

Excerpt from:

Stakeholder Consultation (October 29/30, 2008) Follow-Up

By Carl Schulze, President
Yukon Chamber of Mines

Part III: Additional Comments

Please offer and specific comments, suggestions or questions you may have on the development of the Peel River Land Use Plan development:

The development of this plan is very important to the future of the Yukon. The area under consideration has significant proven mineral reserves and incredible mineral potential. Access to these lands for prospectors and access corridors for transportation must be considered in the land use plan.

While industry was well represented at the workshop it must be emphasized that tourism operators and outfitters have a very different view of the land use than mining, oil and gas. The first group would like the entire watershed protected while the second needs access to the land to potentially develop resources. Both industries provide employment and benefit to Yukoners and are very important pieces of the local economy. The plan must identify a way for all industries to thrive in this region.

The majority of the comments at the workshop were anti-mining, using terms such as “destructive activity” referring to mineral exploration. As of Oct 29, only two LMUs were listed as Class IV, designated not by mineral potential (neither are in the areas of high mineral potential) but merely due to lack of “protection interests”.

Mining and mineral exploration can, and does, occur with a minimum of “destructive activity”. These activities bring much-needed investment to the Yukon, which does extend directly as employment benefits, and indirectly through income, corporate, fuel and sales tax. Most of these benefits occur prior to actual production! It is a fallacy, generated by pro-protection interests, that mining only “takes” from the land and its people and contributes nothing in return.

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