

4. Land-Use Designation

The recommended land-use designation for the region is summarized in Table 4.1 and shown in Map 2, Appendix A. The two major land-use categories are the Integrated Management Zone (IMZ) and, the Recommended Conservation and Protection Zone. The latter contains Tier I Ecosystem Protection, which includes Critical Landscape Zone (CLZ), River Corridor Zones (RCZs) and Remote Access Lakes (RALs), and Tier II Wilderness Conservation, the General Conservation Zone (GCZ).

Within the IMZ, each landscape management unit (LMU) has been assigned to a specific land-use zone (Zones I-IV). A complete land withdrawal is recommended for all Tier I Designated Protected Zones. Grandfathering-in of existing tenures and a land withdrawal for remaining non-settlement and settlement lands is recommended for all Tier II Designated Protected Zones.

Table 4.1. Land-use designation summary.

Land-Use Category	Area (km ²)	Area (% of region)
Recommended Conservation and Protection Zone		
Critical Landscape Zone	7469	11.1%
River Corridors Zone	2448	3.6%
Remote Access Lakes	169	0.3%
General Conservation Zone	32538	48.3%
RCPZ Total	42624	63.2%
Integrated Management Zone		
Zone I	9717	14.4%
Zone II	9036	13.4%
Zone III	3517	5.2%
Zone IV	2503	3.7%
IMZ Total	24772	36.8%
Total	67397	100%

4.1 Recommended Conservation and Protection Zone

There are currently no protected areas in the region. The Tetlit Gwich'in submitted an application to nominate two areas in the PWPR for National Historic Site status. These two areas are Teetł'it nkik and Tshuu tr'adaojjich'uu. Several other Tier I protected zones were selected according to ecological, cultural, or geophysical uniqueness and importance. In total, these areas contribute approximately 15% of lands to the Tier I protected areas category. Tier II areas further add 48% to a protected area category with grandfathered tenures (i.e., claims, leases, licenses, and permits) and future access planning to meet development needs, according to key recommendations in this Plan.

Tier I – Ecosystem Protection Zone

Teetl'it nkik (LMU 11a) and Tshuu tr'adaojich'uu (LMU 11c)

Teetl'it nkik and Tshuu tr'adaojich'uu are two related sites, connected by common stories, experiences, and history, and set within the larger cultural landscape of the Tetlit Gwich'in. These areas are discussed in detail in the document *At the Heart of the Teetl'it Gwich'in Cultural Landscape* (Teetl'it Gwich'in First Nation, 2003). Much of the areas were previously selected by the Tetlit Gwich'in in the Yukon Transboundary Agreement (TG R-01FS, TG R-03FS & TG R-14FS). Tshuu tr'adaojich'uu partly overlaps with the Bonnet Plume Canadian Heritage River. Designation of CLZ seeks to protect these cultural landscapes.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Teetl'it nkik & Tshuu tr'adaojich'uu include:

- Need for further research into traditional land use and place names, and recording of significant heritage sites and archaeological surveys in the upper and lower reaches of the Peel River watershed
- Work with the Gwich'in Language Centre to review existing information already collected about the two zones.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>LMU 11a & 11c, Teetl'it nkik and Tshuu tr'adaojich'uu, a sub-unit of the Peel River Corridor, should be designated Tier I Critical Landscape Zones (see Section 6 for location and description). These areas include Tetlit Gwich'in fee simple lands (TG R-01FS, TG R-03FS & TG R-14FS) and non-settlement lands around the Peel River and the river corridor itself.</i>
----------------	---

Peel Mainstem (LMU 11b) & Upper Peel River (LMU 11f)

Although the Peel Mainstem and Upper Peel River are connected through the Peel River, they are designated as two separate LMUs due to their distinct cultural and unique geological differences. The Peel Mainstem lies between Teetl'it nkik and Tshuu tr'adaojich'uu and contains fee simple land selections of Tetlit Gwich'in First Nation (TG R-04FS, TG R-05FS, TG R-08FS, TG R-12FS & TG R-13FS) selected for their important cultural and traditional use areas (Big Eddy, fishing holes, and travel routes). The Upper Peel River has no transboundary land selected or settlement lands but contains an important travel route for the THFN (see Final Agreement special provisions). Designation of CLZ seeks to protect the cultural landscape and connectivity of traditional travel routes, as well as the aesthetic values of the Peel River.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Peel Mainstem & Upper Peel River include:

- Potential access route along the eastern boundary of the Peel Mainstem.
- Tourism value of the Peel Mainstem due to higher visitation to the Wind and Snake Rivers.

- Upper Peel River is adjacent to an IMZ IV LMU (Eagle Plains) and may receive higher levels of access (water, air, and land), should Eagle Plains LMU be developed.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>LMU 11b & 11f, a sub-unit of the Peel River, should be designated Tier I Critical Landscape Zones (see Section 6 for location and description). These areas include Tetlit Gwich'in fee simple lands (TG R-04FS, TG R-05FS, TG R-08FS, TG R-12FS & TG R-13FS) and non-settlement lands around the Peel River and the river corridor itself.</i>
----------------	--

Turner Wetlands and Caribou River (LMU 8a), Jackfish Lakes (LMU 7b), Tabor Lakes (LMU 7c), Vittrekwa River (LMU 12b) & Chappie Lake (LMU 2c)

Turner Lake and Caribou River, Jackfish Lakes, Tabor Lakes, Vittrekwa River, Chappie Lake, and their associated wetland complexes are ecologically rich wetland and open habitats important for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species. These areas have continuous permafrost coverage, making them sensitive to industrial disturbance (surface disturbance). All five areas have been mentioned as priority areas for protection in other assessments (LMU 8a, 7b, 7c - Ducks Unlimited, LMU 8a,7b,7c,2c - Canadian Wildlife Services, LMU 8a,2c - Peel River Watershed Advisory Committee Workshop on Land and Water Management (1996) and LMU 7b, 7c, 12b - Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board). All five wetland complexes are in the northern Peel River Plateau and Fort McPherson Plain ecoregions. The Turner Lake wetlands contain a portion of a fee simple land selection of Tetlit Gwich'in First Nation (TG R-05FS). Designation of CLZ seeks to protect important open-water and wetland habitat for breeding, foraging, and rearing habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Turner Wetlands and Caribou River, Jackfish Lakes, Tabor Lakes, Vittrekwa River, and Chappie Lake include:

- Need for data on habitat mapping of wetland areas.
- Need for research on hydrological relationship between wetland areas and surrounding landscape.
- Map critical wetland components of these landscapes and biologically important seasonal-use patterns by waterfowl and other wetland-dependent species.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>LMU 8a, 7b, 7c, 2c and 12b are sub-units of the Peel River Plateau and Fort McPherson Plain ecozone, and should be designated Tier I Critical Landscape Zones (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes both settlement land and non-settlement lands.</i>
----------------	--

West Hart (LMU 4b) - Hart River Caribou Herd Core Winter Area

The West Hart LMU contains over 80% of the Hart River caribou herd's key wintering ground and also contains a migratory route connecting the herd to its ranges further south. The LMU is

in the headwaters of the West Hart River in the Blackstone uplands ecodistrict. Designation of CLZ seeks to protect critical wintering grounds when caribou are most susceptible to disturbance.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of West Hart LMU include:

- Need to further map critical Hart River caribou herd winter habitat.
- Examine the need for further hunting restriction to help mitigate hunting pressure on the HRCH due to the proximity of the Porcupine caribou herd.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>4b is a sub-unit of the Hart River drainage (LMU 4), should be designated a Tier I Critical Landscape Zone (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes non-settlement lands only and site-specific lands.</i>
----------------	---

Nihtavan diniinelee – Fish Lake (LMU 1d)

Nihtavan diniinelee – Fish Lake is a string of lakes from Cranswick River towards the Snake River. Families (primarily Gwichya Gwich'in) would come from Tsiigehtchic to Nihtavan diniinelee. The fish run through here just after New Year. There is also a hot spring in this area. LMU 1d runs along the southern boundary of the Nihtavan diniinelee lake system and is nested within the Snake River Watershed LMU 1. LMU 1d is a fee simple land selection of Tetlit Gwich'in First Nation (TG R-1FS) and a site-specific selection of NND (S-139b). Designation of CLZ seeks to protect the area from disturbance that would detract from the peaceful enjoyment of this area at any time of the year or affect the fish run into these lakes.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Nihtavan diniinelee include:

- Manage the surrounding IMZ I in such a way that it does not impact on LMU 1d and the adjacent lake system (including water flow, quality, and subsistence fish populations).

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>LMU 1d, a sub-unit of the Snake River Watershed LMU 1, should be designated a Tier I Critical Landscape Zone (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes TG R-1FS fee simple land and site-specific selection of NND (S-139b).</i>
----------------	--

Nash Creek (LMU 3d)

The Nash Creek LMU sub-unit is a culturally important area to the Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation. There is connectivity through this area from Hart Lake to McCluskey Lake. The area is a traditional harvesting area and contains several cabins, mineral licks, and a hot spring. This area is relatively easily accessible from the communities of Dawson and Mayo. LMU 3d is comprised of a land selection of Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation (R-11A) and several NND site-specifics and non-settlement land. Designation of CLZ seeks to protect the area from disturbance that would

detract from the peaceful enjoyment of it at any time of the year and allow infrastructure compatible (under this designation) for educational purposes.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Nash Creek include:

- Interest in developing an all-season access route into the Wind River may change the characteristics and desired future state of the sub-unit.
- Future clearing of the existing winter road (under the existing Wind River trail R.O.W.) access route into the Wind River may change the characteristics and desired future state of the sub-unit.
- Unauthorized use of settlement land - Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation (R-11A).
- Potential for geothermal energy development exists in this area.
- Need to monitor vegetation around the hot spring for disturbance and assess fish populations.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>LMU 3d, a sub-unit of the Wind River Watershed LMU 3, should be designated a Tier I Critical Landscape Zone (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes NND R-11A and non-settlement lands between Hart Lake and McClusky Lake.</i>
----------------	---

Hungry Lakes (LMU 3c)

Hungry Lakes is a series of lakes and wetland complexes between the lower Hart River and lower Wind River. This area hosts a variety of palaeoenvironments, fauna, and potential for archaeological sites. This area has been used traditionally as a meeting place in spring. The area was also used to construct moose-skin boats. Hungry Lakes has cultural and historical significance for VGFN, NNF, TH and TG, as well as historical importance as a trading route. THFN has one site-specific selection (TH S-128B). Designation of CLZ seeks to protect Hungry Lakes from disturbance that would detract from peaceful enjoyment at any time of the year and should allow infrastructure compatible with subsistence hunting and cultural experiences.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Hungry Lakes include:

- This area has had winter access in the past. Future winter access must take into consideration seasonal use of the area for hunting and trapping.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>LMU 3c, a sub-unit of the Wind River Watershed LMU 3, should be designated a Tier I Critical Landscape Zone (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes TH S-128B and non-settlement lands between the Hart River, Hungry Lakes, and Wind River.</i>
----------------	--

Doll Creek (LMU 9b) and Aberdeen Canyon (LMU 11d)

Doll Creek flows into the Peel River downstream of Aberdeen Canyon. Therefore, these two sub-units are adjacent to one another. A smaller stream also enters the Peel River from sub-unit 9b, upstream of Aberdeen Canyon. Aberdeen Canyon is a deeply incised reach of the Peel River and a spectacular but impossible section for river travel. An important travel route for the THFN (see Final Agreement special provisions) connects Dawson to Fort McPherson along the Peel River, past Aberdeen Canyon. The Tetlit Gwich'in land selection R-07FS forms the bulk of sub-unit 9b. Designation of CLZ seeks to protect this area from any kind of surface disturbance or alteration of water flow. This area should also be managed for preservation of its aesthetic qualities and its cultural and historical significance.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Doll Creek and Aberdeen Canyon include:

- This area has had winter access in the past. Future winter access must take into consideration seasonal use of the area for hunting and trapping.
- Any kind of development in this area is strongly discouraged. Management priority should be to preserve the aesthetic qualities of Aberdeen Canyon.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>11d, a sub-unit of the Peel River, and 9b, a sub-unit of the Richardson Mountains LMU 9, should be designated Tier I Critical Landscape Zones (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes TGFN R-07FS lands and non-settlement lands around Aberdeen Canyon.</i>
----------------	--

Mid Blackstone Flats – TH R-35B (LMU 5b)

See Blackstone River Corridor (13-5)

Remote Access Lakes

Fairchild Lake (LMU 2d), Duo Lake (LMU 2e), Bonnet Plume Lake (LMU 2f), Margaret Lake (LMU 2g), Quartet Lakes (LMU 2h), Elliot Lake (LMU 4d), McClusky Lake (3x¹), Goz Lake (2x²)

Five lakes in Bonnet Plume River LMU 2 were selected for protection as Remote Access Lake. These lakes were identified as common fly-in access points for both river travel and mineral exploration activities. The Peel River Watershed Advisory Committee previously identified Margaret Lake, Quartet Lake, and Bonnet Plume Lake for protection. Fairchild Lake is culturally important to the THFN and NND, and several cabins owned by their citizens have been identified in the area. Designation of CLZ seeks to protect these areas from impacts related to concentrated human occupation and use of the area (camps and related waste, over-harvesting, etc.). Future management of these areas may restrict or regulate fly-in access to these lakes.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of remote access lakes include:

- Investigate the need to recommend other remote access lakes, such as the unnamed lake near the mouth of Reptile Creek (64° 34' 00"N 132° 15' 20"W), as potential candidate remote-access lakes.
- Monitor use of RAL by guided and non-guided wilderness travelers.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>2d, 2e, 2f, 2g and 2h, sub-units of the Bonnet Plume River Watershed LMU 2, should be designated as Tier I Remote Access Lakes (see Section 6 for location and description). These areas include several site-specific selections and non-settlement lands within the RAL.</i>
----------------	---

Hart Lake (LMU 4c), Elliot Lake (LMU 4d)

Two lakes in Hart River LMU 4 were selected for protection as Remote Access Lakes. These lakes were identified as common fly-in access points for both river travel and mineral exploration activities. Designation of CLZ seeks to protect these areas from impacts related to concentrated human occupation and use of the area (camps and related waste, over-harvesting, etc.). Future management of these areas may restrict or regulate fly-in access to these lakes.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of remote access lakes include:

- Monitor use of RAL by guided and non-guided wilderness travelers.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>4c and 4d, sub-units of the Hart River Watershed LMU 4, should be designated as Tier I Remote Access Lakes (see Section 6 for location and</i>
----------------	---

¹ This lake was identified as a candidate for a Remote Access Lake after draft plan maps were completed.

² This lake was identified as a candidate for a Remote Access Lake after draft plan maps were completed.

	<i>description). These areas include non-settlement lands within the RAL.</i>
--	---

River Corridor Zone

River corridor zones (LMU 13) were delineated for six of the major rivers in the Peel Planning Area: Snake River (LMU 13-1), Bonnet Plume River (LMU 13-2), Wind River (LMU 13-3), Hart River (LMU 13-4), Blackstone River (LMU 13-5), and Ogilvie River (13-6). The RCZ designation recommends a complete land withdrawal for all tenures within the RCZ, except existing surface dispositions (e.g., camps, cabins, and existing buildings). This zone has no grandfathering of subsurface claims, leases, licenses, and permits. Road development for all-season access is strongly discouraged for all RCZ. Limited access may be allowed in some RCZs where it can be shown that impacts to water flow and quality will be insignificant, and that impacts to focal species in the given LMU sub-unit will be insignificant. Note that it is anticipated that these conformity checks will be very difficult to meet in this Region due to the sensitivity of the terrain, incised valley bottoms, and low water flow through the winter months.

Snake River Corridor (LMU 13-1)

The Snake River Corridor is the riparian zone and flood plain of the Snake River from approximately 40 km upstream of the Peel River/Snake River confluence (Big Eddy area) to its headwaters in Wernecke Mountains. Also included is a tributary river in sub-unit 1b. The Snake River Corridor is a popular wilderness tourism destination for river paddlers and includes several areas in the mountain zone that offer scenic views and hiking trips. This river is also an important migratory route for the Bonnet Plume caribou herd and has several important mineral licks in the upper reaches of the river corridor. Designation of RCZ seeks to protect the entire river corridor from any kind of surface disturbance or activity that will result in a decline of the northern mountain caribou herds in the area. The river corridor should also be protected for its aesthetic value and economic potential for low-impact, renewable-resource-based activities.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Snake River corridor include:

- Conduct a viewshed analysis of the river corridor, based on the river corridor and high-value hiking and camping areas. Use this analysis to consider future expansion of the river corridor zone for the Snake River.
- The protected area designation will exclude all-season access in the Snake River corridor.
- Maintaining water flow and quality is a priority in the Snake River Watershed for health of fish populations and human water consumption in the RCZ and the waters downstream.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>13-1, a sub-unit of LMU 1, should be designated a Tier I River Corridor Zone (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes one NND site-specific (NND S-130B) and non-settlement lands.</i>
-----------------------	---

Bonnet Plume River Corridor (LMU 13-2)

The Bonnet Plume River Corridor extends from the Tshuu tr'adaojjich'uu CLZ (LMU 11c) to the headwaters of the Bonnet Plume River in the Wernecke Mountains. The Bonnet Plume Watershed and River is a Canadian Heritage River. The designation of RCZ recognizes this status. Designation of CLZ seeks to protect the entire river corridor from any kind of permanent surface disturbance or activity that will result in a decline of the northern mountain caribou herds in the area. One access route across this RCZ for all-season access may be allowed, should a formal proposal for mine development be found acceptable through the YESAA process (see Access GMDs and LMU description in Section 5). Any such developments would require complete restoration upon decommissioning of the site and access. This designation is also in agreement with the Gwich'in Tribal Council's high conservation priority given to the "Source Peaks" area. The river corridor should also be protected for its aesthetic value and economic potential for low-impact, renewable-resource-based activities.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Bonnet Plume River Corridor include:

- Desire for on-going scientific research.
- Conduct a viewshed analysis of the river corridor based on the river corridor and high-value hiking and camping areas. Use this analysis to consider future expansion of the river corridor zone.
- The protected area designation will exclude all-season access in the Bonnet Plume River corridor, with the exception of up to one crossing for access to a development of preexisting tenures.
- Maintaining water flow and quality is a priority in the Bonnet Plume River Watershed for health of fish populations and human water consumption in the RCZ and waters downstream.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>13-2, a sub-unit of LMU 2, should be designated a Tier I River Corridor Zone (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes one NND site-specific (NND S-104B, S-105B, S-115B) and non-settlement lands.</i>
----------------	---

Wind River Corridor (LMU 13-3)

The Wind River Corridor is the riparian zone and flood plain of the Wind River from the Peel River/Wind River confluence to the Wind's headwaters in the Wernecke Mountains. Also included is a tributary river called the Little Wind River. The Wind River Corridor is a popular wilderness tourism destination for river paddlers and includes several areas in the mountain zone that offer scenic views and hiking trips. This river is also an important migratory route for the Bonnet Plume caribou herd and has several important mineral licks in the upper reaches of the river corridor. The Wind River Corridor has an access right-of-way that bypasses the RCZ for the most part, but occasionally enters the RCZ. Sub-unit 13-3 is the only river corridor unit (i.e., LMU 13-x) that explicitly allows road access for future development (see Access GMDs in

section 5 and LMU 13 sub-units in Section 6). Designation of CLZ seeks to protect the entire river corridor from any kind of surface disturbance or activity that will result in a decline of the northern mountain caribou and sheep populations. The river corridor should also be protected, to the extent possible, for its aesthetic value and economic potential for low-impact renewable-resource-based activities.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Wind River Corridor include:

- Conduct a viewshed analysis of the river corridor based on the river corridor and high value hiking and camping areas. Use this analysis to consider future expansion of the river corridor zone.
- All-season industrial infrastructure is discouraged. An all-season road is allowed for access to grandfathered tenures for their development (not exploration) that minimizes overall surface disturbance and road development within sub-unit LMU 3 and the planning region (see Access GMDs).
- Maintaining water flow and quality is a priority in the Wind River Corridor for the health of fish populations and human water consumption in the RCZ and waters downstream.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>13-3, a sub-unit of LMU 3, should be designated a Tier I River Corridor Zone (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes several NND site-specific lands and non-settlement lands.</i>
----------------	--

Hart River Corridor (13-4)

The Hart River Corridor is the riparian zone and flood plain of the Hart River from the Peel River/Hart River confluence to its headwaters in both the Ogilvie (West Hart River) and Wernecke mountains (Hart River). The Hart River is part of a unique landscape in the Peel and Yukon context as it was ice-free during the last glaciation and contains many genetically unique Beringian species. Several fish species are genetically isolated because Aberdeen Canyon is not passable to fish from downstream. Both the Porcupine and Hart caribou herds winter in this area. Peregrine Falcons nest on the cliffs in the lower portion of the river corridor. The incidence of rare and endemic plant species is high in this watershed. The Hart River Corridor is an important travel corridor and trapline for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation. Although this river is not a popular paddling river, it is ecologically rich and unique in the Yukon context. Designation of RCZ seeks to protect the entire river corridor from any kind of surface disturbance or activity that will result in a decline of the Porcupine caribou and Hart River caribou herds in the area. The river corridor should also be protected for its ecological value and economic potential for low-impact renewable-resource-based activities.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of the Hart River Corridor include:

- Desire for on-going scientific research.
- Access to wilderness hiking and paddling from the Dempster Highway (via West Hart River), and remote access from fly-in lakes (Elliot Lake).

- Conduct a viewshed analysis of the river corridor based on the river corridor and high value hiking and camping on adjacent lands. Apply this analysis in considering future expansion of the river corridor zone.
- The protected area designation will exclude all-season access in the Hart River corridor.
- Maintaining water flow and quality is a priority in the Hart River Watershed for health of fish populations and human water consumption in the RCZ and waters downstream.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>13-4, a sub-unit of LMU 4, should be designated a Tier I River Corridor Zone (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes non-settlement lands along the Hart River Corridor.</i>
----------------	--

Blackstone River Corridor (13-5)

The Blackstone River Corridor is the riparian zone and flood plain of the Blackstone River from the Peel River / Blackstone River confluence to the Blackstone's headwaters in the Ogilvie Mountains. Part of the headwaters of the Blackstone River lies within Tombstone Territorial Park. Within the PWPR, the Dempster Highway runs along the west side of the Blackstone River for approximately 25 km before leaving the Blackstone watershed for the Ogilvie watershed at Engineer Creek. Along with the Hart and Ogilvie rivers, the Blackstone River is part of a unique landscape in the Peel and Yukon context, as it was ice-free during the last glaciation and contains many genetically unique Beringian species. Several fish species are genetically isolated as Aberdeen Canyon is not passable to fish from downstream. Both the Porcupine and Hart caribou herds winter in this area. The incidence of rare and endemic plant species is high in this watershed. There are several THFN site-specific lands along this stretch of the Dempster Highway/Blackstone River, primarily gravesites. There is one R-block, TH R-35B, which lies partially inside the Blackstone River Corridor. This R-block should be considered part of 13-5. Designation of RCZ seeks to protect the entire river corridor from any kind of surface disturbance or activity that will result in a decline of the Porcupine caribou and Hart River caribou herds in the area. The river corridor should also be protected for its ecological value and economic potential for low-impact renewable-resource-based activities.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Blackstone River Corridor include:

- Desire for on-going scientific research.
- Conduct a viewshed analysis of the river corridor based on the river corridor and high value hiking and camping areas on adjacent lands. Use this analysis to consider future expansion of the river corridor zone.
- Access to wilderness hiking and paddling from the Dempster Highway.
- All-season industrial infrastructure is discouraged. A minimum of all-season road access for development (not exploration) beyond this unit is allowed (see Access GMDs).

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>13-5, a sub-unit of LMU 5, should be designated a Tier I River Corridor Zone (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes site-specific land selections (TH-202B, TH-124B, TH-180B, & TH-181B), TH R-35B settlement land, and non-settlement lands.</i>
----------------	--

Ogilvie River Corridor (LMU 13-6)

The Ogilvie River Corridor is the riparian zone and flood plain of the Ogilvie River from the Peel River / Ogilvie River confluence to its headwaters in the Ogilvie Mountains. Within the PWPR, the Dempster Highway runs along the west side of the Ogilvie River for approximately 100 km before leaving the Ogilvie Watershed for Eagle Plains (North Yukon Planning Region). Along with the Hart and Blackstone rivers, the Ogilvie River is part of a unique landscape in the Peel and Yukon context as it was ice-free during the last glaciation and contains many genetically unique Beringian species. Several fish species are genetically isolated as Aberdeen Canyon is not passable to fish from downstream. Both the Porcupine and Hart caribou herds winter in this area, although the Hart herd stays in the southern portion of the Blackstone River uplands. Incidence of rare and endemic plant species is high in this watershed. There is one site-specific land selection at Engineer Creek, VG S-44A and a small R-block TH R-40B in the headwaters of the Ogilvie River. Designation of RCZ seeks to protect the entire river corridor from any kind of surface disturbance or activity that will result in a decline of the Porcupine and Hart River caribou herds in the area. The river corridor should also be protected for its ecological value and economic potential for low-impact renewable-resource-based activities.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Ogilvie River Corridor include:

- Desire for on-going scientific research.
- Conduct a watershed analysis of the river corridor based on the river corridor and high value hiking and camping areas. Use this analysis to consider future expansion of the river corridor zone.
- Access to wilderness hiking and paddling from the Dempster Highway.
- All-season industrial infrastructure is discouraged. A minimum of all-season road access for development (not exploration) beyond this unit is allowed (see Access GMDs).

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>13-6, a sub-unit of LMU 6, should be designated a Tier I River Corridor Zone (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes one R-block (TH R-40) and non-settlement lands along the Ogilvie River Corridor.</i>
----------------	---

Tier II – Wilderness Conservation Zone

Upper Snake River Watershed (LMU sub-unit 1c)

The Upper Snake Watershed, LMU 1c, is the Snake River drainage from its headwaters in the Wernecke Mountains to the northern boundary of the Mackenzie Mountain ecoregion where it meets the Peel River Plateau ecoregion. An area (sub-unit 1b IMZ IV) east of the Snake River and Peel River Plateau (sub-unit 1a IMZ I) was excluded to accommodate the potential need to manage development of mineral deposits and future exploration activity. The Upper Snake River Watershed area has high value for the tourism industry, as well as high concentrations of mineral licks, migration corridors for the Bonnet Plume caribou herd, and sheep migration routes. Refer to section 5 for further information about this sub-unit. This area is irreplaceable in the Yukon and Canadian context. The Peel Watershed Advisory Committee recommended that the Snake River Watershed and Source Peak Areas (headwaters of the Bonnet Plume, Snake, and Wind rivers) be protected. There are several site-specific land selections in the Upper Snake Watershed. The designation of GCZ seeks to protect the Snake River Watershed from disturbances that might affect the ecological integrity of the area, while supporting existing low-impact uses according to recommended indicator levels. The designation also allows all-season road access to grandfathered tenures for future development (see Access GMDs), while minimizing overall surface disturbance and road development within sub-unit 1c and the planning region.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Upper Snake Watershed include:

- Need to plan access routes that do not use the Snake River Corridor Zone (sub-unit 13-1) passing through sub-unit 1c (see Access GMDs).
- Continue to collect information on all current and future economic opportunities and conflicting land uses in the region.
- All-season industrial infrastructure is discouraged. All-season road access to grandfathered tenures for future development (not exploration) that minimizes overall surface disturbance and road development within sub-unit 1c and the planning region is allowed (see Access GMDs).
- Maintaining water flow and quality is a priority for health of fish populations and human water consumption in the Snake River Watershed and waters downstream.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>1c, a sub-unit of LMU 1, should be designated a Tier II General Conservation Zone (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes several site-specifics and non-settlement lands.</i>
----------------	--

Lower and Upper Bonnet Plume Watershed (LMU 2a & 2b)

The Upper Bonnet Plume Watershed LMU 2a and 2b is the Bonnet Plume River drainage from its headwaters of the Wernecke Mountains to the northern boundary of the Mackenzie Mountain ecoregion where it meets the Peel River Plateau ecoregion. The Lower Bonnet Plume Watershed is in the Peel River Plateau. The entire Bonnet Plume Watershed has high value for the tourism industry, a high concentration of mineral licks, migration corridors for the Bonnet Plume caribou herd, and sheep. This area is considered unique within a territorial, national, and even global

context. The Peel Watershed Advisory Committee recommended that the Source Peak Areas (headwaters of the Bonnet Plume, Snake, and Wind rivers) be protected.

The Bonnet Plume Watershed was nominated to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System by YG, NND, DIAND, and Mayo RRC for the protection and conservation of the watershed’s natural and human heritage resources. For further information about this sub-unit refer to section 5. There are several site-specific land selections in the Upper Bonnet Plume Watershed. The designation of GCZ seeks to protect the Bonnet Plume River Watershed from disturbances that might affect the ecological integrity of the area and the opportunity for identified renewable-resource-based economies in this area. The designation also allows all-season road access to grandfathered tenures for future development (see Access GMDs), while minimizing overall surface disturbance and road development within sub-unit 2a and 2b and the planning region.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Upper Bonnet Plume Watershed include:

- Baseline research to collect information to increase knowledge about wildlife, hydrology, traditional use, vegetation, aquatic and terrestrial habitat.
- Need for an updated Bonnet Plume Canadian Heritage River Management Plan.
- Most likely area for development (greatest mineralization) often overlaps with areas of higher ecological values within the Bonnet Plume watershed.
- The lower Bonnet Plume watershed contains the majority of the Yukon’s coal reserves (Gartner Lee, 2006). This coal is thermal grade, and has been proposed as an energy source for the development of the Crest Iron deposit in the Snake watershed (LMU #1b).
- Need to include complete life-cycle account methods for project proposals: social costs, public subsidies, and clean-up and restoration costs.
- Need to plan access routes that do not use the Bonnet Plume River Corridor Zone (sub-unit 13-2) passing through sub-unit 2a and 2b (see Access GMDs).
- Continue to collect information on all current and future economic opportunities and conflicting land uses in the region.
- All-season industrial infrastructure is discouraged. All-season road access to grandfathered tenures for future development (not exploration) that minimizes overall surface disturbance and road development within sub-units 2a and 2b and the planning region is allowed (see Access GMDs).
- Maintaining water flow and quality is a priority for health of fish populations and human water consumption in the Bonnet Plume River Watershed and waters downstream.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>LMU sub-units 2a and 2b should be designated Tier II General Conservation Zones (see Section 6 for location and description). These areas include several site-specifics and non-settlement lands.</i>
----------------	---

Upper and Lower Wind Watershed (LMU 3a & 3b)

The Upper Wind Watershed is the Wind River drainage from its headwaters of the Wernecke Mountains to the northern boundary of the Mackenzie Mountain ecoregion where it meets the Peel River Plateau ecoregion. The Lower Wind Watershed is in the Peel River Plateau. The entire Wind River Watershed has high value for the outfitting and tourism industry, high concentration of mineral licks in the mountain headwater, migration corridors for the Bonnet Plume caribou herd, and sheep migration routes. There is an existing access R.O.W that is recommended as the main access route into the Wind River LMU. The Peel Watershed Advisory Committee recommended that the Source Peak Areas (headwaters of the Bonnet Plume, Snake, and Wind rivers) be protected. For further information about this sub-unit refer to section 5. There are several site-specific land selections in LMU sub-unit 3a and 3b. The designation of GCZ seeks to protect the Wind River Watershed from disturbances that might affect the ecological integrity of the area and opportunity for identified renewable-resource-based economies in this area. All-season road access to grandfathered tenures for future development (see Access GMDs) that minimizes overall surface disturbance and road development within sub-unit 3a and 3b is allowed.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of the Upper and Lower Wind Watershed include:

- Continue to collect information on all current and future economic opportunities and conflicting land uses in the region.
- All-season industrial infrastructure is discouraged. However, grandfathered tenures may be developed. A minimum of all-season road access for development (not exploration) of these tenures is allowed (see Access GMDs).
- Maintaining water flow and quality is a priority for health of fish populations and human water consumption in the Wind River Watershed and waters downstream.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>3a and 3b, sub-units of LMU 3, should be designated Tier II General Conservation Zones (see Section 6 for location and description). These areas include several site-specifics and non-settlement lands.</i>
----------------	--

Hart River Watershed (LMU 4a)

The Hart River Watershed extends from the Peel River/Hart River confluence to its headwaters in both the Ogilvie (West Hart River) and Wernecke mountains (Hart River). Most of the Hart drainage is in the North Ogilvie Mountains with a small amount in the Eagle Plains near where it joins the Peel River drainage. The Hart River is part of a unique landscape in the Peel and Yukon context as it was ice-free during the last glaciation and contains many genetically unique Beringian species. Several fish species are genetically isolated as Aberdeen Canyon is not passable to fish from downstream. Both the Porcupine and Hart River caribou herds winter in this area. Sub-unit 4b is designated as a Critical Landscape zone for protection of the Hart River caribou winter range and unique Beringian species. Peregrine Falcons nest on the cliffs in the lower portion of the river corridor and forage in nearby areas such as: the Peel River Corridor,

Hungry Lake, and Chappie Lake. The incidence of rare and endemic plant species is high in this watershed. The Hart River Corridor is an important travel corridor and trapline for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation. Travel routes connect Engineer Creek, Blackstone River, West Hart River, Little Wind River, Hungry Lakes, and Wind River. Although this river is not a popular paddling river, it is ecologically rich and unique in the Yukon context. Designation of GCZ seeks to protect the Hart River Watershed from any kind of surface disturbance or activity that will result in a decline of the Porcupine caribou and Hart River caribou herds in the area. The Hart River Watershed should also be protected for its ecological value and economic potential for low-impact renewable-resource-based activities. All-season road access to grandfathered tenures for future development (see Access GMDs) that minimizes overall surface disturbance and road development within sub-unit 4a is allowed.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of the Hart River Watershed include:

- Support of scientific research.
- Access to wilderness hiking and paddling from the Dempster Highway (via West Hart River), and remote access from fly-in lakes (Elliot Lake).
- Identify high-value hiking and camping areas.
- All-season industrial infrastructure is discouraged. However, grandfathered tenures may be developed. A minimum of all-season road access for development (not exploration) of these tenures is allowed (see Access GMDs).
- Maintaining water flow and quality is a priority for health of fish populations and human water consumption in the Hart River Watershed and waters downstream.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>4a, a sub-unit of LMU 3, should be designated a Tier II General Conservation Zone (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes several site-specifics and non-settlement lands.</i>
----------------	--

4.2 Integrated Management Zone

Thirty-seven percent of the region is within the IMZ, or working landscape, where applications for industrial land uses and other activities will be considered. Twenty-eight percent of the IMZ has a relatively low to lowest development focus (Zone II or I, respectively). Areas with some of the highest potential for significant oil and gas resources (LMU 10a) and mineral deposits (LMU 1b) form nine percent of the region. Within this zone, we indicate special interest in an area north of Tombstone Park (Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in First Hunt Area), where the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in community carries out seasonal cultural/traditional activities and requires direct consultation on any land-use activities or dispositions that might impact upon those cultural uses (See Appendix A, Map 2). This First Nation has also identified interests in direct consultations regarding any proposed new access off the Dempster Highway. Other areas contained within the IMZ include the Ogilvie and Blackstone watersheds, Canyon Creek, the Richardson Mountains, and much of the Peel Plateau.

IMZ Class I Descriptions:

Lower Snake River Watershed (1b)

The Lower Snake River Watershed forms the lower basin of the Snake River watershed in the Peel River Plateau. Rivers in this sub-unit have deeply incised valleys and the landscape has low topographic relief. The area is also part of the Tetlit Gwich’in Primary Use area. There are few existing claims, moderate potential for zinc, and some coal potential. There is moderate potential for oil and gas in the Peel Plateau and Plain Basin. An area recommended for Ecosystem Protection, LMU sub-unit 1d (TG R-11 fee simple land), stands out on the northwest corner of this sub-unit. One NND site-specific is near sub-unit 1d but lies within the Lower Snake River Watershed sub-unit. Designation of IMZ I seeks to discourage all-season road development within this zone. Any all-season access development, should it occur, is recommended as a central access corridor that connects LMU unit 7 to LMU 1 on the east side of the Snake River (see Map 2, Appendix A).

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of the Lower Snake River Watershed (1a):

- Recommended access route to feasible mineral deposits on the east side of the Snake River.
- Snake River section flowing through this unit is highly valued for tourism and recreation.
- Recognition of subsistence trapping in the area and winter habitat use by the Bonnet Plume caribou herd.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>1a, a sub-unit of LMU 1, should be designated a Integrated Management Zone I (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes non-settlement lands and one site-specific (NND S-139B) in the Peel River Plateau and Snake River Watershed.</i>
----------------	---

Upper Ogilvie River Watershed (6b)

The Upper Ogilvie River Watershed is situated in the North Ogilvie Mountains. Big game outfitting is the primary industry operating in this sub-unit. There are a few claims and high potential for copper/gold/ uranium in this area. Designation of IMZ I discourages all-season road development within this zone.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Upper Ogilvie River Watershed (6b):

- Extensive permafrost is probable in plains.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>6b, a sub-unit of LMU 6, should be designated an Integrated Management Zone I (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes non-settlement lands.</i>
----------------	---

Peel Plain (7a)

The Peel Plain sub-unit sits on the flat Fort McPherson Plain ecozone. This area is adjacent to several fee-simple TG lands (see LMU 11 sub-units). This area has continuous permafrost, with many pockets of small wetlands and several lakes. Designation of IMZ I discourages all-season road development within this zone. A central access corridor that connects LMU unit 7 to LMU 1 on the east side of the Snake River is the recommended access corridor for this sub-unit. (see Map 2, Appendix A).

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Peel Plain (7a):

- Extensive permafrost is probable in plains.
- TG primary use area.
- High use area for the boreal caribou herd in the PWPR.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>7a, a sub-unit of LMU 7, should be designated an Integrated Management Zone I (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes non-settlement lands.</i>
----------------	---

IMZ Class II Descriptions:

Peel Plateau (12a)

This unit lies in the Peel River Plateau between the Richardson Mountains to the west and Peel River to the east. Important riparian areas and traditional travel corridors are the Vittrekwa, Road, Trail, and Caribou rivers, which flow through this unit and drain into the Peel River. Oil and gas development in Peel Plateau and Plain basin in this unit has moderate potential for future

development. Eagle Plain basin is likely to be developed first. Designation of IMZ II seeks to maintain ecological integrity, protect heritage and cultural resources, and minimize land-use impacts.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Peel Plateau (12a):

- Surface disturbance should be minimized to reduce permafrost damage.
- Since slope instability has been an issue in the past, terrain stability mapping for this area is a priority.
- The preferred access route to this unit is north-south from the Dempster Highway in the NWT.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>12a, a sub-unit of 12, should be designated an Integrated Management Zone II (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes non-settlement lands.</i>
----------------	--

Blackstone River Watershed (5a)

The Blackstone River Watershed, sub-unit 5a, drains waters flowing from its headwaters in Tombstone Territorial Park. At its southern extent, the Dempster Highway follows the Blackstone River. There is some mineral interest in this area. Any development requiring all-season access would logically connect to the Dempster Highway. Future development may see construction of a Dempster lateral pipeline connecting to the Alaska Pipeline, should it be developed. Several site-specific TH land selections occur on along the Dempster Highway. Designation of IMZ II seeks to maintain ecological integrity, protect heritage and cultural resources, and minimize land-use impacts.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of the Blackstone River Watershed (5a):

- Surface disturbance should be minimized to reduce permafrost damage.
- Culturally important “THFN First Hunt” occurs at the southern end of this sub-unit. Unrelated development is discouraged in this area.
- Visual quality of mountain views off the Dempster Highway is an important draw for tourism in the area.
- Potential new all-season access roads into LUM #5a from the Dempster corridor require careful assessment and management.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>5a, a sub-unit of LMU 5, should be designated an Integrated Management Zone II (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes non-settlement lands and site-specifics (TH S-180B and S-202B).</i>
----------------	--

Southern Richardson Mountains (9a)

The Southern Richardson Mountains (9a) separate the Eagle Plain from the Peel Plain. To the north, the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Council has identified the unit adjacent to 9a as a conservation zone. The North Yukon Plan identified the unit adjacent to 9a as an IMA II zone. Designation of IMZ II seeks to maintain ecological integrity, protect heritage and cultural resources, and minimize land-use impacts.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of 9a:

- All-season roads are not allowed to cross this unit in order to minimize impact to the migration and wintering of the Porcupine caribou herd.
- A co-operative management plan for Dall sheep should be developed, following the principles outlined by the Working Group for Northern Richardson Mountains Dall Sheep (2008).

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>9a, a sub-unit of LMU 9, should be designated an Integrated Management Zone II (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes non-settlement lands.</i>
----------------	--

IMZ Class III Descriptions:

Canyon Creek (10b)

Canyon Creek (10b) is nestled between Eagle Plains IMZ IV sub-unit 10a and the Richardson Mountains. The riparian areas of Canyon Creek have pockets of high-value wetland habitat. This corridor is also a traditional travel route along Canyon Creek. The North Yukon Planning Commission has identified adjacent units as IMA II & IV. Designation of IMZ III seeks conservative levels of land use.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Canyon Creek (10b):

- Traditional travel corridors have been identified, connecting Eagle Plains to the Peel River.
- Consultation with VGFN, TGFN, NND, and TGFN (Primary Use Area) about impacts on subsistence use in the area.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>10b, a sub-unit of LMU 10, should be designated an Integrated Management Zone III (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes non-settlement lands.</i>
----------------	---

Lower Ogilvie Watershed – Engineer Creek (6a)

The Lower Ogilvie River Watershed, set in the Taiga ranges ecodistrict, is more mountainous than its upstream sub-unit cousin 6b in the Blackstone Uplands. Tourism potential along the Dempster Highway, which bisects this sub-unit, is high with easy road-based access to wildlife viewing sites and scenic hiking in the Richardson Mountains. At the northern extent of this sub-unit, the Ogilvie Watershed enters the North Yukon Planning Region briefly. Here VHFN have identified their settlement land (TG R-08A) as IMA IV (high development). Designation of IMZ III seeks conservative levels of land use.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Lower Ogilvie River Watershed (6a):

- Maintaining the visual quality of mountain viewsapes along this segment of the Dempster Highway is a management priority.
- Potential new all-season access roads into LMU #6A from the Dempster corridor require careful assessment and management.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>6a, a sub-unit of LMU 6, should be designated an Integrated Management Zone III (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes site-specific lands (VG S-44A) and non-settlement lands.</i>
----------------	--

IMZ Class IV Descriptions:

Middle Snake Watershed - Crest (1b)

The Middle Snake Watershed of the Mackenzie Mountains ecoregion has deeply incised river valleys. Like most of the planning region this area is remote and has seen very little overland access in the last thirty years. Grizzly, caribou, moose, and sheep habitat is abundant throughout this unit, particularly in the river valleys. River valleys have high-value habitat and are used as movement corridors. This area has a very large proven iron deposit (Crest iron deposit) and low to moderate potential for other minerals. The Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board has identified the unit adjacent to 1b as a general management zone. Designation of IMZ IV allows the highest level of land use, with access routing that minimizes impacts of access on areas under ecosystem protection and wilderness conservation. Water quality and quantity are management priorities for this sub-unit.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Middle Snake Watershed (1b):

- The Crest iron deposit is considered one of the largest iron deposits in the world. This plan enables its development.

- Recommended all-season access to this unit must be routed northward towards Ft McPherson, along the east side of the Peel River corridor adjacent to the LMUs 11a and 11b (Peel Mainstem, Lower Peel) and subject to thorough engineering, and impact assessment review.
- Recognize and minimize impacts of development on sectors dependent on ecosystem protection and wilderness conservation.
- Water quality and quantity are management priorities for this sub-unit.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>1b, a sub-unit of LMU 1, should be designated an Integrated Management Zone IV (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes non-settlement lands.</i>
----------------	--

Eagle Plains (10a)

This sub-unit drains a portion of the Eagle Plains into the Peel River. In the adjacent North Yukon Planning Region, drainage is into the Miner River. The Eagle Plains basin has the highest potential for development of oil and gas basins in the PWPR. This area is also a general-use area for the Porcupine caribou herd. There are pockets of high-value waterbird habitat and peregrine foraging along the Peel River. There are traditional travel routes along Dalglish Creek to the Peel River. There are also many VGFN and TGFN archaeological sites and TGFN culturally important places. The NYPC designated adjacent lands as an IMA zone IV, with a development focus on oil and gas. In addition to the GMDs for access development (Section 5), the PWPC recommends that Eagle Plains sub-unit 10a follow the management recommendation made for the adjacent unit by the NYPC. Designation of IMZ IV allows highest level of land use, with access routing that minimizes impacts of access on areas under ecosystem protection and wilderness conservation. Water quality and quantity are management priorities for this sub-unit.

Key issues with respect to the conservation and management of Eagle Plains (10a):

- Recognize and minimize impacts of development on sectors dependent on ecosystem protection and wilderness conservation.
- Water quality and quantity are management priorities for this sub-unit

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>10a, a sub-unit of LMU 10, should be designated a Integrated Management Zone IV (see Section 6 for location and description). This area includes non-settlement lands.</i>
----------------	---

4.3 Land Withdrawal

Within the planning region, the recommended land withdrawal applies to all Tier I Recommended Protection Zones (15%). The proportion of the region with active tenures in Tier I is 0.4%. Lands recommended for withdrawal (i.e., not grandfathered) under Tier II Recommended Conservation Zones make up 44% of the planning region. With a land withdrawal, these lands are not available for future mineral and oil and gas disposition and exploration. All-season industrial infrastructure is discouraged. However, access development may take place in the Wind River Corridor Zone, across the Bonnet Plum Corridor Zone and within the IMZ and General Protection Zones to access grandfathered tenures.

Key issues with respect to the status of the land withdrawal include:

- Legislative amendments following approval of the Final Recommended Peel Regional Land Use Plan would be required to enable land withdrawal; there is need to have an Interim Action plan to enable this process.
- The area contains some of the highest wildlife, fish, cultural, and heritage values in the region, including important concentrated use areas for the Hart River caribou herd.
- The area also contains some of Yukon’s highest mineral values.
- Adjacent lands in the Gwich’in Settlement Region have a strong conservation management focus.

Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Should the applicable tenure holders decide to relinquish their tenured holdings in GCZ, these lands will be held in a land withdrawal and will not be available for mineral and oil and gas disposition.</i> • <i>GCZ zones will be considered for Tier I designation for protection in future reviews of this Plan.</i>
----------------	---

<blank page>