a Yukon resident who holds a special guide license. The special guide license limits the hunter to moose, caribou, wolf, coyote, back and grizzly bear in specific areas.

Big game species include moose, caribou, sheep, goat, bison, bear, deer, elk, wolf, wolverine, coyote, and muskox. To harvest big game, hunters are required to have a valid hunting license and big game seal and permit. It is mandatory that all hunters comply with the regulations outlined in the *Wildlife Act* (Yukon Environment, 2013d). **Table 1.3-2** summarizes the available big game harvest data for Game Management Subzones 509, 510, 511, 522, 523, 524 and 526 between 1997 to 2013 (data provided by Yukon Environment). Records are maintained for the total number harvested by Yukon residents (may or may not include FN), non-residents and special guided hunters for all species except bison and elk. For bison and elk, total numbers reported by permit holders are presented, some of which may be FN hunters. Although wolves, wolverines and coyotes are also listed as Big Game, in this summary, harvest of these species is presented in the Furbearer section. Harvest of mountain goat and muskox is not permitted in these subzones. A detailed summary of big game harvesting records is provided in **Appendix A**.

A total of eleven FN hold the title to approximately 32,000km² of land. An estimated twothirds of this is classified as Category A lands (granting the title holder to surface and subsurface ownership) and balance is Category B (the title holder is only entitled to surface rights) and fee simple lands (typically designated as special areas). Hunting on FN Lands requires consent from the FN that hold title to the land however there are a few exceptions to this (Yukon Environment, 2013d):

- Hunting is permitted without consent on undeveloped Category B settlement lands; however, harvesting bison and elk is prohibited;
- Hunting water fowl is permitted on settlement lands where there is a waterfront rightof-way; and
- Gravel bars and shoreline below the high water mark are accessible when hunting by boat in proximity to First Nations lands.

First Nation hunters who have negotiated a Final Agreement are permitted to hunt within their own traditional territory and are permitted to harvest either gender year round, except for elk and bison. First Nations who are without a Final Agreement are not permitted to hunt on other Nation's TT without either a current hunting license or written consent from the





Territory's First Nation, however, they are permitted to hunt outside of designated TT and are permitted to harvest either gender year round, except elk and bison without limit..

Approximately 97% of moose hunters reported hunting for subsistence purposes, not trophies (Government of Yukon, 2003).



CASINO COPPER AND GOLD

Season	Moose	Caribou	Sheep	Bison	Grizzly bear	Black bear	Deer	Elk	Grand Total
1979/80	7.1			Closed	0	0	Closed	Closed	7.06
1980/81	10.2	5.9	1		2	3			22.08
1981/82	10.1	10.8	3		2	2			27.97
1982/83	15.5	10.1	0		2	1			28.59
1983/84	19.7	8.5	1		0	1			30.12
1984/85	17.2	25.6	0		3	2			47.78
1985/86	7.0	6.5	0		0	4			17.5
1986/87	4.1	4.9	0		3	4			15.98
1987/88	6.5	2.1	0		1	6			15.63
1988/89	3.7	4.0	0		2	3			12.7
1989/90	0.5	0.0	0		1	0			1.51
1990/91	0.0	1.9	0		3	2			6.89
1991/92	2.0	0.0	0		0	1			3.02
1992/93	3.9	2.0	1		3	3			12.9
1993/94	2.0	0.0	0		0	3			5
1994/95	6.3	4.0	0		0	2			12.31
1995/96	8	6.0	4		2	5			25
1996/97	4	2	0		1	2			9
1997/98	4	2	0		1	3			10
1998/99	1	8	1	0	0	0			10
1999/00	5	2	0	0	0	1			8
2000/01	4	4	3	1	0	1			13
2001/02	0	3	0	1	2	2			8
2002/03	2	11	3	0	2	2			20

 Table 1.3-2:
 Big Game Harvest Data for Game Management Subzones 509, 510, 511, 522, 523, 524 and 526 between 1979 and 2013



CASINO COPPER AND GOLD

Season	Moose	Caribou	Sheep	Bison	Grizzly bear	Black bear	Deer	Elk	Grand Total
2003/04	0	5	1	1	3	0			10
2004/05	3	2	0	0	0	4			9
2005/06	1	3	0	0	0	0			4
2006/07	0	11	0	0	1	3	0		15
2007/08	1	4	3	0	1	2	0		11
2008/09	7	9	0	0	2	2	0		20
2009/10	4	9	0	1	0	1	0	0	15
2010/11	2	7	1	0	1	1	0	0	12
2011/12	3	9	0	2	0	3	0	0	17
2012/13	0	10	0	0	1	1	0	0	12
Grand Total	164.85	193.19	22	6	39	70	0	0	495.04

Source: Environment Yukon (2013) Harvest Coordinator pers. comm.





1.3.4.2 Trapping

Trapping in the Yukon is managed under the *Wildlife Act* as well as the Council of Yukon First Nations Umbrella Final Agreement (including individual First Nation Final Agreements) (Council of Yukon First Nations, 1990). The Government of Yukon regulates trapping activities under the *Wildlife Act* (Government of Yukon, 2002). In the Yukon, 14 different species of furbearing mammals are trapped. They are:

•	Beaver	•	Coyote	•	Wolf
•	Fisher		Coloured Fox		Wolverine
•	Arctic Fox		Lynx		Squirrel
•	Marten		Mink		Weasel
	Muskrat		Otter		

A registered trapping concession is a parcel of land on which the holder is granted the rights to harvest fur-bearing animals. There are a total of 333 registered trapping concessions and 18 group areas (these are typically held by a family or FN) in the Yukon. There are approximately 400 trapping licenses in the Yukon the majority of which are held by registered trapping concession holders (the balance is held by assistant trappers). The trapping concession awards harvesting rights of the furbearing mammals to the holder for 5 years at a time (Environment Yukon, 2013a).

Trapper training is an important requirement for licensed trappers and concession holders (Environment Yukon, 2013b). Environment Yukon offers four-day-long (minimum 28 hours) trapper training workshops between October and March. The minimum age to participate is 12. It is estimated that less than a third of the available trapping concessions are active because the return on hides has decreased while the cost to maintain lines (increasing fuel costs) have increased (Hunting and Trapping Wolves in Yukon, 2011b).

Trapping was and still is a traditional activity for many FN in the Yukon, providing economic and sustenance benefits for both FN and non-FN residents. Trapping, which generally occurs in the winter months, is a way of life for many and a means of employment. An estimated 50% of trappers in the Yukon are FN (Environment Yukon, 2013a). Trapping was described as an activity that contributes to trappers' lives by allowing them to be present on the land and connected to the wilderness and wildlife that inhabit these areas (Registered Trapline Holders 2012, pers. comm.).

Two of the registered trapline holders identified were interviewed in the fall 2012. Information regarding accessibility of the traplines, as well as trapping seasonality, activity and harvests was provided. Traplines in this region are often remote, and the two registered trapline holders indicated that access to the traplines can be time-consuming and costly





(Registered Trapline Holders, 2012 pers. comm.). The trapping season generally occurs from January to March, although this may differ from trapline to trapline. Species most commonly targeted in the two traplines include wolf, wolverine, lynx and marten, while the species most commonly caught include marten and lynx (Registered Trapline Holders, 2012 pers. comm.). Another interview with a key informant revealed that Lynx, wolves, wolverines, squirrels and beaver are trapped in the area. Lynx is amongst the most valuable of the aforementioned species and is directly tied to the rabbit population, a food source for the Lynx (Registered Trapper, 2013 pers. comm.). A 2011 SFN Newsletter identified development of trapping infrastructure and the traditional economy were identified as priorities that are being incorporated into the 2011/2012 budget (SFN, 2011). Similarly the LS/CFN Integrated Community Sustainability Plan also identifies subsistence hunting, fishing and trapping as a way of life for their membership (Inukshuk Planning and Development, 2007).

Within the Land Use RSA there are 30 registered trapping concessions; with 11 overlapped by the Land Use LSA (Geomatics Yukon, 2013) (**Figure 3**). **Table 1.3-3** summarizes the trapping concessions and associated areas overlapping the Land Use LSA.

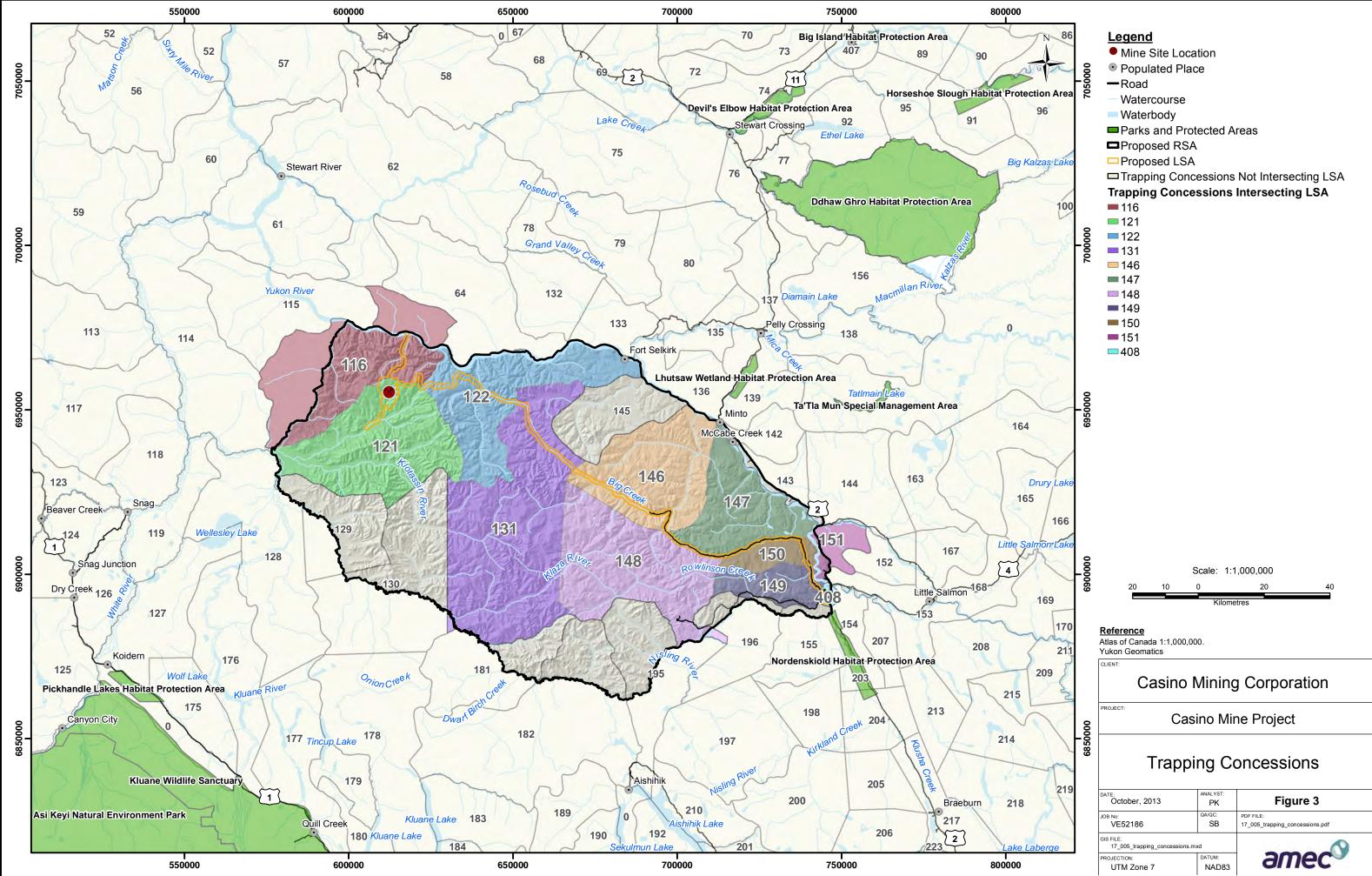
Registered Trapping Concession	Trapline Area (ha)	% of Trapline that falls within LSA
116	146,462	2.0
121	129,827	4.5
122	113,682	3.6
131	216,996	1.4
146	106,380	4.0
147	77,325	2.5
148	135,364	0.9
149	32,091	2.7
150	21,082	11.2
151	20,943	0.2
408	3,115	18.2

 Table 1.3-3:
 Registered Trapping Concessions Overlapping the Land Use LSA

Notes: ha – hectare; % - percent; LSA – Local Study Area

Source: Geomatics Yukon (2013) – Registered Trapping Concessions; Environment Yukon (2013) Harvest Coordinator pers. comm.





.Projects/VEI/VE52186_CasinoMapping\17_non-traditional-res/Casino Figures 20130923\17_



Harvesting sustainably is guided by the trapping seasons, which typically runs from fall to early spring (Environment Yukon, 2013e). **Table 1.3-4** summarizes the trapping seasons commonly flowed in the Land Use RSA.

Species	Open Season
Beaver	October 1 - May 31
Fisher	November 1 - February 28
Fox - red, cross, silver	November 1 - March 10
Fox - arctic	November 1 - March 31
Lynx	November 1 - March 10
Marten	November 1 - February 28
Mink	November 1 - March 31
Muskrat - South of Arctic Circle	October 1 - May 31
Otter	November 1 - March 31
Red Squirrel	November 1 - March 31
Weasel	November 1 - March 31
Wolverine	November 1 - March 10
Wolf	November 1 - March 10
Wolf - neck snare only	March 11 - March 31
Coyote	November 1 - March 10

 Table 1.3-4:
 Wildlife Species Trapped Within the Study Area by Applicable Season

Source: Environment Yukon (2013e)

Total fur harvest data, available from Environment Yukon, for Registered Trapping Concessions 116, 121, 122, 131, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, and 408 overlapped by the land Use LSA is summarized in **Table 1.3-5**.

Species	Harvest Season									
	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Grand Total
Arctic fox										0
Beaver	6		7			53				66
Coyote					1		1		2	4
Lynx	2	7	10	6	37	21	18		10	111
Marten	1		82	79	47	31	2	4	56	302
Mink			1	1	4	1				7
Muskrat										0
Otter										0
Red fox	1		3	1	2		2	4	4	17

Table 1.3-5:Furbearer Harvest Data for Registered Trapping Concessions Overlapped by
the Land Use LSA between 2003 and 2012





Species	Harvest Season										
	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	Grand Total	
Squirrel			2		15					17	
Weasel					1					1	
Wolf			1		5	5	3	10	5	29	
Wolverine	2		3	2	2	5	7	5	5	31	
Grand Total	12	7	109	89	114	116	33	23	82	585	

Source: Environment Yukon (2013) Harvest Coordinator pers. comm.

1.3.4.3 Guide Outfitting

Guide outfitting began in the Yukon in the early 1900s. In the 1960s, the Government of Yukon drew up and awarded 19 concession boundaries to 19 registered guide outfitters. It is the responsibility of the guide outfitter to maintain their respective concessions and the amenities they provide like camps, air strips and float plane bases, trails, corrals and horse grazing areas (Yukon Outfitters Association, 2013). Three outfitter concessions (OC) are overlapped by the Land Use LSA: 11; 13; and 14. Outfitter concession 11 is managed by Prophet Muskwa Outfitters; OC 13 is managed by Mervyn's Yukon Outfitting Ltd; and OC 14 is managed by Trophy Stone Outfitting Ltd (summarized in **Table 1.3-6** and **Figure 4**).

Table 1.3-6: Reg	istered Outfitting Conce	essions Overlapping the	Land Use LSA.
------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------	---------------

Registered Outfitting Concession (OC) / Owner	Total Guide Outfitting Concession Area (ha)	% of Guide Outfitting Concession that falls within LSA
OC 11 / Prophet Muskwa Outfitters	903,073	1.04
OC 13 / Mervyn's Yukon Outfitting Ltd	2,330,269	0.75
OC 14 / Trophy Stone Outfitting Ltd	1,018,809	0.005

Notes: ha – hectare; % - percent;

Source: Yukon Outfitters Association (2013); Geomatics Yukon (2013) – Outfitting Concessions

Prophet Muskwa Outfitters (affiliated with Devilhole Outfitters) manages OC 11 that covers over 8,500 square miles of mountainous terrain. Lakes, streams, alpine meadows and glaciers are accessible by floatplane and horseback only. Accommodations include cabins or tents and the majority of hunting is done on horseback with some hunting being conducted by boat and backpacking. Species hunted include (Prophet Muskwa Outfitters, 2013):

- Dall sheep
 Moose
- Mountain caribou
 Grizzly bear





Outfitter concession 13, which covers 25,900 km² (10,000 square miles) and reaches elevations of 7,500 feet, has two plateaus (Kluane and Klondike Plateau) and four different mountain ranges (Ruby, Sifton, Nisling and Dawson Range). In addition, the Yukon, Nisling and Aishihik Rivers meander through OC 13 and the area is dotted with a number of lakes. Mervyn's Yukon Outfitting Ltd. is owned and operated by Tim and Jen Mervyn, who meet clients in Whitehorse then fly via float or bush plane to one of their camps. Species harvested include:

- Moose
 Wild wood bison
 Grizzly bear
- Wolverine
 Mountain black bear
 Dall sheep
- Mountain caribou
 Wolf

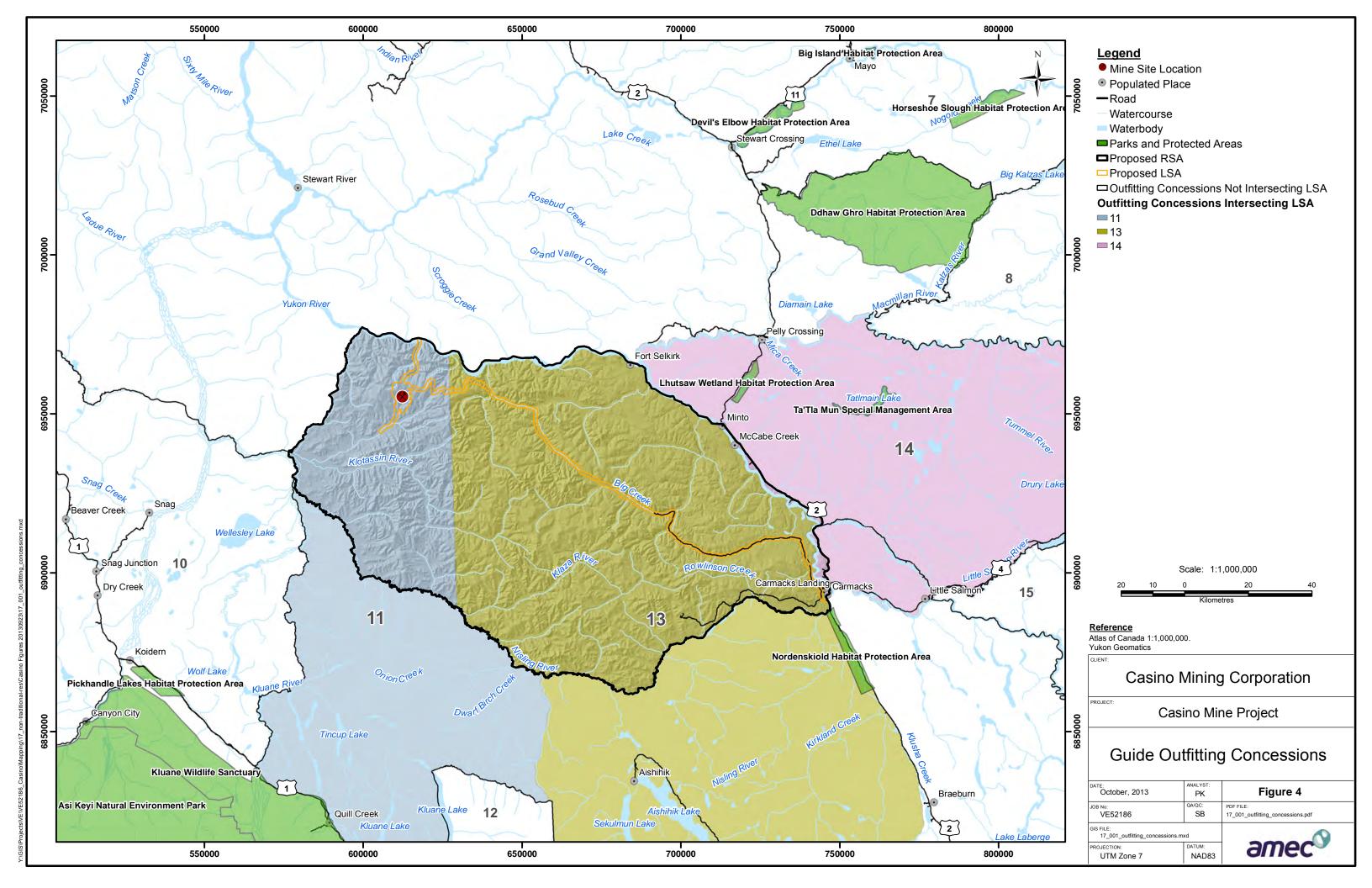
Horses are utilized for transportation during the hunt. Clientele originate from around the world, and typically spend one week at the camp, and approximately 20 hunts are held per year. All-inclusive prices for hunts are approximately \$20,000. Mervyn's Yukon Outfitting Ltd also offers fishing and fish species in the area typically caught include arctic grayling, northern pike and lake trout.

The OC 14 Guide Outfitter, Trophy Stone Outfitting Ltd. is based out of Whitehorse and is owned and operated by the Sandulak family. This OC, which only touches on the eastern boundary of the Land Use RSA, is 7,000 square miles with elevations ranging from 4,500 to 7,000 feet. Horses are used for hunting. Species harvested include (Trophy Stone Outfitting, 2013):

•	Moose	•	Mountain caribou	•	Black bear
	• • • •				

Grizzly bear
 Wolf
 Stone sheep







- 1.3.5 Fishing
- 1.3.5.1 Recreational Fishing

Fishing is a popular sport in the Yukon. According to Environment Yukon, the rate of participation of angling in the Yukon is amongst the highest in Canada (Environment Yukon, 2013f). Conservation fishing practices are promoted including live release which involves releasing large females who carry thousands of eggs and populate the lakes and rivers. Keeping smaller fish for consumption is encouraged. As with hunting, FN, residents and non-residents pursue the activity for a variety of different reasons ranging from subsistence to sport. FN citizens fishing within their TT do not require a fishing license. However, a license is required for fishing outside a TT. Separate rules for salmon fishing, which are often incorporated into FN final agreements, address Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada requirements to monitor the strength of the salmon runs.

Fish are integral to the FN culture. The FN would live in winter villages near lakes where they would use nets to capture fish under the ice. This source of protein would augment their winter food cache of dried meat, berries and roots. Fishing is still considered an important component of traditional FN culture; many will spend a few weeks every fall fishing at their family's traditional fish camp. The salmon caught are frozen or dried and consumed over the winter. Today's FN are still known to use the nets placed under the surface of the ice to catch fish (Fishing on Yukon Time: A guide to Fishing in Yukon (2011-2012).

The Yukon River, Tatchun River, and Ethel Lake are popular fishing destinations in the study area. The species found in these waterways include Arctic Grayling, Northern Pike, Burbot, Inconnu, and Chinook salmon (Fishing on Yukon Time: A guide to Fishing in Yukon (2011-2012)).

The only stocked lake within the Land Use RSA is Gloria Lake II, the second lake on the lefthand side when travelling up the Freegold Road, about 14 km north of Carmacks (Yukon Environment, 2012). Anglers report good luck catching rainbows in the 1-2 kg (2-4 lbs) range. A gentle slope at the north end of the lake provides the easiest access route for launching a small boat, but a boat is not necessary. The shoreline is clear enough to walk around and to permit casting (Environment Yukon, 2012).

1.3.5.2 Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing accounts for less than 5% of fish harvested in the Yukon Territory (Environment Yukon, 2010b). Commercial licences are limited to larger lakes and target lake trout and whitefish. According to the Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee website, commercial fishing has not recovered since a 50% decrease in 1998. This is attributed to the closure of the Han Fisheries plant in 1997. A small fishery is located in the Minto area, which is on the periphery of the study area and the Canadian Commercial fishery is located in the Dawson area. These fisheries harvest summer and fall chum (Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee, 2013).





1.3.6 Forestry

The Forest Resources Act, effective 31 January 2011 replaced the federally mandated *Timber Regulation* as per the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* (Yukon Energy, Mines and Resources, 2013a). The objective of the Act is to ensure that forest harvest activities are conducted in a sustainable manner through the implementation of Forest Resource Management Plans (FRMP) and Timber Harvest Plans (THP). The FRMP provides a guideline for what and where harvesting can occur in a specific area. First Nations whose traditional territory falls within a FRMP or THP are consulted in the planning process, which may include joint planning on settlement lands.

The *Forest Resources Act* manages forest occupying vacant public land. Individual THP, which are approved by the Director of Forest Management Branch (FMB), dictate where and how forestry harvesting activities can occur. THP have a designed life-span and are considered active as long as they are still meeting the intended need for forest products under the terms of the plan. In addition to approved THP areas, most of the highway corridors in the Yukon are designated as Personal Use Fuelwood areas that allow residents to harvest 25 m³ per year (dead or downed timber only) under a free annual permit. Typical application for the firewood would be heating homes (Government of Yukon Energy, Mines and Resources, n/d.).

No large scale forestry activities overlap the Land Use LSA or RSA (Energy Mines and Resources (EMR), 2013 pers. comm.). Permitted operations (within approved THP or Personal Use Fuelwood areas) are primarily small scale salvage activities such as collecting wood for personal use or small commercial users providing firewood for campfire use in local parks. Under a commercial THP permit, small volumes of greenwood can be harvested for construction or milling purposes. The transport of timber associated with these small scale activities is primarily by pick-up truck and a trailer may be added. The following two THP are located within the Carmacks area (EMR, 2013 pers. comm.):

- In May 2013 a Carmacks Small Volume THP was submitted for review and is being prepared for approval. This proposed THP area lies along 1 km either side of the Klondike and Robert Campbell highways–north, south and east of Carmacks. Approval of this THP will allow for the application of small scale commercial harvesting permits within the area.
- The Minto Burn Commercial Fuelwood THP, an initiative approved in 2007 designed to meet local fuelwood demands, is nearing the end of its usefulness.

Following closure of forestry roads, the FMB requires that the roads be decommissioned. This involves deactivating roads by removing the access point, culverts or other infrastructure, which results in limiting public vehicle access into the area.





1.3.7 Recreation and Tourism

In addition to Guide Outfitting, the Yukon is a rich in recreation and tourism opportunities. Recreation opportunities in the Yukon are abundant and include boating (rafting, kayaking, canoeing), dog sledding, hiking/backpacking, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, horseback riding and mountain bike riding (Yukon Wild, 2013a). Popular recreation activities within the study area include traveling between Whitehorse and Dawson City and visiting the historic Fort Selkirk, established during the gold rush (Yukon Wild, 2013b).

Events are planned for most weekends year round including the longest canoe/kayak race in the world. Visitors travel to the Yukon to recreate or to step back in history to Gold Rush times. Visitor information data is tracked at border crossings, the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport and at the six visitor information centres located across the territory. The Yukon Department of Tourism and Culture have reported a 4% increase in visitors in March 2013 over March 2012, almost half (49%) of those visitors were from Japan (Department of Tourism and Culture Tourism, 2013).

The Land Use RSA falls in the Campbell and Klondike regions (refer to **Figure 5**, Tourism Regions of the Yukon). Though none of the Visitor Information Centres are located in the Land Use RSA, they are accessed via the north to south running Klondike Highway, which is on the far eastern periphery of the study area. The Village of Carmacks, located at the southern end of the Klondike region, has been flagged as a destination spot along the Klondike Highway on the Campbell/Canol Route and the Klondike/Kluane Loops. The area is described as being quiet and ideal for seeing wildlife and fishing. Carmacks has a day-use area, a community information centre and a cultural centre.

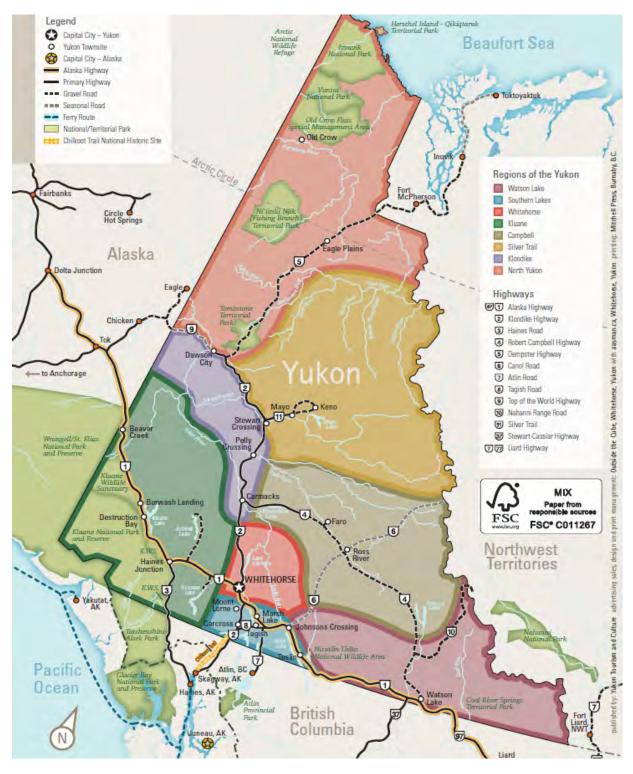
No campgrounds or picnic areas are located within the Land Use RSA. Several campground and picnic areas, summarized below, are located proximate to Carmacks, outside the Land Use RSA (Yukon Environment, 2013c).

- Coal Mine Campgrounds Located north of Carmacks, offers 26 sites and amenities include sani-dump, laundromat, general store, showers and water.
- Five Fingers Rapids Recreation Area Located at km 380.0 along the Klondike Hwy (Hwy 2), has no camp sites but offers hiking trails.
- Tatchun Creek Highway Campground Located at km 382.4 along the Klondike Hwy (Hwy 2) has 12 camp sites, a kitchen shelter, and is wheelchair accessible.
- Sunrise Service Centre Located within Carmacks offering 10 sites with full hookups, sani-dump and water available.
- Hotel Carmacks Recreational Vehicle Park Located within Carmacks and overlooking the Yukon River, this park offers 30 and 50 amp power, water and sewer services.



The eco-tourism company Canadian Wilderness Travel Ltd. operates out of the Village of Carmacks and offers a number of excursions year round ranging from women-only canoe trips to cabin rentals along the shores of the frozen Yukon River (Canadian Wilderness Travel Ltd., 2013).





Source:Travelyukon.com (2013)Figure 5:Tourism Regions of the Yukon



1.3.8 Mining and Exploration Activity

The Project falls within the Whitehorse Mining District. There are predominately four different types of mining in the Yukon: placer (gold); quartz (hard rock); coal; and quarries for borrow source material. The *Quartz Mining Land Use Regulation* (Yukon Regulations, 2003a) and the *Placer Mining Land Use Regulation* (Yukon Regulations, 2003b) consist of a classification system based on varying levels of specific activities. These threshold levels categorize exploration activities into four classes of operation. Classes 1 through 4 represent activities with increasing potential to cause adverse environmental impacts. For example, a placer mine operation that requires a water license as per the *Waters Act* is classified as a Class 4 Operation (Government of Yukon Energy, Mines and Resources, 2013b). The lower the classification number, the simpler the operation and therefore the lower the potential impact to the environment. Class 2 to 4 programs required a YESSAA assessment (Government of Yukon Energy, Mines and Resources, 2013b).

Exploration first began on the mine site in the early 20th Century, with the first mineral claim dating back to 1911. Various exploration companies and individuals have conducted work in the area. In 1967 coppery porphyry potential was identified and in 1968 the Brynelsen Group acquired Casino Silver Mines and exploration continued through 1991 directed toward characterizing the porphyry target. Pacific Sentinel Gold (PSG) continued exploration activities between 1992 and 1995 and produced an Internal Scoping Study. First Trimark Resources and CRS Copper Resources (which combined to form Lumina) brought the resource estimate to compliance during 2003 and 2004 with an NI 43-101 submission. The proposed mine site was acquired by Western Copper Corp. in 2006 from Lumina who established Casino Mining Corporation who now owns the property. The Proponent has been conducting extensive evaluations of the property since 2006. For a complete list of the Project site ownership and explorations activity, refer to **Table 1.3-7**.

Year(s)	Owner(s)	Exploration Activity
1911	J. Britton and C. Brown	first documented placer claims; placer Au discovery on Canadian Creek
1911- 1985	various	various placer gold producers in area
1917	N. Hansen	first mineral claims staked at Casino
1936	J. Meloy and A. Brown	silver-lead-zinc veins discovered south of Canadian Creek placer workings
1936- 1939		exploration of Bomber and Helicopter vein systems by hand trenches and pits
1943		helicopter claims staked
1947		Bomber and Airport claim groups staked
1948- 1963	optioned to Noranda	exploration for lead-silver at Helicopter and Bomber veins; trenching, mapping and sampling
1963- 1967	optioned to Rio Tinto	exploration for lead-silver at Helicopter and Bomber veins; trenching, mapping and sampling

Table 1.3-7:Summary of Recorded Owners and Exploration Activity of the Proposed
Casino Project Site





Year(s)	Owner(s)	Exploration Activity				
1963	Casino Silver Mines Ltd (L. Proctor)	L. Proctor purchased the claims and formed CSM to develop the silver-rich veins				
1965- 1980	Casino Silver Mines Ltd.	intermittent exploration and development of silver-rich veins by underground and surface workings, shipped to smelter at Trail, BC				
1967	A. Archer and G. Harper	recognize porphyry potential (originally noted by B. Hestor in 1963, but not pursued)				
1968	Brynelsen Group (Brameda, Quintana and Teck)	Brynelsen acquires Casino Silver Mines and exploration is directed toward a porphyry target; soil geochemistry, geophysics and trenching lead to deposit discovery in 1969				
1969	Brynelsen Group	soil geochemistry, geophysics and trenching lead to deposit discovery in 1969				
1969- 1973	Brynelsen Group	exploration drilling (35 RC holes, 56 DD holes)				
1991	optioned to Big Creek Resources	property optioned to Big Creek Resources from Archer, Cathro & Associates				
1992	optioned to Big Creek Resources	drilling program: 21 HQ drill holes assayed for gold potential for first time				
1992	Pacific Sentinel Gold	PSG acquires property from Archer Cathro; major exploration program				
1993	PSG	exploration program: surface mapping, 127 drill holes, deepened all but one of the 1992 holes				
1994	PSG	exploration program: 108 drill holes, metallurgical, geotechnical and environmental work				
1995	PSG	scoping study				
2003	First Trimark Resources and CRS Copper Resources	obtained the property and used PSG data to publish a Qualifying Report; resource estimate brought to compliance with NI 43-101				
2004	Lumina Copper Corp.	First Trimark and CRS Copper combine to form Lumina and update the Qualifying Report				
2006	Western Copper Corp. (WCC)	WCC acquires Lumina				
2007	WCC	VLF-EM and Horizontal Loop EM survey, soil geochemistry and Environmental baseline studies				
2008	WCC	reclaimed old camp site at Casino, constructed new exploration camp next to airstrip and drilled 3 holes (one water well and two exploration), M3 Engineering completes pre-feasibility				
2009	WCC	Geophysics - DC/IP surveying and MT surveying, 37 diamond drill holes				
2010	WCC	continued infill and delineation drilling, geotechnical drilling				
2011	Western Copper and Gold Corp.	WCC changes name to WCG, more geotechnical drilling - 41 holes				
2012	WCG	geotechnical drilling, 6 holes				
2013	WCG	feasibility completed; geotechnical drilling - 15 holes; MET studies; environmental and socioeconomic studies				

Source: Casino Mining Corporation (2013); and miscellaneous internal company records.

Both quartz claims (**Section 1.3.7.1**) and placer operations / prospecting leases (**Section 1.3.7.2**) occur in the Land Use RSA and overlap the Land Use LSA. The only area removed from mineral tenure staking within the Land Use RSA is the historical Mount





Nansen Mine Site located approximately 20 km south of the existing Freehold Road. The Minto Copper Mine, located more than 25 km north of the existing Freegold Road, is the only operating mine falling within the Land Use RSA.

Table 1.3-8 (and **Figure 6**) provides a summary of the mining and exploration projects, provided by the Yukon Geological Survey for 2012 Exploration Projects, that fall within the Land Use RSA. Other than the Casino Mine Project, and the Carmacks Copper Mine project (who propose access along part of the existing Freegold Road), no other mining or exploration projects overlap the Land Use LSA.

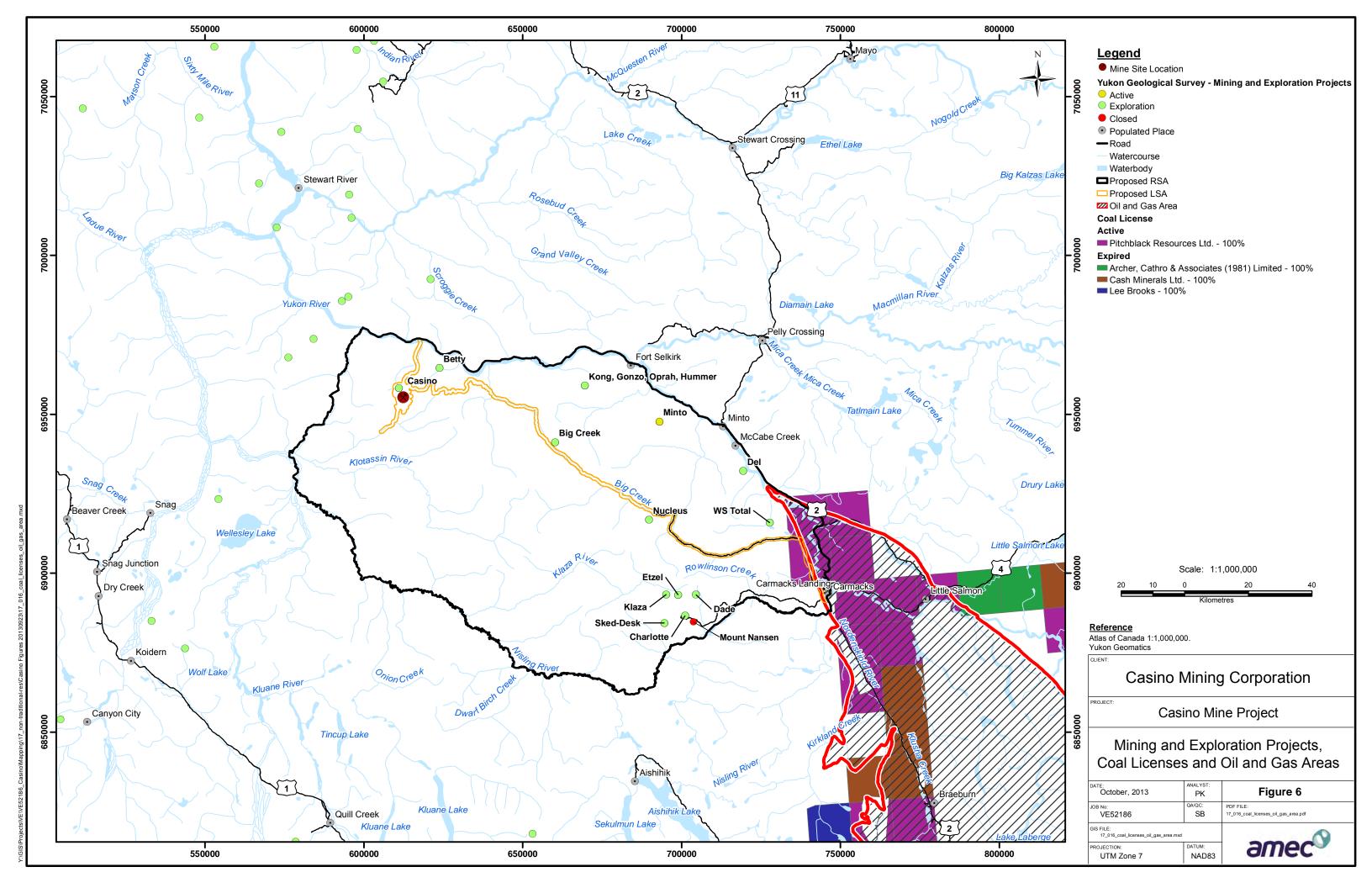
Table 1.3-8:Summary of Mining and Exploration Projects that Fall within the Land Use RSA
for 2012

Project	Owner	Yukon Minfile Number*	
Casino	Western Copper and Gold Corp	115J 028	
Betty	Shawn Ryan	n/a	
Big Creek	Teck Resources Ltd.	n/a	
Kong, Gonzo, Oprah, Hummer Canadian Dehua International Mines Group Inc.		n/a	
Nucleus Northern Freegold Resources		115I 107	
Sked-Desk	ked-Desk Strategic Metals Ltd		
Klaza Rockhaven Resources Ltd		1151 067	
Minto Capstone Mining Corp		1151 021	
Etzel Rockhaven Resources Ltd		n/a	
Charlotte Ansell Capital Corp		n/a	
Dade Strategic Metals Ltd		n/a	
Del	Northern Tiger Resources Inc	1151 095	
WS Total	BCGold Corp	1151 006	

Notes: * - If available; n/a – not available

Source: Yukon Geological Survey (2012) Exploration Map Metadata – 2012 Exploration Projects







1.3.8.1 Quartz Mining

The Yukon is rich with minerals; more than 80 mineral deposits and 2,600 known mineral occurrences yet it wasn't until recently that quartz mining was established. In 2005 there were only 188 quartz claims but by 2007 there were more than 10,000 quartz claims. Over an 11 month time frame spanning from April 2009 to March 2010 there were 23,660 quartz claims. The significant increase in quartz claims is in part attributed to the streamlined permitting process, which was solely managed by the Government of Yukon. The *Quartz Mining Act* (2008) which saw lowered exploration costs and ensured that royalties are competitive coupled with the Yukon Mining Incentives Program, which provide tax exemption and rebates to proponents, all served to encourage exploration and mining activity in the Yukon (Global Business Reports, 2011).

For a list of the active quartz mining claims that overlap the Land Use LSA, refer to **Table 1.3-9**. There are 1421 active quartz claims (registered to 20 different owners) at the time of writing this report. **Figure 7** shows the quartz claims that fall within the Land Use RSA. **Figure 8 – Figure 11** focus in on the active quartz land use permits and claims that fall within the Land Use LSA. A search of information available from Geomatics Yukon indicates that there are no active quartz leases located within the Land Use LSA.

Registered Owner	Number of Active Quartz Claims		
0878950 B.C. Ltd 100%	22		
ATAC Resources Ltd 100%	43		
BCGold Corp 100%	29		
Bill Harris - 100%	24		
Bill Harris - 49%, Eric Wienecke - 51%	16		
Bill Harris - 49%, Mainsteele Developments Ltd 51%	3		
Canadian Dehua International Mines Group Inc 100%	31		
Carmacks Mining Corp 100%	10		
Casino Mining Corp 100%	590		
Dawson Gold Corp 100%	57		
Ethos Capital Corp 100%	91		
Ethos Capital Corporation - 100%	19		
Independence Gold Corp 100%	6		
Kaminak Gold Corp 100%	14		
Northern Freegold Resources Ltd 100%	215		
Northern Tiger Resources Inc 100%	81		
Shawn Ryan - 100%	46		
Shawn Ryan - 70%, Wildwood Explorations Inc 30%	16		

 Table 1.3-9:
 Active Quartz Claims Overlapping the Land Use LSA



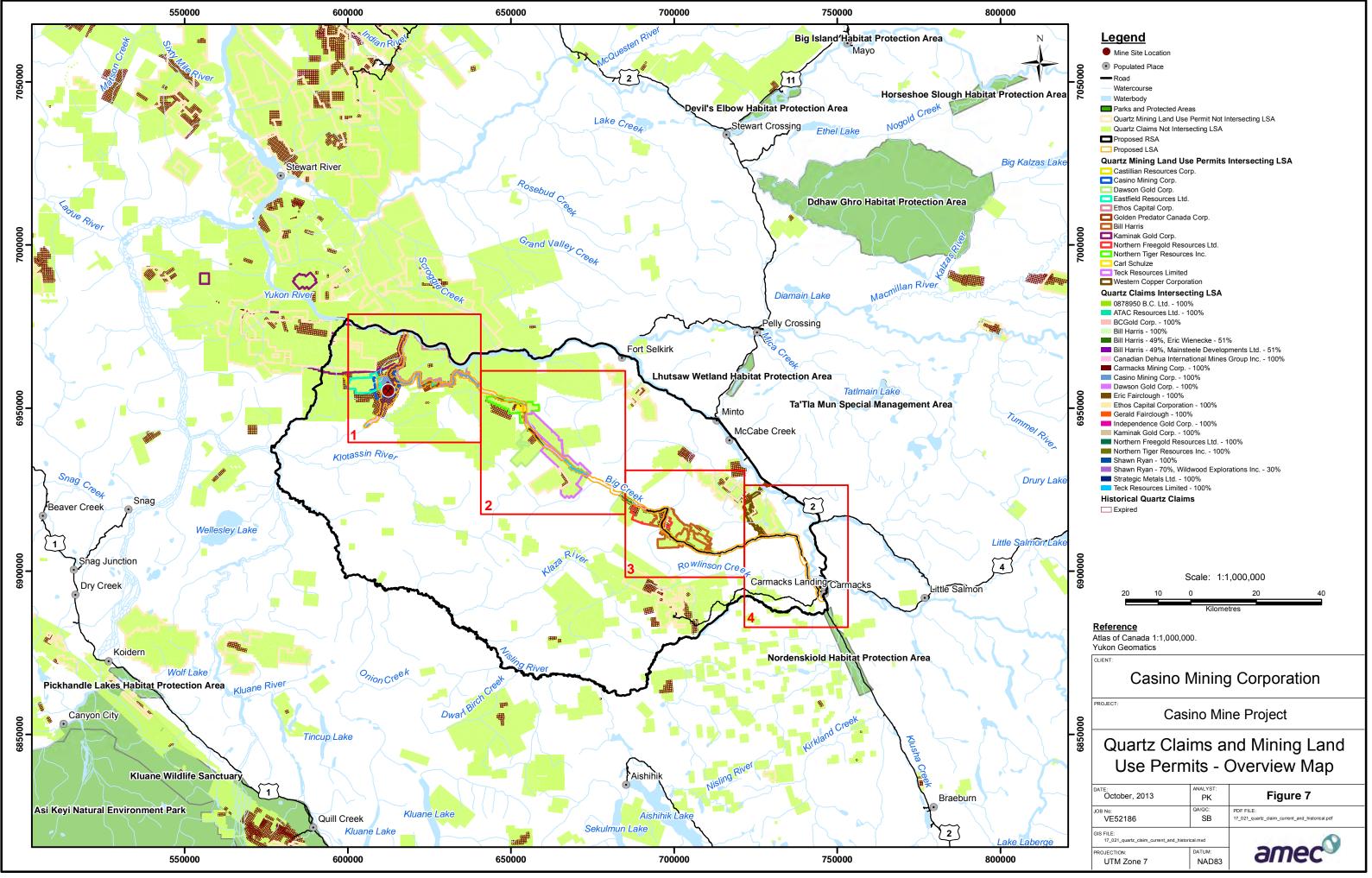
Registered Owner	Number of Active Quartz Claims
Strategic Metals Ltd 100%	4
Teck Resources Limited - 100%	104

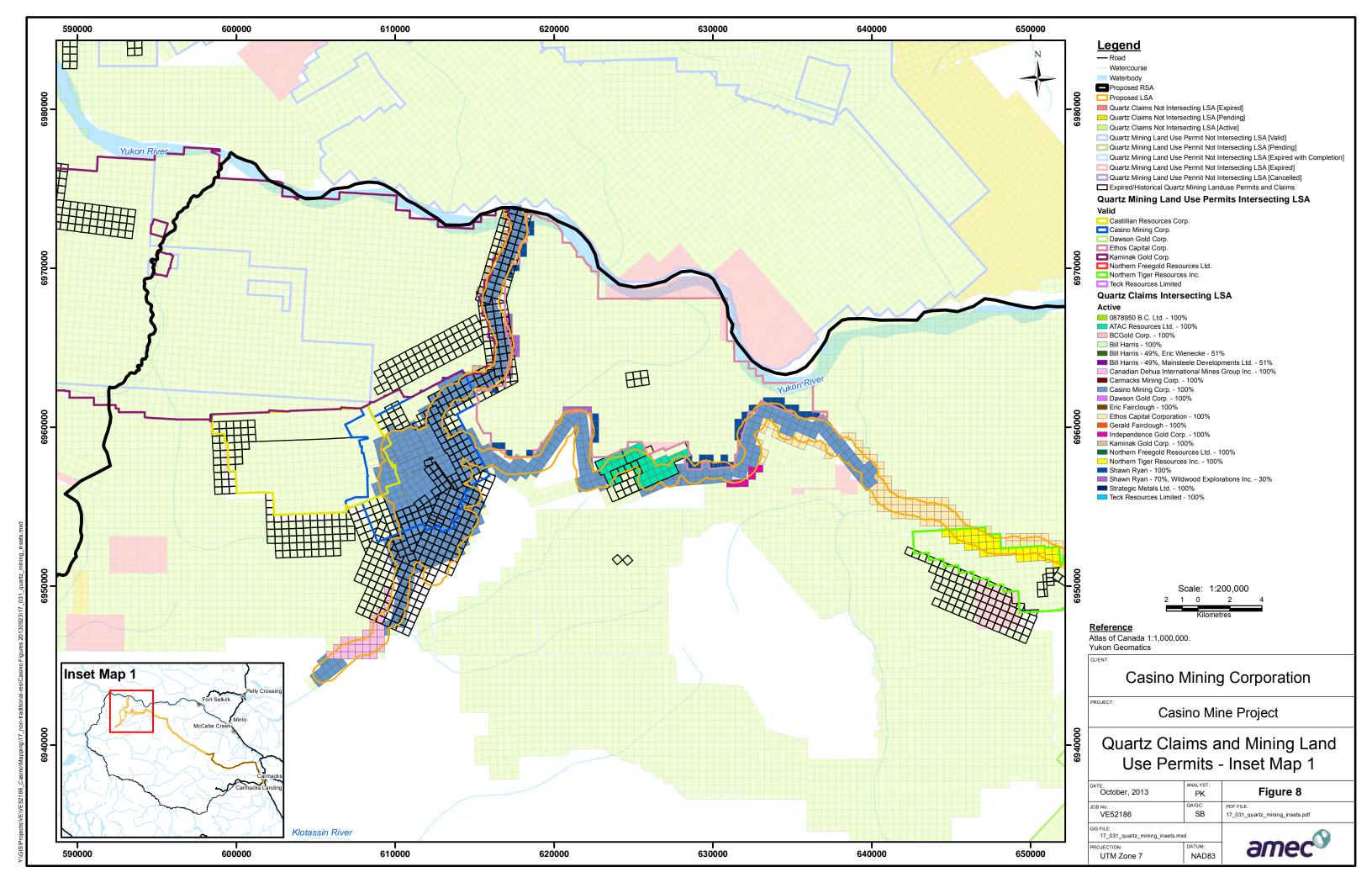
Source: Geomatics Yukon (2013) – Quartz Claims

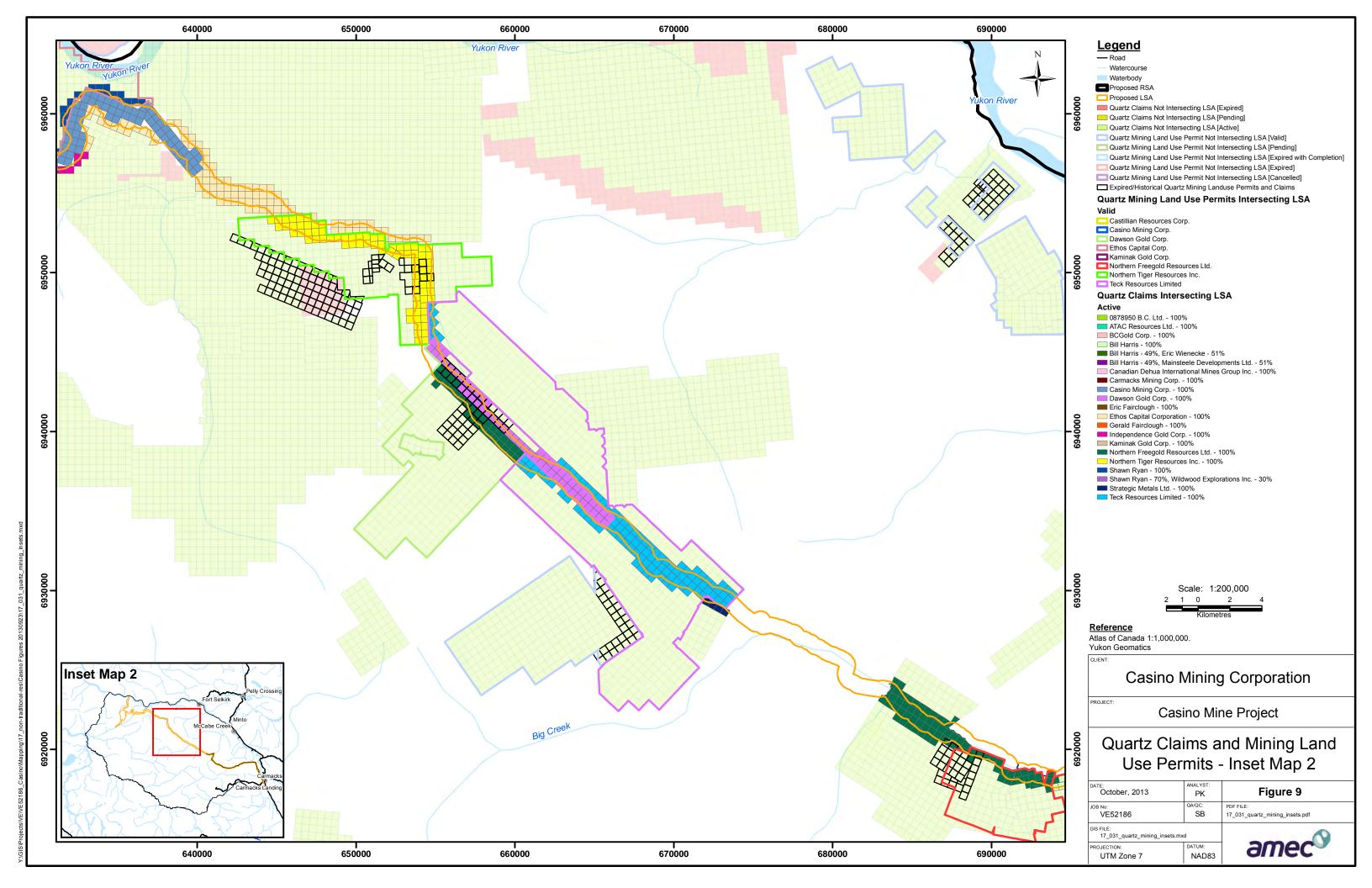
The *Quartz Mining Act* guides all quartz-related stake and mining claims in the Yukon. Quartz refers to hard rock, and excludes placer gold and coal. The *Quartz Mining Act* has the authority to permit all facets of mining production and development (Government of Yukon Energy, Mine and Resources, 2007a). Under the *Quartz Mining Act*, the *Quartz Mining Land Use Regulation* regulates work conducted on the surface of mineral leases and claims (Government of Yukon Energy, Mine and Resources, 2007a).

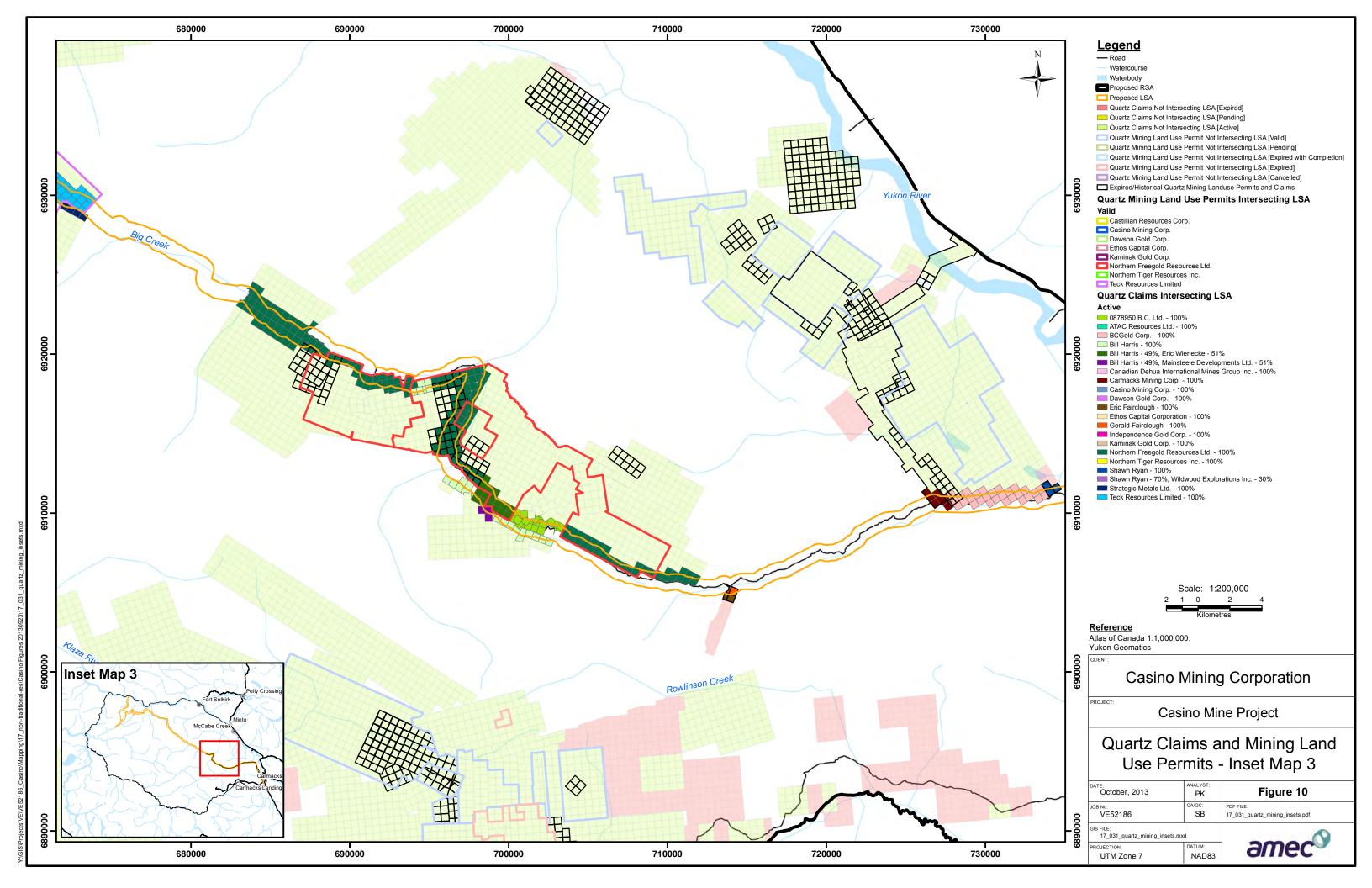
Production and development of minerals or mine is not permitted without a Quartz Mining License, which is issued under the *Quartz Mining Act*. With a Quartz mining lease, the holder can hold the claim for 21 years and must renew on an annual basis (Government of Yukon Energy, Mine and Resources, 2007a).

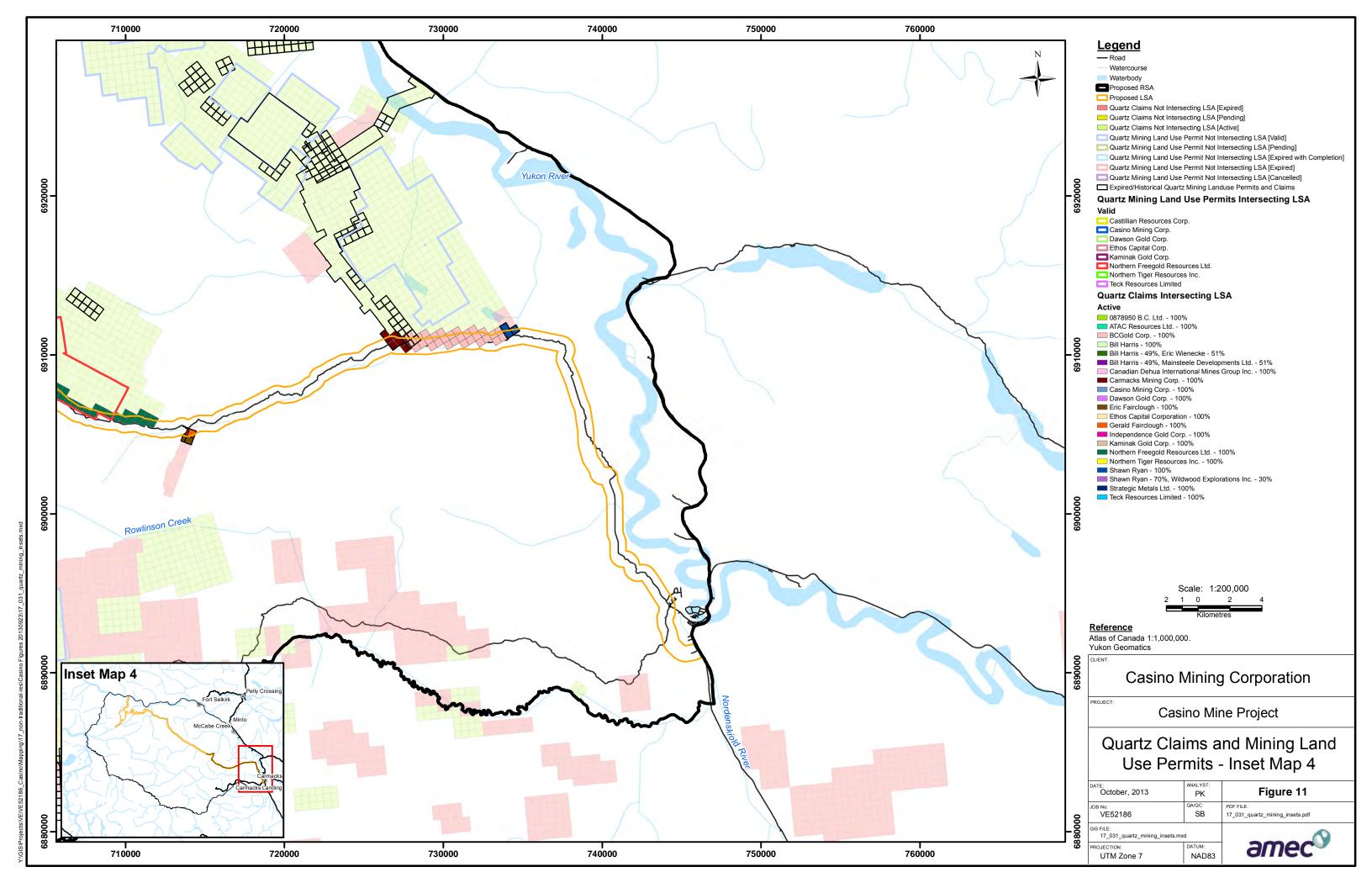














1.3.8.2 Placer Mining

The Spanish word "placer" means "a place where gold can be recovered from gravel" therefore the term placer mining means extracting gold from gravel (Government of Yukon Energy, Mines and Resources, 2013c). The Government of Yukon and the Yukon Water Board are responsible for regulating Placer mining. Legislation includes the *Placer Mining Act, Placer Mining Land Use Regulation* and the *Waters Act* outline the protocol and regulations for gold mining (Government of Yukon Energy, Mines and Resources, 2013c).

Table 1.3-10 provides a list of the current active placer prospecting leases overlapping the
Land Use LSA. Table 1.3-11 summarizes the active placer claims within the Land Use LSA.
Source: Geomatics Yukon (2013) – Placer Claims





Figure 12 shows the placer mining information that falls within the Land Use RSA. **Figure 13 – Figure 16** focus in on the claims, prospecting leases and mining land use permits that fall within the Land Use LSA.

Table 1.3-10: Active Placer Prospecting Leases within the Land Use LSA

Placer Prospecting Lease Owner	Lease Number	Expiration Date
Michael Grennan - 100%	390546	20/04/2013
Michael Ward - 100%	390765	16/08/2013
Paul Douglas MacDonald - 100%	390882	26/03/2014
Edward Grennan - 100%	390918	16/03/2014
Don Banks - 100%	390919	26/03/2014
Todd Michael Ryznar - 100%	390931	09/07/2013

Source: Geomatics Yukon (2013) – Placer Prospecting Lease



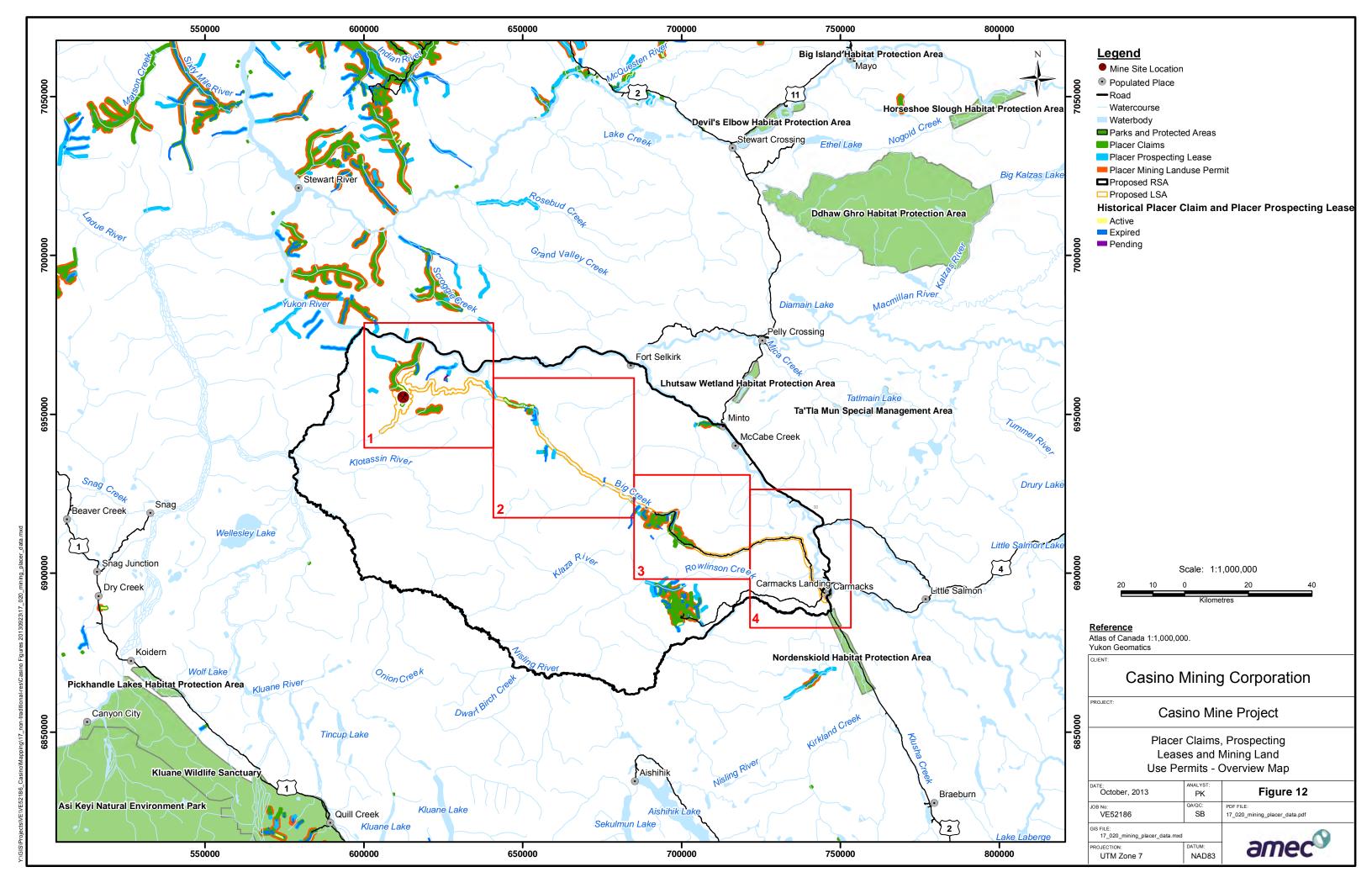


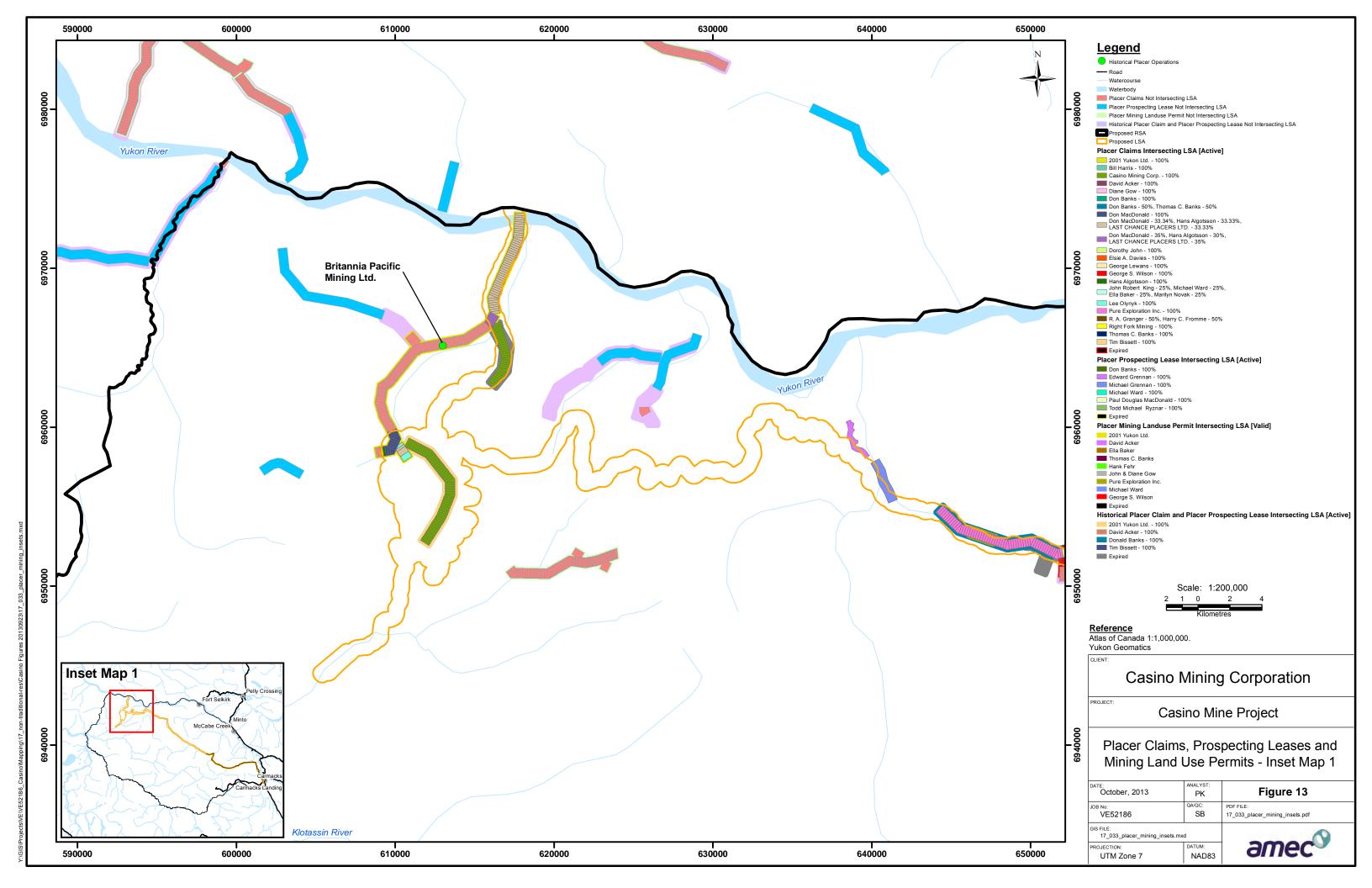
Placer	Claims	
Registered Owner and Percent (%) Interest	Claim Name	Number of Placer Claims
2001 Yukon Ltd 100%	Amy	1
Bill Harris - 100%	Front	7
Bill Harris - 100%	Kit	32
Casino Mining Corp - 100%	Cas PL	55
Casino Mining Corp - 100%	Brit PL	30
David Acker - 100%	Placer Claim	2
Diane Gow - 100%	Tamara	4
Don Banks - 100%	Fred 1 Discover	1
Don Banks - 50%, Thomas C. Banks - 50%	Fred	4
Don MacDonald - 100%	Amy	11
	Sam	48
Don MacDonald - 33.34%, Hans Algotsson - 33.33%,	Sharon	1
LAST CHANCE PLACERS LTD 33.33%	Rawi	1
Don MacDonald - 35%, Hans Algotsson - 30%, LAST CHANCE PLACERS LTD 35%	Kevin	6
Dorothy John - 100%	Yellow	1
Elsie A. Davies - 100%	Нарру	4
Elsie A. Davies - 100%	Elsie Davies	1
George Lewans - 100%	Discovery	1
	Dot Disc	1
	B4 1 Disc	1
George S. Wilson - 100%	Bus #1	1
	Auie	10
	Red	4
Hans Algotsson - 100%	Amy	
	Gary	1
	Bill	1
John Robert King - 25%, Michael Ward - 25%, Ella	Rose	2
Baker - 25%, Marilyn Novak - 25%	Gail Jill	1
	Jojo	1
	Rawi	1
Lee Olynyk - 100%	Amy	1
	Pure	51
Pure Exploration Inc 100%	Pace	6
	Back	53
R. A. Granger - 50%, Harry C. Fromme - 50%	Teare	3
Diskt Fask Mising 400%	Doe	4
Right Fork Mining - 100%	Paula	2
Thomas C. Banks - 100%	Fred	2
Tim Bissett - 100%	Pure	11

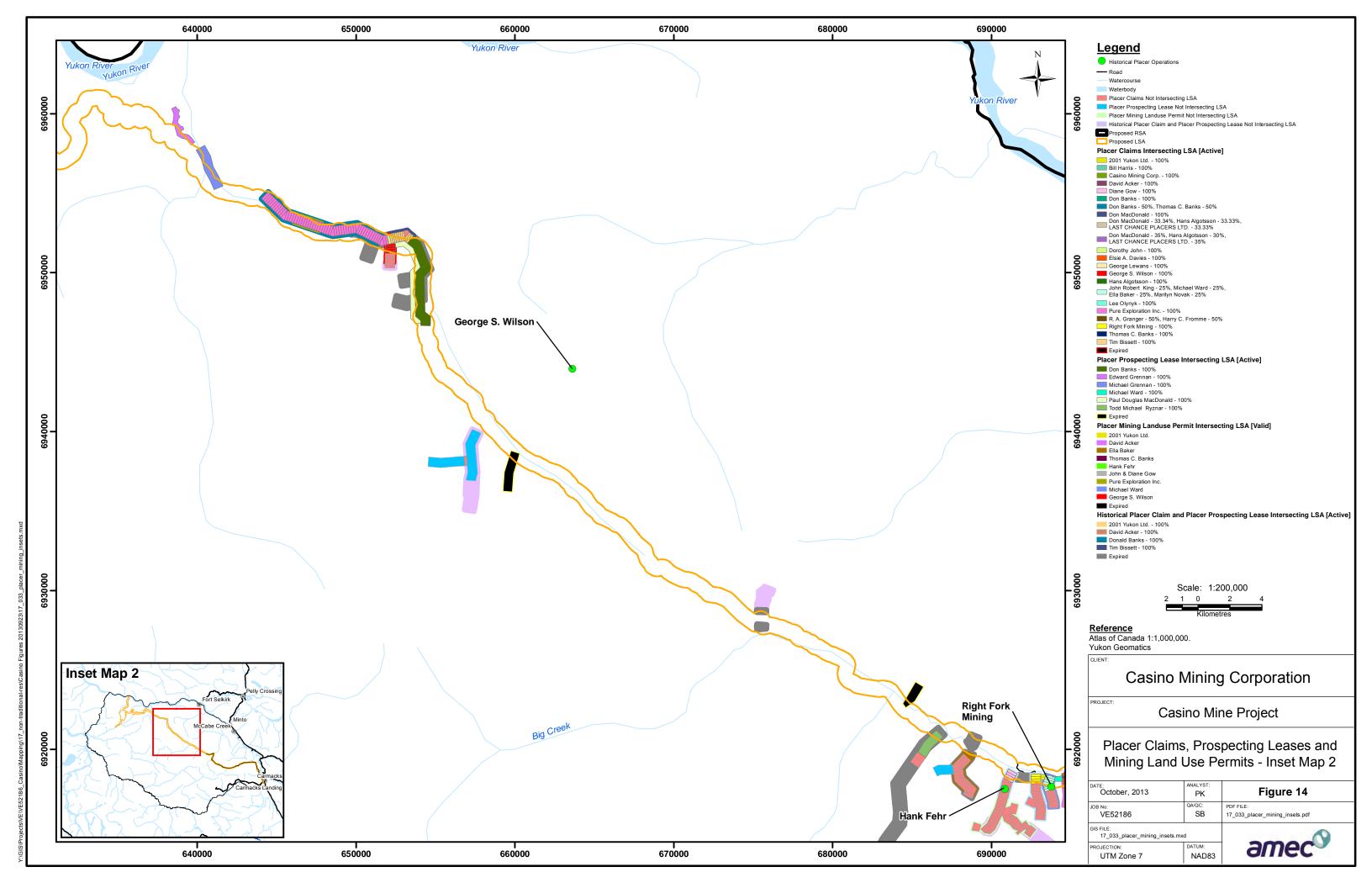
Table 1.3-11: Active Placer Claims within the Land Use LSA

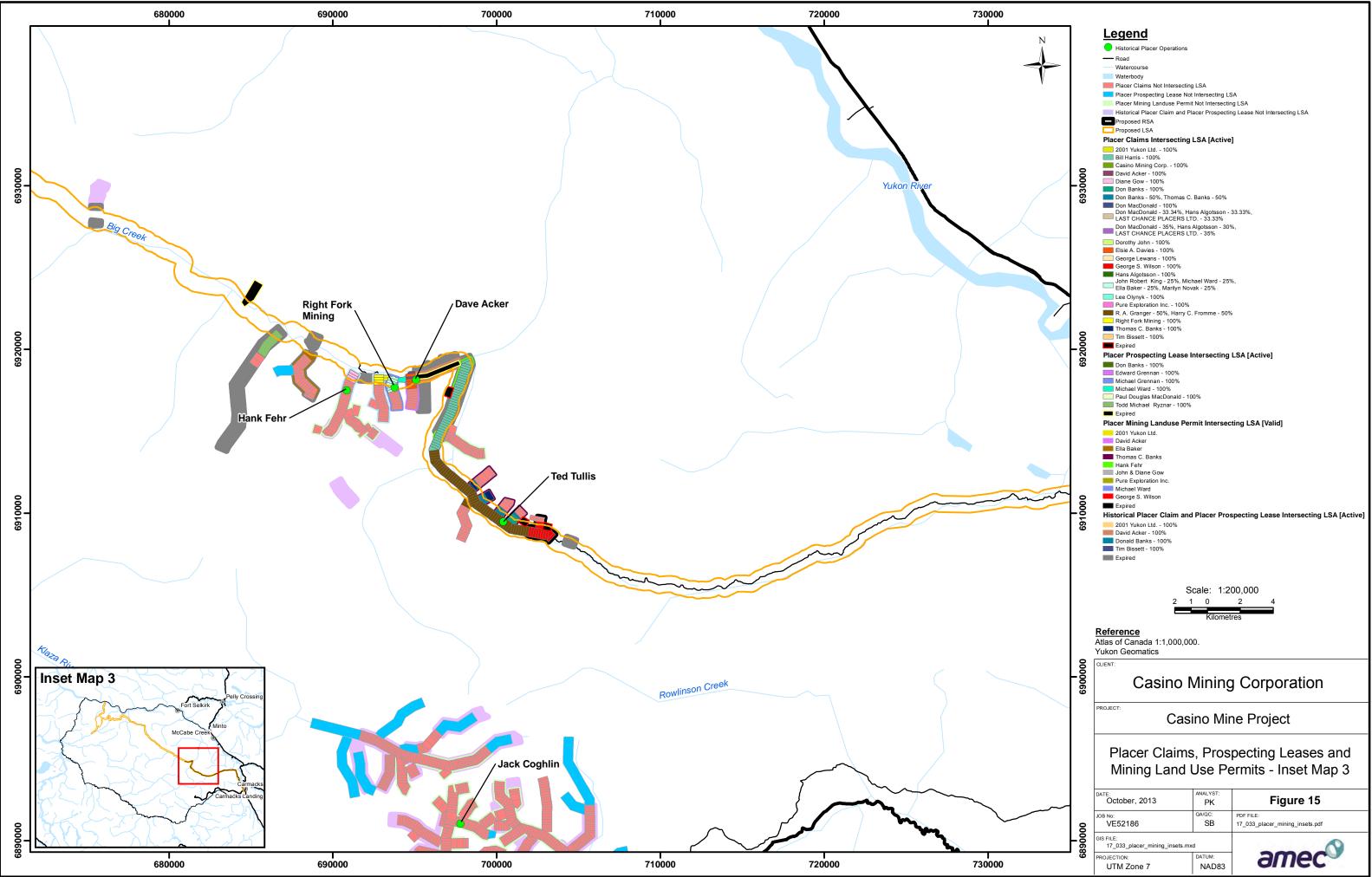
Source: Geomatics Yukon (2013) – Placer Claims



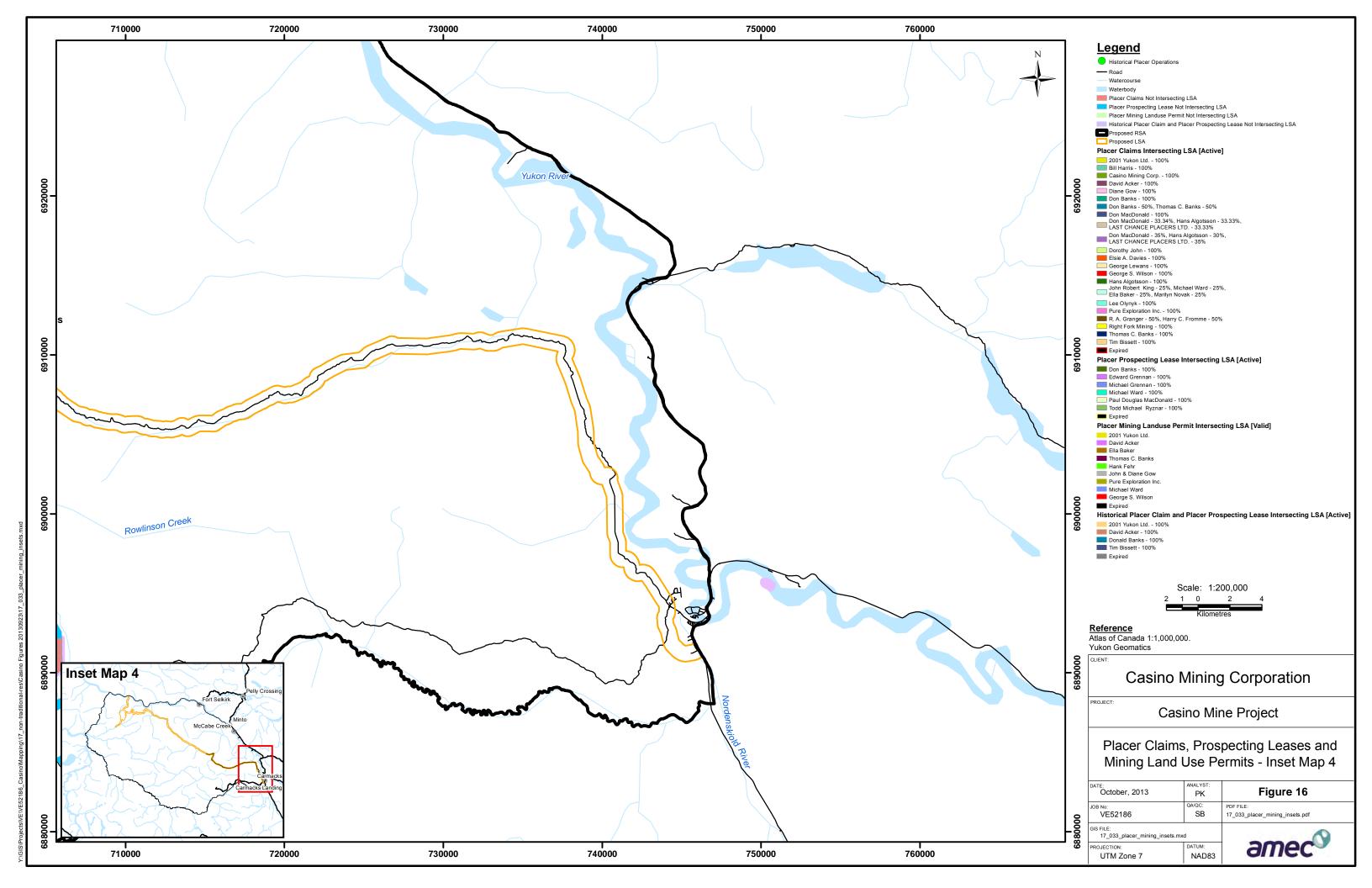








VE52186_Casino/Mapping/17_non-traditional-res/Casino Figur





1.3.8.3 Coal Mining

Several important occurrences of coal have been discovered in Yukon. Coal is a local energy resource that has potential for supplying both local needs and export markets. The coal basin located along the eastern edge of the Land Use RSA corresponds to the Whitehorse Trough Sedimentary Basin. One active coal licence (held 100% by Pitchblack Resources Ltd.) overlaps the Land Use RSA and approximately 10 km of the eastern end of the Freehold Road (**Figure 6**).

1.3.8.4 Granular Sources and Borrow Pits

The Land Management Branch or the Energy, Mining and Resources district office will process and award quarry permits, allowing proponents to access borrow pits for construction materials. There is one active borrow pit en route to the Project site. **Table 1.3-12** summarizes the status and location of active and future potential granular sources and borrow pits (Government of Yukon Energy, Mines and Resources, 2013d). **Figure 17** summarizes the current and potential future quarry locations.

Pit ID / Pit Name*	Status	Side of Road
115-I-14 / Freegold km 5	Active	Right
115-I-18	Future use (No Development - Inactive)	Right
115-I-20	Future use (No Development - Inactive)	Left
115-I-21	Future use (No Development - Inactive)	Left
115-I-22	Future use (No Development - Inactive)	Right

 Table 1.3-12:
 Granular Sources and Borrow Pits along the Freegold Road

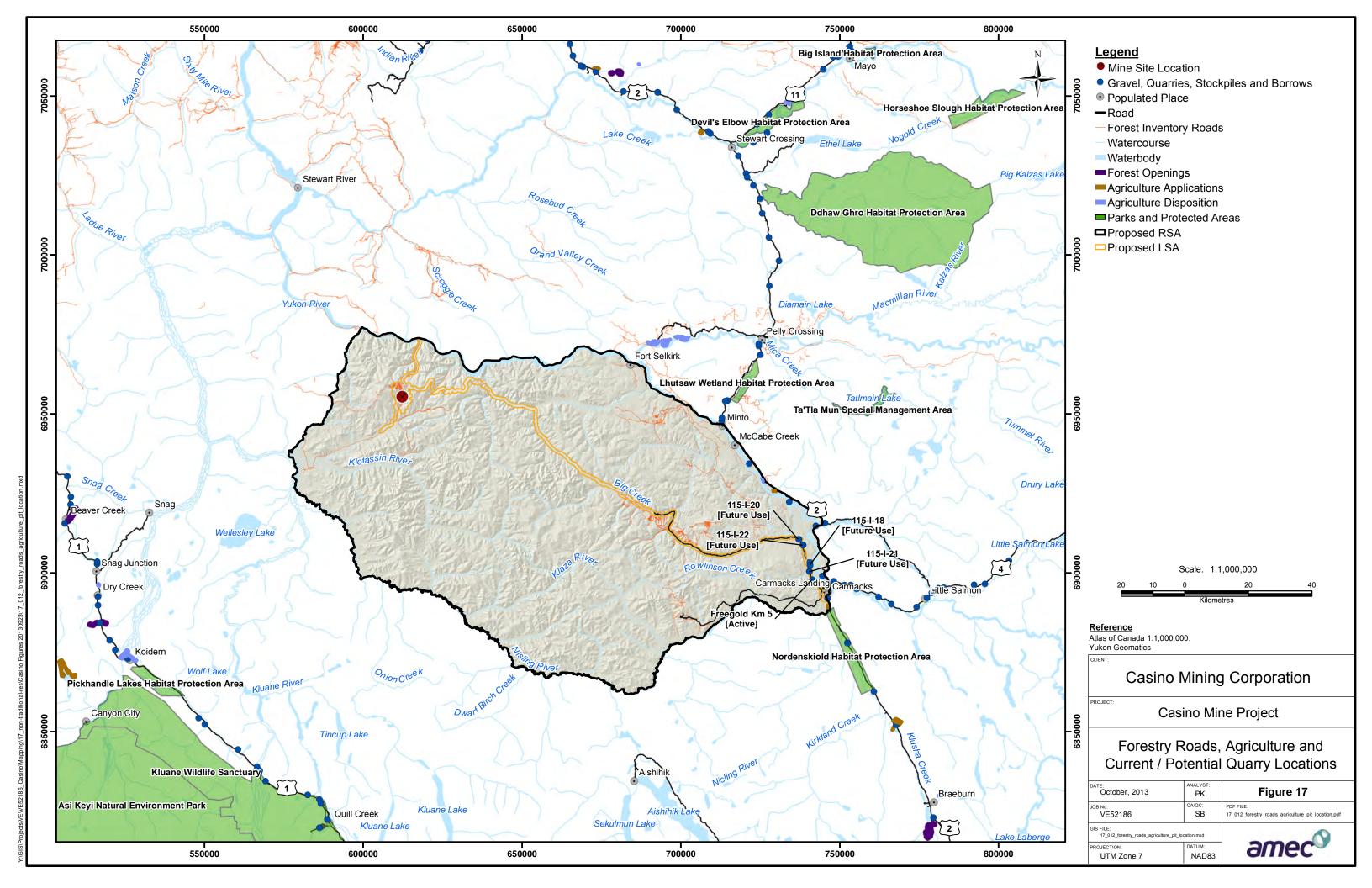
Note: * - if available

Source: Geomatics Yukon (2013) – Pits

1.3.9 Oil and Gas

Within the Yukon, there are a total of nine basins that have been identified as having oil and gas potential. Of the nine, the approximate potential of eight has been measured and named (Government of Yukon Energy, Mines and Resources, 2013e). The Whitehorse Trough Sedimentary Basin (shown in **Figure 6**), which runs from Carmacks to Dease Lake, overlaps the very east edge of the Land Use RSA. This area has been identified as being more abundant in gas than oil.







1.3.10 Water Resources and Licences

The Yukon Water Board was established under the Yukon *Waters Act*, in 2003. The Yukon Water Board is responsible for issuing all water licenses in the Yukon under the *Water Act* (Government of Yukon, 2003), including resources extraction like quartz mining and placer mining (Class 4).

The following 20 watercourses are intersected by the Land Use LSA: Big Creek; Bow Creek; Britannia Creek; Brynelson Creek; Butterfield Creek; Canadian Creek; Casino Creek; Crossing Creek; Dip Creek; Fourmile Creek; Hayes Creek; Idaho Creek; Isaac Creek; Mascot Creek; Meloy Creek; Murray Creek; Selwyn River; Seymour Creek; Sunshine Creek; and the Yukon River.

Table 1.3-13 describes the eight active water licenses that fall within the Land Use RSA.

 One active water license (PM09-646-1) is overlapped by the Land Use LSA.

Water License File Number	Licensee	Water Source	
PM09-647-1	John, Diane and Buddy Gow	Mechanic Creek	
PM08-596	Hernani Quilala	Nansen Creek	
PM09-646-1*	John, Diane and Buddy Gow	Whirlwind Pup & Revenue Creek	
MS11-073	Government of Yukon Community Services	Ground water	
PM09-665	Canaan Gold Resources Inc.	Unnamed left limit	
PM04-391	Mike Warde	Boliden Creek & Big Creek	
PM10-072	Kehong (Kevin) Wu	Klaza River	
MS13-012	Highways and Public Works, Government of Yukon	Rowlinson Creek	

Table 1.3-13:	Active Water Licenses Falling within the Land Use RSA
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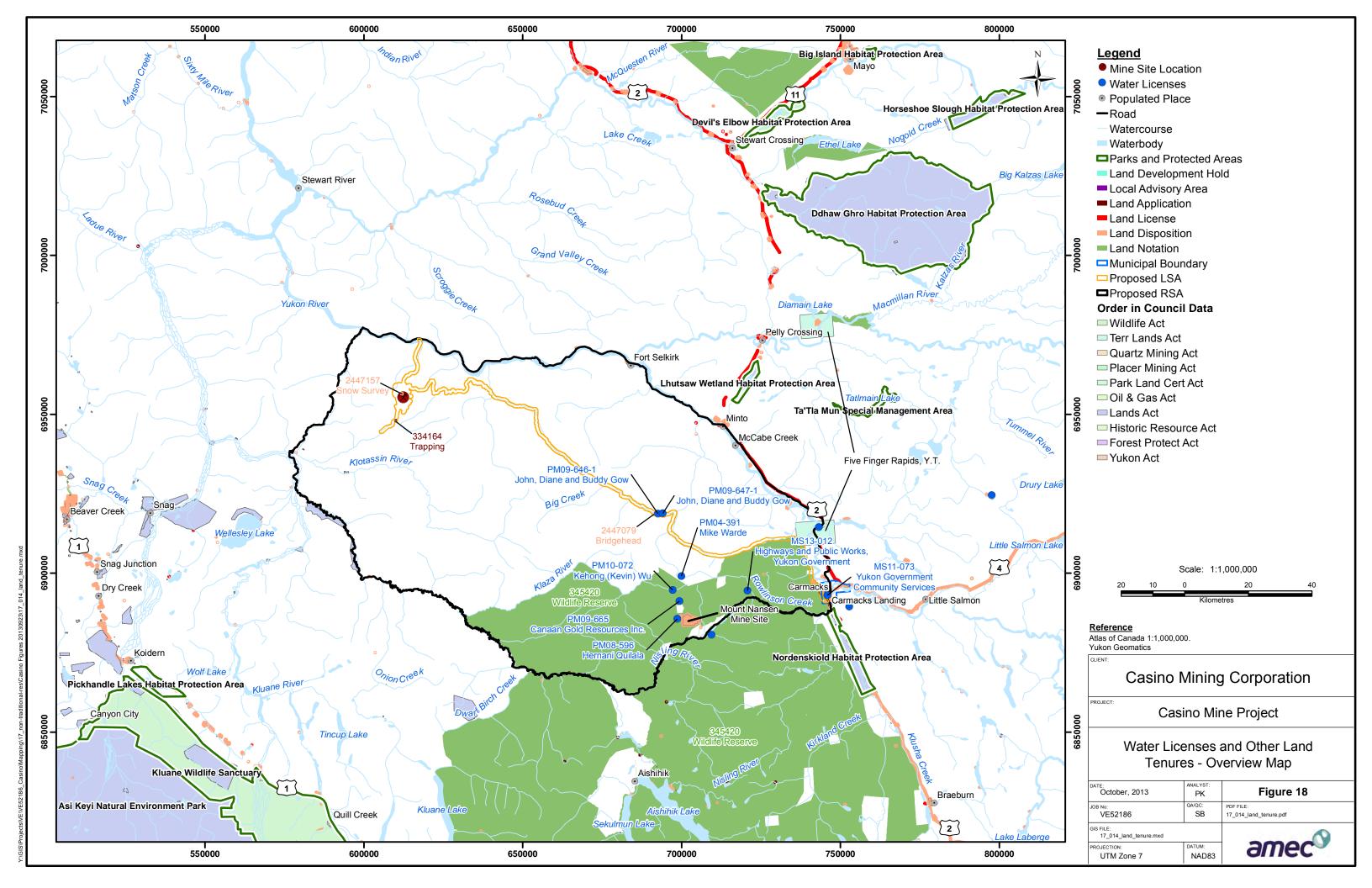
Note: * - Falls within Land Use LSA;

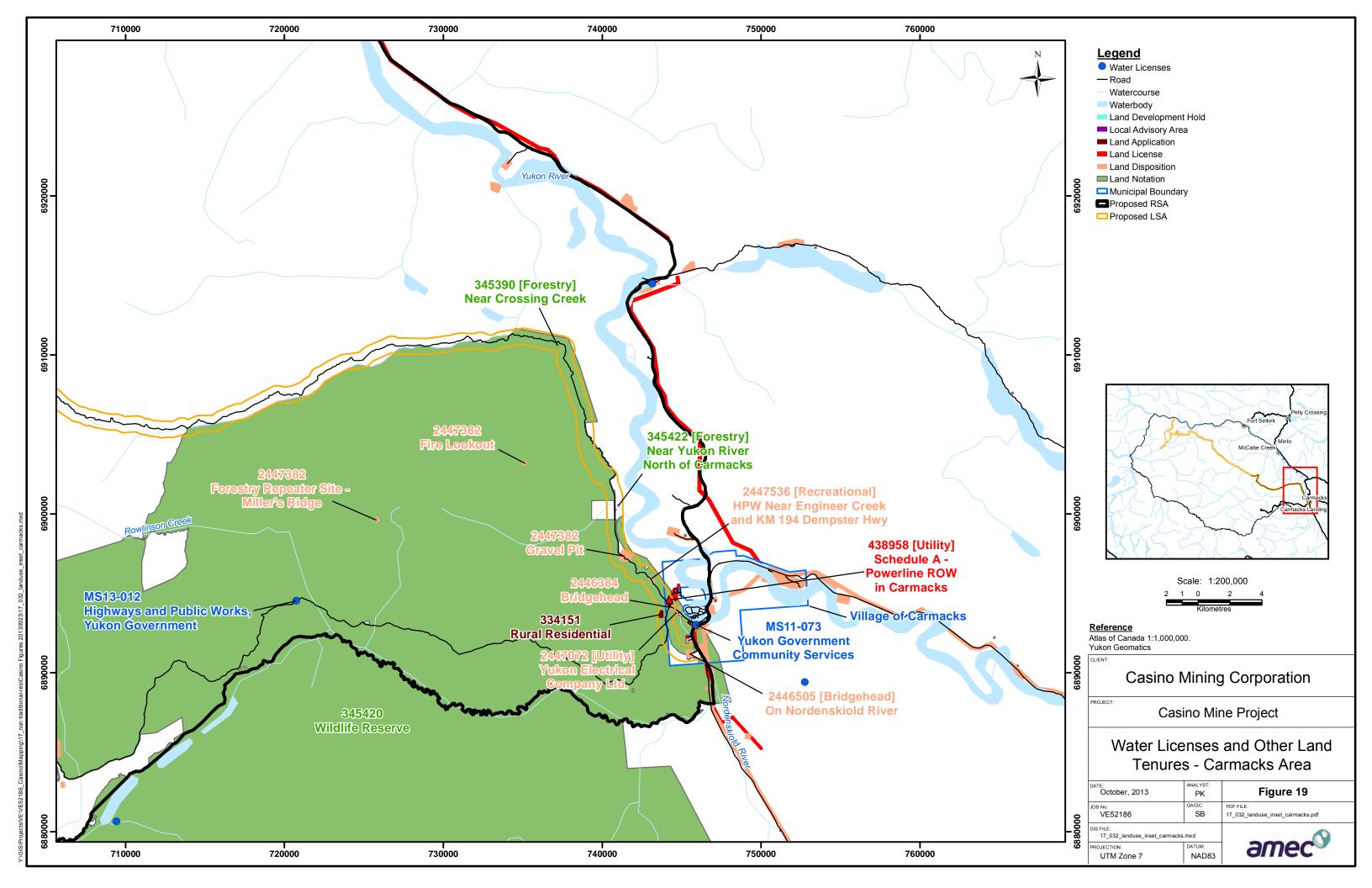
Source: Yukon Water Board, 2013. Pers. Comm.

Figure 18 and **Figure 19** below show the locations of the active water licenses that overlap with Land Use RSA and the Carmacks area, respectively.

Additional information on watercourses that may potentially be affected by the proposed mine is provided in Hydrology (**Section 7B**); and Fisheries (**Section 10**).









1.3.11 Other Land Tenures

A Land Use Permit enables public land to be used for a specific activity over a specified period of time. The land use permitting process allows individuals to have temporary use of public land and enables Yukon government to monitor, mitigate or limit activities that potentially have an environmental impact or pose a potential risk to public safety (Government of Yukon Energy, Mines and Resources, 2013f).

Many of the land use tenures are described in various sections of this baseline report. In addition to this information several other land tenures were identified within the Land Use RSA and that overlap with the Land Use LSA. The northeastern corner of the Land Use RSA overlaps a land tenure notation labelled as a wildlife reserve (**Figure 18**). Mount Nansen mine site, an abandoned placer and quartz mine currently under receivership/bankruptcy, is classified as an area withdrawn from staking located within the Land Use RSA.

A bridgehead is located along the Freehold Road. A snow survey station (land disposition) is located within the proposed mine site footprint. A review of available land application information indicates that there is a trapping tenure (#334164) located within the area proposed as the access road to the airstrip.

Figure 19 provides a detailed summary of the land tenure information identified for the Carmacks area that falls within the Land Use LSA. A powerline Right-of-Way is located within the 500 m Land Use LSA buffer just north of Carmacks.

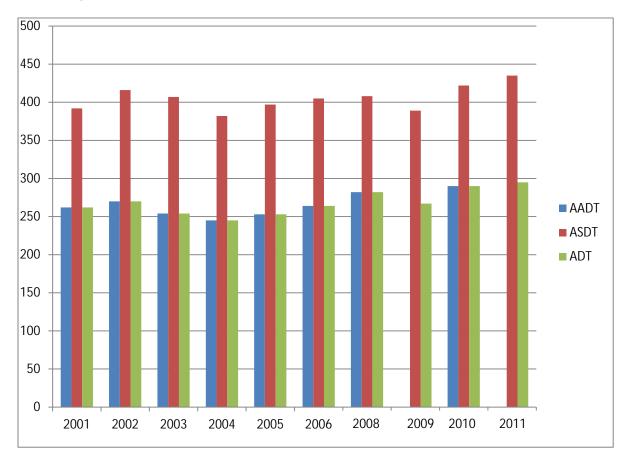
1.3.12 Transportation and Access

The North Klondike Highway (Hwy 2) connects Carmacks with Dawson City, Pelly Crossing, Stewart Crossing, Mayo and the Silver Trail to the north, and Whitehorse to the south. The Robert Campbell Highway (Hwy 4) intersects with the North Klondike in Carmacks, and leads to Faro, Ross River, the Northwest Territories and Watson Lake traffic information, including traffic counts, is collected by the Government of Yukon Transportation Engineering Branch. An electronic traffic counter is located at km 359 on the Klondike Hwy at Carmacks. The Average Annual Daily Traffic (AADT), the Average Summer Daily Traffic (ASDT) and the Average Daily Traffic (ADT) traffic counts are provided in Figure 20. Data was not available for 2007, and the AADT was not available for 2009 and 2011 but the ADT is a good representative of traffic counts (Transportation Engineering Yukon Traffic Count Summary, 2011). Figure 17 above provides a high level summary of the network of roads (including forest inventory roads) that have been constructed in the area. Figure 20 below demonstrates an increase in seasonal and daily traffic counts in 2002 and a dip in 2009, but otherwise the numbers of daily vehicles ranged between 262 to 295 and summer-related traffic ranged between 392 to 435 vehicles per day. As a counter is not located on the Freegold Road, it is unknown if the summer-related traffic is due to exploration or ecotourism.





The project site will be accessed via the Freefold Road, which originates in Carmacks. At present, there is only 70 km of existing Freegold Road, which serves as a corridor for a number of placer mines and exploration in the area, and is also used for accessing hunting, fishing and gathering. Access west of the existing Freegold Road is by the Casino Trail. The Freegold Road will be extended an additional 132 km, following the general path of the Casino Trail, allowing for the transportation of mineral concentrates and supplies to and from the mine site. A by-pass, which would see mine-related traffic not driving through the community of Carmacks, is planned.



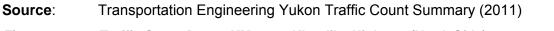


Figure 20: Traffic Count Data – KM 359.3 Klondike Highway (North Side) 2001 – 2011

Carmacks Airport (CEX4), which falls outside the Land Use RSA, is located 6.5 km (4.0 miles) northeast of the community of Carmacks along the Robert Campbell Highway. The Carmacks area is not currently serviced by rail. However, there are references that provide a review of the potential for rail services supporting industrial, commercial and tourism activities in the future (Alaska Canada Rail Link, 2012).





1.3.13 Utilities

Yukon Energy's facilities in Whitehorse, Mayo and Aishihik Lake provide customers in most parts of the Yukon; either directly or indirectly through the Yukon Electrical Company Limited. Yukon Electrical purchases power from Yukon Energy Corporation, a Crown corporation of the Government of Yukon, for distribution to its customers in Whitehorse, Marsh Lake, Tagish, Teslin, Haines Junction, Carmacks, Stewart Crossing, Pelly Crossing, Carcross, Keno, and Ross River.

The proposed Project will not be drawing power from the Yukon power grid. Instead, the mine will have its own Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) plant, which will have the ability to produce 140+ Megawatts of power. For more information about the LNG plant and proposed power production, please refer to the Project Description (**Section 4**)





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Registered Trapper, 2013. Personal Communication through one-one interview.

Yukon Water Board, 2013. Personal communication with representative from Yukon Water Board



APPENDIX A

Big Game Harvesting Records Summary for Game Management Subzones 509, 510, 511, 522, 523, 524 and 526





Caribou Harvest, 1979 to 2012, in GMS 509, 510, 511, 522, 523, 524, 526 Resident, Non-Resident and Special Guided) (Does not include First Nations harvest)

OA		(All)			
			HUNTTYPE		
GMA		YEAR	NR	Res-NN	Grand Total
	509	1990		1.89	1.89
509 Total				1.89	1.89
	522	2005		1	1
		2006		1	1
522 Total				2	2
	523	1981	2		2
		1985		1.07	1.07
		1986		1.03	1.03
		1987		0.53	0.53
		1992	2		2
		1994	1		1
		1995	2	1	3
		1998	4		4
		2000	2		2
		2002	6	3	9
		2003	4		4
		2004		1	1
		2005	1		1
		2006	3		3
		2007	2		2
		2008	3		3
		2009	4		4
		2010	3	1	4
		2011	5		5
		2012	4		4
523 Total			48	8.63	56.63
	524	1986		0.15	0.15
		2001		1	1
		2012		1	1
524 Total				2.15	2.15
	526	1980		5.86	5.86
		1981	1	7.84	8.84
		1982		10.05	10.05
		1983		8.45	8.45
		1984		25.58	25.58
		1985		5.41	5.41
		1986		3.74	3.74
		1987		1.58	1.58
		1988		4.01	4.01
		1994 1995		3 3	3 3



	1996		2	2	
	1997		2	2	
	1998		4	4	
	1999		2	2	
	2000		2	2	
	2001		2	2	
	2002		2	2	
	2003		1	1	
	2004		1	1	
	2005		1	1	
	2006		7	7	
	2007		2	2	
	2008		6	6	
	2009		5	5	
	2010		3	3	
	2011		4	4	
	2012		5	5	
526 Total		1	129.52	130.52	
Grand Total		49	144.19	193.19	

Bison Harve Resident, No (Does not inc	on-Res	ident), 510, 511, 52 2	2, 523, 524, 526
kill type		hunt			
gma		year	hunter licen resident - non First Nation	ce type Grand Total	
	523	2003	1	1	
523 Total			1	1	
	526	2000	1	1	
		2009	1	1	
		2011	2	2	
526 Total			4	4	
Grand Total			5	5	



Moose Harvest, 1979 to 2012, in GMS 509, 510, 511, 522, 523, 524, 526 Resident, Non-Resident and Special Guided) (Does not include First Nations harvest)

OA		(AII)						
0144		VEAD	HUNTTYPE					
GMA	509	YEAR 1979	NR	NR-SG		Res-NN	1.86	Grand Total 1.86
	509	1979					2.6	2.6
		1982					1.73	1.73
		1984					1.27	1.27
		1986					1.02	1.02
		1987					1.52	1.52
		1988					0.53	0.53
		1989					0.51	0.51
		1991					1.01	1.01
		1992					3.9	3.9
		1993					1	1
		1994					1.05	1.05
		1995					1	1
		1996					1	1
		1999					1	1
		2000					1	1
		2002					1	1
		2004					2	2
		2007					1	1
		2008	4				2	2
		2009	1				2	3 2
		2010 2011			1		2 1	2
509 Total		2011	1		1 1		33	35
509 T0tai	510	1979	1		I		0.51	0.51
	510	1983					0.51	0.51
		1994	5				0.01	5
		1995	6					6
		1996	3					3
		1997	4					4
		1998	1					1
		1999	4					4
		2000	3					3
		2002	1					1
		2005	1					1
		2008					1	1
		2009	1					1
510 Total			29				2.02	31.02
	511	1979					0.85	0.85
		1982					0.34	0.34
		1983					1.54	1.54



		1984 1985 2008			1.27 1.05 3	1.27 1.05 3	
511 Total					8.05	8.05	
	522	1980			0.69	0.69	
		1981			1.01	1.01	
		1982			4.54	4.54	
		1983			5.97	5.97	
		1984			2.32	2.32	
		1985			1.05	1.05	
		1986			1.02	1.02	
		1987 1988			1.99	1.99 1.05	
		1988			1.05 1	1.05 1	
		1993			0.26	0.26	
		2008			0.20	0.20	
522 Total		2000			21.9	21.9	
022 10101	523	1981	1		21.0	1	
	020	1982			1.69	1.69	
		1986	1			1	
		1995	1			1	
523 Total			3		1.69	4.69	
	524	1979			0.65	0.65	
		1980			1.73	1.73	
		1981			1.51	1.51	
		1982			1.67	1.67	
		1983			3.89	3.89	
		1985			1.93	1.93	
		1986			1.02	1.02	
		1987			0.98	0.98	
		1988			0.53	0.53	
		2004			1	1	
504 Tatal		2011			1	1	
524 Total	506	1070			15.91	15.91	
	526	1979 1980			3.19 5.2	3.19 5.2	
		1980			6.61	6.61	
		1982			5.57	5.57	
		1983			7.76	7.76	
		1984			12.34	12.34	
		1985			2.99	2.99	
		1987			2.03	2.03	
		1988			1.58	1.58	
		1991			1.01	1.01	
526 Total					48.28	48.28	
Grand Total			33	1	130.85	164.85	

Sheep Harvest, 1979 to 2012, in GMS 509, 510, 511, 522, 523, 524, 526





Resident, Non-Resident

(Does not include	First Nations	harvest)
	1 not readone	1101 10000

kill type		hunt				
GMA		year	hunt type NR	Res-NN	Grand Total	
	523	1981	3			3
		1992	1			1
		1995	4			4
		1998	1			1
		2000	3			3
		2002	3			3
		2003		1		1
		2007	3			3
523 Total			18	1	1	19
	524	1983	1			1
524 Total			1			1
	526	1980		1		1
526 Total				1		1
Grand Total			19	2	2	21

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Black Bear Harvest, 1979 to 2012, in GMS 509, 510, 511, 522, 523, 524, 526 Resident, Non-Resident and Special Guided)

(Does not include First Nations harvest)

Kill Type		Hunt				
			Hunter Type			
GMA		Year	NR	Res	Grand Total	
	509	1981		1	1	
		1987		1	1	
		1992		1	1	
		1993		2	2	
		1994	1		1	
		1995	3	1	4	
		1996		1	1	
		1997		1	1	
		2007		2	2	
509 Total			4	10	14	
	510	1994	1		1	
		1997	1	1	2	
		1999	1		1	
510 Total			3	1	4	
	511	1987		1	1	
		2004		1	1	
511 Total				2	2	
	522	1980		1	1	
		1981		1	1	
		1984		1	1	
		1986	1	3	4	
		1987	2		2	
		1988	2	1	3	
		1991		1	1	
		1996		1	1	
		2002	1		1	
		2004		1	1	
		2008		2	2	
		2009		1	1	
		2011		2	2	
522 Total			6	15	21	
	524	1983		1	1	
		1984		1	1	
		1985		1	1	
		1987	1		1	
		1992		2	2	
		2002		1	1	
		2004		1	1	
		2006		2	2	
		2011		1	1	
		2012		1	1	



524 Total			1	11	12	
	526	1980		2	2	
		1982		1	1	
		1985		3	3	
		1987		1	1	
		1990	1	1	2	
		1993		1	1	
		1995		1	1	
		2000		1	1	
		2001		2	2	
		2004		1	1	
		2006		1	1	
		2010		1	1	
526 Total			1	16	17	
Grand Total			15	55	70	



Grizzly Harvest, 1979 to 2012, in GMS 509, 510, 511, 522, 523, 524, 526 Resident, Non-Resident

(Does not include First Nations harvest)

Kill Type		(AII)			
Sum of Kill	Count		Hunter Type		
GMA	500	Year	NR Res		Grand Total
509 Total	509	1981		1 1	1
509 T0tai	511	1988	1	I	1
511 Total	511	1300	1		1
STITULA	522	1984		1	1
	522	1986	1		1
		1988	1		1
		2006		1	1
		2007		1	1
522 Total		2001	2	3	5
022 10101	523	1986	- 1	Ū	1
	020	1992	1		1
		1995	2		2
		2002	2		2
		2002	1		- 1
		2008	•	1	1
		2010	1	•	1
		2012	1		1
523 Total		2012	9	1	10
020 10101	524	1984	Ŭ	2	2
	021	1987	1	-	- 1
		1990		1	1
		1992		1	1
		1997	1		1
		2003		1	1
524 Total		2000	2	5	7
524 10101	526	1980	2	2	2
	520	1981		1	1
		1982		2	2
		1986	1	2	1
		1989		1	1
		1990	1	1	2
		1992	I	1	1
		1992	1		1
		2001	I	2	2
		2001		1	1
		2003		1	1
526 Total		2000	3	12	15
Grand Total			17	22	39
			11	~~	59

