

YUKON LAND USE PLANNING COUNCIL (YLUPC)
Annual Activity Report 2005-2006

1. Introduction

This report summarizes the activities of the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, as required by the Yukon Government in its Flexible Transfer Payment contribution agreement with the Council. The annual activity report is to contain the following:

1. A brief description of implementation activities;
 2. A progress report on results and achievements;
 3. The scheduling or timing of major events; and
 4. An overall assessment of the achievements of the Council's obligations under the Final Agreement, its Implementation Plan, and related acts(s) of Parliament.
-

2. Implementation Activities, Results and Achievements

Regional planning continues to advance towards the completion of the first regional land use plan in the Yukon. The Council has had a very active 2005-2006, primarily assisting the two planning Commissions in the process of producing land use plans. The North Yukon Planning Commission entered the scenario development stage of the Common Land Use Planning Process (CLUPP), while the Peel Watershed Commission successfully completed its first year of operations.

2.1 Completing the 2005-2006 Work plan

The activities listed in this section correspond to the tasks identified in the Council's work plan for 2005-2006. The following is a report on the Council's work completing these tasks and identifies additional work that was done.

2.1.1 Content of Land Use Plans

The Council produced and recommended to the Parties and the Commissions a generic "Table of Content" of a regional plan. This table of contents outlined the expected sections and sub sections of the plans produced through the implementation of Chapter 11 of the land claim agreements. The intent of this work was to encourage the building of consensus as to the types of topics the regional plans are to address and to encourage the approval Parties to consider and state their expectations for the plans being produced. The generic "Table of Content" was presented with a brief explanation of the content of each section and intended to be sufficiently simple to allow for public distribution.

Product: *Table of Content for a Regional Land Use Plan*

2.1.2 Land Designation System

The Yukon Land Use Planning Council developed a proposed land designation for the Yukon in 2004. The Council had hoped that the North Yukon Planning Commission would utilize the system in its draft plan and prove that it was possible to apply the system in a regional plan. However, the Commission did not get to the draft plan production stage in 2005/2006 and the system the Council has proposed has yet to be tested by any commission. Therefore, the Council has yet to release a formal land designation system recommendation.

Despite the lack of a final endorsement by the Council on the current proposed system, the Council recommended that an outline of a land designation system be added to all future General Terms of References for planning commissions. The Council began work on the General Terms of Reference for the Dawson Planning Region and discussed the possibility of adding the Land Designation System to the GTOR associated with that region.

2.1.3 Next 10 Year Implementation Period

In March 2005, the Council developed a supplementary submission to its November 2003 submission regarding the first and next 10 year period of Chapter 11 implementation. The Council had expected that the Implementation Review Group would be releasing to the land claims Parties (FNs and Governments) recommendations with respect to improvements to the implementation plans for Chapter 11. The Council was prepared to meet with the IRG, Yukon First Nations and the Yukon Government on this very important topic. However, the Implementation Review Group did not finish the 10 Year Review during 2005/2006 and therefore the Council was not required to undertake any work related to this topic over the course of the year.

2.1.4 Integrating Regional Land Use Plans and the Development Assessment Process

The Council completed a recommendation regarding the role the commissions should play in the development assessment process, as outlined in Chapter 12 of the Yukon First Nation land claim agreements and the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act. The Council recommended that the Commissions provide no input into the land use assessment process during their start-up phase and gradually increase their level of input as they advance through the production of the draft plan. The recommendation was presented to the two operating commissions. A general supportive response was received from the Yukon Government.

Product: A Recommendation to Yukon Regional Planning Commissions with Respect to Their Role in the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment (YESAA) Review Process During the Production of Regional Land Use Plans (June 2005)

2.1.5 Utilizing Resource Assessments for Planning and Modeling Regional Change

The Council's staff worked extensively with a regional modeling tool entitled "ALCES" in support of the North Yukon Planning Commission. This computer software allows the information collected during the production of resource assessments to be used to model potential future landscapes. Ultimately, this will assist with decisions related to the draft regional plan. Work was conducted on two levels: an assessment of regional modeling as a tool in regional planning and, more specifically, the use of "ALCES" as an example of the state

of the art of this type of software. The work of the North Yukon Planning Commission has been serving as a case study and this Commission did not get as far in its modeling as it anticipated in 2005/2006. Therefore, the Council's staff has not completed its work with the "ALCES" modeling but is expected to in the first quarter of 2006/2007, at which time a complete report reflecting on the experience of modeling will be done.

2.1.6 Land Use Planning Policy Development and Priority Region Identifications

The land use planning policy development focused upon improving the General Terms of Reference of planning commissions. The Council's staff identified 6 potential areas of improvements and prepared a summary of these for consideration by the Yukon Government and the Tr'ondek Hwech'in for the Dawson Region.

The work associated with recommending the next planning region began in November 2005, when the Council received a request from the Tr'ondek Hwech'in for the establishment of the Dawson Planning region. At the same time, the Carcross/Tagish First Nation was settling their land claim agreement and this made possible the establishment of the Dakh Ka Planning Commission. To help assess the readiness of these two regions to begin planning, the Council developed criteria for considering the likelihood that the Commission would be successful. Work began on the tasks associated with conducting the assessments i.e. gathering information about the support for the commission establishment and the capacity of key organizations for participating in plan production. The Council's staff met with both staff of Carcross/Tagish and the Tr'ondek Hwech'in. Preliminary assessments were completed. Further work will be required in 2006-2007 involving the other Yukon First Nations that would have to agree to the terms of reference before any new commission was formed.

Products: *Assessing Priority Planning Regions: Dawson Region, Assessing Priority Planning Region: Dakh Ka Region* (internal working documents)

2.1.7 Assisting the North Yukon Planning Commission and the Peel Watershed Planning Commission

For the 2005-2006 fiscal year, the Council has worked under the terms of two Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs); one between YLUPC and the North Yukon Planning Commission and a second between YLUPC and the Peel Watershed Planning Commission. The MOU defined the roles and responsibilities of each organization and helped all three groups to work together more efficiently to produce the plans. YLUPC assisted the Commission to develop and maintain their financial administration system. This system enabled all parties to meet their obligations to the Yukon Government based on the Flexible Transfer Payment Agreement and simplified the fund transfer process between the Council and Commissions. YLUPC also helped the commissions with human resources, with the hiring and seconding of three full time staff: a Land Use Planner, a GIS Technician and an office administrator. As well, the Council has assigned tasks for its staff that relate to the production of the regional plans and the Commissions have participated in the Council's strategic plan and in the development of land use planning related recommendations. All three organizations share office space in Whitehorse.

Products: *Memorandum of Understanding between YLUPC/NYPC, YLUPC/PWPC Staff Secondment Agreements YLUPC/NYPC/PWPC*

Additional assistance to the PWPC not identified in original work plan:

As a newly formed Commission, the Peel Watershed Planning Commission required assistance throughout their start-up period, including:

- The Council undertaking a formal one year review of the operations of the Commission as a proactive activity aimed at identifying successes and performance improvement areas;
- Developed and lead the Commission through the adoption of their first set of policies and procedures;
- Conducted staff evaluations for newly hired staff and provided staff orientations;
- YLUPC staff attended most Peel Watershed Planning Commission meetings.
- YLUPC led and assisted in the community consultation events associated with the Peel Watershed Planning Commission.

Product: *One year review of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission*

2.1.8 Other Work Identified in the Work plan

- Newsletters: a YLUPC newsletter was produced in March 2006;
- YLUPC Policy and Procedures: staff reorganized and rewrote Council's policies and procedures, including a comparison of benefits between the Council staff and other UFA Boards and Committees;
- Council carried out its responsibilities as per the annual budget cycle associated with regional planning, including:
 - producing its interim report and budget adjustment (November);
 - reviewing and recommending mid-year alterations proposed by the planning Commissions;
 - developing the YLUPC 2006-2007 work plan and budget;
 - reviewing and recommended the planning commission's 2006-2007 work plans and budgets.
- Hosted the annual meeting of the Commission Chairs as part of the Strategic Planning Session of the Council.

2.1.9 Other Work Undertaken not Identified in the 2005-2006 Work plan

- Updated and improved the Council's Website (added content)
- Applied for, and obtained, funding support for the Yukon Planning Atlas Project from Natural Resources Canada's GeoConnections program. This program is aimed at expanding the use of the Canadian Geospatial Data Infrastructure standards for the sharing of geographically reference information (December 2005, January 2006);
- Council recommended that there be consistent policy and procedures, staff salaries and benefits for UFA Boards and Committees.
- YLUPC members/staff brief all major political parties (Yukon Party, Liberal and NDP)

3.0 Summary of Activities and Timing of Events

ACTIVITY - APRIL 2005
Assisted NYPC with the Resource Assessment Reports – assistance continued through out the fiscal year.
Hired a Senior Planner for the PWPC & a Land Use Planner, Administrator, and a GIS/Graphics Specialist for both the NYPC & PWPC.
Signed an Memorandum of Understanding between YLUPC and PWPC & NYPC
Altered the Council's recommendation template
Met with YG, EMR staff regarding Land Use Plan Content

ACTIVITY - MAY 2005
YLUPC Board Meeting
Council participated in the PWPC consultation event in Mayo and Dawson
MacKay CA conducting Financial Audits for the YLUPC, NYPC, TRPC & PWPC

ACTIVITY - JUNE 2005
YLUPC prepared a recommendation entitled 'A Recommendation to Yukon Regional Planning Commissions with Respect to Their Role in the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment (YESAA) Review Process During the Production of Regional Land Use Plans
Council participated in PWPC consultation session in Whse
Council meets with YG – Deputy Minister-Energy, Mines & Resources regarding TRPC
YLUPC sent brief Council for Yukon First Nations General Assembly regarding status of planning in the Yukon
PWPC consultation in Fort McPherson lead by YLUPC director
YLUPC and staff attend a ALCES Scenario's workshop hosted by NYPC in Whse
YLUPC approves Annual Activity Report for YLUPC, NYPC, PWPC & TRPC
YLUPC Board Meeting

ACTIVITY - JULY 2005
YLUPC recommend generic 'Contents of a Land Use Plan' to YG
Technical Working Group meeting for the PWPC regarding upcoming years activities
Council member attends Canadian Institute of Planners Conference in Calgary, Alberta
YLUPC sent Yukon First Nation Governments and the YG ' <i>Planning Commissions Nominations: Getting the Right Balance and Right Skills</i> ' document prepared by YLUPC

ACTIVITY - AUGUST 2005

Council Chair and YLUPC staff attended the PWPC meeting in Dawson City, YT.

Council Chair met with Carcross/Tagish First Nation Chief regarding establishing the Dahk Ka Planning Region

Aug 11 – Council provided update to Yukon Chambers of Commerce and request involvement in regional planning process

YLUPC Board Meeting

YLUPC staff reviewed policy & procedures for Council and Commissions

YLUPC developed a preliminary Table of Contents for Regional Land Use Plans in the Yukon.

YLUPC provides YG with their comments of their '*Contents of a Land Use Plan Discussion Paper*'

Sent letter to YG regarding the need for PWPC nominations

Approved the 2004-2005 Audited Financial Statements

Invited Dermot Flynn of the Land Claim & Implementation Secretariat – YG provided re: Kwanlin Dun First Nation's recently signed Land Claim Agreement

ACTIVITY - SEPTEMBER 2005

YLUPC created template for the PWPC one year review to be completed at the next Commission meeting

YLUPC provided YG with comments on 'Contents of a Land Use Plan'

YLUPC Board Meeting

ACTIVITY - OCTOBER 2005

YLUPC staff attend YESAB Networking Session regarding online project registry

YLUPC Board Meeting

YLUPC S Senior Manager's Meeting - YG, YLUPC, NYPC, PWPC

YLUPC hosts booth at the Opportunities North Conference in Whitehorse

YLUPC staff present at the Renewable Resource Workshop in Mayo with the focus being the RRCs role in regional planning processes

YLUPC staff and members attend ALGES Scenario Development sessions

Staff develops and reviews interim reports

YLUPC approves YLUPC, NYPC & PWPC Interim Reports & YLUPC

YLUPC/PWPC staff met with Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute

YLUPC Board Meeting

ACTIVITY - NOVEMBER 2005

Council hosts annual Strategic Planning Session including chairs of NYPC, & PWPC to prepare for next fiscal year

YLUPC Board Meeting

Circulated to YG & Yukon First Nation Governments

Council receives Tr'ondek Hwech'in request for a planning commission in the Dawson Region

ACTIVITY - DECEMBER 2005

Dec 20 – YLUPC/NYPC/PWPC Open House

Dec 7 – YLUPC & YG met regarding the briefing YLUPC will give to Carcross/Tagish First Nation

Dec 8 – YLUPC met with CTFN regarding commission establishment

ACTIVITY - JANUARY 2006
Completed preliminary assessment regarding “planning region readiness”: Dakh Ka; Dawson Regions
Completed Natural Resources Canada’s Geoconnection’s application for the Yukon Planning Atlas

ACTIVITY - FEBUARY 2006
Lead the orientation of two new commission members and conducted a one year review of the commission
YLUPC Board Meeting
Approved YLUPC/NYPC/PWPC 2006-2007Annual Budget & Work plan
Participated in the NYPC Thresholds Workshop – technical working group session
Developed preliminary framework for plan implementation

ACTIVITY - MARCH 2006
YLUPC Board Meeting
Brief Yukon Government Legislative Assembly members from the Yukon Party, New Democrat Party and the Liberal Party regarding land use planning issues
Staff revisited the 10 year submission to answer questions on the submission from YG
Continued to gather information on the Dahk Ka and Dawson regions to assess regional readiness
Reviewed and developed potential revisions the General Terms of Reference
Completed YLUPC Newsletter
Began preparation for the 2005-2006 Audit

4.0 Overall Assessment

The YLUPC and the regional planning commissions continue to make progress in implementing Chapter 11 of the Final Agreements, with the commissions now producing the products associated with the Common Land Use Planning Process (CLUPP) developed by the Council. The Council views the most important implementation success in 2005-2006 to be the continuation of effective working relationships between the plan approval bodies (Yukon Government, Yukon First Nations), the Council and the planning commissions. This includes the implementation of the first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Council and planning commissions. The MOU clarifies the relationship that the two organizations are to have during the production of the land use plan and streamlines administrative matters. Improvements were noted in the execution of the annual financial cycle.

The Council has begun delineating the relationship between regional planning and the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment process. The Council recommended that, during plan production, the commission’s recognize that the land claim agreements establish the concurrent processes of land development and land use planning. The Council continued to bring clarity to the nature of land use plans by producing a generic table of contents for a plan.

Finally, the successful first year of operation for the Peel Watershed Planning Commission means that two commissions are well on their way towards completing their plans and the Council has begun work on bringing a third commission into existence. The target date for establishment would be after the North Yukon Commission has completed its draft plan.

North Yukon Planning Commission 2005-2006 Annual Report

1. Introduction

This report summarizes the activities of the North Yukon Planning Commission (NYPC) for the 2005-2006 fiscal period, as required by the Yukon Government in its flexible transfer payment contribution agreement. The annual activity report contains the following information:

1. A brief description of implementation activities
2. A progress report on results and achievements
3. The scheduling or timing of major events; and
4. An overall assessment of the achievements of the Commission's obligations under the Final Agreement, its Implementation Plan, and related acts(s) of Parliament.

The audited financial statements follow this annual activity report and together they will create the annual report.

2. Description and Timing of Activities, Results and Achievements

Commission member nominations to the NYPC were accepted in late June 2003. Major commission operations began in fall 2003. The NYPC spent the majority of the 2003-2004 fiscal period focusing on start-up activities and organizational matters. The 2004-2005 fiscal period focused on Issues and Information Gathering (*Planning Phases 2 and 3* of the NYPC *Precise Terms of Reference*). The majority of the 2005-2006 fiscal period concentrated on the Planning Region Assessment and the development of future land use scenarios to use in computer simulation models (*Planning Phase 4* of the NYPC *Precise Terms of Reference*). Both components, regional assessment and future land use scenarios, provide the foundation for the development of a draft land use plan. The following sections provide an update on the results and achievements of the 2005-2006 NYPC activities.

2.1 Commission Meetings

NYPC held two regular commission meetings and five special meetings (primarily by teleconference) during the 2005 – 2006 fiscal period (meetings listed in chronological order):

1. Special Meeting #3, (by teleconference) April 18, 2005
2. Meeting #8, Old Crow, May 15, 2005
3. Special Meeting #4, Whitehorse, June 23, 2005
4. Special Meeting #5 (by teleconference), October 11, 2005
 5. Meeting #9, Old Crow, November 4 – 6, 2005
6. Special Meeting #6 (by teleconference), February 15, 2006
7. Special Meeting #7 (by teleconference), March 27, 2006

2.2 Consultation and Special Events

Representatives of the NYPC membership and staff participated in the following special events:

1. NYPC attended and presented at the Yukon Oil and Gas Best Management Practices Symposium in Whitehorse (April 26-27, 2005).
2. NYPC, with technical assistance from Yukon Government Department of Environment, hosted a follow-up meeting to the January 2005 Wildlife Habitat Suitability Workshop in Old Crow (April 28, 2005).
3. NYPC, in association with its many plan partners, hosted two Resource Assessment Open Houses in May 2005 (Old Crow and Whitehorse).
4. NYPC hosted its preliminary Plan Scenarios Workshop in Whitehorse (June 22-23, 2005). Purpose of the workshop was to present preliminary resource assessment data and discuss future potential land uses in North Yukon Planning Region and relevant data inputs for use in ALCES[®] computer simulation model.
5. NYPC members and Senior Planner attended and presented to the VGFN General Assembly in Old Crow (August 4-6, 2005).
6. NYPC hosted a Youth Meeting in Old Crow to gain youth perspectives on future potential land uses and management visions for North Yukon Planning Region (August 18, 2005).
7. NYPC hosted an open house in Old Crow and presented updated Resource Assessment material and gathering of community input. (March 30, 2006)

2.3 Other Meetings and Events

NYPC staff coordinated/participated/attended the following selected meetings and events:

1. NYPC Senior Planner coordinated two-day VGFN land use planning session in Old Crow to provide updates to VGFN staff and to gain input on and prepare for Plan Scenarios workshop (April 20-21, 2005).
2. NYPC Senior Planner prepared for ALCES[®] Plan Scenario inputs with participating Northern Ecosystems Initiative (NEI) project team (B. Stelfox and T. Antoniuk) in Calgary (April 28-29, 2005).
3. Yukon Government/VGFN/NYPC Tourism meetings held in Whitehorse to prepare for Resource Assessment poster production/Plan Scenarios (May 4-6, 2005).
4. NYPC Senior Planner met with Yukon Government Department of Transportation to prepare for Plan Scenarios workshop (June 1, 2005).
5. NYPC Land Use Planners attended and provided update to Yukon Government land use planning Internal Working Group Meeting (June 13, 2005).
6. NYPC Land Use Planner began collaborative Porcupine Caribou Herd range and habitat analysis with Canadian Wildlife Service biologists (June 15, 2005).
7. NYPC Senior Planner met with Yukon Government Oil and Gas Management Branch in preparation for Plan Scenarios workshop (June 15, 2005).
8. NYPC Planners participated in start-up meeting for Old Crow Flats SMA planning exercise (June 29, 2005). NYPC Planners will participate as members of Old Crow Flats SMA Technical Working Group.
9. NYPC Senior Planner participated in and presented to annual NEI meeting in Edmonton (September 7, 2005).
10. NYPC Senior Planner participated in second meeting of Old Crow Flats SMA Technical Working Group (September 13, 2005).
11. NYPC Land Use Planners attended and provided update to Yukon Government land use planning Internal Working Group Meeting (September 14, 2005).

12. NYPC Land Use Planner coordinated Ducks Unlimited/CWS water bird meeting. (September 15, 2005)
13. NYPC staff assisted Peel Watershed Planning Commission in planning session with Yukon Environment to discuss data collection using similar methods to those used for NYPC. (September 27, 2005)
14. NYPC staff participated in Yukon biophysical mapping workshop to demonstrate and discuss North Yukon Biophysical Map, and learn of other Yukon initiatives. (October 12-13, 2005)
15. NYPC Senior Planner and Commission member attended YLUPC board meeting to provide update on NYPC plan. (October 17, 2005)
16. NYPC Senior Planner and Commission member presented to YG Sr. Managers on resource assessment data and general directions of North Yukon RLUP. (October 18, 2005)
17. NYPC staff met individually with Canadian Wildlife Service, Yukon Environment, Yukon Oil and Gas/Pipeline Unit, Yukon Mineral Development and Yukon Tourism groups to refine future land use scenarios and ALCES® inputs. (October 25-28, 2005)
18. NYPC Senior Planner and Commission Chair presented to North Yukon SLC members and discussed current directions and challenges. VGG and YG both in attendance. (October 27, 2005)
19. At the request of YG Energy, Mines and Resources, NYPC made a presentation similar to item # 16 to broader group of EMR staff and managers. (October 31, 2005)
20. NYPC staff met with VGFN Heritage officer regarding display and interpretation of VGFN Heritage information. (November 1, 2005)
21. NYPC planner coordinated meeting with DFO and YG Fisheries to discuss approach to Peel Watershed fisheries information summary – North Yukon approach was being examined as potential model. (November 1, 2005)
22. NYPC Senior Planner attends and presents at Pembina Institute Oil and Gas Workshop, Whitehorse. (November 9, 2005)
23. NYPC Senior Planner attends and presents at NWT Geoscience Forum, Yellowknife, on behalf of Northern Ecosystem Initiative project. (November 15-16, 2005)
24. NYPC Senior Planner attends and presents at Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers meeting, Calgary. (November 25, 2005)
25. NYPC Senior Planner and Chair present to Yukon Government Deputy Ministers Council meeting. (December 6, 2005)
26. NYPC staff participate in technical data review session with VGFN and NYRRC staff, Old Crow. (December 7-8, 2005)
27. NYPC staff participate in Peel Watershed planning meetings (mineral scenarios, fish and wildlife information. (December 14, 2005)
28. NYPC staff met with Yukon Geological Survey regarding North Yukon aggregate resource assessment. (December 15, 2005)
29. NYPC staff met with Geomatics Yukon staff regarding North Yukon linear features mapping. (December 15, 2005)
30. NYPC staff met with Peel, YLUPC and YESAB staff to discuss regional planning-environmental assessment linkages (December 20, 2005).
31. NYPC staff met with Yukon Oil and Gas Management Branch regarding North Yukon linear feature mapping. (December 22, 2005)
32. NYPC staff present to Northern Cross Ltd. and Yukon Oil and Gas Management Branch regarding North Yukon planning process. (January 12, 2006)
33. NYPC Senior Planner participates in Northern Ecosystem Initiative conference call. (January 13, 2006)
34. NYPC staff participated in Peel Watershed biophysical, fish and wildlife planning meeting. (January 16, 2006)

35. NYPC staff participated in North Yukon biophysical map review discussion with Yukon Energy, Mines and Resources staff. (January 18, 2006)
36. NYPC staff participated in Old Crow Flats SMA Technical Working Group meeting. (January 24, 2006)
37. At request of YG Lands Branch, NYPC Senior Planner provides Biophysical Mapping and Wildlife Habitat Suitability mapping demonstration to Yukon Government, Lands Branch. (February 21, 2006)
38. At request of Porcupine Caribou Management Board, NYPC Senior Planner and Land Use Planner provide planning and information update to Porcupine Caribou Management Board. (February 27, 2006)
39. Internal Yukon Government Thresholds Workshop. NYPC proposal for use of land use thresholds provides focused discussion. (February 28, 2006)
40. At request of Environment Canada, NYPC Senior Planner and Land Use Planner attend and present at NWT Thresholds Workshop, Yellowknife. (March 13-14, 2006)
41. NYPC Senior Planner and Jeff Hamm from YLUPC spend 3-days finalizing land use scenario ALCES® model inputs with Brad Stelfox, Calgary. Yukon Oil and Gas Branch participate by teleconference; CAPP receives update on energy sector scenario. (March 15-17, 2006)

2.4 Planning Tasks and Products

The following planning tasks and products were completed/advanced:

1. **North Yukon Biophysical Map (Regional Ecosystems).** After classification issues were found with earlier map versions, major updates and improvements to the North Yukon biophysical map were completed in late-summer 2005. These map updates necessitated substantial revisions to wildlife, climate change induced vegetation transitions, wildfire disturbance and anthropogenic footprint calculations/summary tables.
2. **Wildlife Data.** In late-summer 2005, NYPC pursued a more quantitative approach to wildlife habitat value representation for focal wildlife species - caribou and moose - based on telemetry and habitat overlays. This information has provided a quantitative measure of the accuracy of the wildlife habitat suitability classes and biophysical landscape types.
3. **Plan Scenarios Workshop.** NYPC hosted its preliminary Plan Scenarios workshop on June 22-23, 2005. The workshop saw participation from approximately 40 land and resource managers, economists and VGFN staff and leadership. Follow-up sessions to this workshop were held in October 2005. This workshop significantly advanced NYPC's understanding of future potential development scenarios for North Yukon, and provided a mechanism to focus NYPC data collection and highlight information gaps.
4. **Resource Assessment Report and associated data.** NYPC has been actively working on its Resource Assessment Report and associated support data. Due to unforeseen delays in completion of core data sets, the Resource Assessment Report has not been completed, as originally anticipated in our 2005-2006 annual work plan submission. The North Yukon Resource Assessment Report is now anticipated for release for review in the 2006-2007 fiscal period.

2.5 Coordination with Peel Watershed Planning Commission

The first three months of the 2005-2006 fiscal period saw significant changes to the NYPC/PWPC/YLUPC planning model. During the April - June period, a shared Office Administrator, GIS/Data Technician, and Land Use Planner began work with the NYPC and PWPC. A large amount of staff start-up time was required during this period, with the NYPC Senior Planner serving as coordinator of the shared-Commission staff resources. In the remainder of the 2005-2006 fiscal period the PWPC Senior Planner shared staff management responsibilities with the NYPC Senior Planner.

3. Overall Assessment of 2005-2006 Activities

3.1. Commission Operations

The NYPC membership remained intact and cohesive throughout the 2005-2006 fiscal period. The focused start-up activities and organizational support mechanisms established during the 2003-2004 start-up phase were key to the success of the subsequent operating periods including the 2005-2006 fiscal period. An important contributing factor to the successful commission operations during 2005-2006 was effective partnerships and communications with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Yukon Government, Yukon Land Use Planning Council, the community of Old Crow and associated plan partners.

The planning model (i.e how the plan is being produced) being used by NYPC has proven to be effective, and was further enhanced by the start-up of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission. The NYPC and Peel Watershed Planning Commission, with administrative support from the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, entered into a new staff and resource-sharing agreement which has resulted in the development of a formal Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission and Council. The NYPC and PWPC established common office space and jointly hired administrative and technical staff resources. This approach has resulted in increased planning capacity, enhanced technical support and a smooth start up and continued progress for the Peel Watershed Planning Commission.

3.2 Partnerships

The creation and maintenance of partnerships continues to be a core operating philosophy of the NYPC. During the 2005-2006 fiscal period, important plan partners included Yukon Government, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Ducks Unlimited, Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Yukon Land Use Planning Council. The amount of time required to maintain effective partnerships and carry out joint-work planning continues to be challenging, but the benefits of this approach during plan approval and implementation stages are anticipated to be substantial. NYPC remains committed to the exchange of information with plan partners.

The Northern Ecosystems Initiative Working Landscapes Project is another successful plan partner for the NYPC. A formal partnership with this group was established in December 2004 – a portion of the NEI funds and project team time directly assisted the NYPC during *Planning Phase 4: Plan Scenarios* and will also assist with *Planning Phase 6: Plan Implementation Strategies*. The NYPC had chosen the ALCES[®] computer simulation model to examine future potential land use scenarios and evaluate social, economic and ecological trade-offs during the 2005-2006 fiscal period. The majority of technical assistance provided by the Northern Ecosystems Initiative project was directed towards this portion of the North Yukon regional land use plan, to assist the NYPC in evaluating different potential land use scenarios.

3.3. Community Involvement

The land users in Old Crow continue to be directly engaged in the North Yukon regional land use planning process. The development of several important regional information databases would not have been possible without the spirited contributions of Old Crow community member local knowledge. The NYPC continues to alternate Commission meetings and important consultation events between Old Crow and Whitehorse.

Peel Watershed Planning Commission 2005-2006 Annual Activity Report

1. Introduction

This report summarizes the activities of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission (PWPC) for the 2005-2006 fiscal period, as required by the Yukon Government in its flexible transfer payment contribution agreement with the Yukon Land Use Planning Council. The annual activity report contains the following information:

- A brief description of implementation activities
- A progress report on results and achievements
- The scheduling or timing of major events; and
- An overall assessment of the achievements of the Commission's obligations under the Final Agreement, its Implementation Plan, and related acts(s) of Parliament.

2. Description and Timing of Activities, Results and Achievements

Commission member nominations to the Peel Watershed Planning Commission were accepted in October 2004. From October 2004 to February 2005, the Peel Watershed Planning Commission spent the majority of their time focusing on start-up activities and organizational matters. Major commission operations began in spring 2005, with preparations for the public consultation sessions in the "Issues and Information Gathering" phase (*Planning Phases 2 and 3* of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission *Precise Terms of Reference*). The "Issues" component of Phase 2 included the public release of the *Issues and Interests Report* (January 2006) and an invitation for comments on the report (Deadline of April 28, 2006). The Commission is well into the "Information Gathering" component of Phase 2. The following sections provide an update on the results and achievements of the 2005-2006 Peel Watershed Planning Commission annual work plan.

2.1. Commission Meetings

Two regular commission meetings and one special meeting were held in the first half of the 2005-2006 fiscal period:

1. Special Meeting #3, April 8, 2005 – Whitehorse and Teleconference
2. Board Meeting #3, June 2, 2005 – Whitehorse
3. Board Meeting #4, August 25-26, 2005 – Dawson City
4. Board Meeting #5, November 7-9, 2005 – Whitehorse
5. Board Meeting #6, February 8, 2006 – Whitehorse

2.2. Meeting Highlights and Products

The following meeting highlights and products were completed during the 2005 – 2006 fiscal period:

Special Meeting #3, April 8, 2005 – Whitehorse and Teleconference

- The secondment of Senior Planner (Brian Johnston), Land Use Planner (John Ryder), GIS/Data Technician (Richard Vladars), and Office Administrator (Kathleen Zimmer) from the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, to the Peel Watershed and North Yukon planning commissions;
- Approval of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission Policy and Procedures handbook; and
- Approval of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission Precise Terms of Reference (3 year work plan) dated March 31, 2005.

Board Meeting #3, June 2, 2005 – Whitehorse

- Approval of the MOU between the Peel Watershed Planning Commission and the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, regarding the Flexible Transfer Payment.
- Approval of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission's logo.

Board Meeting #4, August 25-26, 2005 – Dawson City

- Discussion of contents of the 3-year work plan.
- Discussion of the 2005-06 Annual Budget / Work Plan.
- Stakeholder presentations.

Board Meeting #5, November 7-9, 2005 – Whitehorse

- Stakeholder presentations.
- Review of the Draft Issues and Interests Report.

Board Meeting #6, February 8, 2006 – Whitehorse

- Stakeholder presentations.
- Review and approval of work plan and budget.

2.3 Consultation and Special Events

Representatives of the PWPC membership and staff participated in the following special events:

8. PWPC held preliminary consultation meetings with First Nations governments and their Lands offices in Mayo (May 20) and Dawson City (May 21). The meetings were a means of informing key organizations about upcoming public consultation sessions, and provide an outline of the planning process.
9. PWPC conducted Issues and Interests public consultation sessions in Mayo (May 18), Dawson City (May 19), Old Crow (May 26), Whitehorse (June 1, 2005) and Fort McPherson (June 9, 2005).
10. In an effort to engage all stakeholders, the Commission sought their participation on multiple occasions, through a variety of media: direct mail, newspaper advertisements, radio announcements, direct email correspondence, phone calls, and public consultation sessions.
11. PWPC staff met with Yukon Government representatives on several occasions to provide status reports, receive feedback and identify Government planning concerns regarding both process and content. The PWPC Senior Planner also met with the Yukon Government's Internal Working Group (a multi-departmental body) and arranged for IWG members to meet the Commission.
12. The Senior Planner presented at the Tr'ondek Hwech'in Han Nation General Assembly in Dawson City. (June 15, 2005)

13. The Senior Planner (July 8-12) and the Land Use Planner (July 8-14) participated in Yukon Government wildlife & geology field work in the Peel Watershed, with a base camp at Margaret Lake. The field work also provided an opportunity to build cooperative relations with Yukon Government staff and individuals from the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun.
14. In July 14, 2005, the Technical Working Group held a meeting in Whitehorse to discuss the Issues and Interests draft report. The Commission Chair, Albert Genier, also attended the meeting.
15. Commission Chair, Albert Genier, and commission member, Steve Taylor, presented at the Gwich'in Tribal Council General Assembly in Inuvik in August, 2005.
16. PWPC staff and commission members participated in a tour of a mine reclamation project at the Brewery Creek Mine Site. Commission member, Sam Wallingham, organized the tour.

3. Overall Assessment of 2005-2006 Activities

3.1. Commission Operations

The Peel Watershed Planning Commission membership was active and cohesive throughout the 2005-2006 fiscal period. The Commission was successful at reaching out to all of the stakeholders. Although most stakeholders accepted the invitation to participate in the consultation process, some sectors have been somewhat slow, with respect to their engagement. The Commission will continue to seek out the participation of *all* stakeholders. Nevertheless, the stakeholders that are engaged have clearly presented their interests, concerns and advice to the Commission. This feedback will be extremely valuable as the Commission begins to flesh-out its management direction.

The Commission has also maintained good relations with its plan partners, such as the various departments within the Yukon Government and First Nation governments. Their cooperation with the information gathering component is critical to the success of the plan. The development of the plan is complicated by the nature of the planning region: its size, its ecological complexity, the numerous information gaps in the region, the variety of land use interests, and the four adjacent First Nation communities that have overlapping interests in the region. The Commission has made good progress on the information gathering phase, to the credit of the Commission staff, First Nations heritage and lands offices, and Yukon Government technical staff. In addition to working with the plan partners, the Commission has also contracted some data gathering projects (fisheries, mineral development potential). However, further progress has been hindered by: a) the divided resources of PWPC/NYPC staff, b) the lack of capacity and resources of some plan partners, and c) the lack of priority given to information gathering and analysis by some partners. These obstacles may have a detrimental effect on the scheduling of the planning process, and could potentially diminish the quality of the final draft plan.

The Peel Watershed Planning Commission's close working relationship with the North Yukon Planning Commission and the Yukon Land Use Planning Council continues to be a very effective relationship. The Peel Watershed Planning Commission has been able to learn from the experience of the North Yukon Planning Commission.

3.2. Partnerships

The creation and maintenance of partnerships continues to be a core operating philosophy of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission. During the 2005-2006 fiscal period, important plan partners included Yukon Government, Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondek Hwech'in Han Nation, Gwich'in Tribal Council, and the Yukon Land Use Planning Council. The amount of time required creating effective partnerships and carry out joint-work planning is sometimes challenging, but the benefits of this approach during plan approval and implementation stages are substantial.

3.3. Community Involvement

The 3-Year Work Plan delineates a process by which the land users in Mayo, Old Crow, Dawson City, Fort McPherson and elsewhere in the territory are to be directly involved in the regional planning process. Community and territory-wide consultation sessions took place in May and June, 2005.