

7. Plan Implementation and Revision

The implementation of a land use plan is a crucial stage in the planning process, which provides clear directions for moving forward on key Plan recommendations. The Draft Plan is presented without prejudice to any decision the Parties may wish to take. It is intended primarily to demonstrate the Commission's regard for its Guiding Documents. Its Terms of Reference, in particular, require that the Plan to give effect to provisions of the following Agreements:

1. Yukon First Nation Land Claim Agreements of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, and First Nation of the Nacho Nyak Dun;
2. Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (Yukon Transboundary Agreement, Chapter 3 and Chapter 7); and,
3. Yukon Northern Affairs Program Devolution Transfer Agreement (Chapter 2, Chapter 7, Appendix D).

It is during implementation that the guiding principles, goals, and objectives of the Plan are put into action. Periodic monitoring of Plan implementation activities provides an opportunity to evaluate its effectiveness, to determine if goals and objectives are being met, and to determine whether the Plan has been used in land and resource decision-making processes. If land-use circumstances change in the region, changes to the Plan may be necessary.

The Parties will develop a detailed Plan implementation strategy concurrently with, or subsequent to, the approval of a Final Land Use Plan.

7.1 Plan Implementation Responsibilities

The governments of the Yukon, Na-Cho Nyak Dun, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Vuntut Gwitchin, and the Gwich'in Tribal Council are the Parties to the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan. They have primary responsibilities for Plan implementation. These responsibilities may also involve other groups, including the following:

- Peel Watershed Planning Commission (PWPC);
- Yukon Land Use Planning Council (YLUPC);
- Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB);
- Government of Canada; and,
- UFA boards and committees.

Until such time as an agreement between the Parties has been reached, implementation roles and responsibilities for other groups are uncertain.

RECOMMENDATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A detailed Plan implementation strategy should be developed on a timeline concurrent with that of the review and approval process for a Final Land Use Plan.</i>
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In the following table, we outline how the Plan goals and objectives are linked to relevant sections of the Umbrella Final Agreement and the associated individual Final Agreements of Na-Cho Nyak Dun, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Vuntut Gwitchin, the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, and Yukon Northern Affairs Program Devolution Transfer Agreement.

Table 7.1. Peel Watershed Regional Land-Use Plan Linkages¹ (11.1.1.6, 11.2.1.2, 11.4.5.8).

Land-Use Plan Management Goals and Objectives		Suggested Linkages	
		To Umbrella Final Agreement	To Yukon and Canada Land-Use Regulations and Polices
<i>Management Goal 1: Promote plan principles by ensuring 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.</i>			
Coordinated Land Use Management			
	Integrated Land-Use Management	11.1.1.6, 11.4.5.9, 11.2.1.2, 11.4.5.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waters Act • Environment Act • Special Waste Regulation • Contaminated Sites Regulation • Canadian Environmental Protection Act • Yukon-Northwest Territories River Basin Transboundary Water Mgt Agreement • YG Climate Change & Energy Policies
	Cumulative Effects	12.17.0, 12.4.1.2	
	Surface Disturbances	12.17.0	
	Hydrological Disturbances	12.17.0 14.11.0 14.12.0	
	Contaminated Sites	12.17.0	
	Climate Change Effects		
<i>Management Goal 2: Provide for the management, protection, and use of water and related ecosystems and the species they support for the future.</i>		14.8.0 14.11. 14.12	
Aquatic Resources Management			
	Wetlands, Lakes and Rivers Fish, Waterbirds	16.1.1.1, 16.1.6, 10. 6,14.8.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waters Act • Environment Act • Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulation • Yukon-Northwest Territories River Basin Transboundary Water Mgt Agreement • Migratory Bird Sanctuary Regulation • Species At Risk Act
<i>Management Goal 3: Provide for the management, protection, and use of land and related ecosystems and the species they support for the future.</i>			
Terrestrial Resources	Focal Species Management <i>Terrestrial Resources, Caribou spp., Marten, Moose Sheep, Grizzly Bear, Peregrine Falcon, Rare and Endemic Plants</i>	16.1.1.1, 16.1.6, 10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Act • Wildlife Regulation • Wildlife Area Regulation • Species At Risk Act
<i>Management Goal 4: Promote long-term integrity of sensitive/important landforms or biophysical features.</i>			
Special Features Management		16.1.6.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act • Lands Act
<i>Management Goal 5: Recognize, conserve, and promote the heritage and cultural resources, and values of affected First Nations and the Yukon.</i>			
Heritage and cultural resources	Traditional use sites/areas	13.1.1.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks & Land Certainty Act • Historic Resources Act • Possibly National Parks Act • Archaeological Sites Regulation
	Archaeological and Paleontological sites	13.1.1.8	

¹ Please note this is a preliminary analysis and subject to confirmation by the Parties to the Plan, and that YESAA legislation relates to all proposed new land-use proposals.

Land-Use Plan Goals and Objectives		Suggested Linkages	
		To Umbrella Final Agreement	To Yukon and Canada Land-Use Regulations
<i>Management Goal 6: Land, water, and air access is managed to respect ecological, cultural-heritage, and wilderness values of the areas, while providing for the full range of user needs as deemed compatible for specific sustainable development opportunities.</i>		6.2.0	
Access Management	<i>Water and Air-Based Access</i>	15.5.1, 6.3.0, 6.4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act • Highways Act & Regulation • Navigable Waters Act
	<i>Dempster Highway</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dempster Hwy Area Development Regulation • Area Development Act
Management Goal 7: Facilitate sustainable development opportunities and activities that result in socio-economic benefits to the affected First Nations, northern communities, and the Yukon as a whole.		Sustainable Dev: Chpt 1 Def. 12.1.1.4, 12.1.1.4	
Current & Potential Economic Activity	<i>First Nations Traditional Economy and Community Development</i>	12.4.2.1, 22.3.1 16.1.1.1, 5.5.9 12.1.1.1, 22.0	
	<i>Tourism and Recreation</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilderness Tourism Licensing Act • Bonnet Plume Canadian Heritage River • Environment Act (Wilderness Mgt Areas) • Parks & Land Certainty Act • Oil & Gas Best Mgt Practices for Wilderness Tourism • Draft Commercial Backcountry Tourism Policy
	<i>Guide-Outfitting & Trapping</i>	22.3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big Game Outfitting Land Application Policy • Wildlife Act • Wildlife Regulation • Fisheries Act • Wildlife Area Regulation • Species At Risk Act
	<i>Mineral Resources</i>	18.3.0, 18.4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quartz Mining Act, and Land Use Regulation • Placer Mining Act and Land Use Regulation • Environment Act • Special Waste Regulation • Yukon Mining Incentive Program
	<i>Oil & Gas Resources</i>	18.1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oil and Gas Act • Geoscience Exploration Regulation • Drilling and Production Regulation • License Administration Regulation • Lands Act • Environment Act • Special Waste Regulation • Territorial Lands (Yukon) Acts • Land Use Regulation • Air Emissions Regulation
	<i>Aggregate (Gravel) Resources</i>	18.2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarry Regulations • Lands Act • Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act • Air Emissions Regulation

General Mgt Direction	Objectives	Suggested Linkages	
		To Umbrella Final Agreement	To Yukon and Canada Land-Use Regulations
	<i>Forest Resources</i>	17.6.2,17.5.5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Management Act
	<i>Renewal Energy Resources</i>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waters Act • Environment Act • Territorial Lands (Yukon) Acts • Land Use Regulation

7.2 Proposed Implementation Activities

A number of specific implementation activities for this Plan may be required and will evolve through submission of a Final Recommended Plan. They can be grouped under four general categories:

- 1) Adoption of Plan concepts, framework and general management directions/objectives/strategies;
- 2) Implementation of recommendations (land-use management, research and policy);
- 3) Development and implementation of ongoing monitoring and reporting protocols to determine if Plan goals and objectives are being met; and,
- 4) Creation and maintenance of efficient procedures to review and modify the Plan.

Proposed implementation activities for consideration by the Parties, once the Draft Plan has been finalized, are listed in Table 7.2. Implementation activities, along with responsible agencies and groups, will be finalized upon development of a detailed Plan implementation strategy. Suggested priorities for both further research and land-use policy development have been highlighted through the previous sections, and the Commission suggests they will be of considerable assistance in implementing this Plan and future plans.

Table 7.2 Proposed implementation tasks, actions and timelines.

Task	Actions	Timeline
Detailed Implementation Strategy		
1. Prepare detailed implementation strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a detailed implementation strategy as a separate document. • Develop the implementation strategy concurrently with the Plan approval process. • In the implementation strategy, address the tasks listed below. 	Final Plan Review and Approval
Plan Concepts and Recommendations		
2. Apply land designation.	2.1 Adopt and implement Landscape Management Units and Land-Use Designation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate landscape management units and land-use designation into existing Yukon land-status databases and land-use decision-making processes. 	Final Plan Approval
	In accordance with Section 10.3.0 of the Umbrella Final Agreement, Vuntut Final Agreement, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement, and Nacho Nyak Dun Final Agreement respectively, undertake to establish the following types of Special Management Areas:	
	2.2 Establish a contiguous Special Management Area for “Watershed Protection” as per Section 10.2.0 for the following LMU's: Drainage basins LMU's 1-4 (except 3d) as a contiguous landscape unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grandfather existing surface-use and subsurface tenures • Remove Yukon public lands within from disposition in River corridors LMU 13-1 to 13-4, Fairchild Lake (LMU 2d), Duo Lake (LMU 2e), Bonnet Plume Lake (LMU 2f), Margaret Lake (LMU 2g), Quartet Lakes (LMU 2h) , Elliot Lake, McLuskey Lake, Goz Lake by Order in Council withdrawal; • Remove Yukon public lands within LMU;s 1 c 2-a-c, 3a,b and 4 a,b for subsurface disposition by Order in Council withdrawal; • Prepare a “Sub-Regional Plans” in accordance with UFA 11.8.0 and Management Plan for each Special Mgt Area, including creation of a Management Advisory Board consistent with Final Agreements Section 10.5.2. and 10.5.7, respectively 	Land withdrawal immediate; other TBD

Task	Actions	Timeline
	<p>2.3 Establish a Special Management Area for “Special Wildlife Management” as per Section 10.2.0 for the following LMUs: Turner Wetlands and Caribou River (LMU 8a), Jackfish Lakes (LMU 7b), Tabor Lakes (LMU 7c), Vittrekwa River (LMU 12b), Chappie Lake (LMU 2c), and West Hart (4b)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove Yukon public lands from disposition by Order in Council Withdrawal; • Prepare “Sub-Regional Plans” in accordance with UFA 11.8.0 and Management Plan for each Special Mgt Area, including creation of a Management Advisory Board consistent with Final Agreements Section 10.5.2. and 10.5.7, respectively. 	<p>Land withdrawal immediate</p> <p>other TBD</p>
	<p>2.4 Establish a Special Management Area for “Designated Heritage Sites” as per Section 10.2.0 for: Nihtavan diniinelee – Fish Lake (LMU 1d) Nash Creek (LMU 3d) Hungry Lakes (LMU 3c) Doll Creek (LMU 9b) and Aberdeen Canyon (LMU 11d)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove Yukon public lands from disposition by Order in Council Withdrawal. • Prepare a Prepare “Sub-Regional Plans” in accordance with UFA 11.8.0 and Management Plan for each Special Mgt Area, including creation of a Management Advisory Board consistent with Final Agreements Section 10.5.2. and 10.5.7, respectively 	<p>Land withdrawal immediate;</p> <p>other TBD</p>

Task	Actions	Timeline
3. Establish cumulative effects indicators and thresholds.	3.1 Adopt and implement cumulative effects indicators and thresholds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refine current surface-disturbance estimates. • Refine exemptions list for surface-disturbance and linear-disturbance calculations. • Determine revegetation rates and standards for surface disturbances. • Confirm use of other land-management indicators (ecosystem, socio-economic) 	Final Plan approval; TBD
4. Develop heritage route management guidelines.	4.1 Develop management guidelines for identified heritage routes	Final Plan approval; TBD
Monitoring and Assessment		
5. Develop and maintain regional database.	5.1 Compile and make accessible the regional maps and information collected during planning process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yukon Planning Atlas project to provide central repository for storage and public distribution of maps and resource information. • Determine ongoing information collection requirements. • Perform annual updates of regional resource status, including indicator status. 	One year for development Ongoing annual maintenance
6. Perform annual regional assessment.	6.1 State of Region reporting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following Final Plan approval, a general evaluation of land-use activities (type, level, and location) and land status from the previous year should occur annually. • Current and anticipated future land uses should also be discussed. • As part of this assessment, the status of cumulative effects indicators in relation to thresholds would be evaluated. • Summarize results of annual assessment in a brief State of the Region report. • Parties need to decide on potential course of management action for the upcoming year(s) if cautionary thresholds are reached. • Indicator status and evaluation results could be included as part of Yukon State of the Environment reporting. 	Initial Assessment in year following Final Plan Approval Ongoing annual reporting
	6.2 Report on status of implementation tasks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out annual monitoring and reporting of progress toward completing identified implementation tasks. 	Initial Assessment in year following Final Plan Approval Ongoing annual reporting

Task	Actions	Task
<p>6. Perform Annual Regional Assessment.</p>	<p>6.3 If required, implement provisional recommendations in advance of large-scale industrial activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop access management plan for Eagle Plains and Peel Plateau oil and gas basin • Undertake aggregate (gravel) assessment when large-scale industrial/infrastructure projects are proposed. • Develop site closure/remediation plans for industrial land uses that create significant surface disturbance. • Identify historic and heritage resources where exploration and development activities are proposed. • Identify ecologically sensitive wetland habitats where industrial water withdrawals are proposed. • Identify sensitive in-stream and lake overwintering fish habitat where industrial water withdrawals are proposed. 	<p>Initial Assessment in year following Final Plan Approval</p> <p>Ongoing annual reporting</p>
<p>7. Assess Project Conformity.</p>	<p>7.1 Develop protocol for YESAB project conformity check.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per Final Agreement clause <u>12.17.0</u>, develop detailed protocols for YESAB project conformity checks. • Involve PWPC in project conformity checks for large projects assessed under YESAA Screenings and Reviews. 	<p>Protocols in place by Final Plan Approval</p>

<p>RECOMMENDATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>As per Final Agreement clause <u>12.17.0</u>, the PWPC recommends that an assessment of individual project conformity with the Plan, where such projects are evaluated at the level of a YESAB Designated Office, be undertaken on an annual basis as part of an annual regional assessment, rather than on a project-by-project basis.</i>
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<p>RECOMMENDATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>It is the perspective of the PWPC that the Plan establishes adequate management direction for YESAB to assess conformity of most individual projects, as part of a Designated Office evaluation, however where land-use <u>variances</u> are being considered within Areas Designated for Protection and Conservation it is recommended that such technical reviews be undertaken by a qualified professional planner who would serve as a representative of the PWPC.</i>
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<p>RECOMMENDATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Where Plan amendments are required, it is recommended that the PWPC be reconvened on a periodic basis to consider such proposals.</i>
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7.3 Plan Revision

This Plan is intended to be a living document, open to change and revision as circumstances change. The Final Agreement provides opportunities for these revisions. Periodic revisions to the plan can incorporate new research findings and contribute to improved decision making. This process supports adaptive management.

Changes to the Plan may be required when:

- New land-management concepts emerge;
- New land and resource information becomes available;
- Knowledge about land-use impacts is advanced;
- Land-management values that the Plan is based upon change; or,
- Demand for land and resources in the region changes.

The Final Agreements identify three ways to accommodate changes to the Plan:

- Plan Variance: when minor changes to the Plan are required;
- Plan Amendment: when alterations to management strategies presented in the Plan are required; and,
- Plan Review: a formal process when the entire Plan is re-evaluated, usually when major changes and revisions to the Plan are deemed necessary.

Plan review would occur on an agreed-upon schedule, or whenever the Parties agree it is required. Methods and timelines for changing the Plan are to be developed as part of the detailed implementation strategy.

RECOMMENDATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To facilitate adaptive management and provide a formal process to evaluate Plan effectiveness, the maximum length of time between Plan Reviews should be seven years.</i>
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7.3.1 Plan Review check-list

The status of Plan recommendations should be evaluated at the first Plan review. During consultation on the Draft Plan, the PWPC received comments regarding research or management items for additional consideration. Some have been deferred for future consideration. Table 7.3 lists suggested items for consideration at the first Plan review.

Table 7.3. Suggested items for consideration at first Plan Review.

Task	Actions
Plan Review	
1. Evaluate success of Plan in achieving goals and objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine if recommendations from Plan were successfully implemented. • Consider if the goals and objectives of Plan were met and/or if they are still achievable. • If required, revise Plan content.
2. Develop and implement additional indicators for sustainable development (ecosystem and socio-economic sustainability)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider inclusion of focal species habitat targets for specific LMUs. • Consider indicators of aquatic habitat integrity and water quality (e.g., stream crossing index, CCME water quality index, etc.) to complement current terrestrial indicators. • Consider inclusion of regional ecosystem, and socio-economic sustainability indicators as outlined in Table 3.3.
3. Consider zoning system for Dempster Highway Corridor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider Dempster Highway Corridor zoning system that is complementary to the existing land designation system proposed in the Plan.
4. Refine application of cumulative effects indicators and thresholds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider weighting of linear disturbance impacts within different habitat types (e.g., floodplains versus upland habitats). • Incorporate new information on revegetation rates and standards for surface disturbances.

Table 7.4. Potential regional ecosystem and socio-economic indicators for sustainable development.

Indicator-Type	Indicator	Current Indicator Status	Description
Socio-Economic	Mayo, Fort McPherson, and Dawson City Population	Current census results	Provides measure of local communities' population trends – reflective of general social and economic conditions. Reported by Yukon Bureau of Statistics.
	Resident time-on-the-land	From ABEKC reports	Provides measure of resident participation in subsistence economy and traditional pursuits. Reported by Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op (ABEKC); available for Vuntut Gwitchin at Old Crow and could be available for other affected First Nation communities.
	Availability of Current-Use Areas	From VGG Natural Resources Dept.	Provides measure of loss/gain of current-use areas for subsistence harvesting and cultural purposes as a result of other land-use activities. Not currently reported, but current-use areas were documented in this Plan. Available for Vuntut Gwitchin at Old Crow, and could be available for other affected First Nation communities.
	Number of First Nation residents receiving social assistance	From VGG Social Services	Provides measure of self-sufficiency of individuals. Reflective of general social and economic conditions. Reported by VGG Social Services. Available for Vuntut Gwitchin at Old Crow, and could be available for other affected First Nation communities
	Regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	From Yukon Economic Development	Provides measure of regional economic activity and production.
	Median Household Income	TBD	Provides measure of household monetary wealth / wage income. Reported by Canada Census. Available for Vuntut Gwitchin at Old Crow (estimate: \$28,224, 120 households) and could be available for other affected First Nation communities.
	Median Individual Income for Women	TBD	Provides measure of individual female (15 yrs and older) monetary wealth / wage income. Female vs. male income levels should be tracked to establish gender wage-based equity. Reported by Canada Census. Available for Vuntut Gwitchin at Old Crow (estimate: \$14,667, 105 females) and could be available for other affected First Nation communities.
	Median Individual Income for Men	TBD	Provides measure of individual male (15 yrs and older) monetary wealth / wage income. Reported by Canada Census. Available for Vuntut Gwitchin at Old Crow (estimate: \$15,232, 105 males) and could be available for other affected First Nation communities.

Table 7.4 (cont'd).

Indicator-Type	Indicator	Current Indicator Status	Description
Ecological	Porcupine caribou herd population status	Estimated at 100,000 animals	PCH is the most important ecological and social value to Vuntut Gwitchin residents. Population declines in neighbouring Canadian barrenground herds are being experienced. Reported by YG/Alaska Department of Fish and Game/PCMB.
	Regional habitat integrity	Annual Regional Assessments	Regional assessment of terrestrial habitat conditions, including “hot spot” identification. Surface-disturbance and linear-density indicators provide measure of habitat integrity.
	Landscape Management Unit habitat integrity	Annual Regional Assessments	Assessment of terrestrial habitat conditions by LMU. Surface-disturbance and linear-density indicators provide measure of habitat integrity.
	Regional aquatic habitat integrity	Annual Regional Assessments	Regional assessment of aquatic habitat conditions, including “hot spot” identification. Stream-crossing index and water quality and quantity suggested as future indicators.
	Landscape Management Unit (or watershed) aquatic habitat integrity	Annual Regional Assessments	Regional assessment of aquatic habitat conditions by LMU or watershed. Stream-crossing index and water quality and quantity suggested as future indicators.