

## North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan - Annual Report for 2014

This review of progress on implementation activities during 2014 comprises the 2014 Annual Report for the North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan. The related annual meeting between the Parties to the Plan (Yukon government and Vuntut Gwitchin government) took place on February 18, 2015 and a copy of the meeting minutes are included as Appendix 1.

Pursuant to the terms of the *Memorandum of Understanding for the Implementation of the North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan* (MOU), the annual report describes the following components:

1. The year's implementation activities and issues,
  2. The Parties' priorities for the subsequent year,
  3. Plan amendment or review procedures and outcomes, and
  4. Cumulative effects reporting results.
- 1) **2014 Implementation Activities and Issues:** The activities and issues discussed during the quarterly reviews by Yukon and Vuntut Gwitchin governments are summarized in the *Intergovernmental Implementation Framework*, which is included as Appendix 2. This framework represents the current five year work plan which lists the specific activities undertaken to date to address the goals and recommendations of the North Yukon plan. In general, steady progress continues to be made on plan recommendations and their related action items. There were no significant issues with plan implementation during 2014, however related to recent exploration project activities there were caribou and access related issues identified which resulted in related planning work being prioritized for 2014 and 2015. Implementation activities to highlight from 2014 include:
- Research progressed on the surface and linear disturbance bench marking and baseline projects as per recommendations 1.1 and 1.3 of the Plan;
  - Protected Area Planning progress for the Whitefish Lakes as per recommendation 4.2.1 of the Plan. Work on the draft plan continues;
  - Boundary refinement progressed for the Summit Lake and Bell River area as per recommendation 4.2.2 of the Plan. A proposed boundary refinement was agreed to by the Parties in December;
  - Work was initiated by VGG and YG on creating a terms of reference for access management planning for the Eagle Plain oil and gas basin as per recommendation 6.3 of the Plan.
- 2) **Parties' Priorities for 2015:** In setting the annual priorities for 2015, there were six priorities highlighted as listed below:
- i. Continue progress on surface disturbance and linear density benchmarking and baseline refinement projects which will assist in improved future cumulative effects management (Recommendations 1.1 and 1.3);
  - ii. Continue field research related to linear disturbance recovery and wildlife occupancy during 2015 (Recommendations 1.1 and 1.3);
  - iii. Establish and continue the Whitefish wetlands management planning (Recommendation 4.2.1);

- iv. Continue work towards the designation of a Summit Lake – Bell River protected area within the proposed refined boundaries (Recommendation 4.2.2);
- v. Continue access management planning in the Eagle Plain oil and gas basin (Recommendation 6.3);
- vi. Research caribou related issues to address concerns related to exploration activities in the Eagle Plain region including the development of Best Management Practices as guidance to oil and gas activities and a process to establish safe operating distances and critical numbers for the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

Two additional areas previously acknowledged as lower ongoing priorities to keep on the radar include:

- Hydrological studies (Recommendation: 4.1 and Suggested Research Priority);
- Future aggregate source identification (Recommendation 6.5).

- 3) **Plan amendment or review procedures and outcomes:** There were no plan amendments for 2014. There was discussion at the annual meeting regarding the related requirement described in section 6.5 of the MOU between the Parties, “No later than seven years after the initial approval of the Plan, the Parties shall determine whether they wish to undertake a plan review”. This translates to a decision being required prior to June 2016.

At this point, the implementation of the Plan is progressing smoothly and working well. There does not appear to be a need or benefit to conducting a full review of the Plan at this time, so the subject will be carried forward to the next annual meeting for discussion and a decision at that time.

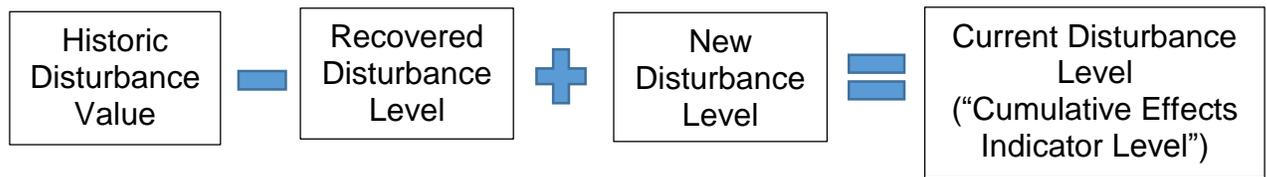
Related to this topic, the current 5-year work plan that serves as the Intergovernmental Implementation Framework ended in June 2015. At the annual meeting for 2013 the merits of carrying forward the current 5-year work plan for two more years and aligning the update with the required plan review decision discussed above were discussed. Both are important activities that are interlinked and would benefit from being discussed together. Both Parties agreed in 2013 to extend the current 5-year work plan for up to two years.

- 4) **Cumulative Effects Reporting:** This component of the annual report is an important tool for monitoring the functional disturbances and potential impacts of activities within the planning area at the landscape management unit and sub-LMU level.

It is important to point out for the reader of the annual report that there are two metrics utilized to report on functional disturbance: surface area and linear density. Both of these cumulative effects indicators are defined and discussed in greater detail within Section 3.3.1.1 of the Plan.

Equally important in determining the cumulative effects of disturbances in North Yukon are the three components that need to be considered together when determining what the current disturbance levels are. At the most basic level the current disturbance levels (also known as the cumulative effects indicator levels) are the result of historic disturbance values, less recovered disturbance levels, plus new disturbance levels. Any of these three components considered alone only provides a partial picture of what the current

disturbance levels are, and together they indicate what the current cumulative effects indicator levels are.



The following is an overview of cumulative effects indicator related activities that took place during 2014:

- a. **Field research projects:** The 2014 field season consisted of two research studies related to linear disturbance recovery and wildlife occupancy of such features.
  - i. The linear disturbance recovery study expanded field work into additional study sites beyond LMU 9 (Eagle Plains) and are expected to confirm conclusions derived from past studies which were solely derived from within LMU 9. The field work for this study took place between August 5th and 15th.
  - ii. The wildlife occupancy study involves placing a series of remote motion-triggered cameras on and adjacent to existing linear disturbance study plots to record wildlife species and occupancy over a 12 month period. The cameras were deployed in late October 2014. A related study component involves installing GPS collars on members of the Porcupine caribou herd to record their behaviour as they approach disturbance study areas. The new collars are expected to be deployed during March 2015. The information collected from these studies will improve our understanding of variations between sites and the dynamics of recovery. This will allow for better informed land management decision making.
- b. **Historical disturbance data update project:** During 2014 an EMR-based technical working group which involved VGG and the Yukon Land Use Planning Council began moving forward with a historical linear features data set clean-up. This work included identifying and removing duplicate and phantom seismic lines from the existing data sets. Non-linear features such as airstrips and well sites were added in, and linear feature line width measurements collected from related field study plots were integrated into the updated data set. Collectively these updates will be used to create the historical disturbance data set during 2015 for review and approval by the Parties, and will serve as the foundation for determining the current disturbance or cumulative effects indicator levels.
- c. **Recovered disturbance levels project:** Initial discussions between the Parties began at the 2013 annual meeting on how to safely proceed with a conservative update to the amount of historical disturbances that now meet the Plan's definition of recovered. This topic was discussed further during 2014 and a work plan was drafted for 2015. Progress is hoped to be made during 2015-16 after the historical baseline is created and the current related definitions are reviewed.

The following summary provides an overview of cumulative effects and functional disturbances being tracked and monitored within the North Yukon planning region:

**Projects assessed under YESAA** within the North Yukon planning region are reviewed by the Yukon Land Use Planning Council for plan conformity. Six new projects began assessments during 2014. All of those projects either conformed to the Plan, occurred within an exempted area or created no new disturbance. These projects are summarized in greater detail in Appendix 3.

**New disturbances** occurring since the approval of the North Yukon Plan in 2009 until the end of 2014 have been summarized in the table included as Appendix 4. Note that this table does not list the historical disturbances from before 2009. Those values are currently being reviewed and updated as discussed above, and once finalized in 2015 will need to be approved by the Parties before becoming official.

Since Plan approval in 2009, there has been an estimated total of 624 hectares of new surface disturbance in the North Yukon planning region. This disturbance has occurred entirely in LMU 9 and equals 0.097% of that LMU (cautionary level is 0.75%). This measured disturbance also includes 2364.5 kilometres of new linear disturbance which creates a linear density of 0.368 km/km<sup>2</sup> (cautionary level is = 0.75 km/km<sup>2</sup>).

The majority of these disturbances were associated with project activities occurring during the winter of 2013-14 as a result of the 3D seismic project (YESAA 2013-0067). None of the projects that were assessed in 2014 have resulted in any new additional disturbances to date. Of the six new projects, only the multi-well exploration program (YESAA 2014-0112) is expected to result in any new disturbance but not until 2015 at the earliest when the project is expected to complete its assessment.

**Cumulative Effects Summary:** The current 2014 reporting period saw a significant increase of functional disturbance in the North Yukon planning region and the greatest increase in new disturbance since the Plan was approved in 2009. The related disturbances and project activities occurred in a single land management unit, LMU 9 (Eagle Plains).

While the new disturbances alone do not approach any established cumulative effects indicator levels, they do need to be considered together with the other factors as described above (final approved historical and recovered disturbance levels) under cumulative effects reporting. This will allow for the accurate determination of the current disturbance levels once the historic and recovered levels are finalized.

As noted earlier in this report, current work plans aim for the historic disturbance data update project to be completed, reviewed and approved by the Parties during 2015. The review of current disturbance and recovery definitions is planned to be completed during 2015-16 and this will lead to final discussions by the Parties on what the current extent of recovery is for historical disturbances. Once there is agreement between the Parties on all three components, an official calculation of current disturbance levels can be made with a high level of confidence.

Until those steps are completed, calculations of current disturbance levels as was done in the 2013 annual report can only be made as estimates based upon best available information, of which some has been based on prior estimates of the day during draft plan development.

As linear density in particular has the potential to approach the cautionary level first, the Parties are closely monitoring the potential related disturbance levels of future proposed activities in LMU 9.

## Appendices:

## Appendix 1: NORTH YUKON RLUP – ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

**1:00 – 4:30 pm Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Room 2C, Elijah Smith Building, 300 Main Street  
Whitehorse, Yukon**

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### **1. Meeting Participants:**

- VGG: Lance Nagwan, A/Director (via conference call)
  - Stanley Njootli (Sr.) VGG Councilor (via conference call for the presentations)
  - Rosa Brown
- YG: Mike Draper A/Director, EMR Corporate Policy & Planning
  - Renee Mayes, A/Manager, Regional Land Use Planning
  - Randy Lamb, Senior Land Use Planner
  - Gillian McKee, Senior Land Use Planner
  - Kirstie Simpson, Senior Advisor Sustainable & IRM
  - Mike Sutor, Environment, North Yukon Regional Biologist

**2. Review of Agenda:** Approved. It was noted that Pauline Frost (VGG) was unable to attend the meeting at the last minute, and that both presentations were going to take place mid-meeting when Mike Sutor arrived from Dawson.

**3. Review of October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes:** The minutes were previously approved by Erika Tizya who attended the October meeting as Director of Natural Resources. The minutes were accepted and approved as is.

### **4. Presentations related to North Yukon research & activities:**

**4.1. Seismic line recovery study update - Kirstie Simpson, YG EMR:** Kirstie gave a summary of her field research in a presentation titled “Defining Disturbance and Recovery: Oil and Gas Linear Disturbances in North Yukon”. Approximately 100 new study plots were added in 2014. The purpose of her study is to understand the variation and dynamics of recovery in terms of natural succession, and to assess the current status of historical linear feature disturbances and recovery in the North Yukon. VGFN and YESAB staff were invited to join the field team and were able to participate in the field work at several study sites during one of the 2014 field days. As a number of the study sites were on VGFN settlement land a research permit for the work was issued by VGG. The meeting participants discussed the need for the Parties to discuss the current plan definitions of “disturbance” and “recovered” to see if they remain sufficient. In late March the field team will be discussing their field work findings and will share their disturbance and recovery related recommendations with the Parties for their consideration.

**4.2. Historical disturbance database update - Kirstie Simpson:** Kirstie also provided an update on the current work to create a historical disturbance database. The width

of linear disturbances was not an attribute that was historically recorded which means it is difficult to calculate total disturbance (length x width). We now have width attributes measured in the field at the study sites. Measured data is now being incorporated, feature classes (i.e. trail vs. road vs. seismic line) are being corrected, duplicate lines are being removed and non-linear features such as airstrips and well sites are being added in.

- 4.3. **Seismic line wildlife occupancy study update - Mike Sutor, YG Environment:** Mike's presentation was called "Recovery of Seismic Lines: a wildlife perspective". This study is a collaborative project between YG EMR and Environment. The study is looking at the behavior of wildlife (caribou and other species) on and near old linear disturbances. The study includes the deployment of satellite GPS collars on porcupine caribou bulls (15) to monitor their behaviour near seismic lines, and the installation of remote motion-sensing cameras (37 pairs) to determine caribou and other wildlife behaviour on and near seismic lines. The cameras were deployed in October and will gather data for close to a year before the memory cards are picked up in late August or September in 2015. The cameras will collect information for 3 years with the memory cards being collected yearly. Next steps include data entry, analysis and write up.

## 5. Review of annual meeting requirements as per the Intergovernmental MOU:

- 5.1. **Review progress on implementation framework activities:** Detailed updates were provided and discussed as listed in the following section. These updates will also be reflected in the Intergovernmental Implementation Framework updates table which will be included in the annual report.
- 5.2. **Identify shared priorities for 2015:** A copy of the 2014 priorities was handed out for discussion purposes, and emailed to meeting participants with a request to provide comments on their 2015 priorities within coming weeks for inclusion in the annual report.
- 5.3. **Discuss plan amendment and review procedures:** The MOU requires a decision by the Parties under section 6.7 to "determine whether they wish to undertake a plan review" within 7 years of the initial Plan approval. A decision will therefore be required by June 2016. The subject was discussed and will be carried forward to the next annual meeting for final discussion and a decision at that time.
- 5.4. **Share cumulative effects reporting results:** Copies of the draft disturbance totals summary and the YESAA project conformity check summary were sent to participants in advance of the meeting. The results were reviewed and discussed. This information will be incorporated into the annual report.

## 6. Progress Updates on Implementation Activities:

### 6.1. Recommendation 1.1: Surface and Linear Disturbance Tracking:

- a) Northern Cross 3D Seismic program completed in April 2014. Final regulatory inspection was in July.

- b) The Old Crow winter road took place during the early months of 2014. The road utilized the existing 300-metre corridor which was approved through the recent YESAA review.
- c) The EMR linear disturbance field work took place during August 5 – 15. The project expanded on the past study sites of LMU 9 and included sites in adjacent LMUs. Image and data analysis is underway this winter and it is expected that preliminary results will be available by Spring 2015.
- d) Kirstie Simpson’s paper related to her earlier seismic line recovery research in LMU 9 will be undergoing a peer review. VGG will be sent a copy of her draft paper to review when ready.

**6.2. Conformity checks:** the Yukon Land Use Planning Council performs the conformity checks on all YESAB applications that occur in the North Yukon planning region. VGG noted that in the conformity check comments for the most recent Northern Cross Yukon project, the Council suggested that “there is a good case for including shrubby areas in the definition of disturbance”. Currently, disturbance to the shrub layer is included within the Plan definition of disturbance and therefore is not counted when determining cumulative effects indicator levels. Rosa recommended that the parties need to discuss current definitions of ‘disturbance’ particularly with regard to the findings of the seismic line recovery work once that work is completed. Sam Skinner (YLUPC) will be requested to give a short presentation on the YLUPC conformity check process in an upcoming quarterly directors’ meeting.

**6.3. Recommendation 1.3: Bench-marking:**

- a) Historic disturbances update: Estimates of historical disturbance is almost complete and is based on a combination of mapped features from a number of sources (e.g. NrCan, NEB) and measured widths in the field. A draft schedule of next steps has been created for discussion purposes and was circulated for review and feedback.
- b) Recovered disturbances: Continuing on past discussions, the Parties need to look at the existing Plan definitions of “disturbance” and “recovered” to determine if the current wording is adequate. A listing of the current definitions in the plan will be copied into one table and circulated for discussion purposes. The Parties agreed that definitions of “disturbance” and “recovered” as they are currently described in the Plan need to be assessed and are an implementation priority.
- c) In late March 2015 the technical team that took part in the field work will be meeting to discuss their findings. They will share their disturbance and recovery related conclusions/recommendations with the Parties for consideration.

**6.4. Recommendation 1.4: Climate Change Impacts:**

- a) An updated Progress Report for Yukon’s Climate Change Action Plan is in the works and further news regarding completion dates should be available in coming months.

**6.5. Recommendation 2.1: BMP Development**

- a) A Best Practices website is being created for the EMR corporate web site. Wording is being finalized and awaiting for final BMPs to post.

- b) Trappers BMP is undergoing final edits and formatting, and is expected to be routed for approvals and posting by year end.
- c) Invasive plants BMP has finalized draft wording and awaiting further edits.
- d) Wetlands BMP: The drafting committee has met a number of times and the first draft has been completed.
- e) Wilderness Tourism BMP: Drafting committee is reviewing the draft document.
- f) Heritage Resources BMP: Final draft has been completed and it is being routed for approvals followed by posting to the EMR BMP web site.
- g) Caribou BMP: An early draft was previously created and current ongoing cooperative research between YG EMR and Environment on the use of historic seismic lines by caribou will be used to update the draft caribou BMP (see 4.3 above).

**6.6. Recommendation 3.1.2: Permitting in Fish Habitat:**

- a) Received information from DFO on how to access their new web tool “Yukon Fisheries information Summary System (FISS), which contains searchable report data. The information and web link were forwarded to VGG.

**6.7. Recommendation 4.1: Potential Impacts to Regional Wetlands:**

- a) During 2014 a review was done with YG Water Resources and the information received was forwarded to VGG. Data for many wells located in the Yukon can be found on the Groundwater Information Network, and YG data goes to NRCan, who maintains the network registry. There were no wells recorded for the Northern Cross project area, however in the summer of 2014 an existing water well at the NCY camp on the Dempster Highway was instrumented with devices to record permafrost and groundwater levels.
- b) Water Resources was asked about data from hydrometric stations, including any in the 3D seismic project area. Water Resources maintains several hydrometric monitoring stations and water quality stations that are located near the project area. Hydrometric stations were installed late summer 2013 at Eagle River at Dempster Hwy, McParlon Creek, and Dalglish Creek in order to collect water level and discharge information. Lance noted that VGG had just issued a land use permit to install a water station corner post on adjacent VG land near one of these sites. Additional hydrometric stations are planned.

**6.8. Recommendation 5.1: Heritage Management Guidelines:**

- a) Heritage Management Guidelines: “Best Management Practices – Found Human Remains and Burial Sites”. Completed in 2014 and posted online at : [http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/pdf/BurialSites\\_BMP\\_2014.pdf](http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/pdf/BurialSites_BMP_2014.pdf)

**6.9. Recommendation 5.2: Heritage and Historic sites permits:**

- a) One new permit was issued in 2014 under the Archaeological Sites Regulation for retrieval of a Hiller 360 helicopter wreck on the North Slope (Yukon Transportation Museum). Ray Le Blanc (emeritus, U of Alberta), joined the VGFN Navigation Systems Project to revisit and update site location information for three archaeological sites (Scientists and Explorers Licence to Shirleen Smith, Consulting Anthropologist).

- b) For 2014, Yukon government issued eleven Scientists and Explorers licences which involved activities or research within VG traditional territory.

**6.10. Recommendation 6.3: Access Management Planning:**

- a) Information from a caribou mitigations review undertaken on the 2013-14 3D seismic project was consolidated into a summary table that flagged prior project recommendations and identified areas for potential improvement. The project regulators met during 2014 to review the information. It would be a good idea for them to meet again in advance of the permitting stage of the next project in that area so that they could work on improved caribou mitigation guidelines and related permit terms and conditions where possible. Discussion included the need for the parties to develop BMP's specific to the porcupine caribou herd.
- b) YG and VGG staff have initiated work on creating a Terms of Reference for access management planning in the Eagle Plain basin. There have been three meetings so far and an initial draft has been developed. The TOR is looking at background, rationale & purpose, timing, content expectations and a plan approval process by both Parties. There will also be discussion of what the end products should be. After further updates, the draft will be shared for review at the end of March for upward briefing and comments.

**6.11. Recommendation 6.5: Aggregate Mapping:**

- a) Yukon Geological Survey has been informed of the ongoing VGG interest in identifying future aggregate resources around Old Crow and along the Dempster Highway.
- b) YGS worked on community mapping of aggregate sources and terrain hazards around Old Crow during summer 2014, and will be returning for additional fieldwork in 2015. Mapping and report data will be produced at project end.

**6.12. Recommendation 6.7: Energy Option Research:**

- a) Old Crow Community Energy Plan Update: Contract was awarded in March 2014, and Yukon's Energy Branch has been working with VGG and the contractor. The inventory phase and the situational analysis have been completed. Report drafting is underway. It is hoped that the project will be finished and a final draft for review and approval by Chief and Council by the end of this fiscal year pending staff capacity.

**6.13. Stand Alone Item 1: Whitefish Lakes Protected Area:** Work on the draft plan continues. The working group met on Dec 10<sup>th</sup> in Whitehorse and received contract generated heritage information that still needs to be reviewed and addressed by Environment. A working group conference call just took place on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

**6.14. Stand Alone Item 2: Summit Lake - Bell River Protected Area:** Dec 10<sup>th</sup> letter from Chief Linklater to Minister Dixon indicated VGG "supports the proposed boundary and the designation at a later date following working group meetings". A working group has been established consisting of staff from YG and VGG. VGG will be providing input on terms of reference for the working group.

- 6.15. Stand Alone Item 4: Fishing Branch HPA:** Revisions to the southern boundary of Fishing Branch was an expected outcome of the Dawson planning process. Resolution of the VGFN/TH traditional territory overlap could, with TH support, present an opportunity to amend the NYRLUP to include the related adjacent LMUs of the Dawson planning region (VGG TT), and resolution of the Fishing Branch boundary as an implementation task of the DRLUP and the NYRLUP.
- 6.16. Stand Alone Item 5: Research Priorities:** The research priorities listed under part A4-1 of the Plan were discussed briefly. Since the 2013 annual meeting, the parties have initialized development of an access management plan for the Eagle Plain basin, and are developing Best Management Practices for Caribou. It was noted that the BMPs listed in Section 5.2.2.1 of the Plan include defining and implementing safe operating distances for Porcupine Caribou. A recommended process to establish 'critical numbers' (the density at which decisions about industrial operations in the immediate vicinity would be required) was discussed.
- 6.17. Stand Alone Item 6: Plan Implementation:** Annual reports are now maintained on YG's Regional Land Use Planning web page for public access at the following link: <http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/lands/nyrlup.html> .
- 6.18. Stand Alone Item 7: Plan Revision:** Topic was discussed briefly and has been carried forward to the next annual meeting for discussion and a decision prior to June 2016.
- 6.19. Stand Alone Item 8: Best Management Practices:** Web links for current BMPs are now being added to the Intergovernmental Implementation Framework. The framework document is an important component of the annual reports, which are now listed on the EMR regional planning web page (see 6.16 above) to simplify public access to such information.

**7. Next Quarterly Directors' Meeting date: proposed for June 2015**

## Appendix 2: Intergovernmental Implementation Framework - North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan

Goal	Recommendations	Action Steps and Updates	Results Expected / Status
<p><b>GOAL 1: Sustainable Development</b></p> <p>Promote Sustainable Development by ensuring that social, cultural, economic and environmental policies are applied to the management protection and use of land, water and resources in an integrated and coordinated manner</p>	<p>1.1 As a general guideline for decision makers and land users, in the Integrated Management Area the amount of surface disturbance in a landscape management unit should be maintained below the cumulative effects indicator levels indicated in the plan (5.1.1)</p>	<p><u>1.1.1 Surface and Linear Disturbance Tracking and Reporting</u></p> <p>a) YG will track new surface and linear disturbance on public land designated as Integrated Management Areas pursuant to the Plan. Specifically, YG will track existing, new, and recovered disturbance levels in these areas.</p> <p>b) Initial research efforts in respect of existing and recovered disturbance levels will focus on identified areas off the Dempster Highway, as well as the Eagle Plains, Whitefish River-Cathedral Rocks, and Richardson Foothills eco-regions (see also item 1.3.1).</p> <p><i>Updates: Contract work done to show estimated surface disturbance. Analysis of data began Nov 2011 to review &amp; determine if gaps exist in data (mostly LMU 9). Estimation of recovery rates continued into 2012. Presentation on research to-date given to VGG in Old Crow in November 2012. 2013 included further field work in preparation for the 2014 field season, and refinement of the research findings. Note that the 2014 field season will consist of seismic line recovery research and an occupancy study.</i></p> <p><i>2014 update: The EMR linear disturbance recovery field work took place the first two weeks of August (5 – 15), and VGG was able to participate. This project expanded on the past study sites of LMU 9, including sites in adjacent LMUs. Image and data analysis is underway this winter and it is hoped to have some preliminary results by next Spring. The research paper related to the earlier seismic line recovery research in LMU 9 will be undergoing a peer review and VGG has been invited to review the draft paper when it is ready. The 12 month wildlife occupancy project began in late 2014 with the deployment of cameras on study sites and caribou collars</i></p> <p>c) VGG will track new surface and linear disturbance on Settlement Lands which are designated as Integrated Management Areas pursuant to the Plan. 2013 saw no new disturbances on VGG IMA zoned lands.</p> <p>d) The Parties will provide the cumulative effects reporting results to the Yukon Land Use Planning Council (YLUPC) on an annual basis.</p> <p><i>Updates: The 2011 annual report was provided to YLUPC on Sept 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and included a brief review of conformity checks and cumulative effects reporting. The 2012 annual report will include greater detail.</i></p> <p><i>During 2012 six new projects were assessed under YESAA, and all passed their plan conformity checks. The EMR CEM working group met 3 times during 2012 to focus on refining technical aspects including establishing data reporting standards and identifying sector specific issues related to monitoring and reporting. The 2012 annual report included a summary of new disturbances occurring since plan approval.</i></p> <p><i>2013 saw five new YESAA projects: two were discontinued, two had their conformity checks and decision documents issued, and one was still in under review at year end. The Eagle plains 3D seismic (2012-0067) project field work began in November 2013. The Old Crow winter road (2013-0091) began in early 2014.</i></p> <p><i>2014 had six new projects enter the YESAA process and two carry over from 2013. All projects either conformed to the plan, or did not create new disturbances. The Northern Cross 3D Seismic program was completed in April 2014 and the final regulatory inspection was in July. The Old Crow winter road activities took place between January and March 2014. The road created no new disturbances as it uses the same historic route and 300-metre corridor.</i></p>	<p>Annual reports with cumulative effects reporting: completed annually.</p> <p>Refinement of current surface disturbance estimates (i.e. Gap identification in current data, refinement of current recovery rate estimates, and filling in of gaps &amp; setting bench marks): In Progress</p> <p>As required</p> <p>Ongoing as a part of annual reporting.</p>

## Appendix 2: Intergovernmental Implementation Framework - North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan

Goal	Recommendations	Action Steps and Updates	Results Expected / Status
<p><b>GOAL 1: Sustainable Development (Continued)</b></p> <p>Promote Sustainable Development by ensuring that social, cultural, economic and environmental policies are applied to the management protection and use of land, water and resources in an integrated and coordinated manner</p>	<p>1.1 (Continued) As a general guideline for decision makers and land users, in the Integrated Management Area the amount of surface disturbance in a landscape management unit should be maintained below the cumulative effects indicator levels indicated in the plan (5.1.1)</p>	<p><u>1.1.2 Joint Technical Meetings</u></p> <p>The Parties will meet if a proposed cautionary indicator level is reached. These meetings serve as a forum for sharing information and formulating recommendations to assist respective governments' management of public and Settlement Lands in compliance with the approved Plan. The Parties may, in consultation, adopt management actions to minimize and mitigate impacts on key ecological values within the target Land Management Unit (LMU).</p>	<p>Information and recommendations to decision bodies.</p> <p>As triggered</p>
		<p><u>1.1.3 Memorandum of Understanding</u></p> <p>YG and VGG will develop a Memorandum of Understanding governing the joint technical meetings referred to in 1.1.2. The MOU will define clear guidelines and process links to the Yukon Environmental Socio-Economic Assessment Board (YESAB) and the YLUPC in respect of the cumulative effects framework.</p>	<p>MOU: COMPLETED</p>
	<p>1.2 Site closure/remediation plans should be developed, implemented and monitored for large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure projects that create significant surface disturbance (5.1.2.1)</p>	<p><u>1.2.1 Site Closure/Remediation Plans</u></p> <p>In consultation with VGG, YG will implement site closure and remediation plans as per standard practices for review and permitting of resource extraction and infrastructure projects requiring such site closure and remediation plans. YG to monitor the applicable site closure/remediation plans on public lands, VGG to monitor on Settlement Lands.</p> <p><i>Updates: No new activity on site closure or remediation was initiated during the reporting year.</i></p>	<p>Site closure and remediation plans as standard practices for projects requiring such.</p> <p>As required, on a project by project basis.</p>
<p>1.3 To provide a benchmark for the monitoring of cumulative effects indicator levels, the status of existing surface disturbances should be documented (5.1.2.1)</p>	<p><u>1.3.1 Bench-marking</u></p> <p>The Parties will quantify existing linear and surface disturbance throughout the region. Initial research efforts to this end will be focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• areas that have the highest possibility of experiencing future disturbance.</li> <li>• areas where existing disturbances are providing winter access for hunters off the Dempster Highway. Specifically, the Parties will conduct fieldwork to document disturbance levels in this area, excluding the 2km Dempster Corridor established by the Plan.</li> <li>• the Eagle Plains, Whitefish River-Cathedral Rocks, and Richardson Foothills eco-regions. Specifically, in consultation with VGG, YG will use ground-truthed computer models to derive benchmark disturbance levels for these regions.</li> </ul> <p>Prior to deriving benchmark disturbance levels, the Parties will utilize existing and available data regarding historical surface disturbance and linear density throughout the region.</p> <p><i>2013 Update: Based on current research and field study sites, it has been found that approximately a third of the historical disturbances could now be considered as fully recovered, and a second third would meet the definition of recovered used in the Plan. Future discussion will be needed in 2014 to examine how and when to implement an</i></p>	<p>Historical surface disturbance and linear density data: In Progress</p> <p>Satellite Imagery Capture/Interpretation: Completed Spring 2011</p> <p>Dempster Highway project (future): TBD</p> <p>Ground-truthed information for Eagle plains region: Collected Summer 2011</p>	

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Goal	Recommendations	Action Steps and Updates	Results Expected / Status
<p><b>GOAL 1: Sustainable Development (Continued)</b></p> <p>Promote Sustainable Development by ensuring that social, cultural, economic and environmental policies are applied to the management protection and use of land, water and resources in an integrated and coordinated manner</p>	<p>1.3 (Continued) To provide a benchmark for the monitoring of cumulative effects indicator levels, the status of existing surface disturbances should be documented (5.1.2.1)</p>	<p><i>update of current historical disturbance values (disturbance tracking and the subtraction of recovered areas) as per section 5.1.2 of the Plan. Also see related details as listed under 1.1.1 a).</i></p> <p><i>2014 update: The groundwork to update the past historic disturbances estimates with field measurements has begun and Rosa attended the Jan 21st meeting in 2015. A draft schedule of next steps has been created for discussion at the annual meeting for 2014. Continuing on past discussions, the Parties need to look at the existing Plan definitions of “disturbance” and “recovered”. How and when this review and possible update should occur should be discussed further at the annual meeting, and the Party principals kept informed.</i></p>	
	<p>1.4 In the North Yukon Planning Region, potential climate change impacts should be considered in all land management decisions (5.1.3)</p>	<p><u>1.4.1 Main-streaming climate change</u></p> <p>YG will implement this recommendation by fulfilling its obligation under the YG Climate Change Action Plan. The Parties may work in partnership with the Climate Change Secretariat and Northern Climate ExChange to fulfill this recommendation, and will apply best scientific knowledge and adaptive management tools to incorporate climate change considerations into land management decisions in the region.</p> <p><i>Update: Yukon released an updated Climate Change Action Plan progress report during 2012 (<a href="http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/publications-maps/documents/ccap_progressreport_eng_2012.pdf">http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/publications-maps/documents/ccap_progressreport_eng_2012.pdf</a>), which includes sector specific targets.</i></p> <p><i>2013 update: A green-house gas BMP related to flaring and venting is in the works.</i></p> <p><i>2014 update: An updated Progress Report for Yukon’s Climate Change Action Plan is in the works and further news regarding completion dates should be available in coming months. The proposed BMP related to flaring and venting was changed to become future regulatory direction which will make them more effective.</i></p>	<p>Climate Change is considered in all project evaluation and planning exercises.</p> <p>On-going</p>
	<p>1.5 Due to the potential cumulative effects of climate change and land use impacts, sensitive wetland habitats and Porcupine Caribou Herd habitats at risk of significant change should be managed more cautiously, and with a high level of conservation focus (5.1.3)</p>	<p><u>1.5.1 Approve Plan</u></p> <p>By approving the Plan, sensitive wetlands and critical Porcupine Caribou Herd habitat, included in zone I and II, will be managed with a high level of conservation focus. <i>YG lead: all departments that manage land or review projects.</i></p> <p><i>Update: As per 2010 Annual report, the Porcupine Caribou Herd Management Plan was signed by all eight Parties.</i></p>	<p>Approved Porcupine Caribou Herd Management Plan:</p> <p>Completed - Plan Approved July 2010</p>
		<p><u>1.5.2 Manage Herd</u></p> <p>Ongoing implementation of the Harvest Management Plan for the Porcupine Caribou Herd. <i>YG lead: all departments that manage land or review projects.</i></p>	<p>Implementation of the management plan:</p> <p>On-going</p>

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Goal	Recommendations	Action Steps and Updates	Results Expected / Status
<p><b>GOAL 2: Wildlife</b></p> <p>Maintain terrestrial habitat in a condition required to sustain regional wildlife populations</p>	<p>The plan does not contain any recommendations in respect of this goal. It does, however, outline a number of best practices.</p>	<p><u>2.1 BMP Development</u></p> <p>Government agencies and project review panels are continually developing and updating BMPs. The Parties acknowledge that consideration is given to the BMPs identified in the Plan, noting that some practices may be surpassed in future, but will not require plan revision. <i>YG lead: all departments which manage land or review projects.</i></p> <p><i>Updates: The “Flying in Caribou Country” booklet was updated in 2010 (<a href="http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/publications-maps/documents/flying_caribou_country.pdf">http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/publications-maps/documents/flying_caribou_country.pdf</a>), and “BMP for Works Affecting Water in Yukon” was released in 2011 (<a href="http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/publications-maps/documents/bestpractes_water.pdf">http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/publications-maps/documents/bestpractes_water.pdf</a>).</i></p> <p><i>No new BMPs were released in 2012, however BMP’s currently underway include the following topics: trapper related, wetlands and invasive plants.</i></p> <p><i>2013 update: The trappers BMP is now in the approval process. The invasive plants and wetlands BMPs are close to finalizing their draft wording. The wilderness tourism BMP and Heritage Resources BMP for Oil &amp; Gas are being updated to address all EMR sectors, not just oil and gas. A green-house gas BMP is also in the works.</i></p> <p><i>2014 update: A Best Practices website is being created for the EMR corporate web site. Wording is being finalized and awaiting for final BMPs to post. Work continues on the BMP’s listed above. Trappers BMP is undergoing final edits and formatting, and is expected to be routed for approvals and posting by year end. Wilderness Tourism BMP is also being updated to reflect all EMR sectors. Seismic BMP is being rewritten as a linear development BMP. Heritage Resources BMP for Oil &amp; Gas, Placer Mining and Hard Rock Mining is being amalgamated into one document. Final draft completed and it is being routed for approvals followed by posting to the EMR BMP web site.</i></p>	<p>BMP’s for areas of trappers, invasive plants, wetlands, caribou, Green House Gases:</p> <p>On-going</p>
<p><b>GOAL 3: Fish</b></p> <p>Maintain aquatic habitat in a condition required to sustain regional fish populations</p>	<p>3.1 To minimize potential impacts to regional fish populations, in-stream and lake over-wintering habitat should be identified in advance of the assessment process for large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure projects (5.2.4)</p>	<p><u>3.1.1 Over-wintering Research</u></p> <p>YG will complete identification of in-stream and lake over-wintering habitat throughout the planning region.</p> <p><i>Update: YG Environment produced a “North Yukon Freshwater Fish Monitoring Study” poster based on results from 2006-2008 studies that included members of VGG and the NY RRC. Figure 2 on page 12 of the VG Community-based Fish &amp; Wildlife Work Plan shows the locations of the sampling sites in the Old Crow Flats <a href="http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/publications-maps/documents/VGFNFWWP-20130327.pdf">http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/publications-maps/documents/VGFNFWWP-20130327.pdf</a>.</i></p> <p><u>3.1.2 Permitting - Fish Habitat</u></p> <p>YG will implement as per current practices for review and permitting of resource extraction and infrastructure projects. Impact on fish is a consideration in project assessment conducted by the responsible agencies (i.e. DFO, Water Board and YESAA). <i>YG lead: all departments which manage land or review projects.</i></p> <p><i>Update: No permits related to fish habitat were found for the North Yukon Region for 2011 or 2012.</i></p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p>	<p>Prior over-wintering projects summarized: Completed.</p> <p>Further work: TBD</p> <p>As required (No change).</p> <p>On-going</p>

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Goal	Recommendations	Action Steps and Updates	Results Expected / Status
<p><b>GOAL 3: Fish (Continued)</b></p> <p>Maintain aquatic habitat in a condition required to sustain regional fish populations</p>	<p>3.1(Continued) To minimize potential impacts to regional fish populations, in-stream and lake over-wintering habitat should be identified in advance of the assessment process for large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure projects (5.2.4)</p>	<p><i>2013 update: Two DFO research permits were issued for the Porcupine river watershed for 2013. Both were for sonar and telemetry work in the Porcupine River approximately 2 km downstream from the town of Old Crow. Habitat related work was also done on the Fishing Branch and Miner River by EDI this season.</i></p> <p><i>2014 update: Received information from DFO on how to access their new web tool “Yukon Fisheries information Summary System (FISS), which contains searchable report data. Forwarded the information to Erika.</i></p>	
	<p>3.2 Water withdrawals in sensitive fish over-wintering areas should be prohibited (5.2.4)</p>	<p><u>3.2.1 Water Withdrawal Prohibitions</u></p> <p>This is a consideration in existing project assessment and is to be considered collaboratively by all orders of government with jurisdiction in the North Yukon region. The Parties will implement as a matter of practice noting that compliance to this recommendation may not always be practical.</p> <p><i>Update: No prohibitions have been found issued in the North Yukon Region to date.</i></p>	<p>As required (No change).</p> <p>On-going</p>
<p><b>GOAL 4: Wetlands, Lakes and Rivers</b></p> <p>Maintain the integrity of wetlands, lakes, rivers and sensitive permafrost areas</p>	<p>4.1 To minimize potential impacts to regional wetlands, an assessment of wetland hydrology and connectivity should be conducted in advance of the assessment process for large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure projects (5.2.5)</p>	<p><u>4.1.1 Wetland Hydrology Research</u></p> <p>YG will apply the Canadian Wetland Classification System to assess hydrology and connectivity of wetland systems within the planning region. This research will inform future YG work to develop BMPs for each wetland type, in consultation with VGG.</p> <p><i>Updates: The wetland classification web page was posted on YG Environment’s web site during 2012 (<a href="http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/animals-habitat/wetland_classification.php">http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/animals-habitat/wetland_classification.php</a>).</i></p> <p><i>2013 update: Wetland BMP’s are underway and the drafting committee has been struck. Two new hydrometric monitoring stations were established by YG Water Resources in late summer 2013, located on Eagle River and McParlon Creek.</i></p> <p><i>2014 update: A review was done with YG Water Resources and the information received was forwarded to VGG. Data for many wells located in the Yukon can be found on the Groundwater Information Network. Any YG data goes to NRCan who maintain the network registry. There were no wells recorded for the Northern Cross project area, however in the summer of 2014 an existing water well at the NCY camp on the Dempster Highway was instrumented with devices to record groundwater levels. Water Resources maintains several hydrometric monitoring stations and water quality stations located near the 3D seismic project area including at Eagle River at Dempster Hwy, McParlon Creek, and Dalglish Creek in order to collect water level and discharge information. Another hydrometric station in the area is located near Dalglish Creek (Peel River above Canyon Creek, Record: continuous, 1962 to Present). Additional future hydrometric stations are planned.</i></p>	<p>Wetland inventory, classification and assessment.</p> <p>Started: April 1, 2011</p>

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Goal	Recommendations	Action Steps and Updates	Results Expected / Status
<b>GOAL 4: Wetlands, Lakes and Rivers (Continued)</b> Maintain the integrity of wetlands, lakes, rivers and sensitive permafrost areas	4.1 (Continued) To minimize potential impacts to regional wetlands, an assessment of wetland hydrology and connectivity should be conducted in advance of the assessment process for large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure projects (5.2.5)	<u>4.1.2 Permitting – Wetland Hydrology</u> YG will fully consider wetland hydrology in the review and permitting of resource extraction and infrastructure projects. <i>YG lead: all departments which manage land or review projects.</i> <i>Updates: No new related project activities or permits issued in region for 2011 or 2012, other than existing operations. No concerns raised.</i> <i>2013 update: A 3D seismic project took place during the winter months of 2013 – 2014 but winter access was not expected to cause hydrology related issues.</i> <i>2014 update: a longer term multi-well exploration project entered the YESAA process and is expected to need consideration of wetland hydrology.</i>	As required (No change). On-going
	4.2 Water withdrawals in ecologically sensitive wetland areas should be prohibited (5.2.5)	<u>4.2.1 Withdrawal Prohibitions</u> The recommendation is a guiding principle to be evaluated under specific circumstances by the Parties. <i>Updates: No withdrawal prohibitions were identified in the region for 2011, 2012 or 2013.</i>	As required (No change). When Triggered
<b>GOAL 5: Heritage and Culture</b> Recognize, conserve and promote the heritage and cultural resources and values of the Vuntut Gwitchin, other affected First Nations, and the Yukon	5.1 Management guidelines for identified routes and sites within the Integrated Management area should be developed jointly by the Vuntut Gwitchin and Yukon governments (5.3.1.1)	<u>5.1.1 Management Guidelines</u> Most existing routes have been identified and management guidelines or BMPs are/will be jointly developed by the Parties as circumstances require. <i>Updates: Heritage resource BMPs were developed for mineral exploration, placer mining and wilderness tourism during 2009 and 2010 (See <a href="http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/bmp.html">http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/bmp.html</a> ). There were no new BMPs for 2012.</i> <i>2013 updates: A new BMP is nearing completion and is expected to be published by year-end: “Best Management Practices – Found Human Remains and Burial Sites”.</i> <i>2014 update: The heritage management guidelines product “Best Management Practices – Found Human Remains and Burial Sites” was completed &amp; posted online at : <a href="http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/pdf/BurialSites_BMP_2014.pdf">http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/pdf/BurialSites_BMP_2014.pdf</a></i>	Management guidelines or BMPs. On-going
	5.2 Known historic camps/cabins, historical fish trap locations, archaeological sites and other heritage resources should be identified prior to exploration and development activities, and protected from disturbance (5.3.1.2)	<u>5.2.1 Permitting – Historic Sites and Resources</u> YG will implement as per current practices for review and permitting of projects which address known historic sites and resources. This item to be reassessed at the first plan review. <i>Updates: During 2011, a permit was issued for the Heritage Resource Impact Assessment of the Proposed Old Crow Water Pumphouse. During 2012, two permits were issued for archaeological investigations: in the Eagle Plains region for Northern Cross (Yukon) Limited’s proposed drill sites and associated ancillary developments, and around Driftwood River and King Edward Spit for brief archaeological site inspections involving the VGFN Heritage Office.</i> (continued)	Management Guidelines development as required. Permitting of projects: On-going

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Goal	Recommendations	Action Steps and Updates	Results Expected / Status
<b>GOAL 5: Heritage and Culture (Continued)</b>	5.2 (Continued) Known historic camps/cabins, historical fish trap locations, archaeological sites and other heritage resources should be identified prior to exploration and development activities, and protected from disturbance (5.3.1.2)	<p><i>2013 updates: Two archaeological research permits were issued in 2013 in the NY planning region: "Cameron - Retrieval of Wrecked Hiller 360 helicopter - SW of Old Crow", and "Mooney (Ecofor) Northern Cross 2013 Seismic work Heritage Resources Impact Assessment".</i></p> <p><i>2014 updates: One new permit was issued under the Archaeological Sites Regulation for retrieval of a Hiller 360 helicopter wreck on the north slope (Yukon Transportation Museum). Otherwise, Ray Le Blanc (emeritus, U of Alberta), joined the VGFN Navigation Systems Project to revisit and update site location information for three archaeological sites (Scientists and Explorers Licence to Shirleen Smith, Consulting Anthropologist). Yukon government issued eleven Scientists and Explorers licences which involved activities or research within VG traditional territory.</i></p>	
<b>GOAL 6: Economic</b>  Facilitate economic development opportunities and activities that results in socio-economic benefits to the community of Old Crow, other affected First Nations and Yukon as a whole, and that meet the sustainable development criteria established by this Plan	6.1 In recognition of the strategic importance of the Dempster Highway and its designation as a Northern and Remote route under the National Highway System, surface disturbance and linear density indicator reporting and evaluation are exempt within a distance of 1 km on each side of the highway centre line (2-km total corridor width) (5.4.1.1)	To be re-evaluated at first plan review.	N/A
	6.2 An all-season access road to Old Crow is not required at this time (5.4.1.2)	To be re-evaluated at first plan review.	N/A
	6.3 In advance of significant levels of energy sector activity, an access management plan should be developed for the Eagle Plain oil and gas basin (5.4.1.3)	<p><u>6.3.1 Access Management Plan</u></p> <p>YG and VGG will jointly develop an access management plan for the Eagle Plain oil and gas basin. Within two years of the Plan being approved, the Parties will draft the terms of reference establishing the factors to be considered in developing the access management plan for this area.</p> <p><i>Updates: Main HPW contact retired during 2012, and new staff to be brought up to speed. VGG wishes to defer this planning until the Peel process has completed, and will inform Yukon when they are ready to proceed.</i></p> <p><i>2013 update: No change for this period. The current 3D seismic exploration program access is facilitated along the existing Chance Creek Road and through the terms and conditions of the land use permit. The future need for a management plan will be triggered by a clear development need by industry. (continued)</i></p>	Terms of Reference: was to start in Fall 2010 (Deferred, await decision to proceed from VGG)

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Goal	Recommendations	Action Steps and Updates	Results Expected / Status
<p><b>GOAL 6: Economic (Continued)</b></p> <p>Facilitate economic development opportunities and activities that results in socio-economic benefits to the community of Old Crow, other affected First Nations and Yukon as a whole, and that meet the sustainable development criteria established by this Plan</p>	<p>6.3 (Continued) In advance of significant levels of energy sector activity, an access management plan should be developed for the Eagle Plain oil and gas basin (5.4.1.3)</p>	<p><i>2014 update: Caribou related mitigations related to the recent seismic project were consolidated into a summary table that flagged project recommendations and permit terms where improvements could be made. A spin-off regulators group was created and met once during 2014 in anticipation of the new multi-well application. VGG and YG initiated work on creating a terms of reference for access management planning. An update on their work will be provided at the NY RLUP annual meeting for 2014.</i></p>	
	<p>6.4 To support maintenance and growth of Old Crow, the Community Area (CA) should be exempt from surface disturbance and linear density indicator monitoring (5.4.2)</p>	<p><u>6.4.1 CA Location</u></p> <p>VGG, in consultation with YG, will determine exact location of the CA. Until such time that the Parties finalize the CA location, the CA shall be defined as a 5-km radius from the centre of Old Crow. The area is not expected to include lands across the Porcupine River from Old Crow.</p> <p><i>Update: VGG indicated during 2012 that the 5 km radius is adequate for now. No change for 2013 or 2014.</i></p>	<p>CA boundary delineation centered on the VGG admin building:</p>
	<p>6.5 To mitigate potential impacts to significant and/or sensitive ecological or cultural resources and values, the identification and mapping of potential sources of aggregate should be undertaken in advance of the assessment process for large-scale industrial and/or infrastructure projects (5.4.7)</p>	<p><u>6.5.1 Aggregate Mapping</u></p> <p>YG will continue to map potential aggregate resources in the North Yukon region in consultation with VGG.</p> <p><i>Updates: YG checked for past aggregate research reports in the planning area during 2012 for information to share with VGG. Some field work for YG Highways also occurred along the Dempster Highway near Eagle plains during 2012 but the reports are not yet available.</i></p> <p><i>2013 update: Minor sampling of aggregate sources by YG along the Dempster done summer 2013 between approximately km 120 and Eagle Plains. Results of the Yukon Exploration &amp; Geology paper are expected in 2014.</i></p> <p><i>2014: Yukon Geological Survey was updated on VGG's interest in future aggregate source information. will advise YG of future gravel needs. YGS did related community mapping of aggregate sources and terrain hazards around Old Crow during summer 2014, and will be returning for additional field work during 2015.</i></p>	<p>Aggregate maps: On-going</p>
	<p>6.6 A future Old Crow Forest Management Plan should maintain community fuelwood and forest harvesting opportunities within the identified fuelwood and forest harvesting area shown in Map 3, Appendix 1 (5.4.8)</p>	<p><u>6.6.1 Community Forest Management Plan</u></p> <p>VGG and YG will develop a Community Forest Management Plan for Old Crow as provided for in s.30 of the <i>Forest Resources Act</i>, to provide accessible forest use for local residents.</p> <p><i>Updates: The need for a community forest plan was raised as an issue within the community. Copies of YG Forestry maps and data were shared in 2011. No updates for 2012. VGG hopes to start some related work during 2013 or later. No updates for 2014.</i></p>	<p>Community Forest Management Plan: When capacity and resources permit</p>

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Goal	Recommendations	Action Steps and Updates	Results Expected / Status
<b>GOAL 6: Economic (Continued)</b> Facilitate economic development opportunities and activities that results in socio-economic benefits to the community of Old Crow, other affected First Nations and Yukon as a whole, and that meet the sustainable development criteria established by this Plan	6.7 Renewable energy options and solutions for the community of Old Crow should continue to be researched and promoted (5.4.9)	<p><u>6.7.1 Energy Option Research and Promotion</u></p> <p>VGG will lead the energy options research initiative, with initial focus on improving the energy efficiency of existing and new houses and government buildings in Old Crow and the use of heat energy from Yukon Electrical Company's power generators to support other community infrastructure. In consultation with VGG, YG will conclude a technical analysis of renewable energy options for Old Crow.</p> <p><i>Updates: During 2012 there was work with the Energy Solutions Centre on a solar monitoring project at the John Tizya Arctic Research Centre, and the creation of a renewable energy resource database. There was also a biomass project with a solid waste management incinerator underway during 2012, and a proposal being considered for a wind/solar tandem system with a grid feed for the community.</i></p> <p><i>2013 update: Work on the Old Crow "community energy plan" contract began in March 2014. It is to include strategic planning, a situation analysis, and potential improved efficiencies (insulation, improved efficiencies, energy from renewable, other options) and supply options such as from their proposed 330 kw solar array. The Sea Breeze application has been pushed back to the next fiscal year.</i></p> <p><i>2014 update: ESC has been working with VGG and the contractor. The inventory phase and situational analysis were completed, and report drafting is underway. Hoping to finish the project and a final draft for review and approval by Chief and Council by the end of this fiscal year pending staff capacity.</i></p>	Energy options research report: When capacity and resources permit

	Stand-Alone Item	Action Steps and Updates	Results Expected / Status
1	<b>Land Use Designation Recommendation 4.2.1 Whitefish Lakes:</b> LMU 8A, Whitefish – Porcupine Lakes, a sub-unit of Whitefish Wetlands, should be designated as a Protected Area category.	<p><u>i. Designations and Withdrawals</u></p> <p>YG will withdraw (via OIC for 5 year term) the public land portion of LMU 8A and manage the land in accordance with the Plan until a more detailed management plan for the Whitefish wetlands is undertaken and adopted within the term of the OIC.</p> <p>VGG will designate the Settlement Land portion of 8A as a protected area.</p>	OIC withdrawal and VGG designation: Completed
	<b>Land Use Designation Recommendation 4.2.1 Whitefish Lakes:</b> LMU 8A, Whitefish – Porcupine Lakes, a sub-unit of Whitefish Wetlands, should be designated as a Protected Area category.	<p><u>ii. Management Planning</u></p> <p>VGG will lead the development of detailed management plan for the Whitefish Wetlands with YG involvement.</p> <p><i>Updates: YG Environment and VGG have started work on a fish and wildlife management plan. The Community-based Fish &amp; Wildlife Work Plan was expected to complete in 2012, but continued into 2013. The final work plan was produced and distributed in March 2013. ( <a href="http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/publications-maps/documents/VGFNFWWP-20130327.pdf">http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/publications-maps/documents/VGFNFWWP-20130327.pdf</a> )</i></p> <p><i>YG Environment and VGG continue to work together to define the type of protected area mechanism, under YG legislation, that will be applied to the area until such time as VGG develops a Lands Act that will enable VGG to</i></p>	Protected area management plan: Started: April 1, 2011

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	Stand-Alone Item	Action Steps and Updates	Results Expected / Status
1 Cont'd	<p><b>Land Use Designation Recommendation 4.2.1 Whitefish Lakes: (Continued)</b></p> <p>LMU 8A, Whitefish – Porcupine Lakes, a sub-unit of Whitefish Wetlands, should be designated as a Protected Area category.</p>	<p><i>designate the area (expected 5 year timeline). Working group members were selected in 2012 and the first WG meeting was deferred to 2013.</i></p> <p><i>2013 update: There are two YG representatives on the Whitefish Wetlands HPA Working Group (WG). The terms of reference for the management planning work are completed and work is progressing well. Three WG/community meetings were held in Old Crow during April, July and October 2013. The WG is beginning to draft a vision for the area and has begun work on interests for Whitefish Wetland.</i></p> <p><i>2014 update: Work on the draft plan continues. The working group met on Dec 10th in Whitehorse and received contracted heritage information that still needs to be reviewed and addressed by Environment. A WG conference call is scheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015.</i></p>	
2	<p><b>Land Use Designation Recommendation 4.2.2 Summit Lake:</b></p> <p>LMU 4C, Summit Lake-Bell River, a sub-unit of the Northern Richardson Mountains and Foothills, should be designated as a Protected Area category.</p>	<p><u>i. Withdrawal</u></p> <p>YG will withdraw (via OIC for 5 year term) the proposed study area until final boundaries are defined and management plan is completed. After the management plan is complete, area within redefined Protected Area will be permanently withdrawn.</p> <p><u>ii. Resource Assessment</u></p> <p>YG will complete the resource assessments for the identified Summit Lake area.</p> <p><i>Updates: Preliminary Archaeological Inventory in the Summit Lake-Bell River Region completed and report submitted 2010 (joint project with VGFN and TG). EMR YGS mineral potential assessment released in August 2011. The information was incorporated into YG Environment's internal review during 2011, and the YG interdepartmental boundary review in 2012.</i></p> <p><u>iii. Boundary Delineation</u></p> <p>The Parties in consultation will delineate the finalized boundaries of the Summit Lake Area.</p> <p><i>Updates: YG Environment developed and produced potential boundary scenarios during 2011. The YG interdepartmental review took place during 2012. Boundary configuration refinement is nearing completion and will continue into 2013, followed by final review with VGG. 2013: Discussion and review of boundary configuration with VGG is ready to begin in 2014. 2014 update: Dec 10th letter from Chief Linklater to Minister Dixon indicating VGG "supports the proposed boundary and the designation at a later date following working group meetings".</i></p> <p><u>iv. Memorandum of Understanding</u></p> <p>The Parties will conclude an MOU regarding the legal designation of the finalized Summit Lake Area.</p>	<p>OIC withdrawal: Completed</p> <p>Resource Assessment Reports: Completed Summer 2010 &amp; 2011</p> <p>Boundary related research: During 2012 – 2013</p> <p>Boundary discussions and agreement : To begin during 2014</p> <p>MOU: begin in 2013 or 2014 once boundaries are finalized</p>

## Appendix 2: Intergovernmental Implementation Framework - North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan

	Stand-Alone Item	Action Steps and Updates	Results Expected / Status
2 (Cont.)	<p><b>Land Use Designation Recommendation 4.2.2 Summit Lake (Continued):</b></p> <p>LMU 4C, Summit Lake-Bell River, a sub-unit of the Northern Richardson Mountains and Foothills, should be designated as a Protected Area category.</p>	<p><u>v. Protected Area Planning</u></p> <p>The Parties will undertake protected area planning within the term of the OIC. Protected area planning to include options for an access corridor to the North Slope. During the interim period, management direction will rely on the Regional Land Use Plan.</p> <p><i>Updates: Environment's Park Planning Unit received the Yukon Geological Survey report in August 2011 for review and analysis. Potential boundary scenarios were developed and vetted by their senior management. YG interdepartmental review and discussions on best potential scenarios took place through 2012 and will continue into 2013. Noted that VGG would become involved in the discussion on boundary refinement once YG has reached consensus on one or more potential scenarios. Yukon Parks let a contract in September 2011 to VGFN to ID cultural heritage values within the Summit Lake- Bell River study area to contribute to the boundary assessment work. The report work was completed March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 and was funded through implementation funding allocation.</i></p> <p><i>2014 update: A working group has been established consisting of Brian Johnston for YG and David Frost for VGG. VGG will be providing input on terms of reference for the working group.</i></p>	<p>Protected area management plan:</p> <p>Work to begin in 2013 or 2014 once boundaries are finalized.</p> <p>Working group has been established.</p>
3	<p><b>Land Use Designation Recommendation 4.4 North Yukon Withdrawal:</b></p> <p>Should the applicable authorities decide to lift the North Yukon Land Withdrawal at a future date, LMU 2A and LMU 4A should be considered for Integrated Management Area Zone III designation.</p>	<p>The Parties will develop a consultation plan in respect of the North Yukon Land Withdrawal. Pursuant to the consultation plan, YG will amend the existing withdrawal order so as to remove LMUs 2A, 3, and 4A from the order, and extend the order to apply to the study area for the proposed protected areas (Summit lake – Bell River and Whitefish wetlands). The land use designation IMA Zone II will be applied to LMUs 2A, 3 and 4A.</p>	<p>Consultation plan and withdrawal orders:</p> <p>Completed</p>
4	<p><b>Landscape Management Unit #12B Fishing Branch HPA</b></p> <p>a. The Fishing Branch Committee of Managing Agencies should consider applying the land use designation concepts and criteria used in this Plan to the Fishing Branch HPA at the next HPA management plan review</p> <p>b. Further delineation of the Fishing Branch HPA southern boundary should also be considered during the next HPA management plan review.</p>	<p>The Committee of Managing Agencies conducted a review of the HPA management plan in 2009. This recommendation was tabled and discussed. It was determined that the Landscape Management Unit (LMU) will not be classified as a zone I, II, or III similar to other LMU's in the planning region. Rather, the management plan will take precedence regarding activities and land use options contained within since it provides a much more focused description and explanation of land use parameters. The acceptance and use of Cumulative Effects Indicators was not discussed but will be tabled at a future meeting of the Committee of Managing Agencies.</p> <p><i>Update: The Committee of Managing Agencies did not meet during 2013, but is expect to do so in 2014. The acceptance and use of Cumulative Effects Indicators is scheduled to be tabled and discussed at the next meeting. No update for 2014.</i></p> <p>Once the VG/TH Traditional Territory overlap is resolved, the Fishing Branch Committee of Managing Agencies will work to establish a watershed-based boundary for the southern part of the HPA.</p> <p><i>(Continued)</i></p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>HPA boundary:</p> <p>Once overlap issue is resolved</p>

## Appendix 2: Intergovernmental Implementation Framework - North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan

	Stand-Alone Item	Action Steps and Updates	Results Expected / Status
4 Cont'd	<p><b>Landscape Management Unit #12B Fishing Branch HPA (Continued)</b></p> <p>b. Further delineation of the Fishing Branch HPA southern boundary should also be considered during the next HPA management plan review.</p>	<p><i>2012 Update: The Dawson Regional Planning Commission has been made aware of this item and will factor it into the development of the future Dawson Plan. 2013: The "Dawson Planning Commission Plan Alternatives report" was released for review. The next steps for the commission were to review feedback, complete their boundary refinement and then work on the draft plan by next summer.</i></p> <p><i>2014 update: Related information on boundaries was expected to be incorporated into the draft Dawson plan, however the plan was temporarily suspended.</i></p>	<p>HPA boundary: Once overlap issue is resolved</p>
5	<p><b>Suggested Research Priorities, Appendix 4</b></p>	<p>Appendix 4 of the Plan provides a summary of various research suggestions made throughout the Plan. The Parties will review, agree to, and develop a timeline for undertaking research priorities commensurate with available resources.</p> <p><i>Updates: the main research focus has been bench marking and baseline research during 2011 and 2012. See further details under Goal 1, recommendations 1.1 and 1.3). 2013: It was decided by both parties that the plan's research priorities be scheduled as a discussion item for the 2013 annual meeting (which would take place in early 2014) as it is an important consideration for the next 5-year work plan.</i></p> <p><i>2014 update: The Suggested Research Priorities listed under part A4-1 of the Plan were reviewed at the annual meeting held in February 2014. It was decided that it remains current and adequate for the near future.</i></p>	<p>Research timeline and products: June 2011-2014</p>
6	<p><b>Plan Implementation, section 7.1</b></p> <p>The Parties will develop a detailed Plan implementation strategy concurrently with, or subsequent to, the approval of a Final Land Use Plan.</p>	<p>The YG and VGG will update the Intergovernmental Implementation Framework annually.</p> <p><i>2013 update: Approvals were requested to post the annual reports on Yukon's Regional Land Use Planning web page in order to make the information in them more publicly accessible. This is expected to occur during 2014.</i></p> <p><i>2014 update: Annual reports are now maintained on YG's Regional Land Use Planning web page for public access at the following link: <a href="http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/lands/nyrlup.html">http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/lands/nyrlup.html</a> .</i></p>	<p>Updated Intergovernmental Implementation Framework: On-going with annual updates.</p>
7	<p><b>Plan Revision, section 7.2</b></p> <p>Plan Reviews will occur on an agreed-upon schedule, or whenever the Yukon and Vuntut Gwitchin governments agree it is required. Methods and timelines for changing the Plan will be developed as part of the detailed implementation strategy.</p>	<p>VGG and YG will jointly develop a Memorandum of Understanding detailing the plan revision schedule and triggers thereof. The Memorandum of Understanding will address whether such reviews are mandatory or discretionary, and shall clarify any applicable public review processes.</p> <p><i>Update: The topic of plan review was discussed at the 2013 annual meeting. The MOU requires a decision by the parties under section 6.7 to "determine whether they wish to undertake a plan review" within 7 years of the initial Plan approval. A decision by the Parties is required by June 2016. The subject will be carried forward to the 2014 annual meeting as a discussion item.</i></p>	<p>MOU: Completed</p>
8	<p><b>Best Management Practices</b></p>	<p>Government agencies and project review panels are continually developing and updating BMPs. The Parties acknowledge that consideration is given to the BMPs identified by the Plan, noting that some practises may be surpassed in future, but will not require plan revision. <i>YG lead: all departments which manage land or review projects.</i></p> <p><i>Updates: There were no new BMP's released by YG during 2012. Several were in the works during 2013. A new Heritage Management Guidelines BMP was released in 2014. See Action Steps 2.1 (BMP Development) and 5.1.1 (Heritage Management Guidelines) for further details, and web links to existing BMPs.</i></p>	<p>BMP's being developed on an ongoing basis. On-going</p>

### Appendix 3: Conformity Check Summary of New YESAA Projects During 2014

	<u>YESAA #</u>	<u>Project Proponent</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Landscape Management Unit</u>	<u>Zoning</u>	<u>Conformity &amp; Approval Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1	2014-0051	YG EMR Oil & Gas Branch	Re-Abandonment of Exploration Well B-62	LMU 11 Whitestone River	IMA Zone III	No Conformity check issued. Decision Document issued June 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Existing disturbed area within exempted community area
2	2014-0101	(Bonnee Bingham for VGFNG)	Old Crow Fuel Depot	LMU 2A Old Crow - Rampart house	IMA Zone II (CA)	No Conformity check issued. Decision Document issued Oct 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2014	Existing historic disturbance (1965) accessed by helicopter
3	2014 - 0112	Northern Cross (Yukon) Limited	Eagle Plains Multi-well Exploration Program Survey	LMU 9 Eagle Plains	IMA Zone IV	Conformity check issued Dec 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2014. Currently in "Information requested from Proponent" stage (Jan 12th).	Project conforms to Regional Land Use Plan
4	2014-0168	BBC Natural History Unit	The Great Race - Caribou	LMU 1A-D, 2A, 3, 4A & 4C	PA, IMA Zone II, (YG & VGFN Lands)	Conformity check issued Dec 19, 2014. Currently in "Preparing Recommendation" stage (Feb 3rd).	Project conforms to Regional Land Use Plan
5	2014-0175	YG Community Services	Solid Waste Disposal Facility - Old Crow	LMU 2A Old Crow - Rampart house	IMA Zone II (CA)	Conformity check issued Dec 19, 2014. Currently in "Preparing Recommendation" stage (Feb 3rd).	Project conforms to Regional Land Use Plan
6	2014-0185	YG Highways and Public Works	Solid Waste Disposal Facility - Eagle Plains	LMU 9 Eagle Plains	IMA Zone IV	Still in "Adequacy Review" stage at end of reporting period.	Project conforms to Regional Land Use Plan

(Abbreviations: CA = Community Area, IMA = Integrated Management Area, PA = Protected Area)

## Appendix 4: New Disturbances from June 2009 – December 31, 2014

LMU	LMU sub-unit	Area (km <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>1</sup>	Land Use Category <sup>2</sup>	IMA Zone †	New Surface Disturbance (km <sup>2</sup> ) ††	New Linear Density (km/km <sup>2</sup> ) ††
<b>1. Old Crow Flats SMA</b>	1A. Vuntut National Park	4,374 (8%)	PA	N/A	0	0
	1B. Old Crow Flats Core Wetlands	4,504 (8%)	PA	N/A	0	0
	1C. Old Crow Flats West	726 (1%)	PA	N/A	0	0
	1D. Old Crow Flats East	2,518 (5%)	PA	N/A	0	0
	<b>LMU total</b>	<b>12,122 (22%)</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>2. Lower Porcupine River</b>	2A. Old Crow – Rampart House	1,525 (3%)	IMA**	Zone II	0	0
	2B. Bluefish River – David Lord Creek	3,083 (6%)	IMA	Zone III	0	0
	2C. Bluefish – Cadzow Lake Wetlands	980 (2%)	IMA	Zone I	0	0
	<b>LMU total</b>	<b>5,588 (11%)</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>3. Driftwood River – Salmon Cache</b>	none	<b>2,876 (5%)</b>	IMA**	Zone II	0	0
<b>4. North Richardson Mountains and Foothills</b>	4A. Bell – Waters River	2,126 (4%)	IMA**	Zone II	0	0
	4B. LaChute River	1,331 (2%)	IMA	Zone II	0	0
	4C. Summit Lake – Bell River	1,525 (3%)	PA	N/A	0	0
	<b>LMU total</b>	<b>4,982 (9%)</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>5. Bluefish Lake – Keele Range</b>	none	<b>2,066 (3%)</b>	IMA	Zone III	0	0
<b>6. Ahvee and Sharp Mountains</b>	none	<b>2,714 (5%)</b>	IMA	Zone III	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Percentage of total plan area occupied by each LMU or sub-unit is shown in brackets

<sup>2</sup> Land Use Category: PA=Protected Area (existing or proposed), IMA=Integrated Management Area, \*\* = under North Yukon Land Withdrawal, \*\*\* = Fishing Branch HPA Land Use Category for LMU 12B to be determined.

† Cumulative effects indicators (cautionary level % of LMU) for the four IMA zones are: Zone I = 0.075%, Zone II = 0.15%, Zone III = 0.375%, Zone IV = 0.75%

†† Surface Disturbance and Linear Density values: Most project related disturbances during the defined time period occurred in either LMU 2A (Old Crow community area) or in LMU 9 (Eagle Plains). The 2014 Old Crow winter road project utilized the pre-existing licensed route through LMU 2A, 2B, 2C, 6, 7, 8C and 9 and therefore is not considered a new disturbance by the Plan. Historic disturbances from before 2009 have not been included in the reported values. Note that the new disturbance values listed are the raw values which do not yet reflect any deductions based upon the definition of functional disturbance and exempt activities as described by the Plan (See definition of Functional Disturbance, pg.3-2, North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan, June 2009).

Appendix 4: New Disturbances from June 2009 – December 31, 2014

LMU	LMU sub-unit	Area (km <sup>2</sup> ) <sup>1</sup>	Land Use Category <sup>2</sup>	IMA Zone †	New Surface Disturbance (km <sup>2</sup> ) ††	New Linear Density (km/km <sup>2</sup> ) ††
<b>7. Johnson Creek</b>	none	<b>3,230 (6%)</b>	IMA	Zone IV	0	0
<b>8. Whitefish Wetlands</b>	8A. Whitefish – Porcupine Lakes	<b>468 (1%)</b>	PA	N/A	0	0
	8B. Eagle – Bell River	<b>1,124 (2%)</b>	IMA	Zone I	0	0
	8C. Porcupine River	<b>302 (1%)</b>	IMA	Zone I	0	0
	LMU total	<b>1,894 (4%)</b>			0	0
<b>9. Eagle Plains</b>	none	<b>6,415 (11%)</b>	IMA	Zone IV	6.24 km <sup>2</sup> (=0.097%)	0.368 km/km <sup>2</sup> (= 2364.46 km)
<b>10. South Richardson Mountains and Foothills</b>	10A. South Richardson Mountains	<b>780 (1%)</b>	IMA	Zone II	0	0
	10B. Rock River – Mount Joyal	<b>2,374 (4%)</b>	IMA	Zone II	0	0
	LMU total	<b>3,154 (5%)</b>			0	0
<b>11. Whitestone River</b>	none	<b>1,740 (3%)</b>	IMA	Zone III	0	0
<b>12. Ni'iinlii'njik (Fishing Branch) SMA</b>	12A. Ni'iinlii'njik Protected Area	<b>5,524 (10%)</b>	PA	N/A	0	0
	12B. Fishing Branch Habitat Protection Area	<b>980 (2%)</b>	***	N/A	0	0
	LMU total	<b>6,504 (12%)</b>			0	0
<b>13. Kandik River</b>	none	<b>2,266 (4%)</b>	IMA	Zone IV	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>55,548 (100 %)</b>				