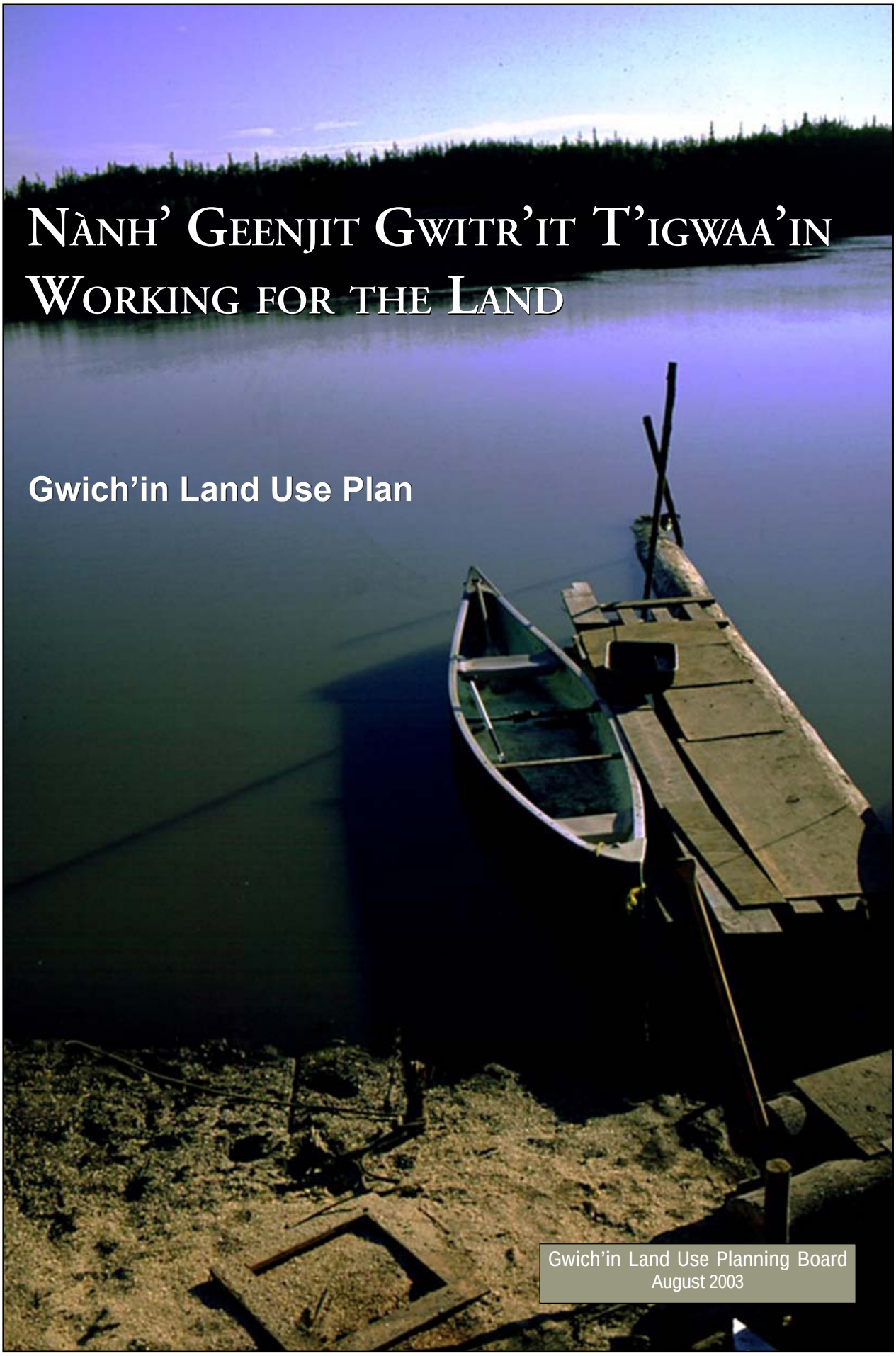

Nành' Geenjit Gwitr'it T'igwaa'in
Working for the Land

Gwich'in Land Use Plan

Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board

August 2003

Approval

We the undersigned are pleased to have given approval on behalf of the Gwich'in, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and the Government of Canada, in accordance with Section 43 of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, to *Nàhn Geenjit Gwitr'it T'igwaa'in, Working for the Land* - The Gwich'in Land Use Plan. It is considered to be in effect as of August 7, 2003.

Fred Carmichael
President
Gwich'in Tribal Council

Jim Antoine
Minister of Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development
Government of the Northwest Territories

Robert Nault
Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
Government of Canada

Letter of Transmittal

The Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board is pleased to present the Gwich'in Land Use Plan, *Nành Geenjit Gwitr'it T'igwaa'in - Working for the Land*. The Plan has been created to ensure it conforms with the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement and the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. This plan for the Gwich'in Settlement Area is the result of 20 years of regional land use planning.

When the interim Land Use Planning Board began work in 1993, the previous 10 years of effort of the Mackenzie Delta Beaufort Sea Land Use Planning Commission were considered. It then took six years to carefully evaluate and incorporate the views of communities, regional organisations, industrial interests, and government departments and agencies before the land use plan was ready to submit for approval. During the approval process of four years, refinements were made and issues of legislative conflict have been addressed.

With the substantial participation from all the interest groups and the refinements made during the approval process, the Planning Board is proud of this integrated regional plan that balances resource development and use with conservation of the land and environment. We look forward to seeing the fruition of many years work in the implementation of this Plan.

Mahsi Cho! to everyone who gave their time, ideas, and energy to the production and approval of *Nành Geenjit Gwitr'it T'igwaa'in - Working for the Land.*

Bob Simpson
Chair

Charlie Snowshoe
Vice-Chair

Fanny Greenland
Director

Karen LeGresley Hamre
Director

Ian McLeod
Director

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Acknowledgements

The Gwich'in are as much a part of the land as the land is a part of their culture, values, and traditions. In the past they were stewards of the land on which they lived, knowing that their health as people and a society was intricately tied to the health of the land. In response to the Berger enquiry of the mid 1970's, the government of Canada made a commitment to recognize this relationship by establishing new programmes and institutions to give the Gwich'in people a role as stewards once again. One of the actions taken has been the creation of a formal land use planning process.

Many people from all communities in the Gwich'in Settlement Area have worked diligently on land use planning in this formal process with the government since the 1980s. Throughout these years people have continued to put their time and energy into land use planning because of their commitment to taking care of the land and their childrens' future. The Gwich'in helped to set the framework for the 1983 Basis of Agreement on Northern Land Use Planning. The first attempt to develop a Land Use Plan was through the Mackenzie Delta Beaufort Sea Land Use Planning process which was appointed in 1987 and included Gwich'in representatives. The Mackenzie Delta Beaufort Sea Land Use Plan produced in 1991 was not approved or implemented by government. After the signing of the Gwich'in Land Claim in 1992, the Gwich'in Interim Land Use Planning Board was given the task to begin land use planning again. However, it was not until the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act was passed in 1998 that there was the legal authority to produce a Gwich'in Land Use Plan.

After approximately 20 years of work on the part of many people, the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board (Planning Board) is proud to present *Nanh' geenjit gwitr'it t'igwaa'in/Working for the Land - Gwich'in Land Use Plan*. We would like to thank all the board members, staff, community members, government and industry participants who have worked on land use planning over the years.

Current Planning Board Members include Bob Simpson (Chair), Charlie Snowshoe (Vice-chair), Ian McLeod, Karen LeGresley Hamre and Fanny Greenland. Other people who have contributed as Board Members include Hal Mills, Margaret Donavan, Piet Van Loon, Robin Aitken and Norman Sancartier. The Planning Board would like to especially thank Charlie Snowshoe who has served on the Planning Board from its beginning. Charlie's interest and passion for land use planning stems from his love of the land and the Gwich'in people. He first became involved in the Mackenzie Delta Beaufort Sea Land Use Planning process and has continued in land use planning ever since. Charlie is an untiring source of energy, always ready to work and motivate those around him. We thank him for his dedication.

In addition to Board Members there have been many staff who have made the production of the Gwich'in Land Use Plan possible. Staff members who have worked on the Plan over the years are Ron Cruikshank, Wilbert Firth, Wes Funk, Allen Firth, Deena Clayton and Neida Gonzalez. The Board would also like to recognize the efforts of Jane Henson as planner for the Gwich'in during the Mackenzie Delta Beaufort Sea land use planning process.

By far the greatest thanks for this Plan goes to the people from the communities of Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson and Inuvik who have worked hand in hand with us on the development of *Nanh' geenjit gwitr'it t'igwaa'in/Working for the Land - Gwich'in Land Use Plan*. Regardless of how many times communities have been asked to contribute to projects or initiatives that have not met with expectations, they are still willing to participate and try to make a difference for their communities and their futures. They have put their trust in the Planning Board and staff to protect their land and all that it encompasses while providing a base for economic opportunities. The Planning Board hopes that it meets community expectations.

The Planning Board would like to thank the following people for their participation, support and work in developing the Plan:

AKLAVIK

Jo-Jo Arey, Shawn Arey, Joe Benoit, Sheldon Bernard, Steven Bonnetplume, Bobby Edwards, David Edwards, Frank Edwards Sr, Frank Edwards Jr, Daniel Edwards, Gary Edwards, Jimsey Edwards, Randy Edwards, Art Furlong, Fagen Furlong, Michelle Furlong, Ruth Furlong, Sigmour Furlong, Walter Gardlund, Fanny Greenland, Neil Heron, David Husky, Ricky Joe, David John, Darryl John, Betty Kaye, Alfred Kendi, Mary Kendi, Dorothy McLeod, Ian McLeod, James MacDonald Sr., Wally McPherson, Ben Mitchell, Bradley Mitchell, Melba Mitchell, Wayne Mitchell, Dorothy Ross, Susan Ross, Richard Selamio, Alfred Semple, Dale Semple, Charlie Stewart, Thomas Stewart, Wally Tyrell.

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We thank everybody that has participated in the planning process for their contributions, particularly the Gwich'in Land and Water Board, the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and all other government and industry groups.

We also thank those groups and people that provided comments on the *Plan Options Paper, the Proposed Community Protected Areas and the Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan*. Without the support of all groups this Gwich'in Land Use Plan would not have been possible. Lastly, thanks to Scott Black and Chris Douglas at Compass Communications for working with us to produce this document.

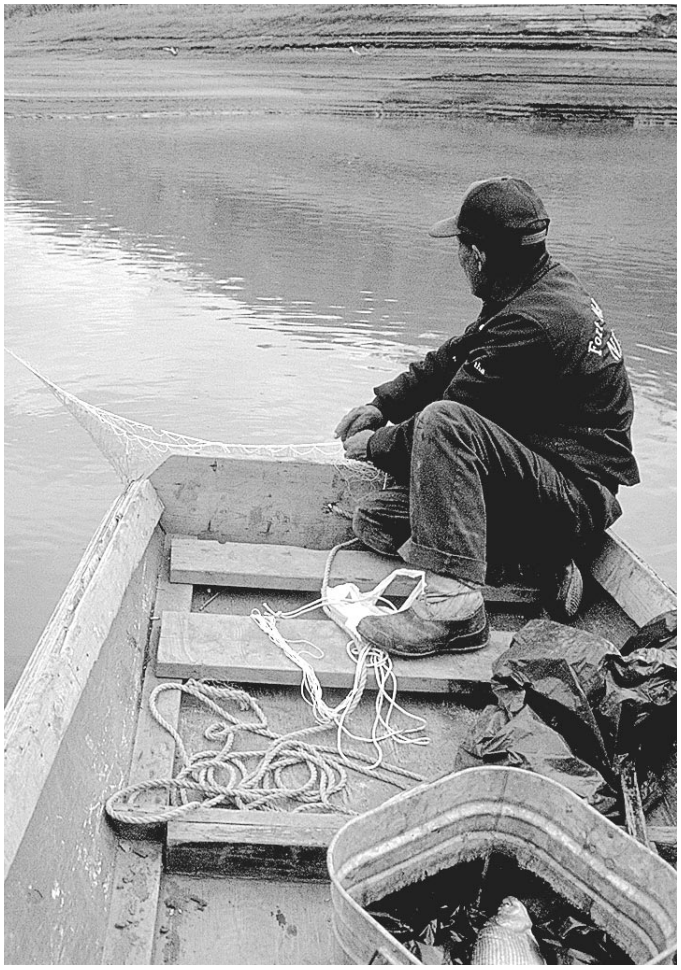
We look forward to working with you in the implementation of *Nanh' geenjit gwitr'it t'igwaa'in/Working for the Land - Gwich'in Land Use Plan.*

Susan McKenzie
Land Use Planner
August, 2003

1.0 Introduction

1.1 What is a Land Use Plan?

A Land Use Plan is one tool for taking care of the land and people of the Gwich'in Settlement Area today and in the future.[1] "Taking care of the land" means more than just looking after the ground beneath us. For people in the Gwich'in communities, taking care of the land means taking care of the whole environment including people, land, water, air, wildlife, heritage and other resources. Land has spiritual values as well as physical values. Taking care of the land means understanding and maintaining connections between all parts of the land. Land includes natural processes like migration of animals, the break up and freeze up of rivers and lakes and fire.



Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board

An important part of land use planning is preparing to deal with future situations that may affect the land. Land use planning provides an opportunity to think about how land should be used today and in the future. In a Land Use Plan there are goals for land use and recommended actions for meeting goals. A Land Use Plan also sets aside different areas for different uses, and describes what is allowed and not allowed in specific areas.[2]

The Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board (Planning Board) has been given the authority to develop a Gwich'in Land Use Plan by the *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement* (Gwich'in Land Claim) and the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. The Gwich'in Land Claim establishes land ownership and sets up a system for land management. The Land Use Plan is one land management tool for the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The Planning Board has worked with the communities, Gwich'in, government, co-management, business and non-government groups to develop the Gwich'in Land Use Plan.

Why call it the Gwich'in Land Claim?

Even though it is really an agreement, most people in the area still say 'the Claim' when they are talking about the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. To be consistent, the Land Use Plan also refers to the agreement simply as the Gwich'in Land Claim.

Why use the term co-management board?

The boards that were set up under the Gwich'in Land Claim are actually called institutions of public government. However, since most people in the area call them 'co-management boards', the same term is used in the Land Use Plan.

According to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, Gwich'in, government, and other regulatory authorities will be obligated to carry out their powers in accordance with the Gwich'in Land Use Plan, after it receives formal approval. Proposed land use activities will be required to conform with the Gwich'in Land Use Plan. The Planning Board will carry out a comprehensive review of the Gwich'in Land Use Plan no later than five years after it receives formal approval, in order to consider new issues, information, opportunities and user needs. The Plan will continue to be reviewed every five years unless the Gwich'in, the federal minister and the territorial minister agree to review it at a different time.

Gwich'in Land and Water Board

The Land Use Planning Office

1.2 What is the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board?

The Planning Board is comprised of two Gwich'in nominees, two government nominees and a chairperson who is chosen by the nominees. Planning Board funding comes from the settlement of the Gwich'in Land Claim and allows the Planning Board to have an office, one staff person, hold Board Meetings and consult with communities, government and other groups.

Gwich'in Land and Water Board

Aklavik Community Meeting, 1997

1.3 What are the principles guiding the development of the Land Use Plan?

The principles and objectives guiding the development of the Land Use Plan are found in the Gwich'in Land Claim.[3] The Planning Board uses these principles and objectives as a guide for its work. Similar objectives and principles are also found in the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. [4]

1.3.1 Objectives from the Land Claim Agreement Guiding Planning

1. To recognize and encourage the Gwich'in way of life which is based on the cultural and economic relationship between the Gwich'in and the land (Section 1.1.3).

2. To encourage the self-sufficiency of the Gwich'in and to enhance their ability to participate fully in all aspects of the economy (Section 1.1.4).

3. To provide the Gwich'in the right to participate in decision making concerning the use, management and conservation of land, water and resources (Section 1.1.7).

4. To protect and conserve the wildlife and environment of the settlement area for present and future generations (Section 1.1.8).

5. To integrate planning and management of wildlife and wildlife habitat with the planning and management of all types of land and water use in order to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat (Section 12.1.1f).

1.3.2 Planning Principles in the Land Claim Agreement

1. The purpose of land use planning is to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents and communities of the settlement area having regard to the interests of all Canadians (Section 24.2.4a).

Gwich'in Land and Water Board

Integrated Resource Management and Land Use Planning Workshop, Inuvik March 1997.

2. Special attention shall be devoted to:

   (i) protecting and promoting the existing and future social, cultural and economic well-being of the Gwich'in;

   (ii) lands used by the Gwich'in for harvesting and other uses of resources;

   (iii) the rights of the Gwich'in under this agreement (Section 24.2.4b).

3. Land use planning shall directly involve communities and designated Gwich'in organizations (Section 24.2.4c).

4. The plan developed through the planning process shall provide for the conservation, development and utilization of land, resources and waters (Section 24.2.4d).

5. Water resources planning within the Mackenzie Valley is an integral part of land use planning (Section 24.2.5).

1.4 What is the Land Use Planning Process?

The land use planning process is a six stage process (see Figure 1):

1) Information Gathering
2) Plan Options
3) Draft Land Use Plan
4) Final Land Use Plan
5) Plan Implementation
6) Review and Amendment

The Gwich'in Land Use Plan reflects comments on land use planning from communities, Gwich'in, government, co-management, business and non-government groups (see Appendix A). Comments are in response to consultations through community and regional workshops, land use planning meetings and the release of:

- *Plan Options: A Discussion Paper for the Land and Water Managers and Users of the Gwich'in Settlement Area* (February, 1997),
- *Proposed Community Protected Areas* (September, 1997), and
- *Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan for the Gwich'in Settlement Area*. (March, 1998).

Figure 1: The Land Use Planning Process

Information Gathering

At this stage we gather information about community issues and resources such as wildlife; forests; sand and gravel; tourism and roads.

(We continually update information and add new information)

Plan Options

What needs to be in the Plan? Here we present ideas that could be in the Plan.

Draft Plan

This is our first effort at a Land Use Plan. After all groups have had a chance to comment, we produce the Final Plan.

Final Plan

This document is submitted to the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the territorial government and the federal government for approval. The Board will consider all of the comments the approval agencies make. If the Board decides to change the final plan based on the comments, then all of the agencies have to agree to the changes.

(Community meetings are an important part of the process at every stage)

Note: First Plan officially approved August, 2003.

Plan Implementation

At this stage we begin to use the Plan for making decisions about land use and resource management.

(Every five years the Plan is reviewed and updated)

Review and Amendment

five years after the Plan is approved we review it to ensure we've met the goals and objectives. This gives us an opportunity to change the Plan.

A variety of meetings and workshops have taken place on Gwich'in land use planning in the Gwich'in Settlement Area as well as in Yellowknife and Calgary (see Appendix A). In March, 1997, a workshop took place, in Inuvik, to review *Plan Options* and to give direction to the Planning Board. Over 80 representatives of community, government, co-management, business and Gwich'in groups met to discuss land use planning issues. Since the planning workshop, the Planning Board has continued to consult with all groups on the development of the Land Use Plan.

The Planning Board has organized five community tours where people provided comments on the land use planning work. The Planning Board has continued to consult with government and industry through meetings in Inuvik, Yellowknife and Calgary as well as by participating in the *Protected Areas Conference* and *Geoscience Forum* in Yellowknife. Consultation work has given the Planning Board useful direction on goals, land use issues and the land use zoning system. As a result of the consultation process, communities, government and business groups are more directly involved in the planning process.

1.5 What is in the Gwich'in Land Use Plan?

There are seven chapters in the Gwich'in Land Use Plan:

Chapter 1	**Introduction**
Chapter 2	**Information about the Gwich'in Settlement Area**
Chapter 3	**Land and Water Regulation**
Chapter 4	**Land Use Plan for the Future: Vision and Land Zones**
Chapter 5	**Land Use Plan for the Future: Land Use Issues and Actions**
Chapter 6	**Procedures for Implementing the Land Use Plan**
Chapter 7	**Implementation Plan Outline**

Chapter 2 describes the Gwich'in Settlement Area and its resources. This chapter outlines the significance of resources, how they are being used and what demands are on resources of the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

The Land and Water Regulation chapter outlines who owns land in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, what groups are managing land and resources and what regulations are in place to manage resources.

Outlined in **Chapter 4** is the Planning Board's perspective on land use planning and its vision for the future as well as the Land Zones for the Gwich'in Settlement Area. **Chapter 5** outlines the major land use issues and recommended actions for dealing with these issues. Direction for managing land and resources is the focus of **Chapter 5**.

Chapter 6 deals with the rules for implementing the Land Use Plan like: "Under what special circumstances will an exception to the Land Use Plan be considered?" or "What is meant by a five year review of the Land Use Plan?". **Chapter 7** addresses what will be in the Implementation Plan for the Land Use Plan.

1.6 How was the Gwich'in Land Use Plan Formally Approved?

The Gwich'in Land Use Plan was approved by three groups. The first group required to approve the Gwich'in Land Use Plan was the Gwich'in Tribal Council. The second was the territorial government and the third was the federal government.

1.7 "Conformity with the Land Use Plan" What does it mean?

"Conformity with the Gwich'in Land Use Plan" means groups are legally obligated to follow the Land Use Plan. All groups including the Gwich'in, federal government, territorial government, co-management boards and business groups are required to conform to the approved Land Use Plan. The Plan is written so that land users can look at the Plan and figure out for themselves whether a proposed land use is likely, or is not likely to conform with the Plan.

Regulators, like the Gwich'in Land and Water Board, cannot issue a licence, permit or authorization until it is established that the proposed activities are in conformity with the Land Use Plan. If there are questions about conformity, the Planning Board will decide if the activity conforms to the Land Use Plan.

References

[1] GNWT Comments: Gwich'in Settlement Area Land Use Plan-Plan Options Paper, 1997 p.1

[2] Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Fact Sheet: Land Use Planning Boards (1999).

[3] Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992), Sections 1, 24 and 25.

[4] Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (1998), Sections 35, 58, 64, 114, and 115.

2.0 Information about the Gwich'in Settlement Area and its Resources

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

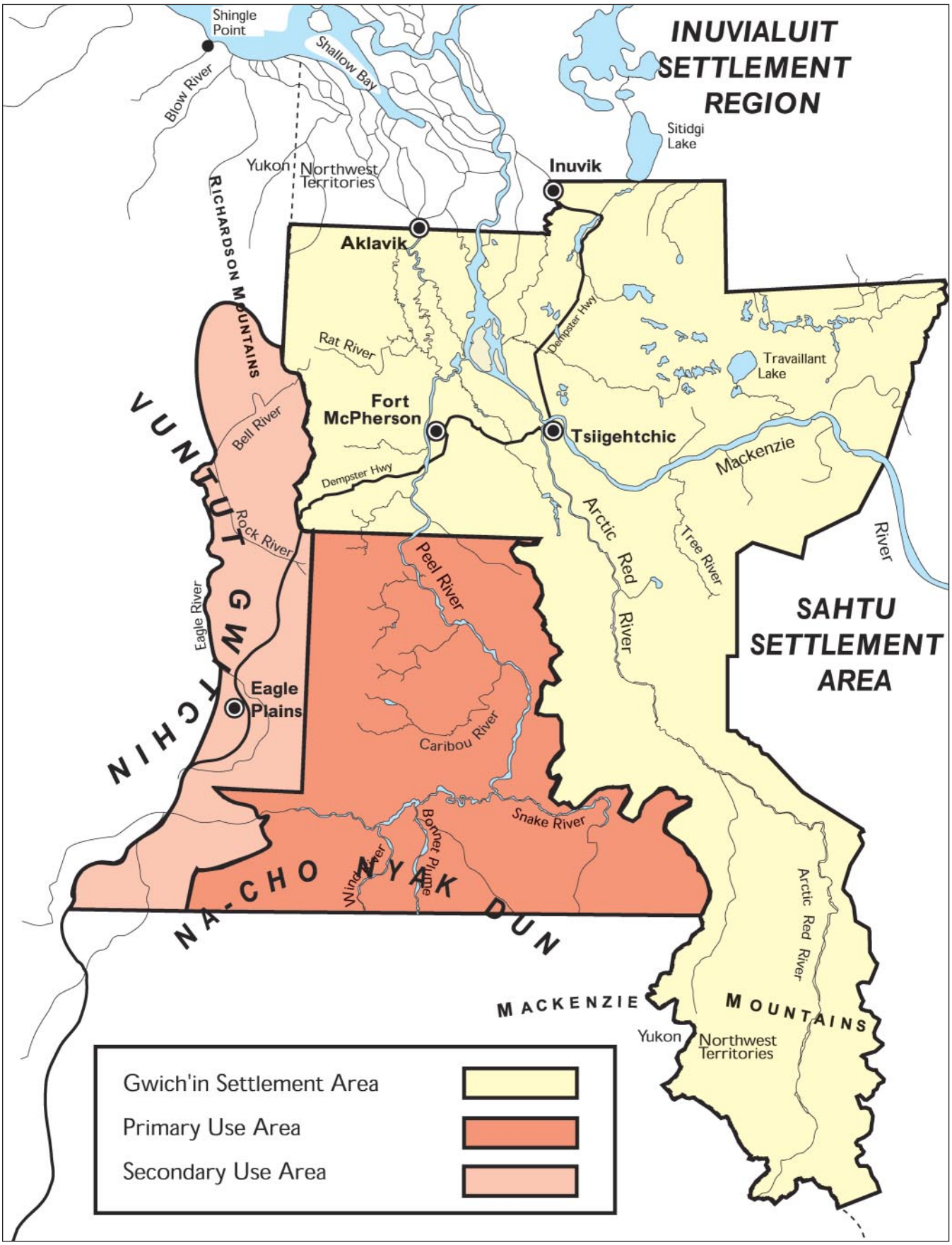
Campbell Hills

2.1 Gwich'in Settlement Area

2.1.1 Boundaries

The Gwich'in Land Claim was settled in 1992 for the Gwich'in Settlement Region. The Gwich'in Settlement Region is made up of the Gwich'in Settlement Area, the Primary Use Area and the Secondary Use Area (see Figure 2). The Gwich'in Settlement Area is entirely in the Northwest Territories and is approximately 56,935 km^2.[1] The Planning Board is responsible for land use planning in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Figure 2: Gwich'in Settlement Region



Both the Primary and Secondary Use Areas are in the Yukon Territory. The Primary Use Area is 21,988 km^2 in size and encompasses much of the watershed of the Peel River.[2] It is an overlap area between the Nacho N'yak Dun of Mayo and the Teetl'it Gwich'in of Fort McPherson. The Secondary Use Area, 11,456 km^2 in size, is a traditional use area in the Richardson Mountains.[3] The three main groups that use the area are the Vuntut Gwitchin of Old Crow, the Teetl'it Gwich'in of Fort McPherson and the Ehdiitat Gwich'in of Aklavik. The responsibility for land use planning in the Primary and Secondary Use Areas falls to the Yukon Land Use Planning Council. The Yukon Transboundary Agreement states that the Yukon Land Use Planning Council will consult with the Planning Board on any land use planning initiatives in the Primary and Secondary Use Areas.[4]

The Gwich'in Settlement Area is bordered by the Inuvialuit Settlement Region to the north, the Sahtu Settlement Area to the southeast and the Yukon Territory to the west. In the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, community conservation plans have been developed in place of Land Use Plans. Gwich'in settlement lands in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region are addressed in the conservation plans as the Planning Board has no jurisdiction in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. In the Sahtu Settlement Area, the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board is in the beginning stages of developing a Land Use Plan.

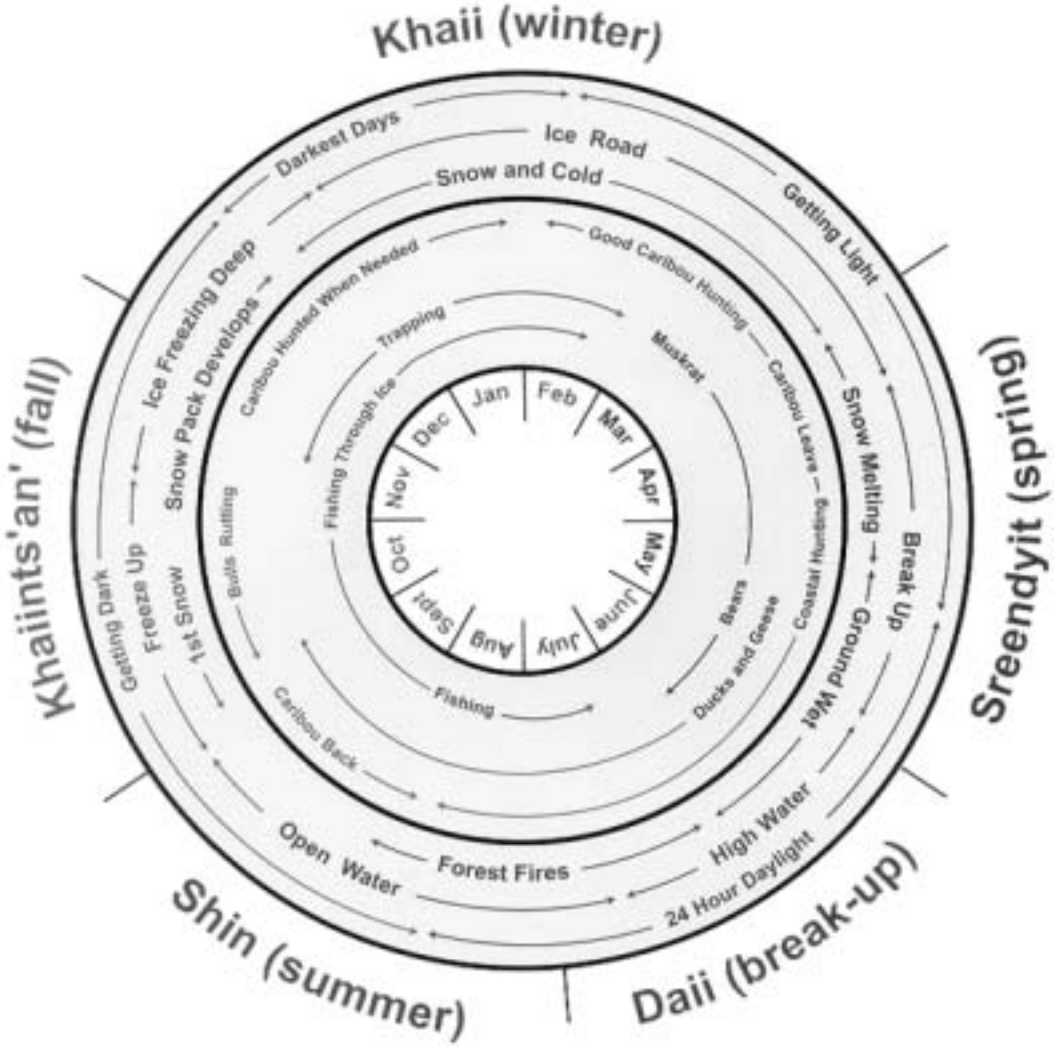
2.1.2 People

There are approximately 2,400 participants in the Gwich'in Land Claim, with 60% of the people living in the four communities of the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Aklavik (population 727) is a mixed community of Gwich'in and Inuvialuit, while Inuvik (population 3,296) has a mixed population of Gwich'in, Inuvialuit and non-aboriginals. The two predominantly Gwich'in communities are Fort McPherson (population 878) and Tsiigehtchic (population 162).[5]

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

Gwich'in live in an area that includes north-east Alaska, the northern Yukon and the north-western part of the Northwest Territories. Two of the original Gwich'in groups are found in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The Gwichya Gwich'in live primarily in Tsiigehtchic, and the Teetl'it Gwich'in live primarily in Fort McPherson. Gwich'in in Aklavik and Inuvik have formed their own bands in the past 20 years: the Ehdiitat Gwich'in in Aklavik and the Nihtat Gwich'in in Inuvik.

Figure 3: Gwich'in Seasons (Aklavik)



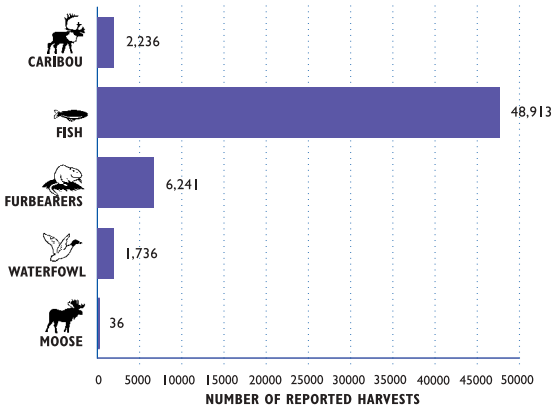
2.1.3 Economy

The economy of the Gwich'in Settlement Area includes the "traditional economy" based on the harvesting of plants and animals and the "wage economy" based on part and full time employment.

The traditional economy is associated primarily with the annual harvesting of renewable resources. Figure 3 shows the seasonal land uses for Ehdiitat Gwich'in of Aklavik as one example of the annual harvesting of wildlife associated with the traditional economy. Trapping, hunting, fishing and vegetation harvesting are traditional activities guaranteed to the Gwich'in through the Gwich'in Land Claim.[6] The Gwich'in also have the right to travel and maintain hunting, trapping and fishing camps.

The amount of wildlife being harvested is being recorded through the Gwich'in Harvest Study. This study, conducted by the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, provides a profile of the types and approximate numbers of wildlife harvested in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (see Figure 4). There is also subsistence forest harvesting occurring for a variety of uses (fuel, building material, etc.).[7] Traditional medicines, from both trees and plants, are still used today and other vegetation, like berries, are harvested.[8]

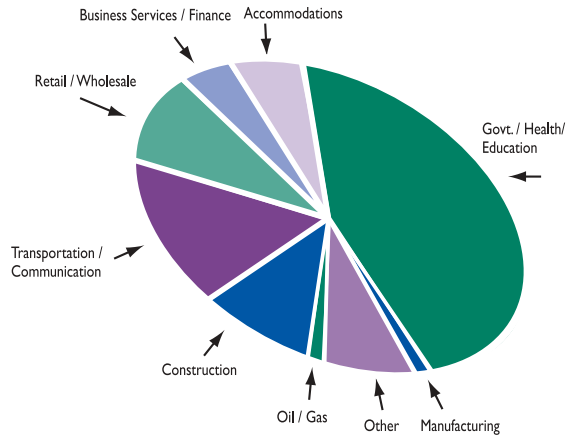
Figure 4: 1997 GSA HARVEST
(Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board Harvest Study Data Report)

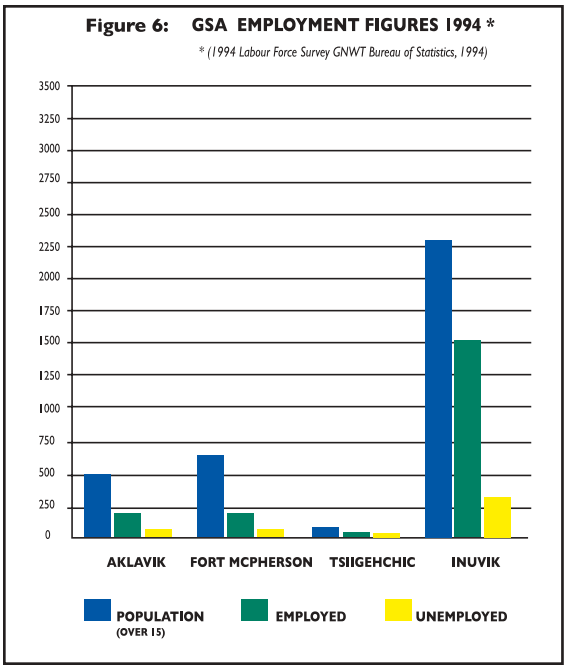


The wage economy of the late 1990s in the Gwich'in Settlement Area is dominated by government and Gwich'in Land Claim related employment (see Figure 5). The private sector businesses that do operate in the Gwich'in Settlement Area rely heavily on government contracts. The economy associated with oil and gas has all but vanished from the settlement area. Trapping, which anchored the economy for the first half of the century, is now a small contributor to the local economy. Tourism has yet to contribute substantially to the Gwich'in Settlement Area economy, but is viewed as a potential growth area. The labour force of the Gwich'in Settlement Area possesses skills associated with renewable resource harvesting and management, water and land transportation, oil and gas activities, construction, tourism and traditional arts and crafts.

Wage and traditional economies are linked in many ways. Trapping, considered as a traditional activity, is an extension of the cash economy. Subsistence hunting and fishing, as they are currently practiced, require an income source to cover costs of fuel, boats, guns, snowmobiles, etc. The Gwich'in continue the historic pattern of switching between the traditional to the wage economy and are now much more dependent on the wage economy than they were earlier this century. In periods when the wage economy is not strong, traditional activities can take care of many basic needs: food, fuel and shelter.

Figure 5: SECTORAL EMPLOYMENT - GSA COMMUNITIES*
** (1991 Canada Census Data)*





The average unemployment rate in the Gwich'in Settlement Area is 30% (see Figure 6).[9] The average income in the Gwich'in Settlement Area is low at approximately $17,000, while the cost of living in the Gwich'in Settlement Area is much higher than in other areas in Canada.[10]

2.1.4 "The Land" As The Environment

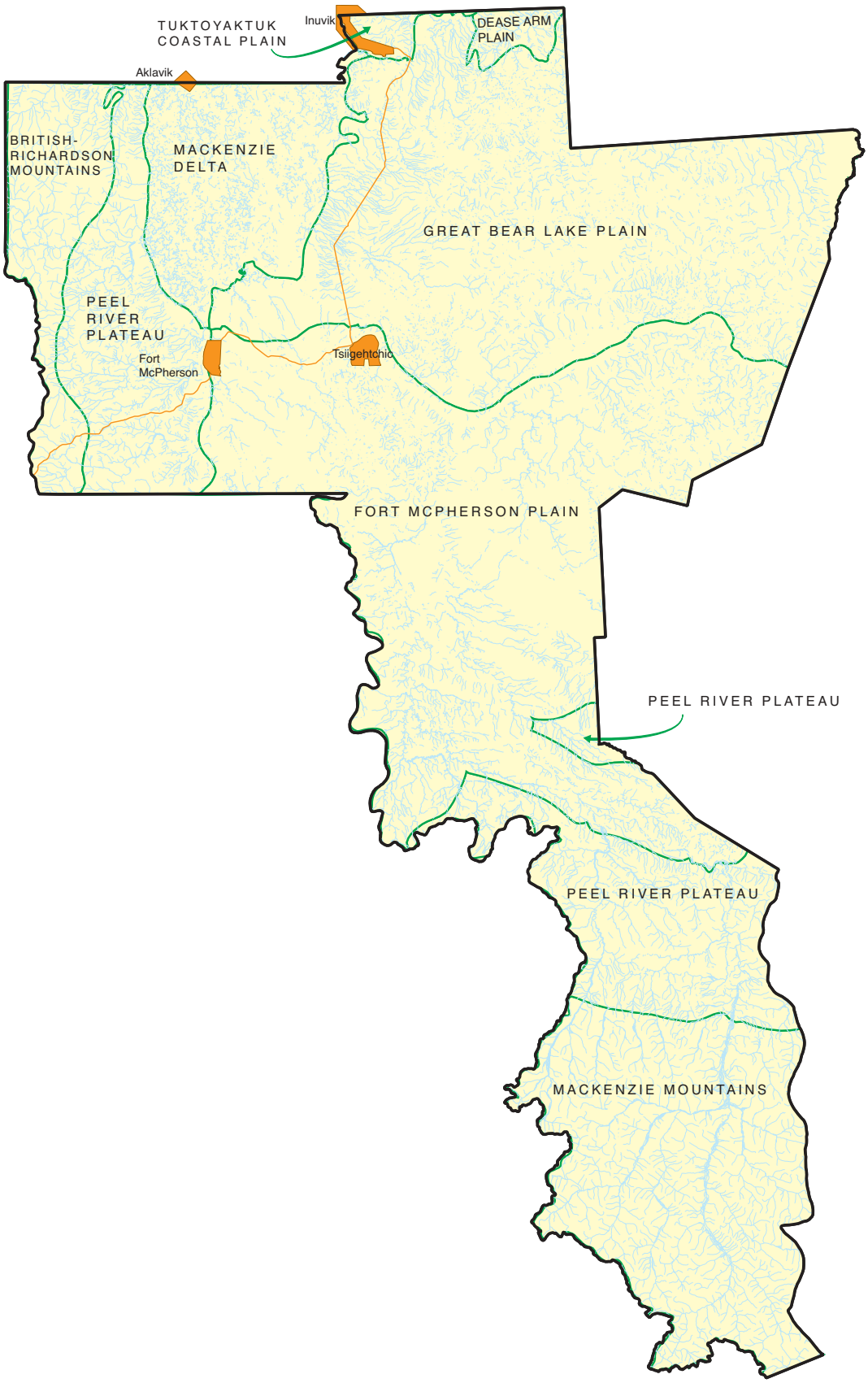
"The land", or the environment, includes all parts of the natural and cultural landscape. People are a part of the environment, as well as landforms, water, air, fire, minerals, plants and animals. How all these components work together as natural and social systems is also part of the environment.

The natural landscape of the Gwich'in Settlement Area is diverse and sustains a large variety of plant and animal species for its latitude in North America. This is primarily because the settlement area is positioned along the treeline and supports both arctic and sub-arctic species. In general, the Gwich'in Settlement Area is considered a sub-arctic area.

The natural landscape can be divided into different zones based on similar land, water, plant and animal features. These zones have been developed by the "National Ecological Framework for Canada" and are called ecoregions. There are six major ecoregions within the Gwich'in Settlement Area (see Figure 7). The ecoregions include the Mackenzie Delta, Peel River Plateau, Great Bear Lake Plain, Fort McPherson Plain, British-Richardson Mountains and Mackenzie Mountains.

Gwich'in would not recognize most of the names associated with these ecoregions. They do not divide the land based solely on natural features but combine the natural landscape with cultural divisions. The English names now commonly used to describe the broadest landscapes in the Gwich'in Settlement Area are "the Delta" (Mackenzie Delta), "the mountains" (Richardson Mountains) and main valleys of the three major rivers: "the Peel, Arctic Red and Mackenzie". Few people would recognize the name Mackenzie Mountains to describe the mountains at the headwaters of the Arctic Red River.

Figure 7: Ecoregions



The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute has been documenting Gwich'in place names and has found that historical Gwich'in place names are far more extensive and detailed than those used today. Their ongoing work is revealing that Gwich'in culture, like the Gwich'in Settlement Area physical landscape, is diverse and has its own features.

2.2 Heritage Resources

The Gwich'in have lived in the settlement area for thousands of years and they have a distinct history and culture. Throughout this history contact between Gwich'in and other groups has occurred influencing Gwich'in culture. There are many links to Gwich'in history and culture that can be found on the land and in Gwich'in oral history. Gwich'in heritage resources include locations considered to be of cultural value, burial sites, archaeological and historic sites and their associated artifacts, documentation and records related to Gwich'in culture and history. Locations that are considered of cultural value include sacred sites, named places, traditional camps, trails, berry picking areas, harvesting areas (medicines, wildlife, fish), meeting places and caribou corrals. Heritage resources provide a record of Gwich'in use of the land through time and are of spiritual, historical, cultural, religious and educational significance.

Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute

Oral history is a vital part of heritage resources for the Gwich'in. Elders have a vast knowledge of the land from both personal experience and oral tradition, and they are helping document extensive trail systems and hundreds of places connected to these trails. These important places have stories connected to them talking about many things such as sacred places, legendary locales, culture, rules and values.

2.3 Renewable Resources: Water, Wildlife, Forests and Tourism

2.3.1 Water

"Water is the lifeblood of the environment. Without water no living thing, plant or animal, can survive".[11] Water is recognized as crucial to the environment and people of the Gwich'in Settlement Area.[12] It is integral to Gwich'in culture as it maintains wildlife and fish that are used in traditional activities. Water also provides essential travel routes. Human uses of water in the Gwich'in Settlement Area include: transportation, waste disposal, industrial activities, forest fire control, fisheries, recreation and domestic use.

Water flows from the south into the Gwich'in Settlement Area and eventually into the Arctic Ocean. The Gwich'in Settlement Area is part of the Mackenzie River Basin, which encompasses portions of Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. Much of the water that reaches the Gwich'in Settlement Area has been used extensively by other groups in the Mackenzie River Basin.

Resources Wildlife and Economic Development

The three main river channels in the Gwich'in Settlement Area are the Mackenzie River, Peel River and Arctic Red River. The Mackenzie River is the ninth longest river in the world and has the second largest arctic delta. In comparison to other rivers its size, it is undeveloped and unpopulated.

There are also a number of smaller important rivers such as the Rat River, Rengleng River, Travaillant River, Kugaluk River, and Carnwath River. Other notable water related features in the Gwich'in Settlement Area include wetlands, groundwater areas, and headwater areas.

2.3.2 Wildlife and Fish

Wildlife and fish are vital resources of the Gwich'in Settlement Area and significant parts of the environment. Wildlife and fish play a central role in Gwich'in cultural heritage. Gwich'in depend on a variety of wildlife and fish for hunting, fishing and trapping. Wildlife and fish also provide opportunities for commercial hunting and fishing, tourism and recreation. There are a diverse number of wildlife and fish species in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Known to occur in the Gwich'in Settlement Area are approximately 38 species of mammals, 151 species of birds, and 32 species of fish.

Gwich'in Words for Fish and Wildlife

Teetł'ıt Gwich'in and Gwichya Gwich'in are the two dialects spoken in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

English	Teetł'it	Gwichya
caribou	vadzaih	vadzaii
Dall's sheep	divii	divii
grizzly bear	shih	sheh
moose	dinjik	dinjik
wolverine	nehtruh	nehtryuh
whitefish	luk zheii	luk zhii
coney	sruh	sryuh
charr	dhik'ii	dhik'ii
waterfowl	dats'an	dats'an
birds	dzhiig	dzhiig

Important mammals for communities include Porcupine caribou, Bluenose caribou, Dall's sheep, grizzly bear, moose and furbearers in general. Three mammals found in the Gwich'in Settlement Area are listed as being vulnerable by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada: grizzly bear, wolverine and woodland caribou.

Waterfowl are of particular importance to cultural activities in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The peregrine falcon (threatened) is the only bird species in the Gwich'in Settlement Area listed as endangered, threatened or vulnerable in Canada.

Fish are significant for traditional, commercial and recreational activities. There are many important species locally such as whitefish, inconnu and dolly varden charr. At the local level there is concern about the future of dolly varden charr. No fish species in the Gwich'in Settlement Area is listed as endangered, threatened or vulnerable.

2.3.3 Forests

Forests play a significant role in the environment and in Gwich'in traditional life. Forests are diverse areas supporting many species of plants and animals, as well as stabilizing soils, enhancing water quality, and controlling water levels. Fish and wildlife populations depend on the responsible use of forests. Gwich'in also rely on forests for essential materials. Products from forests include fuel wood, material for houses, cabins, toboggans, snowshoes and many other necessities including medicine. Forest areas are used for hunting, trapping and fishing. There is little commercial forestry taking place in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Generally, forest stands are found throughout the Gwich'in Settlement Area excluding the mountainous regions. Potential commercial forest stands are sporadic and located along banks of the Peel, Arctic Red, Mackenzie Rivers and in the Mackenzie Delta. The main forestry species are white and black spruce. Other species include white birch, tamarack, aspen, alder and willow.

2.3.4 Tourism

Tourism is growing in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and has the potential to become an important source of income for residents. The Gwich'in Settlement Area provides tourists with the opportunity to have wilderness, recreational and cultural experiences.

Tourist surveys confirm that the number of visitors to the Gwich'in Settlement Area is increasing and that the tourists are enjoying their travels. Tourists come to the area to canoe, boat, hike, sport hunt and fish, look at wildlife, and tour the communities. Attractions include the Mackenzie and Richardson Mountains, and the Mackenzie Delta. The Dempster Highway is another attraction for tourists due to the scenery and provides tourists access to the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Canadian Arctic Adventure

There are approximately ten tour operators now in business. Tourism is diversifying to include winter activities such as snowmobiling, dog team mushing and cross country skiing tours. Facilities range from lookout sites, community parks and Territorial Parks.

2.4 Non-Renewable Resources: Oil, Gas, Minerals, Sand, Gravel and Crushed Rock

2.4.1 Oil and Gas

Oil and gas are two of the world's greatest sources of non-renewable energy. Significant oil and gas discoveries have been made in the Beaufort Sea/Mackenzie Delta Region. Substantial oil reserves are located in the southern Beaufort Sea. It is estimated that about 15% of Canada's proven oil reserves are found in the Beaufort Sea/Mackenzie Delta Region.

At this time, there are minimal oil and gas activities in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Generally, there is low potential for oil discoveries in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. There is some oil potential along the Eskimo and Trevor Fault, between Aklavik and Fort McPherson. Gas potential is more widely distributed encompassing all the Interior Platform in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (see Figure 8).

The Gwich'in Settlement Area is not a major oil and gas area in comparison to the Beaufort Sea Region. However, the Gwich'in Settlement Area has the potential to be a vital transportation link for oil and gas if the Beaufort Sea oil and gas reserves are developed.[13] Several pipeline corridors have been identified through the Gwich'in Settlement Area in connection to oil and gas production in the Beaufort Sea Region. The three main identified pipeline corridors[14] are the Mackenzie Valley corridor just north of the Mackenzie River, the Mackenzie Valley corridor south of the Mackenzie River, and the Dempster Highway lateral corridor.

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2.4.2 Minerals

The mineral resources of the Gwich'in Settlement Area are concentrated in the Mackenzie Mountains and Richardson Mountains. In general, the Mackenzie Mountains have higher mineral potential than the Richardson Mountains.

Deposits that may be found in the Mackenzie Mountains in the Gwich'in Settlement Area include iron ore, lead, zinc, and copper. In particular, the Gayna River Lead-Zinc deposit found along the Sahtu/Gwich'in border is of significance.[15] There is a significant crest iron ore deposit in the Mackenzie Mountains adjacent to the Yukon border. However, the majority of the iron resources are found in the headwaters of the Snake River in the Yukon Territory outside of the Gwich'in Settlement Area. There may be other significant deposits in the Mackenzie Mountains, but as the area is remote there has been less exploration in this area in comparison to other areas in the Northwest Territories.

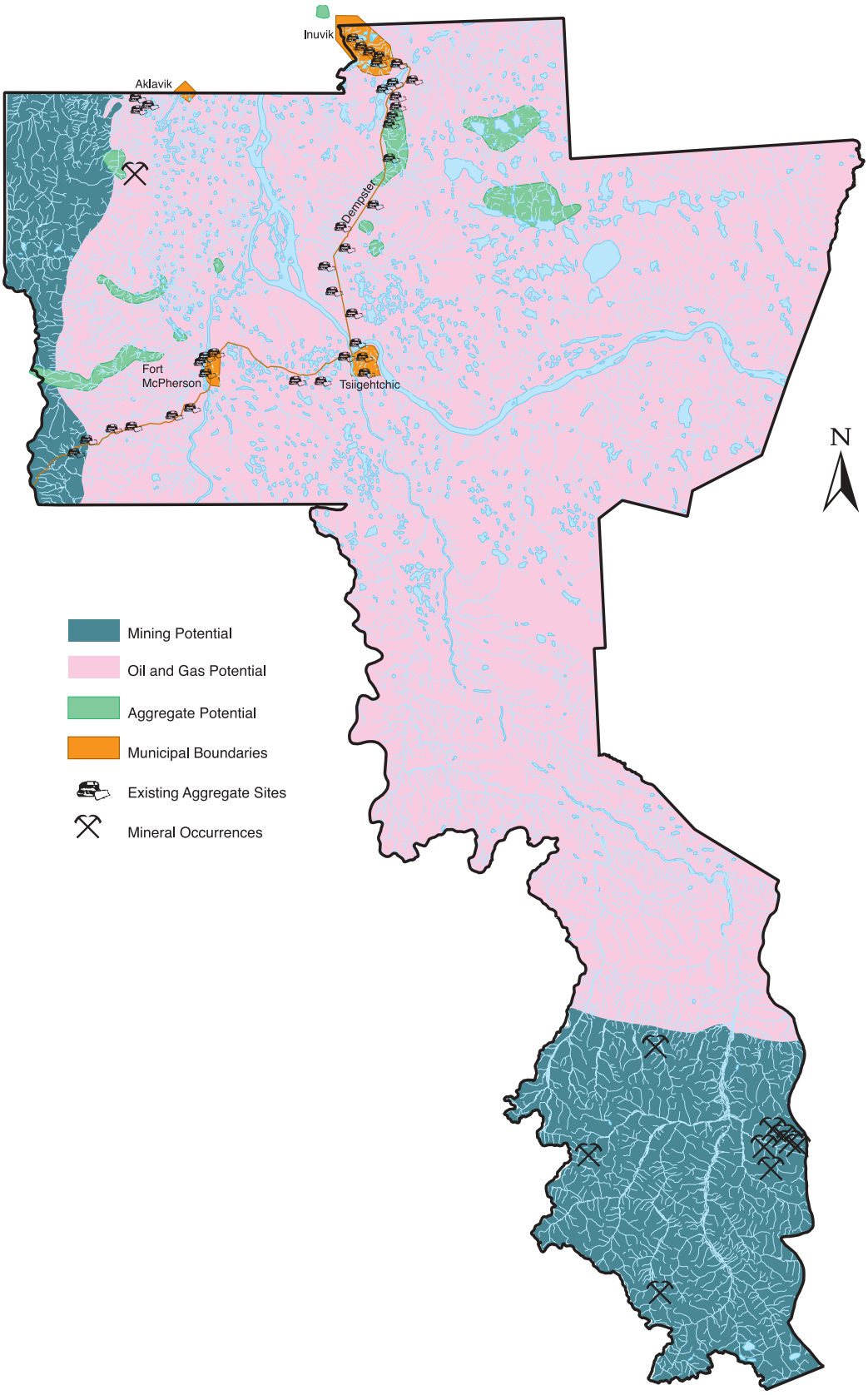
There are minor mineral occurrences of copper and gypsum in the Richardson Mountains within the Gwich'in Settlement Area. There are also some coal deposits near the town of Aklavik that could be used for domestic use.

There are no active mineral related mines or mineral related exploration activities occurring in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Some prospecting is taking place in the headwaters of the Arctic Red River in the Mackenzie Mountains within the Gwich'in Settlement Area. This prospecting may or may not show promising minerals deposits that warrant further exploration.

2.4.3 Sand, Gravel and Crushed Rock

Topsoil, sand, gravel and crushed rock are the main types of materials removed from pits in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Topsoil pits extract organic soils from the land surface. Sand and gravel is generally extracted from glacial deposits. Crushed rock pits use rock that is blasted and crushed into smaller sizes.

Figure 8: Non-Renewable Resources



There are approximately 38 pits in the settlement area. Fourteen pits are being actively used, while 4 are being used for stockpiling. Access to sand, gravel and crushed rock is important for the maintenance of the Dempster Highway and will be necessary for developments that require new roads.

2.5 Transportation and Communication

Transportation networks play a crucial role in the economy and life of the people of the Gwich'in Settlement Area. There is an extensive traditional network of travel routes used by the Gwich'in. Modern transportation options include barges, boats, motorized land vehicles and aircraft.

Goods and supplies are brought in by barges along the major waterways, aircraft and road. The Dempster Highway connects Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik to the Yukon Territory and the rest of Canada. It is the most northern public highway in North America and is open year round except for short periods of time during river freeze up and ice break-up. Ice road extensions created in the winter provide highways links to Aklavik and Tuktoyaktuk.

The main travel options for people coming into the area are the Dempster Highway and aircraft. Inuvik is the centre for air travel with a jet accessible airport while Fort McPherson and Aklavik each have small airports. Within the Gwich'in Settlement Area, boat travel is common in the summer and snowmobile travel is the main mode of travel in the winter.

Communication in the Gwich'in Settlement Area is provided through telephone services in all communities, and internet access in Inuvik. Radio is also an important part of communication for the area as bush radios let people stay in touch while on the land. Radio and television programs provide local, national and international news and entertainment for the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

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2.6 Existing Designated Areas

Several areas within the Gwich'in Settlement Area have conservation related designations:

Peel River Preserve

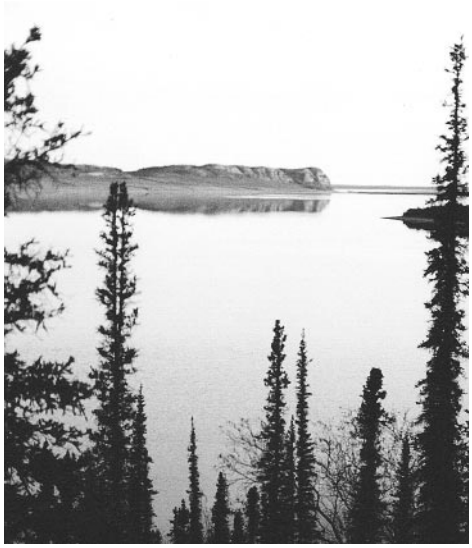
Established in the 1920s. Provides hunting rights to the Gwich'in within its boundaries. The Peel River Preserve, although still in place, is not considered a significant designation today because traditional hunting rights are guaranteed by the Gwich'in Land Claim.

Arctic Red River Heritage River

Established in 1993 through the Canadian Heritage Rivers System. The designation gives national recognition to Canada's outstanding rivers. Heritage River status promotes protection of the river but does not set aside land for conservation.

Gwich'in Territorial Park

Established in 1996 by the Government of the Northwest Territories. This is a small park (88 km^2) on the outskirts of Inuvik created to provide economic and recreation opportunities, and to conserve wildlife habitat and heritage values. This small park is the only area in the Gwich'in Settlement Area with a partial conservation mandate. The park has significant wildlife habitat (peregrine falcon, waterfowl and fish).



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Nagwichoonjik (Mackenzie River) National Historic Site

Established as a National Historic Site in January 1998. This section of the Mackenzie River from Thunder River to Point Separation will be commemorated by a number of trilingual plaques along the designated stretch of the river. This section of the Mackenzie River was chosen as a National Historic Site due to its cultural, social and spiritual significance to the Gwichya Gwich'in.

Lost Patrol Memorial

There is a monument at the base of Gwatlat Hill marking the location of where the bodies of Constables Kinney and Taylor were found from the Royal Northwest Mounted Police "Lost Patrol". The monument is a log pyramid with a wooden plaque.

Wayside Parks

There are a number of small wayside parks along the Dempster Highway. Wayside parks provide facilities to tourists and recreational opportunities for local residents.

References

[1] Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992)

[2] Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992)

[3] Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992)

[4] Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992)

[5] NWT Bureau of Statistics, 1994.

[6] Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992), Sections 12.1, 13.1 and 14.1.1

[7] Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, Gwich'in Settlement Area Forest Use Survey for 1996

[8] Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, Gwich'in Settlement Area Forest Use Survey for 1996

[9] NWT Bureau of Statistics, 1994 Labour Force Survey

[10] NWT Bureau of Statistics (1994)

[11] Science Council of Canada (1988) Water 2020:Sustainable Use for Water in the 21st Century

[12] Integrated Resource Management and Land Use Planning Workshop, Inuvik (1997)

[13] Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, 1998, Comments on Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan

[14] Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, 1998, Comments on Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan

[15] Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, 1998, Comments on Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan

3.0 Land Ownership, Regulation and Management

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Richardson Mountains

3.1 Land Ownership

Within the Gwich'in Settlement Area there are Gwich'in Settlement Lands, Crown lands, Commissioners land and Municipal lands. By far Gwich'in Settlement Lands and Crown lands make up the majority of the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Gwich'in Settlement Lands were established in 1992 through the Gwich'in Land Claim. The Gwich'in Tribal Council holds subsurface and surface rights for approximately 11% (6,158 km^2) of the settlement area, and holds surface rights for approximately 28% (16,264 km^2) of the settlement area.[1]

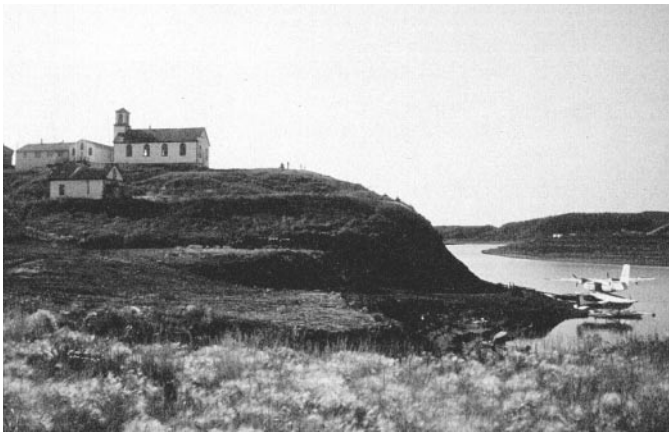
Subsurface rights for the Gwich'in surface areas are administered by the federal government. Crown land, where the government administers the rights to subsurface and surface lands, accounts for approximately 61% (34,513 km^2) of the Gwich'in Settlement Area (see Figure 9).

What are Gwich'in Settlement Lands?

Through the Gwich'in Land Claim, the Gwich'in have private title to some of the land in the Gwich'in Settlement Region. This is known as Gwich'in Settlement Land and includes surface and, in some areas, surface and sub-surface ownership. Title to the land is held by the Gwich'in Tribal Council on behalf of all beneficiaries.

3.2 Gwich'in Settlement Land Management

The Gwich'in Tribal Council is the group that oversees Gwich'in rights on Gwich'in Settlement Lands and compensation for the use of Gwich'in Settlement Lands. This work is carried out through the Gwich'in Land Administration. The Gwich'in Tribal Council continues to develop *Land and Control Rules* which are used to manage and control Gwich'in Settlement Lands. The Gwich'in Tribal Council may also prepare a land use plan for Gwich'in settlement lands which will be considered by the Planning Board.



GNWT

3.3 Municipal Land Management

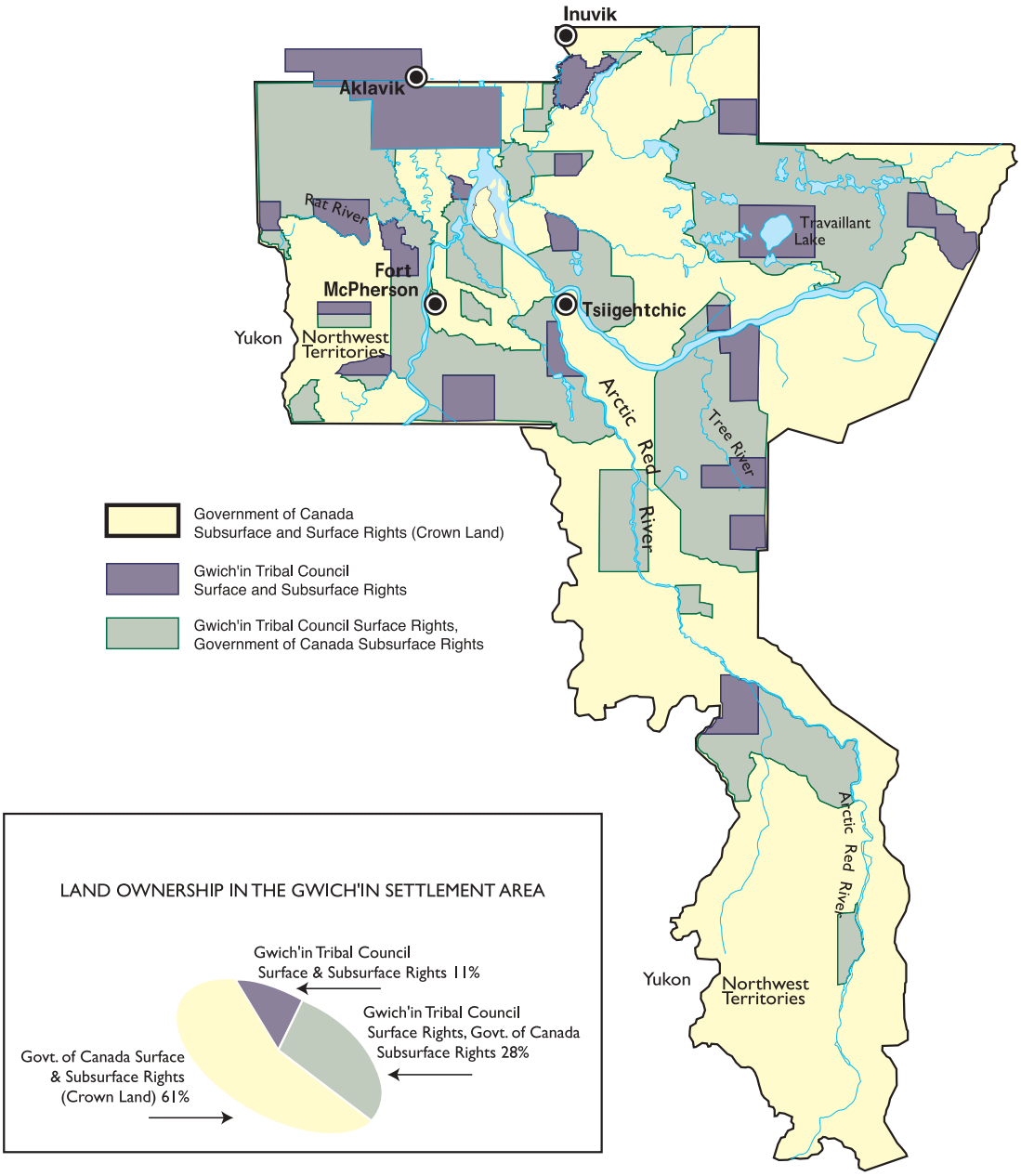
Municipal lands in the Gwich'in Settlement Area are managed by the Government of the Northwest Territories through the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and by municipal corporations such as the Town of Inuvik. Although the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board has no authority over municipal lands there are some cross boundary issues that the two groups share such as water resources, waste management and transportation.

3.4 Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act

The *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* was proclaimed on December 22nd, 1998. This Act implements many land and water provisions in the Gwich'in Land Claim. The Act creates the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board, the Gwich'in Land and Water Board, and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. Section Four of the Act , establishing the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, was proclaimed on March 31st, 2000.

The *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* sets out a new system for looking after development in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and in the Mackenzie Valley. The Act provides for an integrated system of land and water management throughout the Mackenzie Valley.

Figure 9: Land Ownership



3.5 Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board

The Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board is responsible for developing, reviewing and proposing approvals, exceptions and amendments to the Gwich'in Land Use Plan.

3.6 Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board

The Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board is the main group dealing with wildlife, fish and forests in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Their role is to conduct research and propose policies to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat as well as Gwich'in harvesting rights on the land. The Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board works with Gwich'in community groups (Renewable Resource Councils) to manage wildlife, fish and forests.

The Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board conducts wildlife, fish and forest research and the Gwich'in Harvest Study. They are currently working to develop wildlife management plans and a forest management plan for the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

3.7 Gwich'in Land and Water Board

The Gwich'in Land and Water Board is a regional panel of the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and is responsible for the management of land and water use and the deposit of waste into water in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. They issue, amend, or renew land use permits and water licences on government lands (crown land) and on Gwich'in Settlement Lands (see Figure 10).

3.8 Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board is responsible for environmental assessment and public review of developments throughout the Mackenzie Valley. If a proposed development may have significant adverse environmental impacts or is of public concern it is referred to the Review Board for an environmental assessment. In the Gwich'in Settlement Area, a proposed development can be referred to the Review Board by the Gwich'in Tribal Council, local government or a department or agency of the federal or territorial government if the development will have an impact within their boundaries, as well as by the regulatory group involved such as the Gwich'in Land and Water Board.

Figure 10: Getting a Land Use Permit or Water License

The applicant submits an application to the Gwich'in Land and Water Board for a land use permit or water license. The Gwich'in Land and Water Board ensures that the land owner (Gwich'in Tribal Council or Federal Government) has given permission to use the land.

When permission is received the Gwich'in Land and Water Board ensures that the proposed activity conforms to the Land Use Plan. Questionable applications are sent to the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board. If the application does not conform to the Land Use Plan it is rejected.

Applications that conform to the Land Use Plan are reviewed by the Gwich'in Land and Water Board. The Board circulates it to community groups, government and other organizations for comments.

The Gwich'in Land and Water Board issues the permit or license unless it concludes that there might be serious environmental or public concerns with the application. When there are serious concerns it is forwarded to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board.

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board does an environmental assessment or public review and recommends that the activity be approved, rejected or approved with conditions.

(The Gwich'in Land and Water Board is the organization to contact to obtain a land use permit or water license application form in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.)

3.9 Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board is responsible for dealing with proposed activities that may impact on land and water use across more than one Settlement Area. For example, the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board would become involved in a proposed land use activity that would effect both the Gwich'in Settlement Area and the Sahtu Settlement Area.

References

[1] Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (1992)

4.0 Land Use Plan for the Future: Vision and Land Zoning

GNWT – RWED

4.1 Vision and Approach of the Planning Board

In developing the Gwich'in Land Use Plan, the Planning Board has relied on the Gwich'in Land Claim and input from groups for direction. This direction is expressed in the following vision statement:

"The Planning Board envisions a Gwich'in Land Use Plan where land, water, wildlife and other resources are conserved, developed and used to protect and promote the existing and future well being of the residents and communities of the settlement area, while having regard to the interests of all Canadians."

Using the vision, the Planning Board sees two main themes for the Land Use Plan:

GNWT – RWED

1. Balancing Resource Development with Conservation of the Land or Environment

The Planning Board has the task of balancing resource development with conservation of the land or environment. In working toward a balance, the Planning Board supports the idea of sustainable use for the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Sustainable use means managing natural resources and the environment in such a way that economic, social and cultural needs are met and ecosystems, ecological processes and natural diversity are maintained. Ecosystems are the combination of plants and animals together with land and water working as a system. Wetlands and forests are examples of ecosystems. Ecological processes are natural actions or events that keep ecosystems working properly. Wetlands filtering contaminants out of water and forest fires, changing old forests to young forests, are examples of ecological processes.

2. Integrated Approach to Planning

In order to achieve a balance between resource development and conservation of the land or environment the Planning Board practices an integrated approach to planning. An integrated approach to planning is a basic idea in the Gwich'in Land Claim.

What do we mean by an integrated approach? To integrate something means to bring all parts together. For land use planning an integrated approach means working together on land issues and finding ways to consider all parts of the environment in planning decisions.

For the Planning Board, using an integrated approach also means respecting different ideas and knowledge in decision making. In all management decisions, traditional, local and scientific knowledge should be considered equally. Getting all people involved in land use and management is the key to an integrated approach. This includes communities, Gwich'in, government, co-management, business and non-government groups. Gwich'in Land Claim groups are trying to use an integrated approach to management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The Land Use Plan will play an important role in this integrated approach.

4.2 Land Zoning System

There are many resources the land supplies and many ways land, water and resources can be used. The Planning Board appreciates that using land resources should benefit the people of the Gwich'in Settlement Area and Canada as a whole. For this reason, the Planning Board encourages multiple uses or many uses of the land. Land resources should be used for the maximum gain of the people of the area.

All land uses are important and meet different human needs. There are a number of different potential land uses for the Gwich'in Settlement Area such as transportation, waste disposal, military activities, mining, oil and gas activities, sand and gravel pits, power developments, timber harvest, commercial fisheries, tourism and traditional activities.

Often land uses take place without any concerns being raised. Sometimes different land uses compete for the same resources causing land use conflicts. Other times land uses impact on people living and using the area, or the environment that people depend on. One way to avoid land use conflicts and negative impacts on people or the environment is to identify what land uses should and should not take place in areas before they are proposed. This can be done using a Land Zoning System.

GNWT – RWED

The Land Zoning System describes what is allowed or not allowed in specific areas. This Zoning System has three zones: Gwich'in General Use Zones, Gwich'in Special Management Zones, and Gwich'in Conservation Zones (**see fold out map**). This system promotes multiple or many uses of land, water and resources and controls activities in critical and sensitive environmental and heritage areas.

The zoning strives to achieve a balance between conservation of the land and the use of land, water and resources to meet human needs.

4.2.1 Deciding What Areas Belong in Each Zone

The best information available has been used to decide what areas should be in each zone. Traditional knowledge and scientific knowledge have been used equally. The Planning Board recognizes people's traditional knowledge about the land including knowledge passed down to them from previous generations. Through the land use planning process communities have identified areas they believe should be protected due to traditional use, cultural heritage, wildlife, fish, forests, water and many other reasons. The main planning report documenting this information is the *Proposed Community Protected Areas*.

Mackenzie Delta Beaufort Sea Land Planning Commission

Community Meeting

Community information is supported many times by scientific studies. Scientific information is being collected on a continuing basis. All available information on renewable and non-renewable resources was used in zoning areas. In general more information exists for renewable resources like wildlife than non-renewable resources like minerals. The Planning Board encourages government groups to keep collecting scientific information in all areas. The Planning Board will re-evaluate its zoning of areas based on new information as it is collected.

4.2.2 Rules for Each Land Zone

Gwich'in General Use Zones

These are areas where all land uses are possible with the necessary approvals from the current regulatory system. This zone of the Land Use Plan imposes no conditions for proposed uses and activities in these areas.

Gwich'in Special Management Zones

These are areas where all land uses are possible as long as conditions outlined in the Land Use Plan are met and approvals through the regulatory system are obtained. The additional Land Use Plan conditions are designed to protect valued resources identified by communities or other organizations during the planning process. The conditions are tailored to address local concerns and the local environment. Regulatory agencies may not issue a licence, permit, or authorization in Gwich'in Special Management Zones unless the proposed use is in conformity with the Gwich'in Land Use Plan. This zone places no restrictions on traditional uses protected by the Gwich'in Land Claim.

Gwich'in Conservation Zones / Gwich'in Heritage Conservation Zones

These are lands where the following new uses, and activities related to these uses, are not permitted.

- oil and gas exploration and development (see section 4.2.4 regarding pipe-line development),
- mineral exploration and development requiring a permit,
- sand, gravel and rock extraction,
- transportation (see section 4.2.5 regarding Mackenzie Highway extension),
- waste disposal,
- communication,
- power development, and
- commercial renewable resource activities.

Regulatory agencies may not issue a licence, permit, or authorization for the above.

4.2.3 Activities that are Exempt from the Zoning Rules

1. Existing activities in the Gwich'in Settlement Area will be allowed including development arising from rights existing at the time of Plan approval, even if the activities are not in keeping with the land zones. These existing uses will be allowed to continue as non-conforming activities.

   Renewal of permits, licences and authorizations for existing activities will be allowed.

Regulatory System: Laws and Regulations

In all Land Zones laws and regulations have to be followed. For all proposed activities appropriate permits, licences and authorizations are needed. The Gwich'in Land and Water Board is the main regulatory group which conducts environmental screening of developments and issues permits and licences for the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

2. Low impact recreational and tourism activities such as hiking and canoeing that do not require any type of permit, licence or authorization are allowed.[1]

3. Traditional activities protected by the Gwich'in Land Claim are allowed.

4. Where an emergency threatens life, property or the environment, a person may carry out any land use that is necessary to cope with the emergency. If the activity is not in keeping with the land use zoning, the Planning Board requests that a written report describing the operation be submitted as soon as possible.

5. In certain areas the Planning Board recognizes minor exceptions to the Plan are required. These exceptions are noted in the description of specific areas and apply to those areas only.

4.2.4 Rules for a Pipeline

The need for a pipeline connecting significant oil and gas reserves in the Mackenzie Delta-Beaufort Sea region with southern markets has been recognized since the 1970s. Given the current interest in gas reserves in the Delta-Beaufort region, it is probable that a pipeline will be proposed within the next five years.

Several corridors have been identified in the past and a number of those corridors are currently being assessed for their feasibility. Corridors have been identified through both the Travaillant Lake, Mackenzie-Tree River Conservation Zone and the Rat, Husky, Black Mountain Conservation Zone. Although the preferred corridor has yet to be determined, the Planning Board recognizes the pipeline as a potential use through the region and, with proper planning, feels the negative environmental and cultural impacts within the conservation zones can be relatively minor while potentially having significant, positive economic impacts in the region.

A pipeline corridor through any of the Gwich'in Conservation Zones will be considered to be a permitted use provided that this use complies with the following:

a. there is no reasonably feasible alternative to the proposed corridor through the conservation zone;

b. the proposed corridor must be the shortest possible through the zone, while avoiding the most sensitive ecological and cultural areas and ensuring Gwich'in traditional use activities in the area are not disturbed, or as otherwise agreed to and determined by processes under the Gwich'in Land Claim;

c. the proposed pipeline corridor development minimizes the area affected by the project, the intensity of disturbance, uses the best available technology to minimize environmental impacts and proposes no additional developments (for example gravel pits, access roads, camps, etc.) within the conservation zone;

d. the proponent can demonstrate to the Planning Board that meaningful consultation has been held with Gwich'in communities and affected parties on the pipeline corridor, construction, operation and abandonment.

During the regulatory process associated with a pipeline project, the Board may recommend mitigation measures to the regulatory authorities which in the Board's opinion are necessary to ensure consistency with the general intent and purpose of the conservation zones.

Throughout the life of the pipeline project, the regulatory authorities are encouraged to consult with the Planning Board to ensure continued conformity with the Plan.

4.2.5 Rules for Extension of the Mackenzie Highway

A possible corridor for the extension of the Mackenzie Highway is identified in the Gwich'in Land Claim. The Mackenzie Highway is therefore considered a permitted use in all zones of the Plan. The proponent for an extension is expected to be the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Transportation. Once they have determined the route and met the terms of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, the Board shall review the Plan to assess the impact of the highway on other land uses and may propose amendments.

4.3 Using the Gwich'in Land Use Plan

Prospective land users, and any person or group having an interest or concern about a land use, are encouraged to look at the Land Use Plan to see for themselves whether or not a land use is allowed according to the Land Use Plan. The zoning system and maps provided in the Land Use Plan should enable anyone to make a clear determination as to whether a use is allowed. If requested the Planning Board can make the decision on whether an activity is allowed or not according to the Land Use Plan (see Chapter 6. 3). For any activity that is not allowed, the Planning Board may grant an exception or propose an amendment to allow the activity to go ahead. The exception and amendment processes are described in Chapter Six of the Land Use Plan.

Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board

Using the Gwich'in Land Use Plan

A Step-by-Step Reference to the Zoning System

Determine Zone

Check fold-out map to determine what zone or zones the proposed land use is in

In General Use Zone?	In Special Management Zone?	In Conservation or Heritage Conservation Zone?
All uses are allowed if they meet the standard requirements for regulatory licences, permits, and authorizations.	All uses are allowed if: 1. they meet the standard requirements for regulatory licences, permits, and authorizations 2. meet all conditions for zone described in 4.5	Only uses that are exempt from zoning rules are allowed • Described in 4.2.3 • See 4.2.4 for pipeline • See 4.2.5 for Mackenzie highway extension

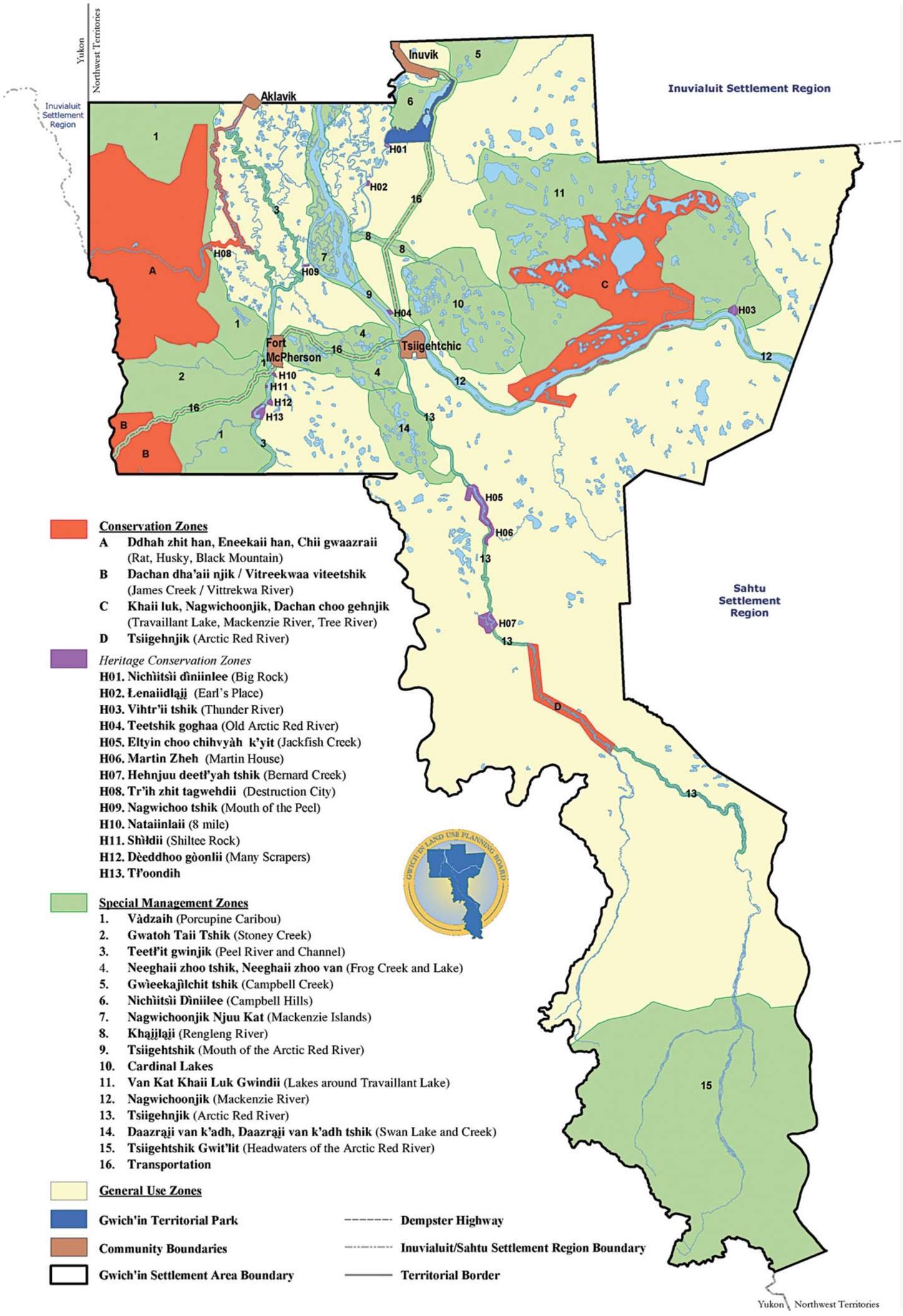
Is the land use capable of meeting the above conditions?

No

Options:
1. Amend use to conform
2. Apply for Exception – see 6.4
3. Apply for Amendment – see 6.5

Yes

Proceed with regulatory system


Yukon
Northwest Territories
Inuvialuit Settlement Region
Inuvik
Aklavik
Inuvialuit Settlement Region
Fort McPherson
Tsiigehtchic
Sahtu Settlement Region
Yukon
Northwest Territories
Conservation Zones
A Ddhah zhit han, Eneekaii han, Chii gwaazraii (Rat, Husky, Black Mountain)
B Dachan dha'aii njik / Vitreekwaa viteetshik (James Creek / Vittrekwa River)
C Khaii luk, Nagwichoonjik, Dachan choo gehnjik (Travaillant Lake, Mackenzie River, Tree River)
D Tsiigehnjik (Arctic Red River)
Heritage Conservation Zones
H01. Nichìitsìi dìniinlee (Big Rock)
H02. Łenaiidląjj (Earl's Place)
H03. Vihtr'ii tshik (Thunder River)
H04. Teetshik goghaa (Old Arctic Red River)
H05. Eltyin choo chihvyàh k'yit (Jackfish Creek)
H06. Martin Zheh (Martin House)
H07. Hehnjuu deetł'yah tshik (Bernard Creek)
H08. Tr'ih zhit tagwehdii (Destruction City)
H09. Nagwichoo tshik (Mouth of the Peel)
H10. Nataiinlaii (8 mile)
H11. Shìłdii (Shiltee Rock)
H12. Dèeddhoo gòonlii (Many Scrapers)
H13. Tł'oondih
Special Management Zones
1. Vàdzaih (Porcupine Caribou)
2. Gwatoh Taii Tshik (Stoney Creek)
3. Teetł'it gwinjik (Peel River and Channel)
4. Neeghaii zhoo tshik, Neeghaii zhoo van (Frog Creek and Lake)
5. Gwìeekajìlchit tshik (Campbell Creek)
6. Nichìitsìi Dìniilee (Campbell Hills)
7. Nagwichoonjik Njuu Kat (Mackenzie Islands)
8. Khąjjląji (Rengleng River)
9. Tsiigehtshik (Mouth of the Arctic Red River)
10. Cardinal Lakes
11. Van Kat Khaii Luk Gwindii (Lakes around Travaillant Lake)
12. Nagwichoonjik (Mackenzie River)
13. Tsiigehnjik (Arctic Red River)
14. Daazrąji van k'adh, Daazrąji van k'adh tshik (Swan Lake and Creek)
15. Tsiigehtshik Gwit'lit (Headwaters of the Arctic Red River)
16. Transportation
General Use Zones
Gwich'in Territorial Park
Community Boundaries
Gwich'in Settlement Area Boundary
Dempster Highway
Inuvialuit/Sahtu Settlement Region Boundary
Territorial Border
GWICH'IN LAND USE PLANNING BOARD

4.4 Lands in Gwich'in General Use Zones

In the Gwich'in Land Use Plan, approximately 57% of the Gwich'in Settlement Area is allocated to the Gwich'in General Use Zone. Lands in this zone were not identified by communities or other groups as having any specific resources needing protection beyond what is available through the regulatory system. There are many provisions for the protection and conservation of resources through the regulatory system. Before regulatory groups issue permits, licences or authorizations there is a review process for applications and generally other groups like communities and Gwich'in organizations are consulted. Through the review process terms and conditions are developed for the protection of resources. These terms and conditions become part of the permit, licence or authorization. If terms and conditions are not met, regulatory groups usually have the ability to suspend the permit, licence or authorization.

4.5 Lands in Gwich'in Special Management Zones

In the Land Use Plan, approximately 33% of the settlement area is allocated to the Gwich'in Special Management Zone. These are areas of special value to residents and communities of the Gwich'in Settlement Area, where multiple uses may take place providing that land use planning conditions for each Gwich'in Special Management Zone are met.

The Gwich'in Special Management Zones were identified primarily in three ways:

1. Areas that communities or scientific groups proposed as candidates for seasonal protection;
2. Areas that communities or scientific groups proposed as candidates for special management to protect a specific resource; and
3. Areas where multiple land uses did not allow for year-round protection and special management areas did allow for adequate protection of resources.

The following is a list of Gwich'in Special Management Zones and the principal resources requiring protection:

1. Porcupine Caribou (Vàdzaıh): Porcupine caribou
2. Stoney Creek (Gwatoh Taıı Tshık): Porcupine caribou, water and heritage
3. Peel River and Channel (Teetł'ıt gwınjık): fish and heritage
4. Frog Creek and Lake (Neeghaıı zhoo tshık, Neeghaıı zhoo van): Waterfowl, fish and heritage
5. Campbell Creek (Gwìeekajìlchıt tshık): fish and heritage
6. Campbell Hills (Nıchìıtsìı Dìnıılee): fish, waterfowl, raptors and heritage
7. Mackenzie Islands (Nagwıchoonjık Njuu Kat): waterfowl
8. Rengleng River (Khąııląıı): fish and heritage
9. Mouth of the Arctic Red River (Tsııgehtshık): fish, heritage and raptors
10. Cardinal Lakes: fish, waterfowl and heritage
11. Lakes around Travaillant Lake (Van Kat Khaıı Luk Gwındıı): fish and heritage
12. Mackenzie River (Nagwıchoonjık):

    i) Tsiigehtchic to Tree River: fish, raptors, waterfowl and heritage

    ii) Travaillant River to Gwich'in/Sahtu Border: fish, heritage and waterfowl
13. Arctic Red River (Tsııgehnjık): fish and heritage
14. Swan Lake and Creek (Daazrąıı van k' adh, Daazrąıı van k' adh tshık): fish, heritage and waterfowl
15. Headwaters of the Arctic Red River (Tsııgehtshık Gwıt' lıt): water
16. Transportation

    i) Dempster Highway Yukon/NWT Border to Peel River: Porcupine caribou, tourism

    ii) Dempster Highway Peel River to Mackenzie River: waterfowl and tourism

    iii) Dempster Highway Mackenzie River to Inuvik: raptors and tourism

4.5.1 Vàdzaih: Porcupine Caribou Special Management Zone

Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of the Porcupine Caribou Special Management Zone is to protect Porcupine caribou habitat in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, and to minimize disturbances to caribou while they are migrating through the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Activities will be allowed in this Special Management Zone with conditions for the protection of caribou.

This area is found in the Richardson Mountains through the migration corridor of the Porcupine caribou. Porcupine caribou migrate in the spring from their wintering grounds in the Yukon to their calving grounds by the Beaufort Sea and they return to their wintering grounds in the fall. The Gwich'in rely on the caribou migration for food. The caribou are hunted every fall, winter and spring and are of great importance to the Gwich'in communities. The caribou are an important source of food and are linked closely to Gwich'in traditional life, culture and values.

There is growing concern about the status of the migration corridor and wintering grounds of the Porcupine caribou. The Planning Board has protected some of the migration corridor through the Rat, Husky and Black Mountain Conservation Zone and the James Creek/Vittrekwa River Conservation Zone. The Porcupine Caribou Special Management Zone covers much of the remaining sections of the caribou migration corridor in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

The boundary the Porcupine Caribou Special Management Zone is based on the Porcupine Caribou Management Board maps of the migration corridor[2] and the results of the Gwich'in Harvest Study. The Gwich'in Harvest Study indicates that the Gwich'in harvest caribou in the Richardson Mountains and in the foothills of the mountains in the Peel River area.

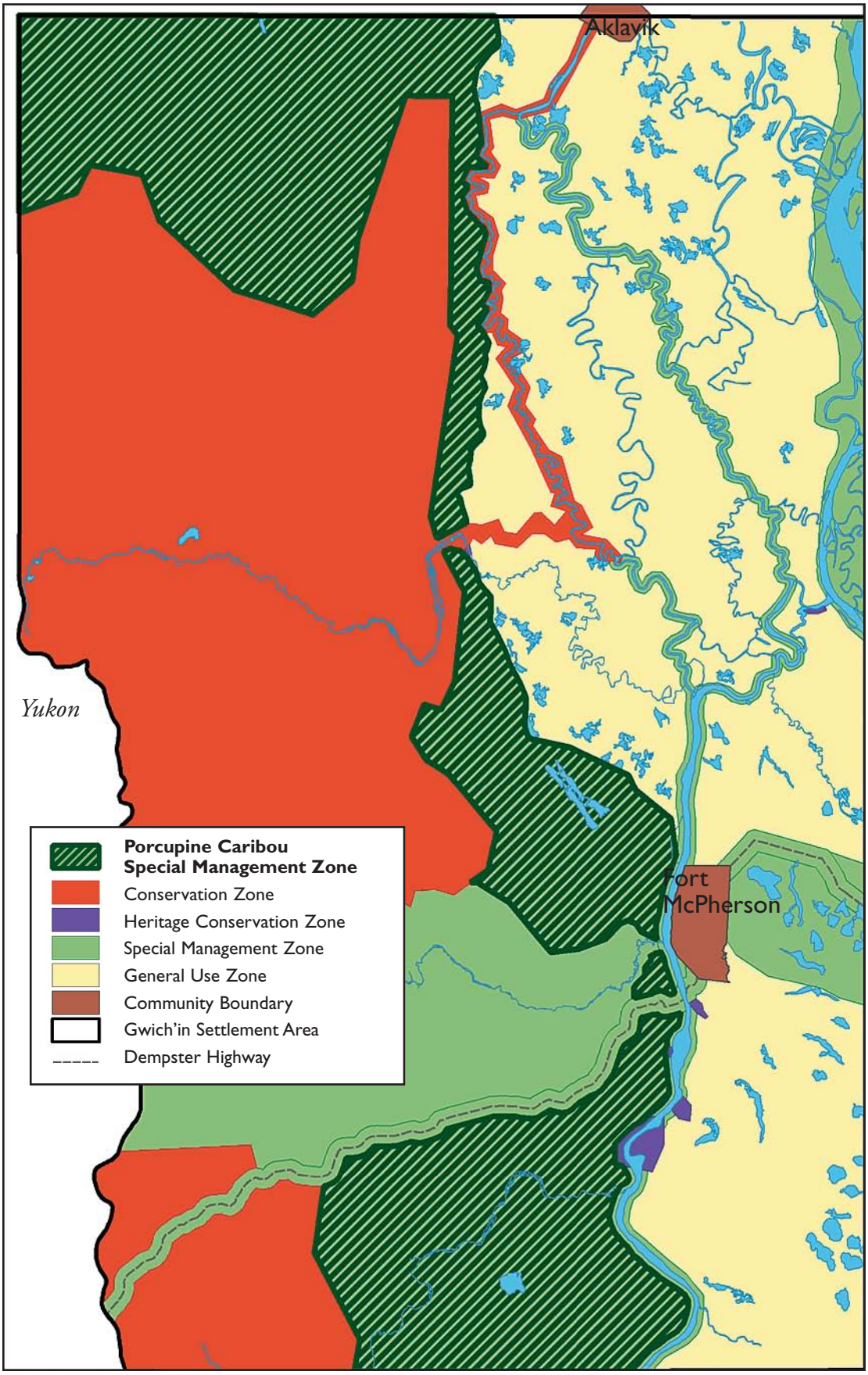
In the Special Management Zone activities are allowed with conditions for the protection of the caribou. The conditions are as follows:

Conditions for Porcupine Caribou

1. Activities requiring a permit, license or authorization will not block or cause substantial diversion to migrating Porcupine caribou.[3] Activities that may interfere with migration will cease until the migration has passed. The Planning Board recommends that monitors be used to assess the presence of migrating caribou within proposed activity sites.

2. Activities at any time of the year will not alter the Porcupine caribou migration habitat in a way that will prevent caribou from using the migration corridor in the future.

Porcupine Caribou Special Management Zone Size: 2270 km² Scale: 1:590,000



4.5.2 Gwatoh Taii Tshik: Stoney Creek Special Management Area

Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of this Special Management Zone is to protect the Porcupine caribou, water and heritage resources of the area. The Stoney Creek Area is found at the foothills of the Richardson Mountains and is a part of the caribou migration corridor.

Porcupine caribou migrate in the spring from their wintering grounds in the Yukon to their calving grounds by the Beaufort Sea and they return to their wintering grounds in the fall. The Gwich'in rely on the caribou migration for food. The caribou are hunted every fall, winter and spring and are of great importance to the Gwich'in communities. The caribou are not only an important source of food but are linked closely to Gwich'in traditional life, culture and values.

Another resource of great value to the Teetl'it Gwich'in is water. They would like to see the high water quality of Stoney Creek maintained.

There is a traditional trail along Stoney Creek that is of heritage value[4] requiring special management. The Stoney Creek traditional trail is still used today as a route into the Richardson Mountains.

The following conditions are for the protection of caribou, water and heritage resources:

Conditions for Porcupine Caribou

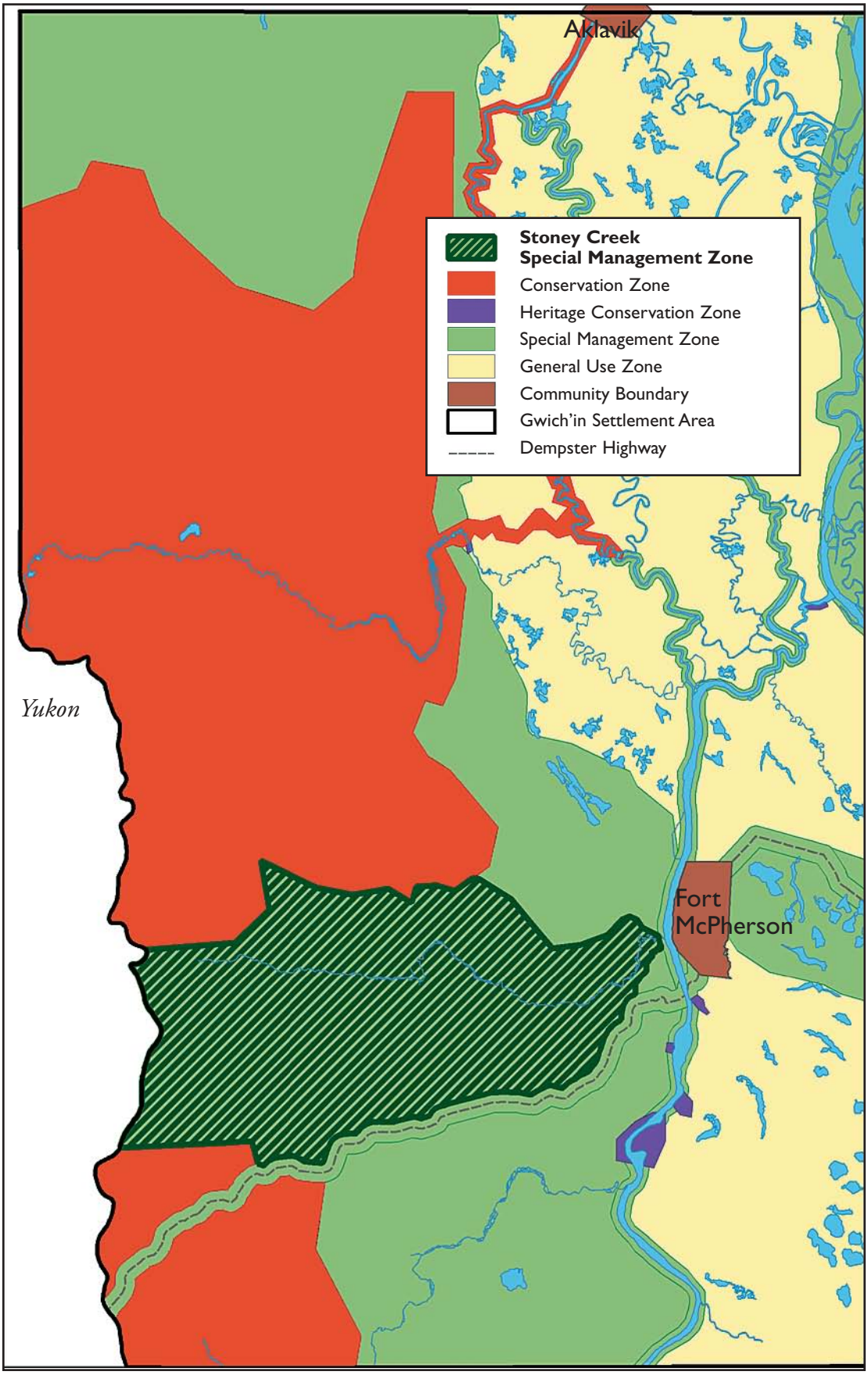
1. Activities requiring a permit, license or authorization will not block or cause substantial diversion to migrating Porcupine caribou.[5] Activities that may interfere with migration will cease until the migration has passed. The Planning Board recommends that monitors be used to assess the presence of migrating caribou within proposed activity sites.

2. Activities at any time of the year will not alter the Porcupine caribou migration habitat in a way that will prevent caribou from using the migration corridor in the future.

Condition for Water Quality

1. No new activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations will be allowed until it is demonstrated that water quality, quantity and rate of flow will remain substantially unaltered.[6]

Stoney Creek Special Management Zone Size: 1005 km² Scale: 1:590,000



Conditions for Heritage Resources

1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.

2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the Teetl'it Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and the Designated Gwich'in Organization.

4.5.3 *Teetł'ıt gwınjık: Peel River and Channel Special Management Zone*

Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The entire Peel River Watershed, including the area in the Yukon, is very important to the Gwich'in. Concerns about transboundary areas are addressed in Section 5, *Land Use Plan for the Future: Land Use Issues and Actions*.

The goal of the Peel River and Channel Special Management Zone is to protect:

- traditional fish harvesting,
- fish, and
- heritage resources.

The Gwich'in harvest many fish from the Peel River and Channel in the spring, summer and fall. The main species harvested are lake whitefish, broad whitefish, inconnu, jackfish, burbot, and arctic cisco.[7] Other fish species in the Peel River system include arctic grayling, chum salmon, dolly varden charr, flathead chub, lake chub, least cisco, longnose sucker, ninespine stickleback, pond smelt, slimy and spoonhead sculpin, trout, perch and walleye.[8]

Along the Peel River and Channel there are numerous archaeological sites, camps and cabins. It is an area of high value for Gwich'in traditional activities and heritage. Beyond fishing, much hunting and trapping takes place along and next to the Peel River and Channel.

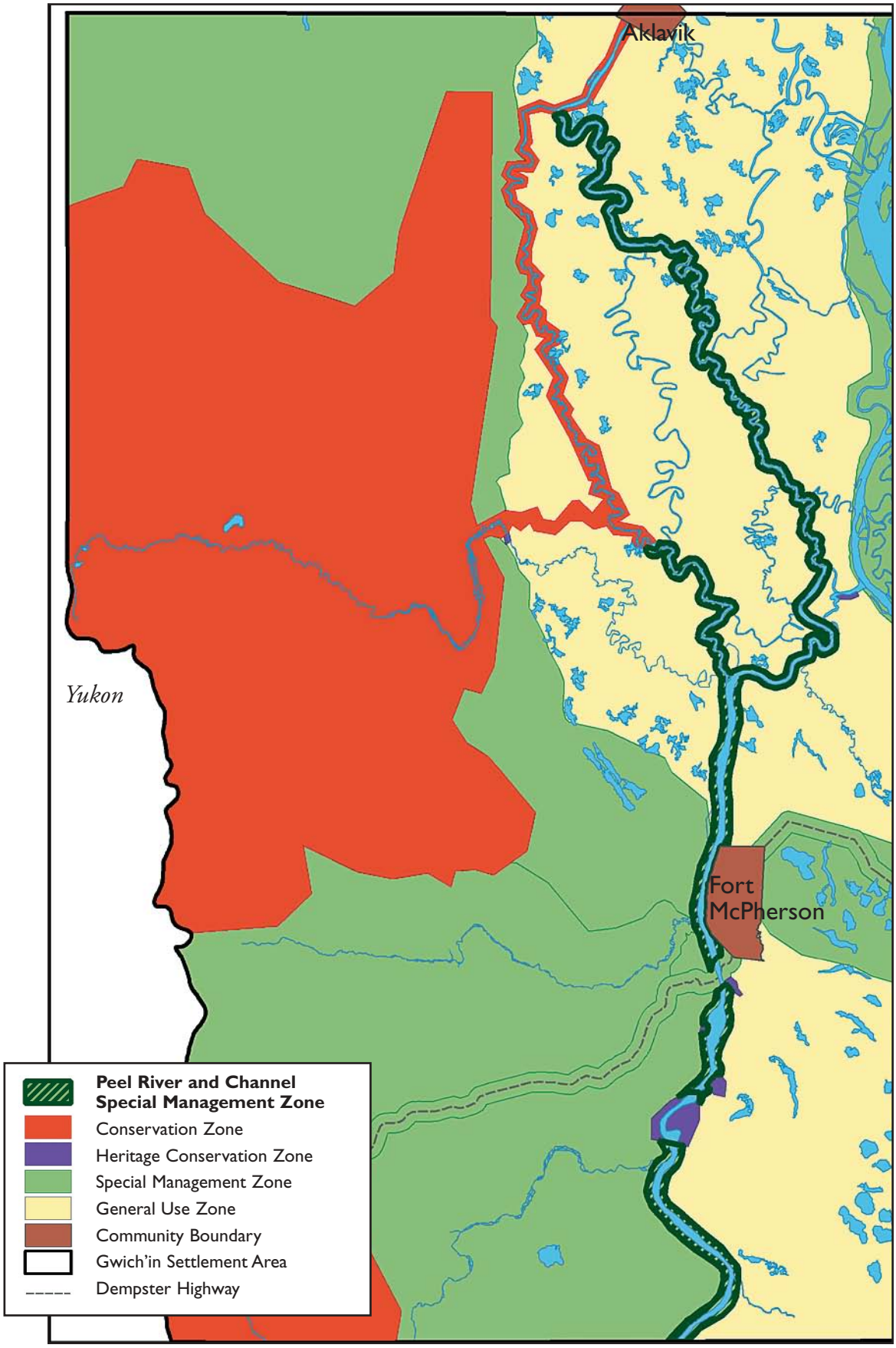
This Special Management Zone allows activities with conditions for traditional fish harvesting, fish and heritage:

Conditions for Traditional Fish Harvesting

1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional fish harvesting.

2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the Teetl'it Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council, Teetl'it Designated Gwich'in Organization, Ehdiitat Renewable Resource Council, Ehdiitat Designated Gwich'in Organization, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted on fish harvesting in the area.

Peel River Management Zone Size: 254 km² Scale: 1:590,000



Conditions for Fish

1. When fish are migrating during peak times in the spring and fall, no new activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization will be allowed in the Peel River and Channel Special Management Zone unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Teetl'it Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and the Ehdiitat Renewable Resource Council.

Conditions for Heritage Resources

1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.

2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the Teetl'it Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and the Ehdiitat Renewable Resource Council.

4.5.4. Neeghaii zhoo tshik, Neeghaii zhoo van: Frog Creek and Lake Special Management Zone

Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of this special management area is to protect waterfowl, fish and heritage resources through applying conditions to activities. The Frog Creek and Lake Area, found between Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic on either side of the Dempster Highway, is important habitat for waterfowl and fish. There are significant concentrations of waterfowl in the Frog Creek and Lakes area in June through August.[9] The main waterfowl species found in this area are scaups and scoters. Some of the fish species listed for Frog Creek include arctic and least cisco, broad whitefish, burbot, inconnu, lake chub, lake trout, sucker, and jackfish.[10] Frog Creek below Neyando Lake is a nursery area for arctic cisco, broad whitefish, longnose sucker, and inconnu.[11] In the spring, there is a spawning run of jackfish into the upper reaches of the creek from Neyando Lake.

The Teetl'it Gwich'in of Fort McPherson harvest fish in the summer and fall at the mouth of Frog Creek and in the lakes in the summer and winter.

The Frog Creek and Lake Area is divided by the Dempster Highway. A Transportation Special Management Zone has been created along the Dempster Highway that is 2 km wide (1 km on either side of the highway) to accommodate activities like sand, gravel and rock extraction. In the Transportation Special Management Zone, for the Dempster Highway between the Peel and Mackenzie River, development activities will be allowed with conditions for tourism, waterfowl and fish.

Activities will be allowed in the Frog Creek and Lake Special Management Zone with the following conditions for waterfowl, fish, traditional fish harvesting and heritage resources:

Conditions for Waterfowl

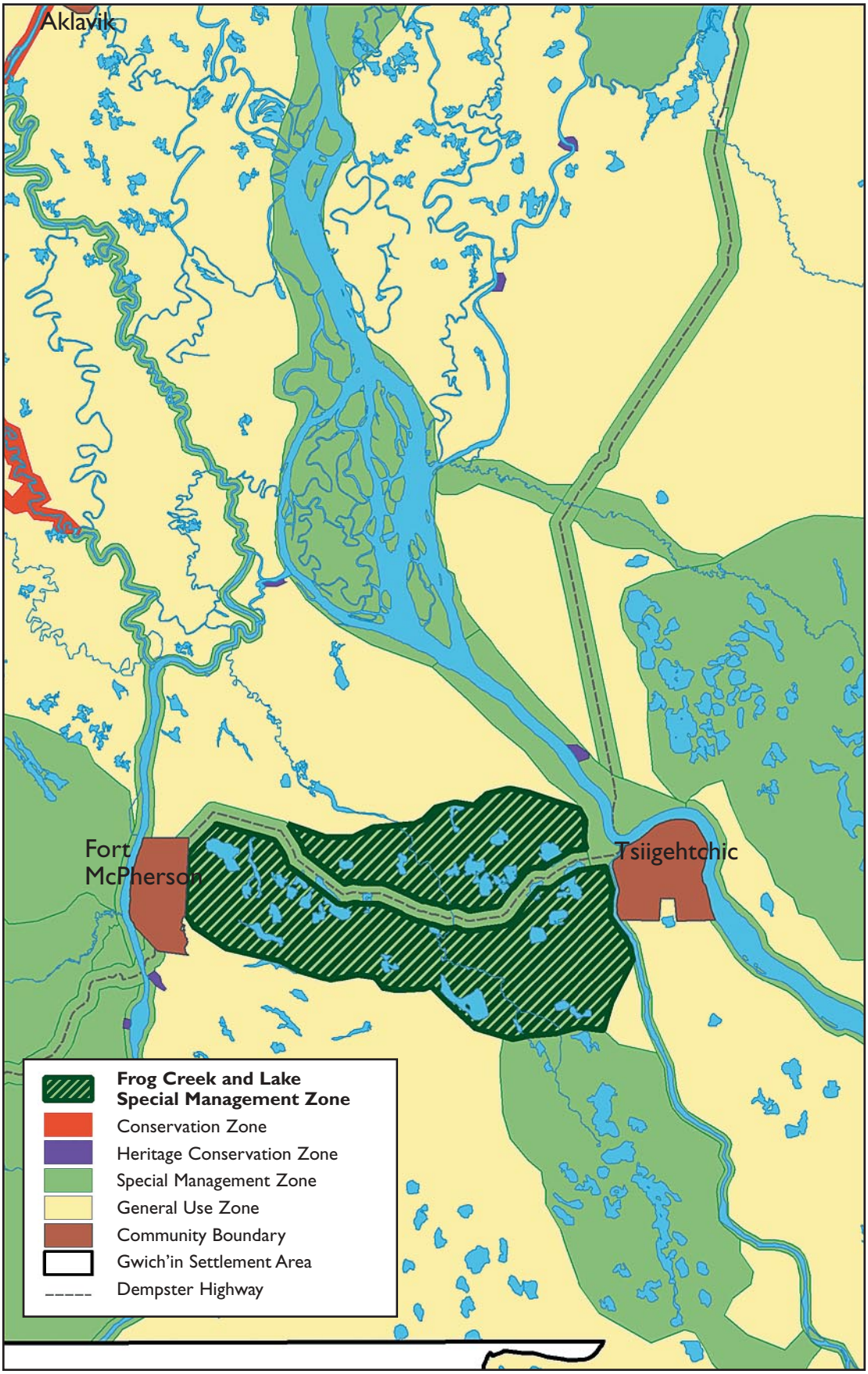
1. Activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on waterfowl nesting and staging sites.

2. Any known waterfowl nesting and staging sites discovered during activities, at any time of the year, should be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres.[12]

3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 metres when flying over this Special Management Zone in June, July and August.[13] Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

Note to Client: Frog Creek and Lake or Frog Lake and Creek (legend is different from map)

Frog Creek and Lake Special Management Zone Size: 656 km² Scale: 1:590,000



Conditions for Traditional Fish Harvesting

1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional fish harvesting.

2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the Teetl'it Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council, Teetl'it Designated Gwich'in Organization, the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted on fish harvesting in the area.

Conditions for Fish

1. When fish are migrating during peak times in the spring and fall, no new activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization will be allowed in the Frog Creek and Lake Special Management Zone unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Teetl'it Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council.

Conditions for Heritage Resources

1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.

2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the Teetl'it Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and the Designated Gwich'in Organization.

4.5.5 Gwìeekajìlchit Tshik: Campbell Creek Special Management Zone

Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of the Campbell Creek Special Management Zone is to protect fish and heritage resources by applying conditions to activities. Campbell Creek is significant habitat for many fish species including broad and lake whitefish, inconnu, jackfish, arctic grayling, burbot, and lake trout.[14] Fish rearing and feeding occurs in the small lakes around Campbell Creek. Campbell Creek is used for both sport fishing and traditional fish harvesting. Heritage resources in the area include a traditional trail between Campbell Lake and Sitidgi Lake along Campbell Creek.[15]

The following conditions apply within the Campbell Creek Special Management Zone:

Conditions for Traditional Fish Harvesting

1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional fish harvesting.

2. Before any activity requiring a permit, licence or authorization takes place the Nihtat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council, Nihtat Designated Gwich'in Organization, Gwich'in Renewable Resource board and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted on fish harvesting in the area.

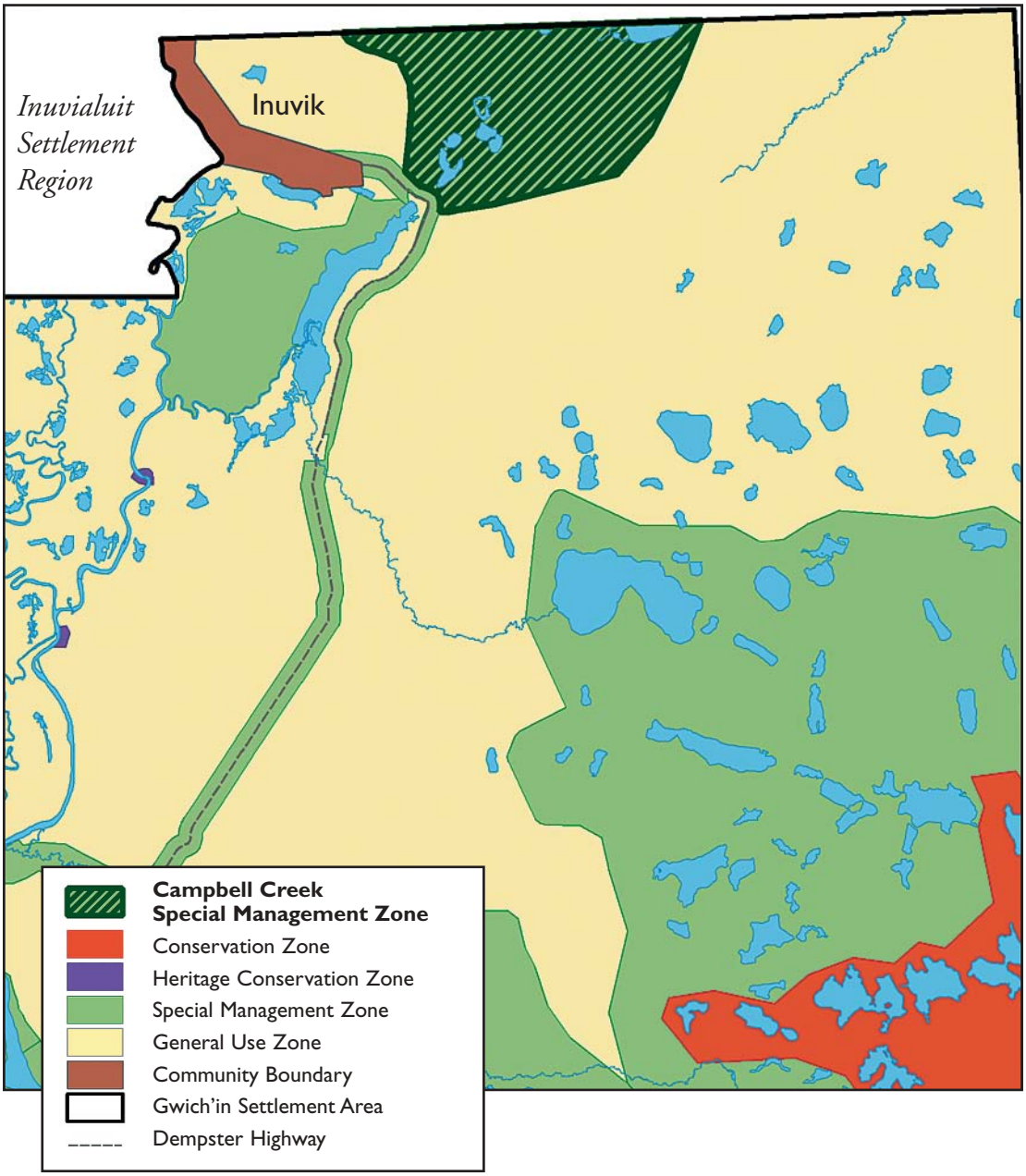
Conditions for Fish

1. When fish are migrating during peak times in the spring and fall, no new activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations will be allowed in the Campbell Creek Special Management Zone unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Nihtat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council.

Conditions for Heritage Resources

1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.

Campbell Creek Special Management Zone Size: 321 km² Scale: 1:590,000



2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the Nihtat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and the Designated Gwich'in Organization.

4.5.6 Nichìitsìi Dìniinlee: Campbell Hills Special Management Zone

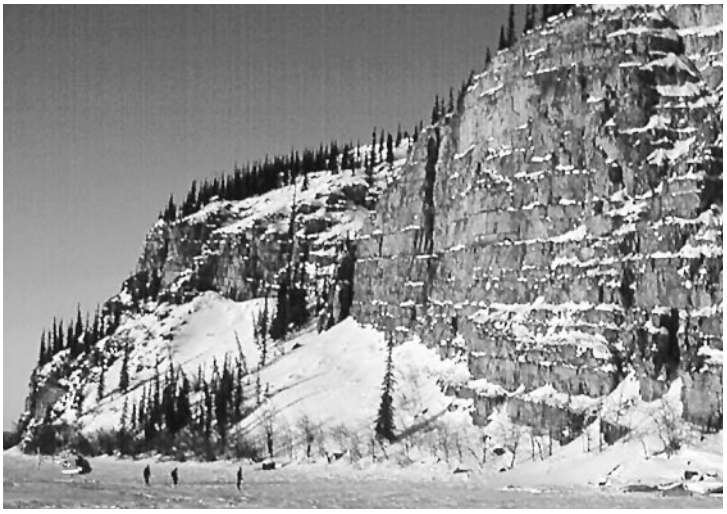
Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of the Campbell Hills Special Management Zone is to protect the many resources of the area. Specifically the goal is to protect the peregrine falcons and other raptors, waterfowl, fish and heritage resources. The Campbell Hills are found 20 km southeast of Inuvik. The area encompasses Campbell Lake and the Campbell Hills west of the lake.

The Campbell Hills is a sensitive area for nesting peregrine falcons as well as other raptors.[16] The southwest portion of Campbell Lake is a waterfowl staging area in the spring and fall. Fish species in Campbell Lake include broad whitefish, inconnu, lake whitefish and jackfish.[17]

There are a number of heritage sites within the Campbell Lake area.[18]

The following conditions apply to the Campbell Hills Special Management Zone:



Ron Cruikshank

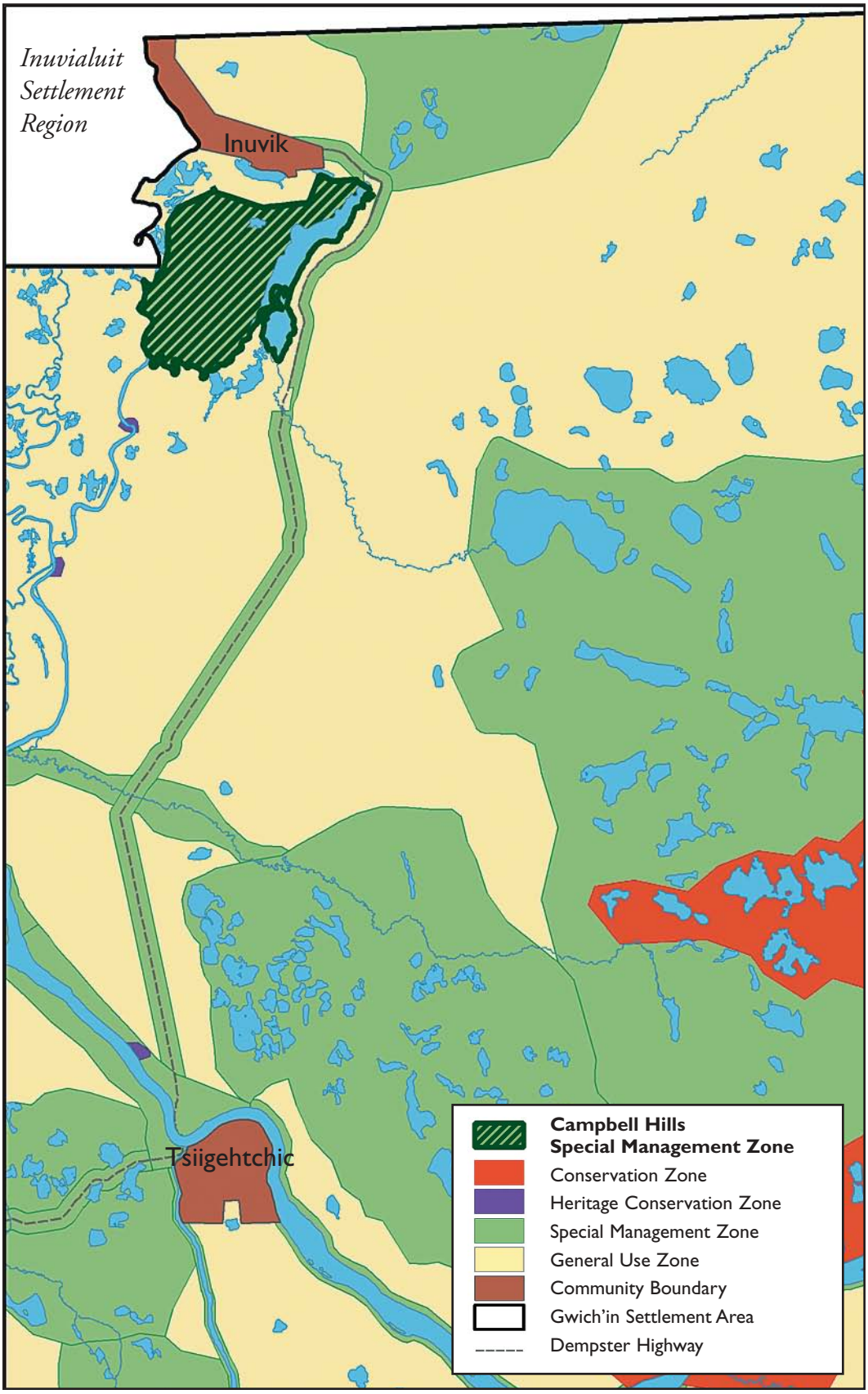
Conditions for Peregrine Falcons and other Raptors

1. Activities should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on raptor nesting sites from the beginning of March to the end of August.
2. Raptor nesting sites should be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres.[19]
3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 metres when flying over areas likely to have nesting raptors.[20] Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

Conditions for Waterfowl

1. Activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on waterfowl nesting and staging sites. Waterfowl habitat in the Campbell Hills Special Management Zone will be outlined by the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and the Nihtat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council.

Campbell Hills Special Management Zone Size: 232 km² Scale: 1:590,000



2. Any waterfowl nesting and staging sites discovered during activities, at any time of the year, should be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres.[21]

3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 metres when flying over this Special Management Zone in June, July and August.[22] Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

Conditions for Fish

1. When fish are migrating during peak times in the spring and fall, no new activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations will be allowed in the Campbell Hills Special Management Zone unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Nihtat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council.

Conditions for Heritage Resources

1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.

2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the Nihtat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and the Designated Gwich'in Organization.

4.5.7 Nagwichoonjik Njuu Kat: Mackenzie Islands Special Management Zone

Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of the Mackenzie Islands Special Management Zone is to protect waterfowl by restricting activities on a seasonal basis. The Mackenzie Islands refers to the area covering the islands, streams, creeks, and channels of the Mackenzie Delta from Point Separation where the Mackenzie River divides into three main channels north to the Gwich'in Settlement Area and Inuvialuit Settlement Region border. The area is a rich feeding grounds for waterfowl and is an important staging and breeding area for waterfowl in the spring, summer and fall.[23]

The Mackenzie Islands are used by the Gwich'in in the spring, summer and fall for moose and waterfowl hunting.

The following condition applies in the Mackenzie Islands Special Management Zone:

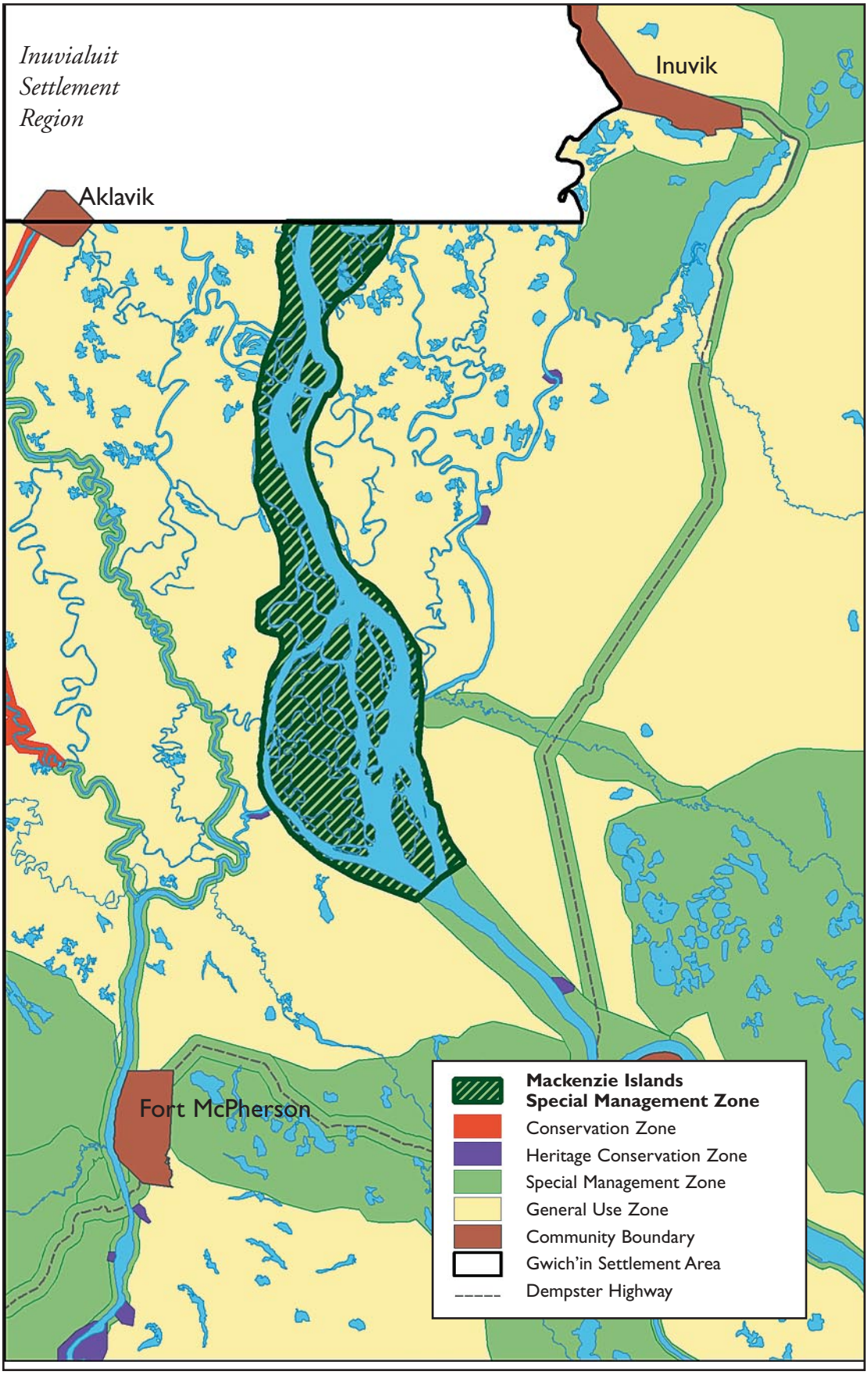
Conditions for Waterfowl

1. Activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations Activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on waterfowl nesting and staging sites.

2. Any waterfowl nesting and staging sites discovered during activities, at any time of the year, should be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres.[24]

3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 metres when flying over this Special Management Zone in June, July and August.[25] Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

Mackenzie Islands Special Management Zone Size: 683 km² Scale: 1:590,000



4.5.8. Khlą̨ı̨lą̨ı: Rengleng River Special Management Zone

Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of the Rengleng River Special Management Zone is to protect fish and heritage resources by applying conditions to activities. The Rengleng River Special Management Zone begins in the Cardinal Lakes Area and flows into the East Channel of the Mackenzie River.

South of Inuvik, the Dempster Highway crosses the Rengleng River. Inuvik area residents and tourists fish for jackfish at the highway crossing from late June through early July. Gwich'in harvesting of fish takes place at the mouth of the river for whitefish and inconnu.

Arctic grayling and jackfish spawn in the river and use it as a nursery area and migration route between headwater lakes and the Mackenzie River.[26] Longnose sucker also spawn in the system. Inconnu and broad whitefish use the lower Rengleng River as a migratory route and the system also provides nursery habitat for burbot, cisco and inconnu, longnose sucker, walleye and whitefish.

There are a number of heritage resources related to the Rengleng River. One Gwich'in name for the Rengleng River refers to a fish trap used on the river.[27]

Activities are allowed within this Special Management Zone with the following conditions:

Conditions for Traditional Fish Harvesting

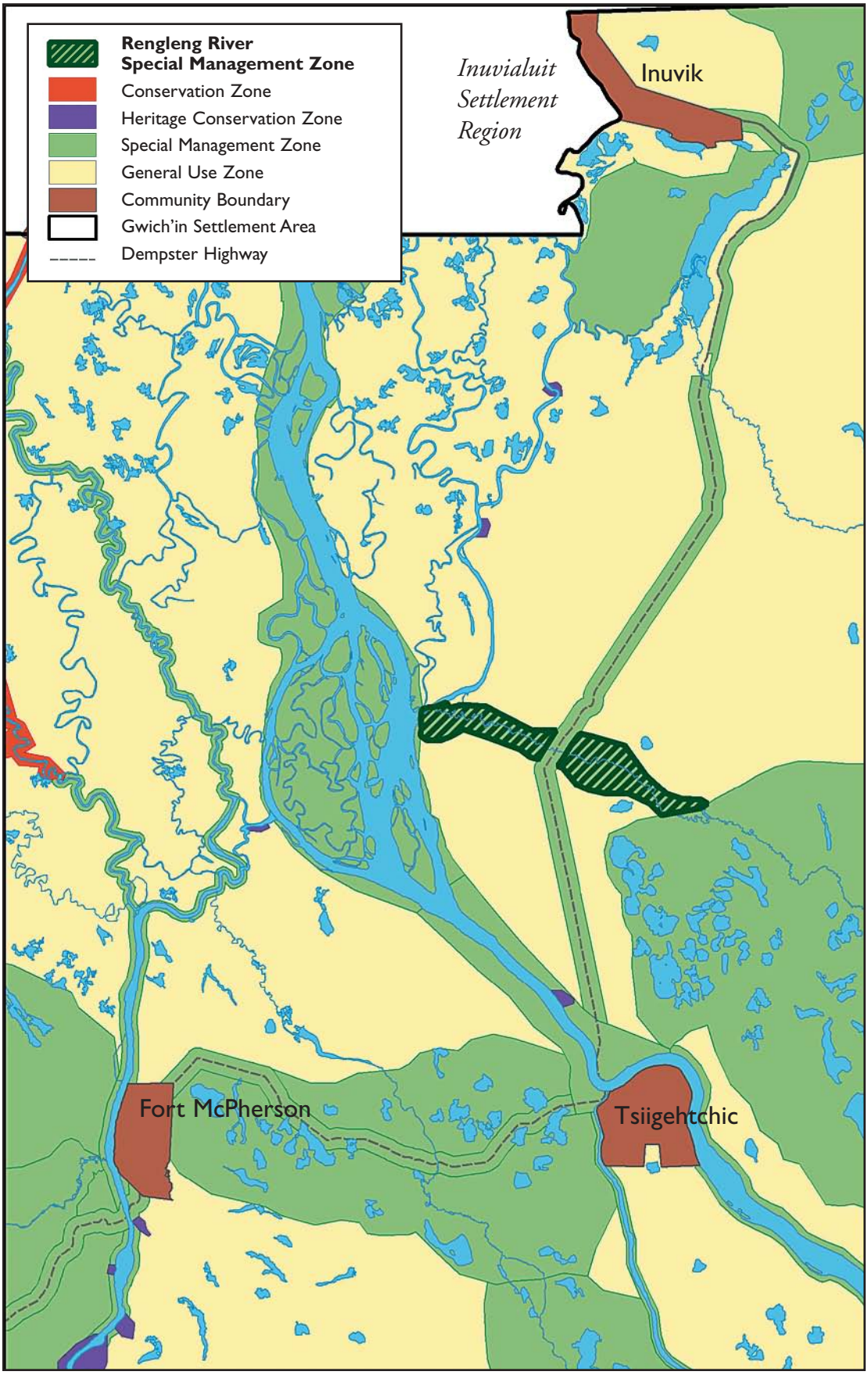
1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional fish harvesting.

2. Before any activity requiring permits, licences or authorizations takes place the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council, Gwichya Designated Gwich'in Organization, Nihtat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council, Nihtat Designated Gwich'in Organization, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted on fish harvesting in the area.

Conditions for Fish

1. When fish are migrating during peak times in the spring and fall, no new activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations will be allowed in the Rengleng River Special Management Zone unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and the Nihtat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council.

Rengleng River Special Management Zone Size: 84 km² Scale: 1:590,000



Conditions for Heritage Resources

1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.

2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council, the Gwichya Designated Gwich'in Organization, the Nihtat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council, and the Nihtat Designated Gwich'in Organization.

4.5.9 Tsiigehtshik: Mouth of the Arctic Red River Special Management Zone

Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of this Special Management Zone is to protect the resources of the area by applying conditions to activities. Fish, heritage and raptors have been identified as important for this area. The mouth of the Arctic Red River extends from where the Arctic Red River joins the Mackenzie River to Point Separation (where the Mackenzie River separates into three main channels).

Several fish species overwinter at the Mouth of the Arctic Red River area. It is also a major migrational corridor. Species that migrate up the Arctic Red River include arctic grayling, sucker, arctic cisco, inconnu, broad and lake whitefish, and burbot.[28] The river banks at the mouth of the Arctic Red River are nesting habitat for birds of prey.

The Gwichya Gwich'in of Tsiigehtchic have used this area for centuries for seasonal fish camps and gathering locations. The area is used today for fishing and berry picking. There are numerous heritage sites in the area.[29]

Activities are allowed in this Special Management Zone with the following conditions:

Conditions for Traditional Fish Harvesting

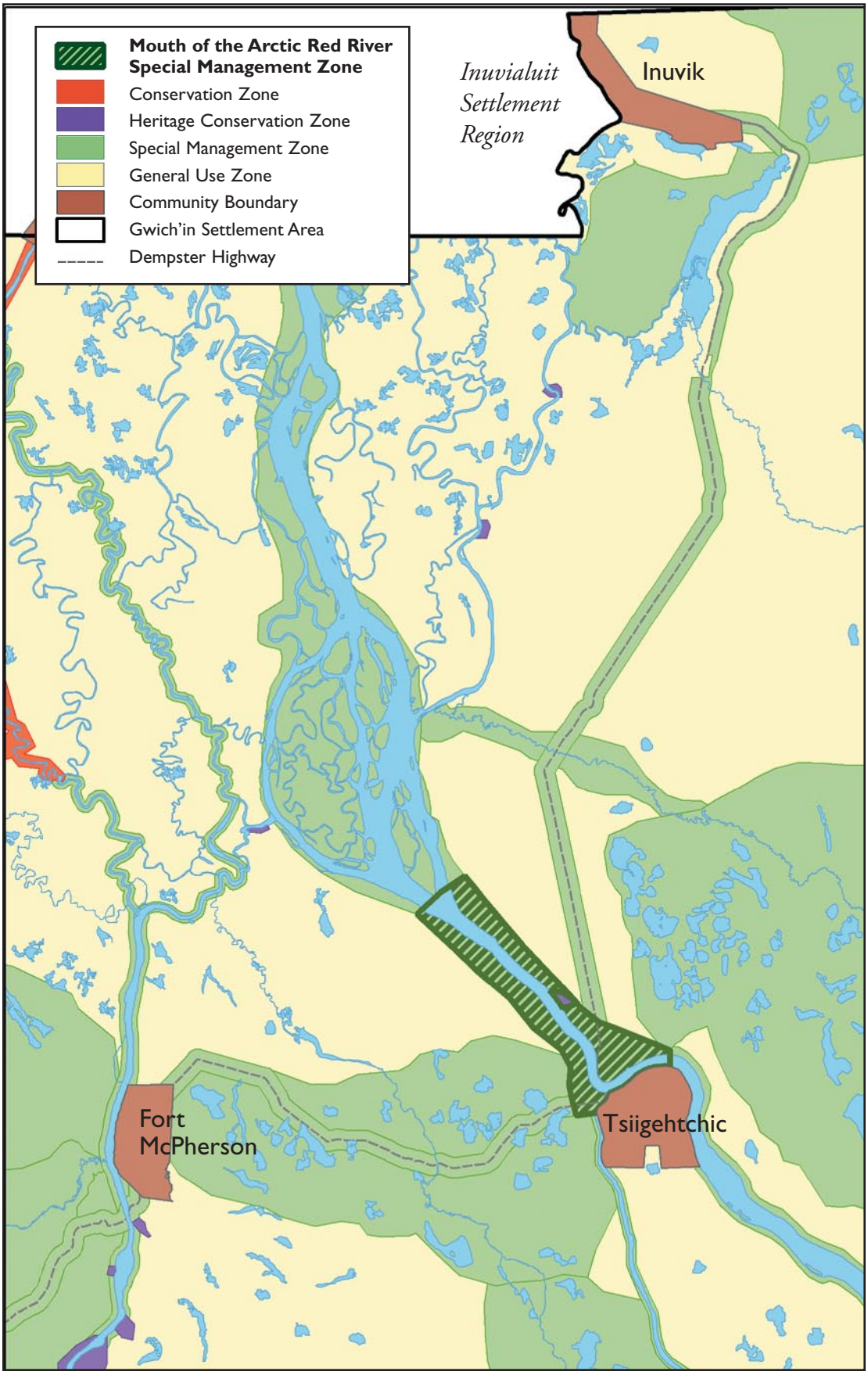
1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional fish harvesting.

2. Before any activity requiring permits, licences or authorizations takes place the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council, Gwichya Designated Gwich'in Organization, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted on fish harvesting in the area.

Conditions for Fish

1. When fish are migrating during peak times in the spring and fall, no new activities requiring permits or licences will be allowed in the Mouth of the Arctic Red River Special Management Zone unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council.

Mouth of the Arctic Red Special Management Zone Size: 154 km² Scale: 1:590,000



Conditions for Heritage Resources

1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.

2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and the Designated Gwich'in Organization.

Conditions for Peregrine Falcons and other Raptors

1. Activities should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on raptor nesting sites from the beginning of March to the end of August.

2. Raptor nesting sites should be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres.[30]

3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 metres when flying over areas likely to have nesting raptors.[31] Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

4.5.10 Cardinal Lakes Special Management Zone

Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of the Cardinal Lakes Special Management Zone is to protect waterfowl, fish and heritage resources by applying conditions to activities. The Cardinal Lakes Special Management Zone is a block of land just east of the Mackenzie River and the community of Tsiigehtchic.

The area contains many lakes such as Cardinal Lake, Nap Lake, Fishing Bear Lake, Tundra Lake, Big Woman Lake, and Whirl Lake. These lakes are important waterfowl habitat in June, July and August.[32] The main waterfowl species are scaup and scoters.

The Gwich'in fish in many of the lakes in the Cardinal Lakes Area. There are many cultural and historical sites in the area (old cabins, burial grounds, etc.).[33]

Activities are allowed in the Special Management Zone with the following conditions:

Conditions for Waterfowl

1. Activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on waterfowl nesting and staging sites.

2. Any waterfowl nesting and staging sites discovered during activities, at any time of the year, should be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres.[34]

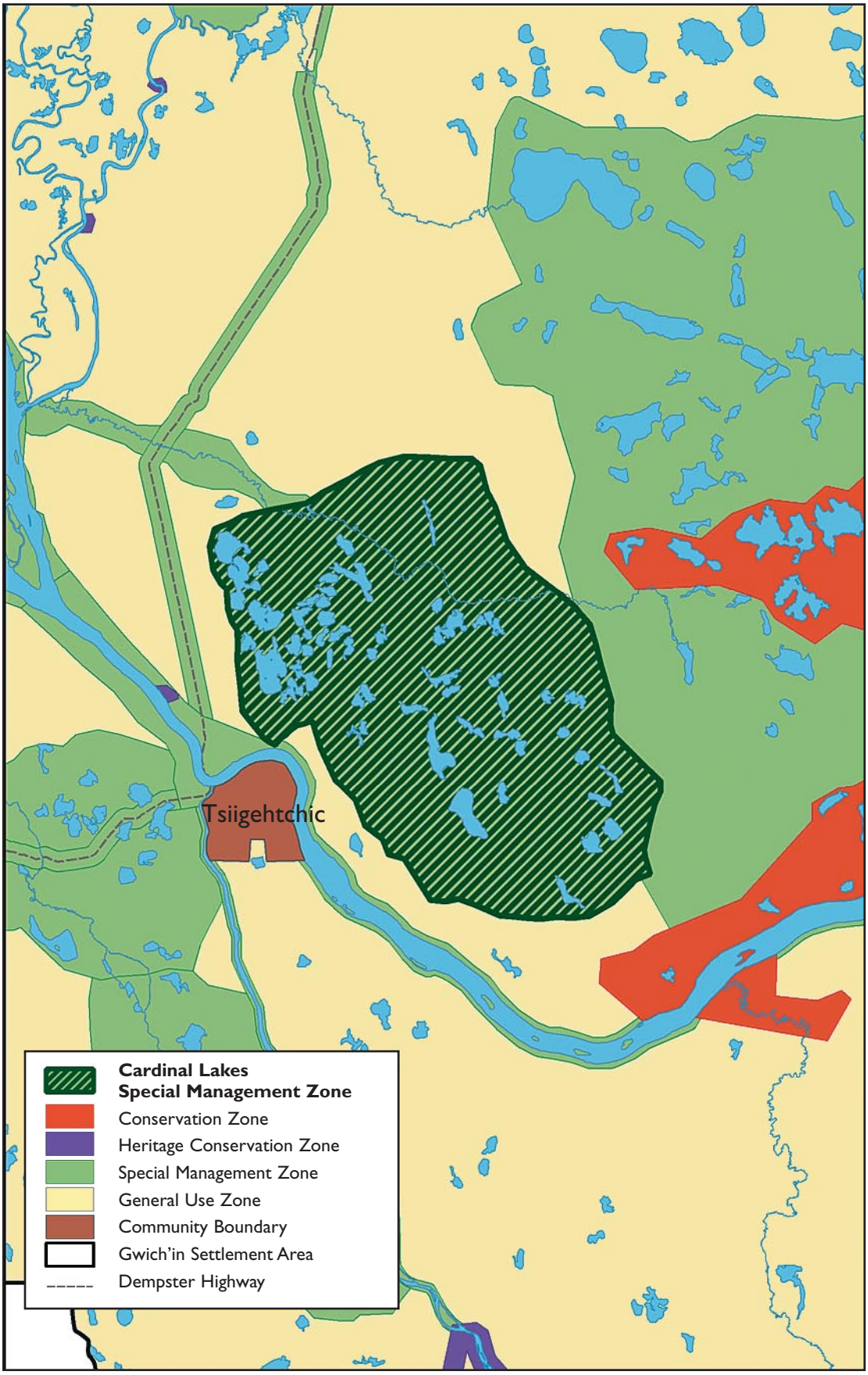
3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 metres when flying over this Special Management Zone in June, July and August.[35] Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

Conditions for Traditional Fish Harvesting

1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional fish harvesting.

2. Before any activity requiring permits, licences or authorizations takes place the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council, Gwichya Designated Gwich'in Organization, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted on fish harvesting in the area.

Cardinal Lakes Special Management Zone Size: 1307 km² Scale: 1:590,000



Conditions for Heritage Resources

1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.

2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and the Designated Gwich'in Organization.

4.5.11 Van Kat Khaii Luk Gwindii: Lakes Around Travaillant Lake Special Management Zone

Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of this Special Management Zone is to protect the fishing and heritage resources around Travaillant Lake. This area is found north of the Mackenzie River and east of the Dempster Highway. The many lakes in this area are used for fishing by the Gwich'in and are considered of high value due to the fish resources including trout, broad and lake whitefish, jackfish, inconnu, burbot, and arctic grayling.[36]

As well there are many cultural and archaeological sites in this general area. Archaeological evidence of Gwichya Gwich'in occupation of the area dates back thousands of years.[37] Many cultural sites such as burial grounds, trails, meeting places, old camps and cabins and sacred places can be found in this Special Management Zone.[38]

Conditions for Traditional Fish Harvesting

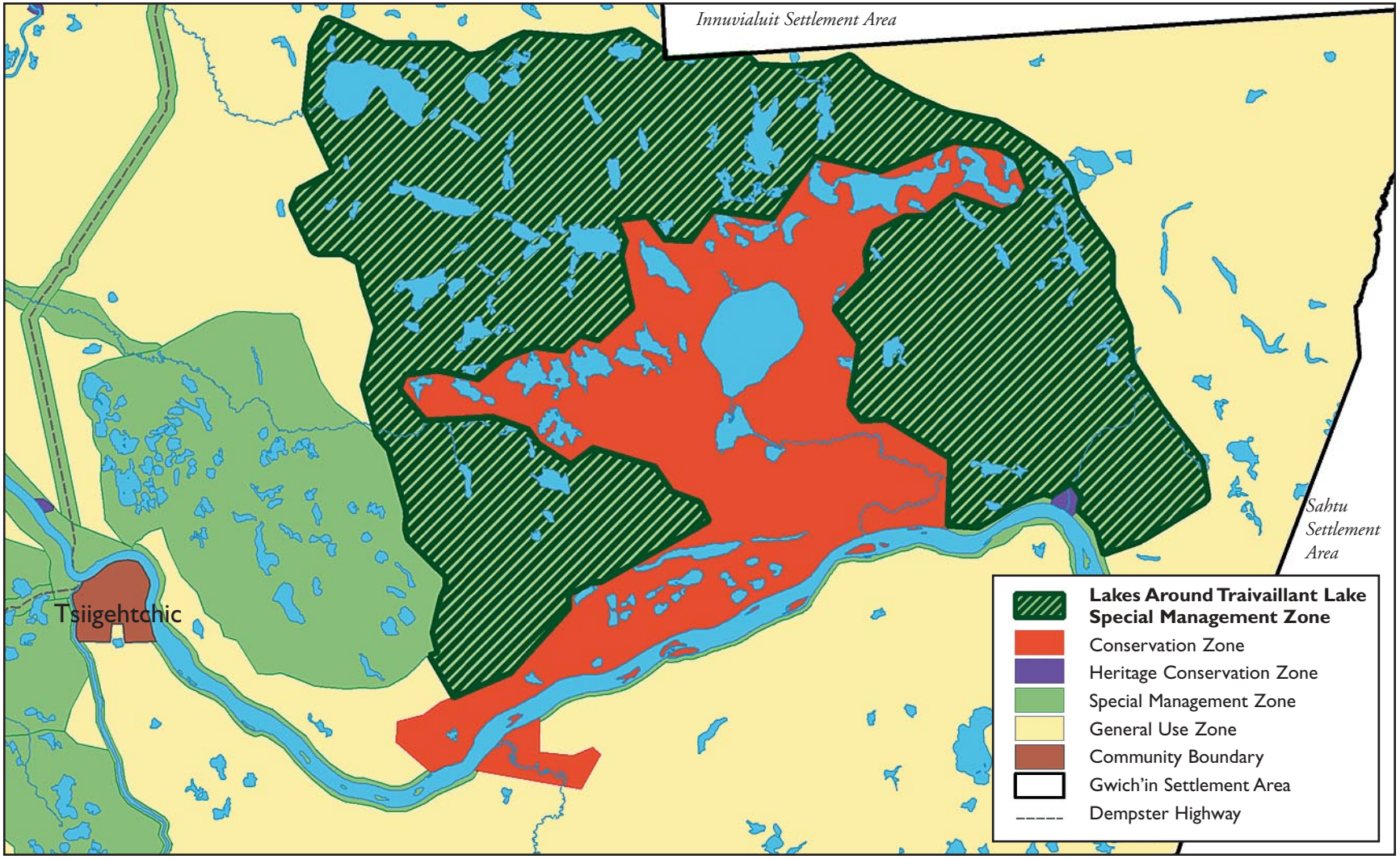
1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional fish harvesting.

2. Before any activity requiring permits, licences or authorizations takes place the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council, Gwichya Designated Gwich'in Organization, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted on fish harvesting in the area.

Conditions for Fish

1. When fish are migrating during peak times in the spring and fall, no new activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations will be allowed in the Lakes Around Travaillant Lake Special Management Zone unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council.

Lakes Around Travaillant Lake Special Management Zone Size: 4,121 km² Scale: 1:750,000



Conditions for Heritage Resources

1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.

2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and the Designated Gwich'in Organization.

4.5.12 Nagwichoonjik: Mackenzie River Special Management Zone

Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of this Special Management Zone is to protect the resources of the Mackenzie River by applying conditions to activities. The resources identified as needing protection include fish, waterfowl, raptors and heritage. This Special Management Zone is a 500 metre buffer on either side of the Mackenzie River. The Special Management Zone is divided into two sections: 1) Tsiigehtchic to Travaillant River, and 2) Travaillant River to the Gwich'in/Sahtu Border.

Many species of fish migrate on the Mackenzie River and spawn in the smaller rivers and streams along the Mackenzie River. Some of these species include whitefish, jackfish, burbot, trout, perch, walleye, arctic grayling, ciscos, salmon, chub, sucker, sculpin, and arctic lamprey.[39] The Mackenzie River is used for fishing all year round.

The banks of the Mackenzie River near Tsiigehtchic are habitat for raptors. The islands along the Mackenzie River are unique habitat of mature spruce, poplar and willow and support migrating swans and geese in the spring.[40] Waterfowl arrive in early or mid-May and congregate on river islands where open water is available. The open water and exposed shoreline provide the only habitat for feeding, resting and mating during migration. These islands are also used in the fall by waterfowl forced down by bad weather.

The section of the Mackenzie River between Thunder River and Point Separation at the start of the Mackenzie Delta was named a National Historic Site in 1998. The Mackenzie River is of great importance culturally to the Gwichya Gwich'in of Tsiigehtchic. "As far back as the Gwichya Gwich'in can remember, their traditional lifestyle has been shaped by their close connection to the land and the river".[41] There are many archaeological and cultural sites along the entire Mackenzie River.

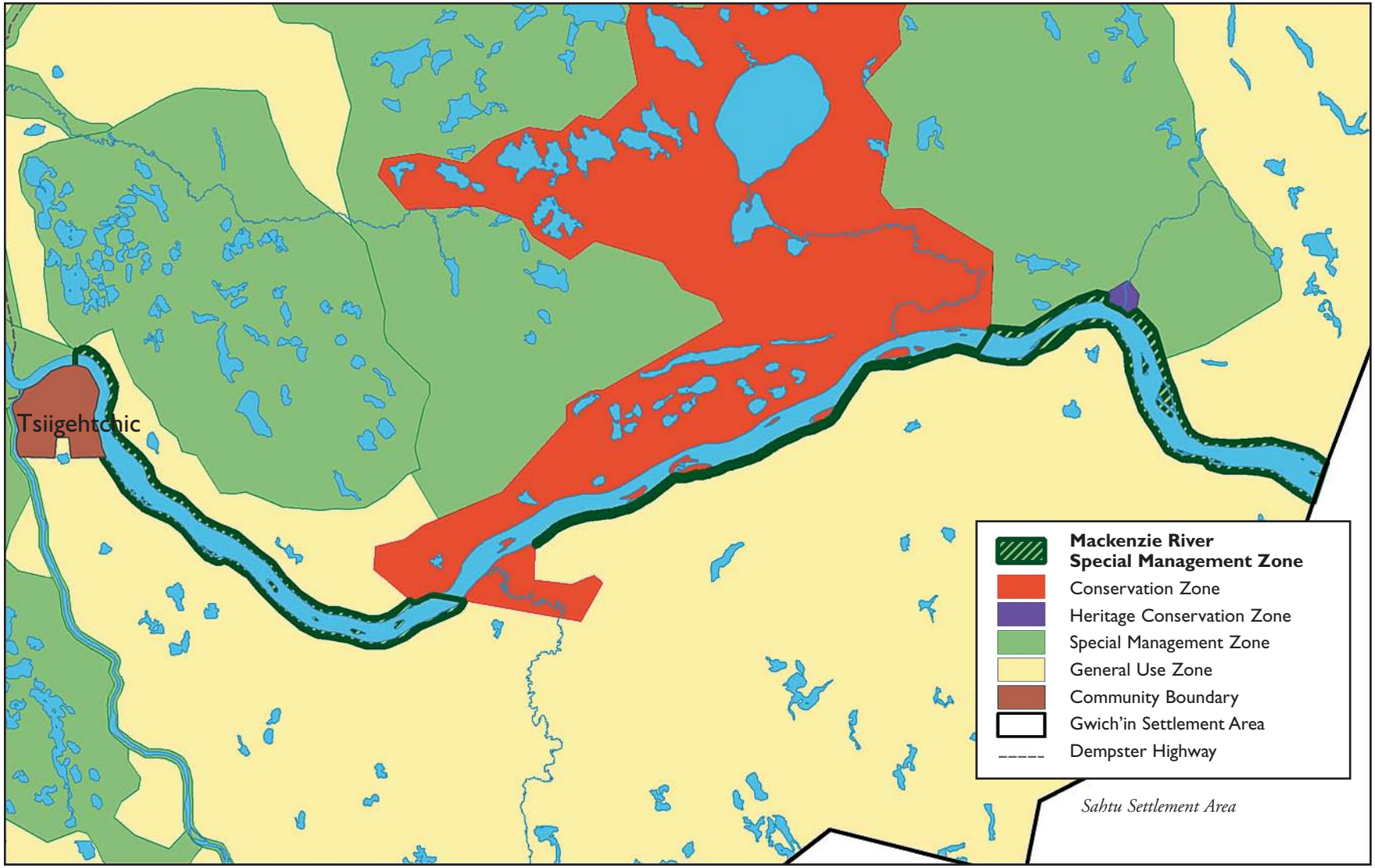
Activities are allowed in this Special Management Zone with the following conditions:

Conditions for Traditional Fish Harvesting

1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional fish harvesting.

2. Before any activity requiring permits, licences or authorizations takes place the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council, Gwichya Designated Gwich'in Organization, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted on fish harvesting in the area.

Mackenzie River Special Management Zone Size: 367 km² Scale: 1:650,000



Conditions for Fish

1. When fish are migrating during peak times in the spring and fall, no new activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations will be allowed in the Mackenzie River Special Management Zone unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council.

Conditions for Raptors

1. Activities should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on raptor nesting sites from the beginning of March to the end of August.

2. Raptor nesting sites should be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres.[42]

3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 metres when flying over areas likely to have nesting raptors.[43] Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

Conditions for Waterfowl

1. Activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on waterfowl nesting and staging sites.

Conditions for Heritage Resources

1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.

2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and the Designated Gwich'in Organization.

4.5.13 Tsiigehnjik: Arctic Red River Special Management Zone

Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of the Arctic Red River Special Management Zone is to protect fish and heritage resources by applying conditions to activities. The Special Management Zone is a one kilometer buffer around the Arctic Red River.

Fish species found on the Arctic Red River include burbot, arctic lamprey, broad and lake whitefish, dace, stickleback, jackfish, arctic grayling, chub, sucker, cisco and walleye.[44] The headwaters of the Arctic Red River provide nursery habitat for arctic grayling, chub, sucker and cisco. Its upstream area is a known spawning area for inconnu and suspected to be for arctic cisco. The Gwichya Gwich'in of Tsiigehtchic harvest fish in the Arctic Red River from May through December.

There are many archaeological and heritage sites along the entire Arctic Red River that the Gwich'in would like to see protected. These archaeological and heritage sites are documented in various reports.[45,46]

Activities are allowed in this Special Management Zone with the following conditions:

Conditions for Traditional Fish Harvesting

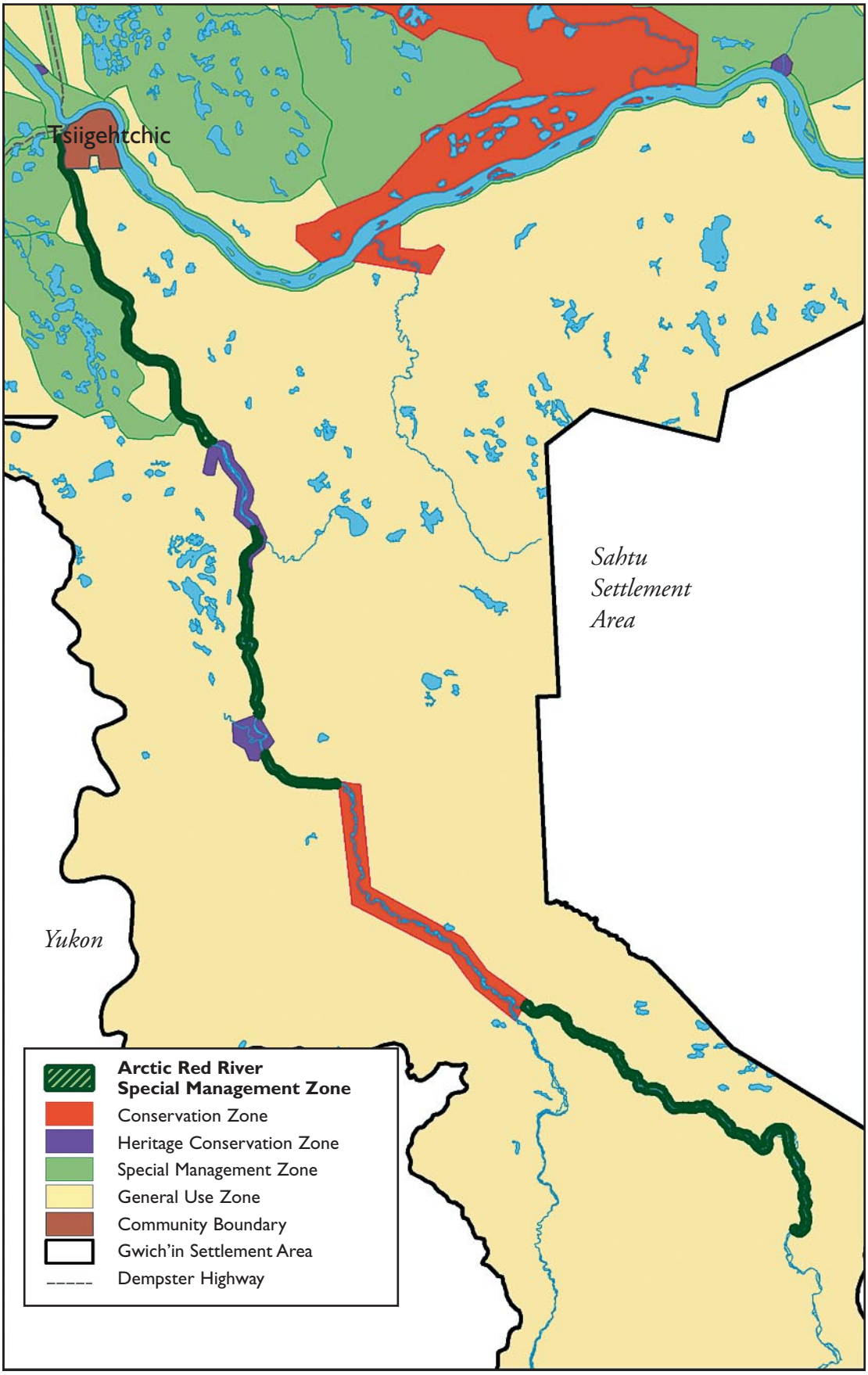
1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional fish harvesting.

2. Before any activity requiring permits, licences or authorizations takes place the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council, Gwichya Designated Gwich'in Organization, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted on fish harvesting in the area.

Conditions for Fish

1. When fish are migrating during peak times in the spring and fall, no new activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations will be allowed in the Arctic Red River Special Management Zone unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council.

Arctic Red River Special Management Zone Size: 195 km² Scale: 1:1,000,000



Conditions for Heritage Resources

1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.

2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and the Designated Gwich'in Organization.

4.5.14 Daazrąu van k'adh tshık: Swan Lake and Creek Special Management Area

Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of this Special Management Zone is to protect the fish, heritage and waterfowl resources of the area. The Swan Lake and Creek Area is south of the Dempster Highway and west of the Arctic Red River. The area has many important fishing lakes for the Gwich'in. Swan Creek provides spawning habitat for arctic grayling, sucker and jackfish.[47] The lakes are fished from November to June by the Gwichya Gwich'in. The Swan Lake and Creek Area is also significant for waterfowl in the spring and summer. Ducks, geese and swans nest in the area in the spring.[48]

As the Gwichya Gwich'in have used this area extensively there are many heritage sites associated with the area.[49]

The following are conditions to protect the resources of Swan Lake and Creek:

Conditions for Traditional Fish Harvesting

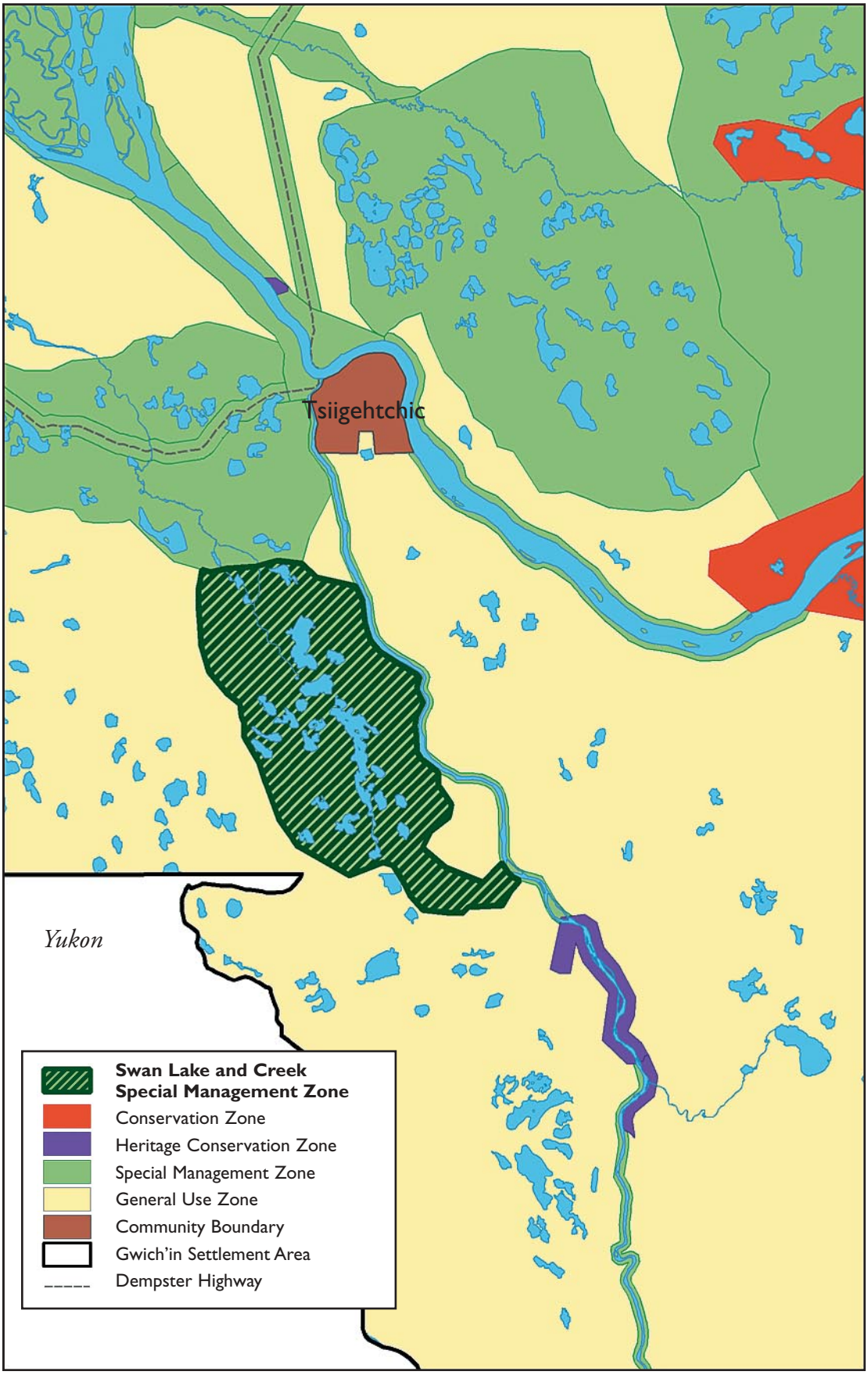
1. New activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations should not interfere with traditional fish harvesting.

2. Before any activity requiring permits, licences or authorizations takes place the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council, Gwichya Designated Gwich'in Organization, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans shall be consulted on fish harvesting in the area.

Conditions for Fish

1. When fish are migrating during peak times in the spring and fall, no new activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations will be allowed in the Arctic Red River Special Management Zone unless it is demonstrated that no negative impacts on fish habitat will occur. Peak migration times for fish will be established through consultation with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council.

Swan Lake and Creek Special Management Zone Size: 536 km² Scale: 1:590,000



Conditions for Waterfowl

1. Activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on waterfowl nesting and staging sites.

2. Any known waterfowl nesting and staging sites discovered during activities, at any time of year, should be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres.[50]

3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 metres when flying over this Special Management Zone in June, July and August.[51] Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

Conditions for Heritage Resources

1. Significant heritage resources are known to exist in the area. Applicants for permits, licences and authorizations should be prepared to assess the impact of their proposed activities on known heritage resources in the area and submit a plan for doing so with their applications.

2. Regulatory groups issuing permits, licences or authorizations will work with heritage and community groups on developing conditions for the protection of heritage resources in the area. In this case heritage and community groups refer to the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and the Designated Gwich'in Organization.

4.5.15 Tsiigehtshik Gwit' lit: Headwaters of the Arctic Red River Special Management Zone

Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The Gwichya Gwich'in wish to maintain the high water quality of the Arctic Red River. The goal of this Special Management Zone is for the non-degradation or maintenance of the high water quality of the Arctic Red River.[52]

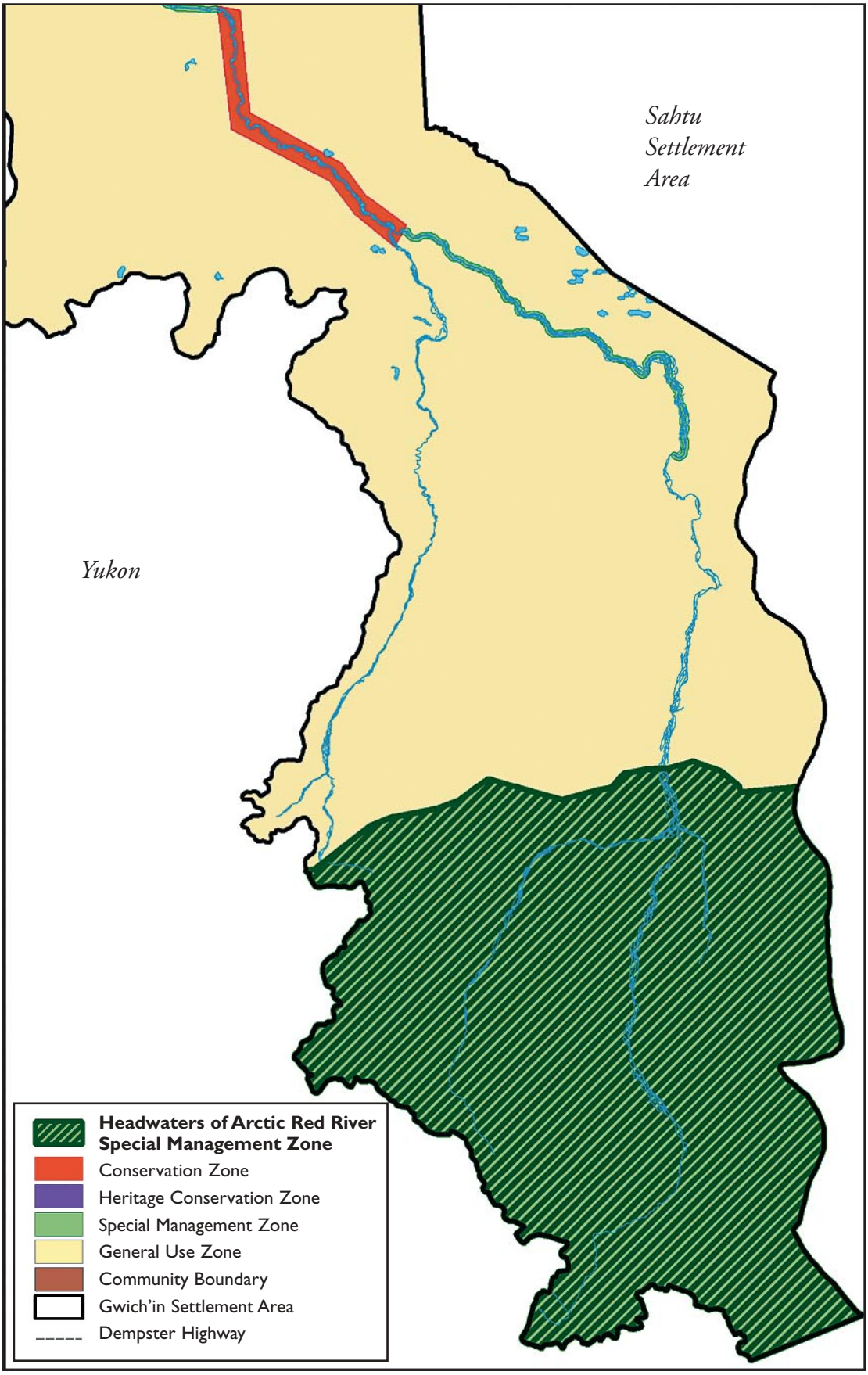
The Headwaters of the Arctic Red River is a large area in the southern part of the Gwich'in Settlement Area, in the Mackenzie Mountains. The Mackenzie Mountains are rugged with imposing peaks, and many non-vegetated slopes. Small glaciers flow from the highest peaks. As this a headwaters area, it plays an important role in maintaining the quality of water in the Arctic Red River. The Arctic Red River and the many fish, forest, wildlife and heritage resources associated with it are of great importance to the Gwichya Gwich'in of Tsiigehtchic.

The following condition is applied to activities in the Special Management Zone:

Condition for Water Quality

1. No new activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations will be allowed until it is demonstrated that water quality, quantity and rate of flow will remain substantially unaltered.[53]

Headwaters of the Arctic Red River Special Management Zone Size: 6,345 km² Scale: 1:1,000,000



4.5.16 Transportation Special Management Zone

Primary Reasons for Special Management Zone

The goal of this Transportation Special Management Zone is to allow for activities within a two km wide buffer along the Dempster Highway (1,000 metres on either side of the Highway), while protecting the resource values of the area. Most activities within this buffer will be related to transportation. The Dempster Highway is the most northern highway in North America and provides the Gwich'in Settlement Area with year round access to the south (except for small periods of time during river freeze up and break up). Maintaining the highway is a high priority for the residents and communities in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

The resources of concern along the Dempster Highway vary depending on location. One common resource along the highway is tourism. Many visitors to the Gwich'in Settlement Area travel on the Dempster Highway and enjoy activities along the Highway. Other resources found along the Dempster Highway are Porcupine caribou, waterfowl, fish, and raptors.

The following are conditions to be applied within the buffer area for three distinct sections of the Dempster Highway:

Dempster Highway: Yukon/NWT Border to Peel River (tourism, Porcupine caribou)

Condition to Protect Tourism Value

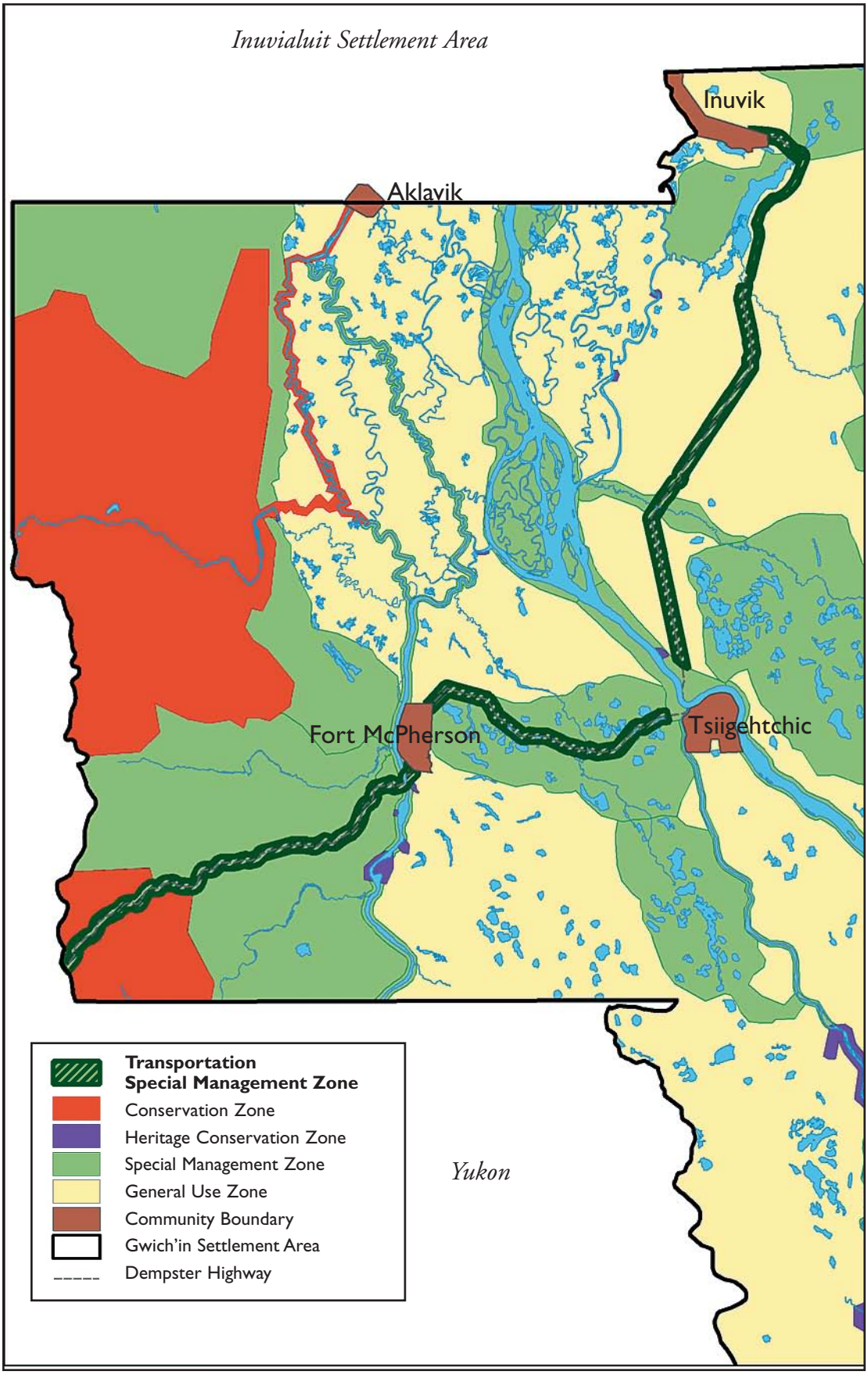
1. Any new activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations taking place within the 2 km buffer along the Dempster Highway, not related to maintenance, construction and operations on the existing right-of-way, should not be visible from the highway.

Conditions for Porcupine Caribou

1. Activities requiring a permit, license or authorization will not block or cause substantial diversion to migrating Porcupine caribou. Activities that may interfere with migration will cease until the migration has passed. The Planning Board recommends that monitors be used to assess the presence of migrating caribou within proposed activity sites.[54]

2. Activities at any time of the year will not alter the Porcupine caribou migration habitat in a way that will prevent caribou from using the migration corridor in the future.

Transportation Special Management Zone Size: 433 km² Scale: 1:1,000,000



Dempster Highway: Peel River to Mackenzie River (tourism, waterfowl)

Conditions to Protect Tourism Value

1. Any new activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations taking place within the 2 km buffer along the Dempster Highway, not related to maintenance, construction and operations on the existing right-of-way, should not be visible from the highway.

Conditions for Waterfowl

1. Activities requiring a permit, licence or authorization should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on waterfowl nesting and staging sites.

2. Any known waterfowl nesting and staging sites discovered during activities, at any other time of the year, should be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres.[55]

3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 metres when flying over this Special Management Zone in June, July and August.[56] Notices will be distributed to all air companies operating in the GSA.

Dempster Highway: Mackenzie River to Inuvik (tourism, peregrine falcons and other raptors)

Conditions to Protect Tourism Value

1. Any new activities requiring permits, licences or authorizations taking place within the 2 km buffer along the Dempster Highway, not related to maintenance, construction and operations on the existing right-of-way, should not be visible from the highway.

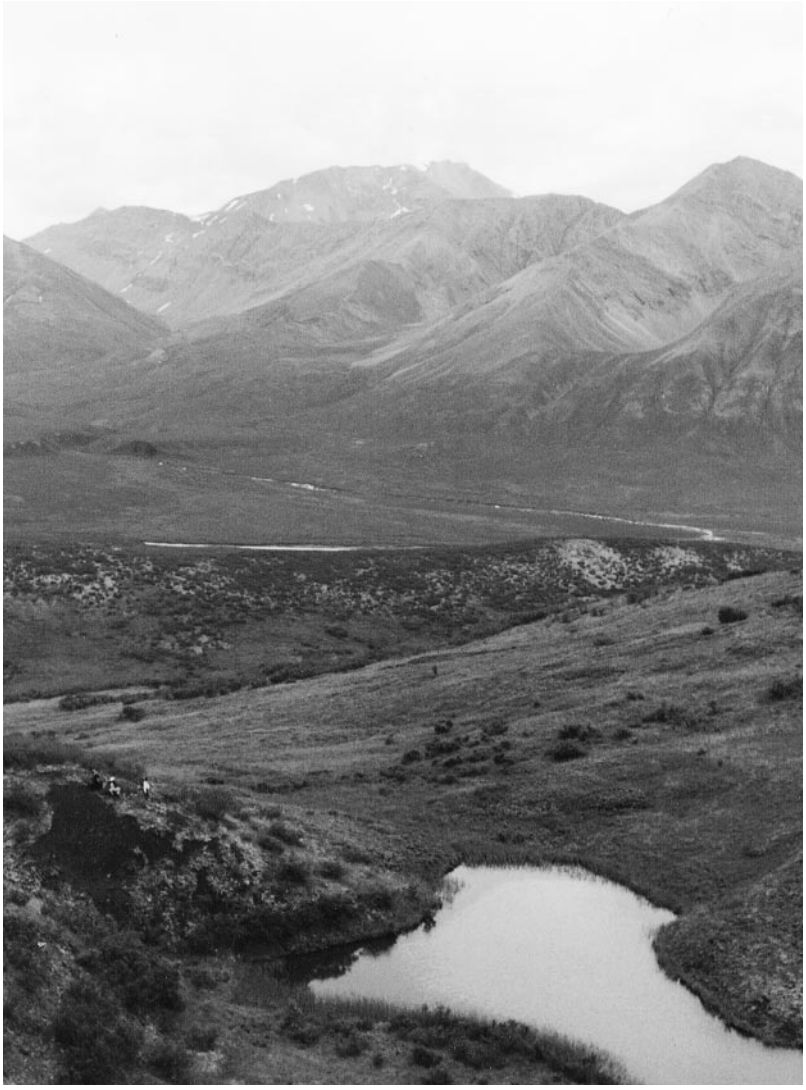
Conditions for Peregrine Falcons and other Raptors

1. Activities should demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects on raptor nesting sites from the beginning of March to the end of August.

2. Raptor nesting sites should be avoided by a minimum of 250 metres.[57]

3. Aircraft should maintain a minimum altitude of 650 metres when flying over areas likely to have nesting raptors.[58]

4.6 Lands in Gwich'in Conservation Zones / Gwich'in Heritage Conservation Zones



Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board

In the Land Use Plan, approximately 10% of the Gwich'in Settlement Area is allocated to the Gwich'in Conservation Zone. Gwich'in Conservation Zones are of extra special value to residents and communities of the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The community perspective on these areas comes from experience on the land and traditional knowledge.

The Gwich'in Conservation Zones were identified primarily in two ways:

1. Areas that communities proposed as candidates for year-round protection; and

2. Areas scientific-based groups proposed as requiring year round protection.

The original areas proposed by communities for year round protection were analyzed by the Planning Board using scientific information and resource development information. Changes made by the Planning Board to the boundaries and status of the original proposed protected areas by communities were based on all available sources of information.

For the Land Use Plan, the Planning Board has identified four Gwich'in Conservation Zones. These four Gwich'in Conservation Zones represent:

i) core areas communities would like to see protected based on a variety of values ranging from current and historical use, heritage resources, wildlife, fish, forests, vegetation and water resources;

ii) core areas the scientific community would like to see protected based on critical wildlife habitat and populations, outstanding heritage sites, unique land features and ecological processes;

iii) five out of the six ecoregions of the Gwich'in Settlement Area; and

iv) areas that do not unreasonably limit the ability of resource development to occur in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

In addition to the four Gwich'in Conservation Zones, there are also an additional 13 small Gwich'in Heritage Conservation Zones. These are areas of outstanding historical or cultural significance in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. These areas have the same status as Gwich'in Conservation Zones and were identified through community consultation and with the assistance of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute.

The four Gwich'in Conservation Zones are:

A. **Ddhah zhit han** (Rat)
   Eneekaii han (Husky)
   Chii gwaazraii (Black Mountain)

B. **Dachan dha'aii njik/Vitreekwaa viteetshik** (James Creek/Vittrekwa River)

C. **Khaii luk, Nagwichoonjik/Dachan choo gehnjik (**Travaillant Lake, Mackenzie/Tree River)

D. **Tsiigehnjik** (Arctic Red River)

The thirteen Gwich'in Heritage Conservation Zones are:

H01. **Nıchìıtsìı dìnıınlee** (Big Rock)
H02. **Łenaııdlą¡ı** (Earl's Place)
H03. **Vıhtr'ıı tshık** (Thunder River)
H04. **Teetshık goghaa** (Old Arctic Red River)
H05. **Eltyın choo chıhvyàh k'yıt** (Jackfish Creek)
H06. **Martın Zheh** (Martin House)
H07. **Hehnjuu deetł'yah tshık** (Bernard Creek)
H08. **Tr'ıh zhıt tagwehdıı** (Destruction City)
H09. **Nagwıchoo tshık** (Mouth of the Peel)
H10. **Nataıınlaıı** (8 mile)
H11. **Shìłdıı** (Shiltee Rock)
H12. **Dèeddhoo gòonlıı** (Many Scrapers)
H13. **Tł'oondıh**

Ron Cruikshank

Ddhah zhit han Eneekaii han Chii gwaazraii

Primary Reasons for Conservation Zone

- Spawning and nursing, migration habitat for dolly varden charr.
- Lambing and rutting habitat for Dall's sheep.
- Porcupine caribou migration corridor.

Location and Boundary

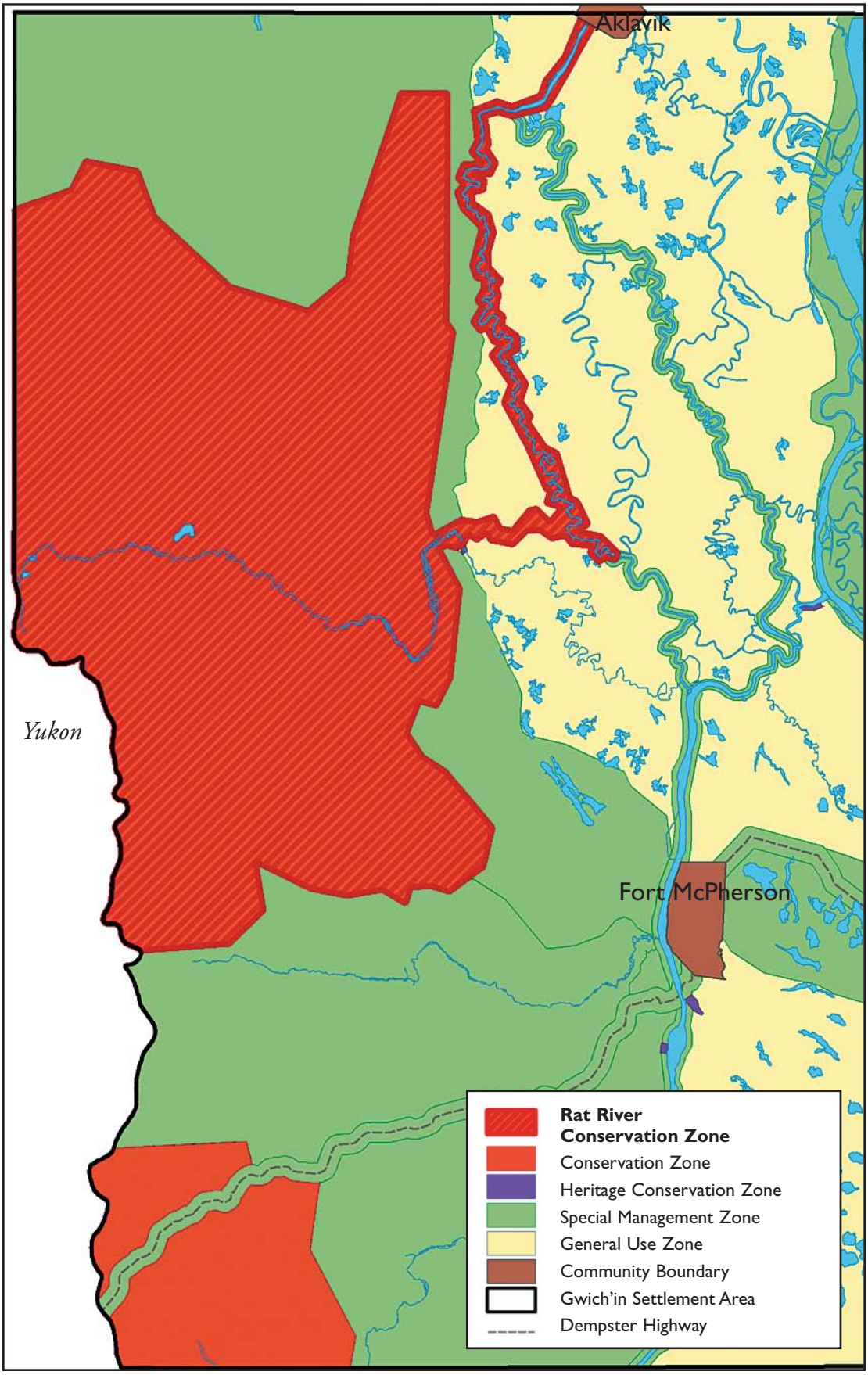
The Rat, Husky, Black Mountain Area (2,877 km^2) is found primarily in the Richardson Mountains between the communities of Fort McPherson and Aklavik. The boundary includes the Rat River Watershed, Black Mountain, and the Husky Channel in the Mackenzie Delta. This Gwich'in Conservation Zone is within three ecoregions: the British-Richardson Mountains (Richardson Mountains), the Peel River Plateau and the Mackenzie Delta.

More Information on Reasons for Conservation

Environment

The dolly varden charr are a highly valuable but small population of fish. The population is being monitored closely by the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and Department of Fisheries and Oceans because there are concerns that the charr population may be in decline. The charr rely on a variety of habitats. The majority of the charr spawn and overwinter in the spring-fed fish holes of Fish Creek, a tributary of the Rat River in the Richardson Mountains. Charr then migrate in the spring on the Rat River to the Husky Channel of the Mackenzie Delta to feed in the Beaufort Sea.[59] The charr return upstream in August and early September, via the Husky channel, to their overwintering and spawning habitat.[60]

Rat, Husky, Black Mountain Conservation Zone Size: 2877 km² Scale: 1:590,000



The Husky Channel is within the Mackenzie Delta. The Delta is a significant area for furbearers, waterfowl and other migratory birds as well as fish species.[61] Delta channels like the Husky contain many fish species including broad and lake whitefish, inconnu, trout, burbot, jackfish, chum salmon and charr.[62]

The Rat River watershed in general is significant for fish and wildlife including furbearers, moose, peregrine falcons, grizzly bears, Porcupine caribou and Dall's sheep.[63] Dall's sheep lamb and rut primarily within the Rat River watershed and in the Black Mountain area. The Department of Renewable Resources has identified the Rat River/Black Mountain Area as a Wildlife Area of Special Interest for Dall's sheep. Porcupine caribou migrate through the Rat River and Black Mountain areas in the spring, winter and fall.[64]

Traditional Use and Cultural Significance

The Rat, Husky and Black Mountain areas are used year round by Gwich'in for fishing, hunting, trapping and berry picking. There are numerous fish camps along the Husky Channel used by Gwich'in from Fort McPherson and Aklavik for summer and fall fishing. The main fish species taken are whitefish as well as inconnu, charr, burbot, lake whitefish, arctic cisco and jackfish.[65] The main channels of the Mackenzie Delta in general are all used by the Gwich'in for fishing and waterfowl hunting.

There are many cultural and archaeological sites significant to the Gwich'in on the Husky Channel and in the Rat River/Black Mountain area.[66] One of the significant sites is a caribou corral near Horn Lake.[67]

Through the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board's traditional knowledge project, the Rat River Watershed has been identified as significant for charr as well as inconnu, muskrat, moose and Porcupine caribou. The Mackenzie Delta in general has been identified through the project as significant for swans, geese, ducks, black bears, moose and grizzly bears.

Resource Development Potential

There are minor mineral occurrences of copper and gypsum in the Richardson Mountains. At this time there is no evidence that it is economical to develop these resources. There is also potential for oil reserves along the Eskimo and Trevor Faults, within the Rat River Watershed.[68] The fault bisects the Rat River Watershed near the mouth of the Rat River. No oil and gas pipeline corridors are planned through the Rat River – Black Mountain area. A gravel deposit has been identified along Stoney Creek within the southern portion of the Rat River Watershed. There is also the potential for sport hunting in this area, particularly for Dall's Sheep.

Planning Board Decision Making

The Rat, Husky, Black Mountain Conservation Zone protects a variety of linked habitats for many wildlife species and for Gwich'in cultural and traditional values. The Rat River Watershed, the Black Mountain area and the Husky Channel all ranked very high in the Planning Board's review of the Proposed Community Protected Areas. Within the Mackenzie Delta the Husky Channel stood out as significant for fishing, trapping, hunting, and as wildlife and fish habitat.

The Planning Board through this conservation zone boundary recognizes the importance of the Mackenzie Delta and the Richardson Mountains while protecting the habitat of critical wildlife and fish species including dolly varden charr, Dall's sheep, grizzly bear and Porcupine caribou. The Planning Board in making this decision considered the strong support of the communities of Fort McPherson and Aklavik for protection of the Rat River Watershed, the Husky Channel and Black Mountain.

The resource development potential of the area for oil and gas in this instance does not outweigh the cultural and environmental values of the area for the Gwich'in and residents of the area in general.

Expected Land Uses within the Rat, Husky, Black Mountain Conservation Zone

Traditional activities are expected to continue in the Rat, Husky, Black Mountain Conservation Zone. Due to wildlife resources in this area there may be the possibility for sport hunting or other related tourism activities. The Planning Board will consider an exception to the Land Use Plan for sport hunting or other activities proposed by a Gwich'in community group. One condition for this type of exception would be written support from the Teetl'it Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and Designated Gwich'in Organization, the Ehdiitat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and Designated Gwich'in Organization, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and the Gwich'in Land and Water board.

GNWT – RWED

Dachan dha'aii jik/ Vitreekwaa viteetshik

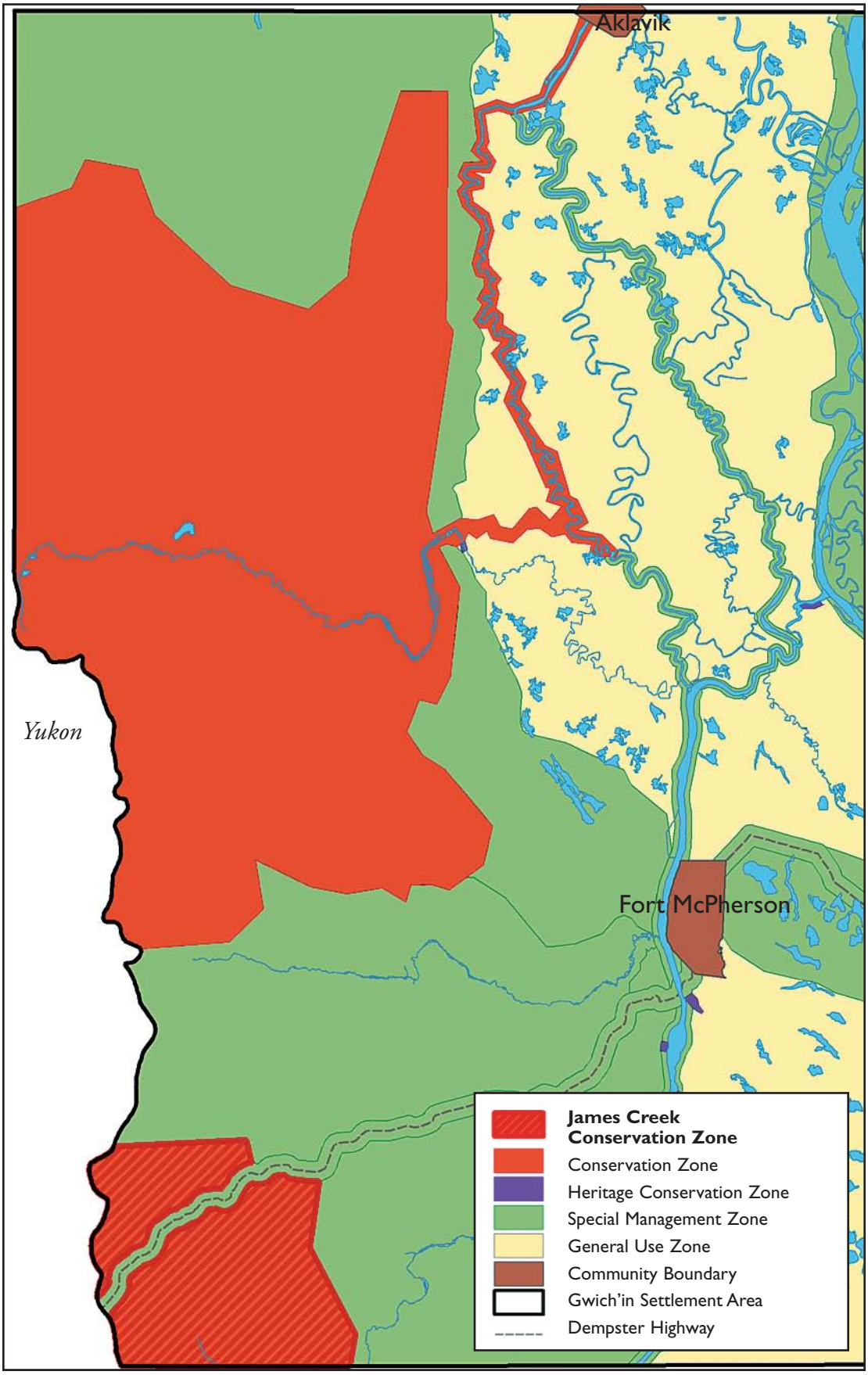
Primary Reasons for Conservation Zone

- James Creek is the headwaters area for the Vittrekwa River.
- Spawning and nursery area for dolly varden charr on the Vittrekwa River.
- Porcupine Caribou migration corridor.
- Primary Hunting Area for Porcupine Caribou.
- Source of Drinking Water for many people from Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic.
- Scenic Area of Tourism Value along the Dempster Highway.

Location and Boundary

The James Creek/Vittrekwa River Conservation Zone (432 km^2) is found adjacent to the NWT/Yukon border and is divided into two sections by the Dempster Highway. One section is north of the Dempster Highway and the other section is south of the highway. A two kilometer buffer (1,000 m each side) exists along the Dempster Highway for transportation related activities. This buffer falls outside the conservation area boundary.

James Creek/Vittrekwa River Conservation Zone Size: 432 km² Scale: 1:590,000



The conservation area boundary includes all of the James Creek watershed and the portion of the Vittrekwa River in the Northwest Territories. The James Creek/Vittrekwa River Conservation Zone is within the ecoregion called the British-Richardson Mountains (Richardson Mountains).

More Information on Reasons for Conservation

Environment

James Creek is the headwaters area for the Vittrekwa River. It has recently been confirmed by the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board that the Vittrekwa River is a spawning and nursery area for dolly varden charr. Dolly varden charr are a highly valued local fish species.

The James Creek/Vittrekwa River Conservation Zone is sensitive habitat for grizzly bears in all seasons and significant habitat for furbearers in the winter.[69] Porcupine Caribou migrate through James Creek/Vittrekwa River area in the fall, winter, and spring.[70]

Traditional Use and Cultural Significance

James Creek is the most important area in the Gwich'in Settlement Area for Porcupine caribou hunting. Gwich'in people from all communities particularly Fort McPherson, hunt caribou in this area. The James Creek/Vittrekwa River Area has historically been used and is still used by the Teetl'it Gwich'in of Fort McPherson for hunting and trapping. James Creek is documented as a historical caribou hunting area.[71]

James Creek is also an important site for fresh drinking water for the community of Fort McPherson. People from Tsiigehtchic also obtain drinking water from James Creek.

Resource Development Potential

As the Dempster Highway bisects James Creek there is already a level of development within the area. The Department of Transportation has expressed an interest in sand, gravel and rock material along the Dempster Highway through the James Creek Area.

Planning Board Decision Making

The Planning Board focused on the value of this area for all Gwich'in as a caribou hunting location and as a spawning area for dolly varden charr when identifying it as a Gwich'in Conservation Zone. The James Creek watershed boundary is significant as many Gwich'in use James Creek as a source of drinking water.

Due to the area's value for caribou hunting and clean water there is strong community support, from Fort McPherson in particular, for protection of James Creek. James Creek and the Vittrekwa River areas did not rank as high as some other areas in the Planning Board's analysis of the Proposed Community Protected Areas, but these areas ranked highest for current Gwich'in harvesting. The James Creek Area also scored high for resource development potential because of the Dempster Highway. To deal with potential development, the James Creek/Vittrekwa River Conservation Zone is divided into two areas with a transportation corridor in between to accommodate activities such as sand, gravel and rock extraction.

Expected Land Uses within the James Creek/Vittrekwa River Conservation Zone

Traditional activities are expected to continue in the James Creek/Vittrekwa River Conservation Zone. As the area is accessible from the Dempster Highway there may be the possibility for intensive tourism activities. Commercial renewable resource activities proposed by a Gwich'in community group will be considered for an exception to the Gwich'in Land Use Plan by the Planning Board. One condition for this type of exception would be written support from the Teetl'it Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and Designated Gwich'in Organization, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, and the Gwich'in Land and Water Board.

Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute

Khaii luk, Nagwichoonjik Dachan choo gehnjik

Primary Reasons for Conservation Zone

- Headwaters area for the Travaillant, Kugaluk and Anderson Rivers
- Wintering Area for the Bluenose Caribou
- Significant Waterfowl Habitat on Travaillant Lake and River, and Mackenzie River
- Significant migration corridor for fish species on Mackenzie River
- Unique whitefish population in Travaillant Lake
- Significant Forest Resources up Tree River
- Culturally Significant for Gwich'in
- Current Harvesting Area for Gwich'in (fish, furbearers, caribou, waterfowl, moose)
- Protection for portion of the Mackenzie River National Historic Site
- Important fishing lakes in the area

Location

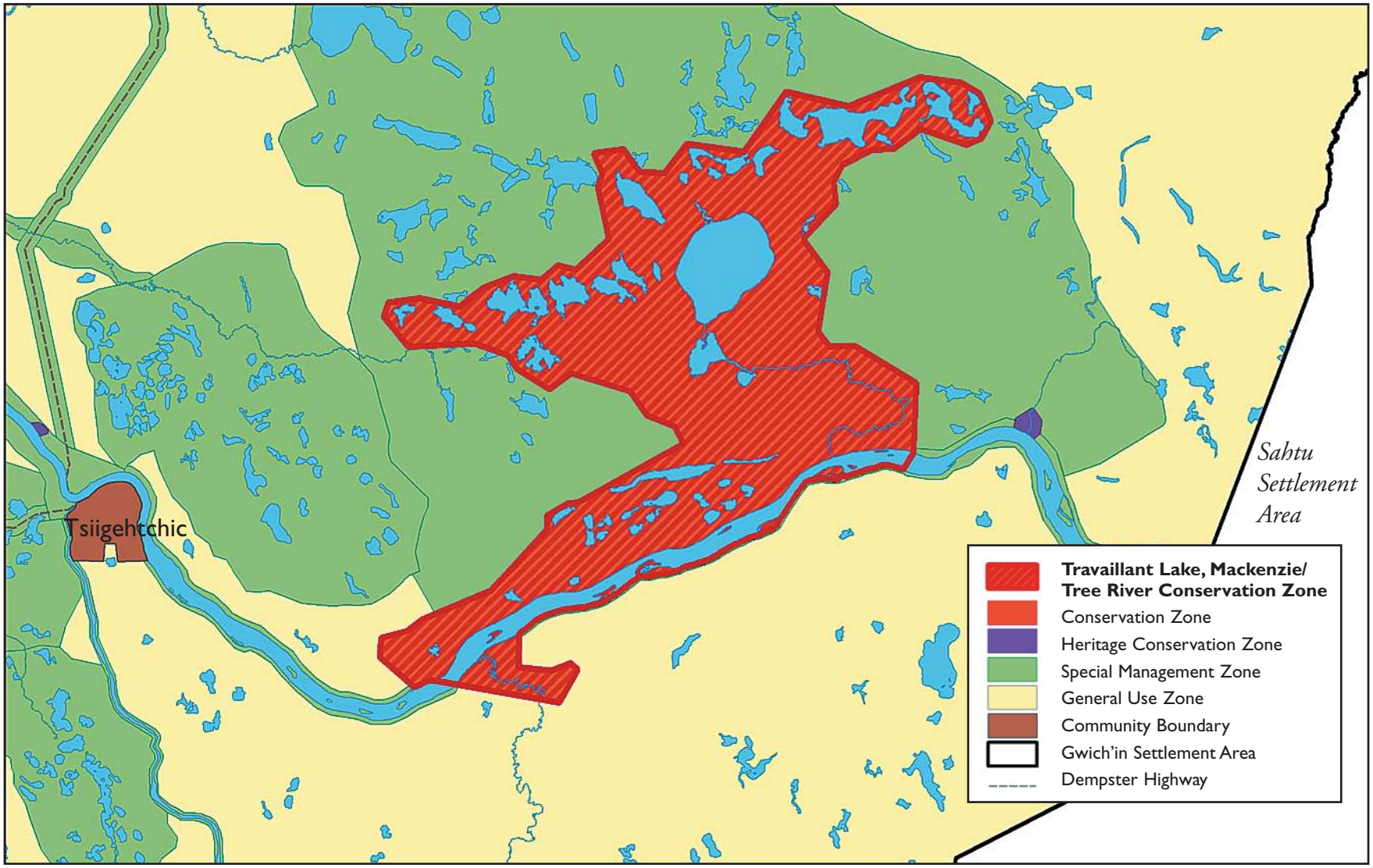
The Travaillant Lake, Mackenzie/Tree River – Gwich'in Conservation Zone is found primarily along the north side of the Mackenzie River. It is east of the Dempster Highway, centred around Travaillant Lake Area itself. The Conservation Zone is approximately 2275 km^2 in size. The Travaillant Lake, Mackenzie/Tree River area is found within two ecoregions: Great Bear Lake Plain and Fort McPherson Plain.

More Information on Reasons for Conservation

Environment

The Travaillant Lake Area is a headwaters area for the Kugaluk and Anderson Rivers flowing northeast to the Arctic Ocean, and the Travaillant River flowing south into the Mackenzie River.

Travaillant Lake, Mackenzie/Tree River Conservation Zone Size: 2,275 km² Scale: 1:750,000



The Bluenose caribou herd migrates into the Travaillant Lake Area in the winter. Travaillant Lake Area is significant habitat for furbearers including bears.[72] The mainstem of the Mackenzie River is also significant for river otters and moose.[73]

Travaillant Lake, Mackenzie/Tree River area is sensitive waterfowl habitat in the spring and fall.[74] The southern edge of Travaillant Lake has high concentrations of breeding and moulting waterfowl in the spring, and is a spring and fall staging area.[75] The islands along the Mackenzie River between Tsiigehtchic and Fort Good Hope are unique habitat of mature spruce, poplar and willow supporting migrating swans and geese in the spring. Waterfowl arrive in early or mid-May and congregate on river islands where open water is available.[76] The open water and exposed shoreline provide the only habitat for feeding, resting and mating during migration.[77] These islands are also used in the fall by waterfowl forced down by bad weather.

Travaillant Lake sustains its own population of whitefish, as well as having whitefish migrate in and out of the lake.[78] Trout, broad and lake whitefish are fished on Travaillant Lake all year around. Many species of fish migrate on the Mackenzie River and spawn in the smaller rivers and streams along the Mackenzie River. Some of the many fish species include whitefish, jackfish, inconnu, burbot, trout, walleye, arctic grayling, and salmon.[79] Arctic grayling and burbot spawn just upstream from the mouth of Tree River.[80]

Traditional Use and Cultural Significance

There are many heritage and archaeological sites in the Travaillant Lake, Mackenzie/Tree River area.[81] Archaeological evidence of Gwichya Gwich'in occupation of the area dates back thousands of years, and therefore the area contains many cultural sites such as burial grounds, trails, old camps and sacred places.[82]

The Travaillant Lake, Mackenzie/Tree River area is of critical importance to the people of Tsiigehtchic. The area is used for fishing all year round. Fishing areas include many lakes like Travaillant, Andrew, Tregnantchiez and Deep Lakes as well as the Mackenzie River. It is a hunting area for moose and caribou and a good trapping area for marten, beaver, muskrat, otter, mink, lynx, wolverine, fox and wolf. Many of these species are identified through the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board's traditional knowledge project.

The section of the Mackenzie River between Thunder River and Point Separation, at the start of the Mackenzie Delta, is the Nagwichoonjik National Historic Site. The Mackenzie River is of great importance culturally to the Gwichya Gwich'in of Tsiigehtchic. "As far back as the Gwichya Gwich'in can remember, their traditional lifestyle has been shaped by their close connection to the land and the river".[83] The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute strongly support the protection of the National Historic Site.

Resource Development Potential

There are a number of development opportunities in the Travaillant Lake, Mackenzie/Tree River Gwich'in Conservation Zone. There are proposed routings for the Mackenzie Highway extension and oil and gas pipelines through the area. There are numerous sand and gravel deposits west of Travaillant Lake.

The area is also within the geological formation called the Interior Platform. This formation, that encompasses the majority of the Gwich'in Settlement Area, shows a potential for oil and gas reserves.[84] One small section of an oil and gas exploration licence overlaps with the Travaillant Lake, Mackenzie/Tree River Gwich'in Conservation Zone. While this interest is covered by the provisions of section 4.2.3, the Planning Board encourages the proponent and regulatory authorities to consult with the Planning Board to minimize any impact in this area.

The Mackenzie River itself is a transportation corridor for barges and other smaller boats.

Planning Board Decision Making

There are many reasons why the Planning Board has chosen the Travaillant Lake, Mackenzie/Tree River area as a Gwich'in Conservation Zone. The primary reason is the overwhelming support by the Gwichya Gwich'in of Tsiigehtchic for the strongest protection measures possible for this area. There is strong community support for this conservation area based on cultural and environmental values. In the Planning Board's ranking of the proposed community protected areas, based on environmental and cultural values, the Travaillant Lake, Mackenzie/Tree River area came in the top five areas.

The conservation area boundary includes key wildlife areas. Waterfowl habitat is protected by including Travaillant Lake and River, as well as a section of the Mackenzie River in the boundary. Fish resources are considered by including many fish lakes and a portion of the Mackenzie River. The boundary for the conservation area follows, where possible, watershed boundaries.

Four significant heritage sites are included within the conservation area boundary: North Travaillant Lake (Teelą̨ıı), South Travaillant Lake (Teedhaa), Mouth of Travaillant River and Mouth of Tree River. These sites were used historically and are still used today as camp sites. In the summer and fall, people would gather in these areas mainly to fish. There are cabins and stages around these sites. The Travaillant Lake, Mackenzie/Tree River area boundary takes in the trails most often used by the Gwich'in for traditional uses.

However, the conservation zone boundary overlaps with the proposed Mackenzie Highway extension route and oil and gas pipeline routes.[85] The route for the Mackenzie Highway extension is outlined in the Gwich'in Land Claim. The Planning Board acknowledges the Mackenzie Highway extension route and allows it as a land use through the Travaillant, Mackenzie/Tree River Gwich'in Conservation Zone. There is also the possibility that an oil or gas pipeline will be proposed during the five year life of the Plan. The Planning Board will consider, with all other appropriate groups, a proposed pipeline corridor through the Conservation Zone. If the proposed pipeline corridor is through a Gwich'in Conservation Zone, the Planning Board will approve it as a permitted use, provided it meets the conditions outlined in Section 4.2.4. The preference of the Planning Board would be a pipeline corridor that is aligned with the proposed Mackenzie Highway extension route. As well, the Planning Board will continue to allow transportation uses to occur on the Mackenzie River.

Expected Land Uses within the Travaillant Lake, Mackenzie River/Tree River Conservation Zone

Traditional activities are expected to continue in the Mackenzie River/Tree River Conservation Zone.

The proposed Mackenzie Highway extension may be proposed as a possible development activity in the next five years. The alignment of the Mackenzie Highway extension is outlined in the Gwich'in Land Claim. When the highway route is finalized, an amendment to the Plan will be required. The Planning Board will also allow all types of transportation activities on the Mackenzie River. These include transportation activities related to oil and gas development, sand, gravel and crushed rock extraction, as well as highway and pipeline development as long as:

a) water quantity, water quality and the rate of flow of water are substantially unaltered; and
b) there are no adverse impacts on the river bed below the Mackenzie River, on the Mackenzie River islands, or the Mackenzie River shoreline.

Ron Cruikshank

Tsiigehnjik

Primary Reasons for Conservation Zone

- spawning grounds for inconnu
- protection for heritage resources

Location

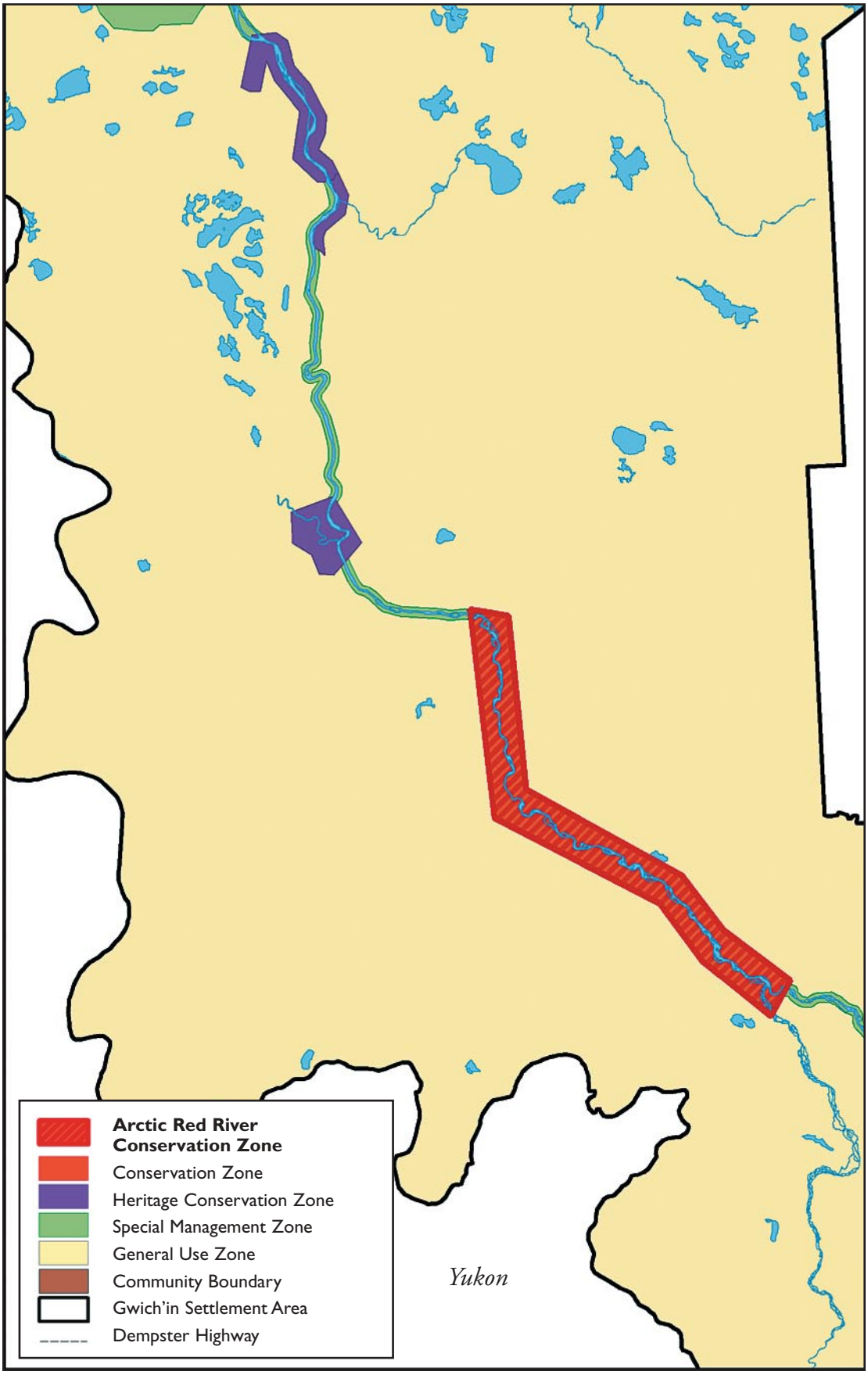
This Gwich'in Conservation Zone (194 km^2) is in the upper section of the Arctic Red River. The Arctic Red River spawning area is found within the Fort McPherson Plain ecoregion.

More Information on Reasons for Conservation

Environment

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has recently documented this site as a spawning area for inconnu.[86] The gravel beds of this area provide inconnu with critical spawning habitat.

Arctic Red River Conservation Zone Size: 194 km² Scale: 1:590,000



Traditional Use and Cultural Significance

There are three outstanding heritage sites within the Arctic Red River Conservation Zone:

- Teetshik gwichoo (Weldon Creek),
- Jùuk'an (on the Arctic Red River near the Forks), and
- Łuıdlǫǫ (the Forks – Cranswick and Arctic Red River)

Teetshik gwichoo is at the mouth Weldon Creek at the Arctic Red River. People coming from the mountains stopped at Teetshik gwichoo to make moose skin boats.[87] Jùuk'an refers to a spot on the Arctic Red River that is often "smoking". Smoke can be seen rising from the land and the smell of sulphur is noticeable. Łuıdlǫǫ is where the Cranswick and the Arctic Red River meet. This is one of the most picturesque and colourful places on the Arctic Red River. There are high eroding black shale cliffs with splashes of red, orange, green, purple and yellow sediments. Elders explain that people climbed up into the mountains from the forks through an old time trail between the two rivers.[88]

Resource Development Potential

There is some potential that non-renewable resources like gravel, as well as oil and gas exist in this general area. However, the Planning Board knows of no development interests in this area.

Planning Board Decision Making

As a general policy, the Planning Board is protecting spawning areas in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Fish are an important resource in the Gwich'in Settlement Area meriting protection. Spawning habitat in particular is critical in fish life cycles therefore these sites should be protected.

As well the Planning Board is protecting significant heritage sites in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Expected Land Uses within the Arctic Red River Spawning Ground

There are few land uses expected in this area. There may be some traditional activities such as hunting and trapping in this area.

Background Information for each Gwich'in Heritage Conservation Zone

Nıchìıtsı dìnıınlee

Big Rock (H01)

This place refers to three massive rocks along the East Channel of the Mackenzie River just south of Campbell Hills.[89] These rocks are considered to be the same type of rock found in the Campbell Hills. The Gwichya Gwich'in gathered at Dìniinlee in the summer and had fish camps around Dìniinlee. People arrived at Dìniinlee in early June to fish and stayed until August. In the early 1900s several people stayed in this area year round because it was a good area for hunting furbearers in the winter and muskrat and waterfowl in the spring.

Łenaıdlı̨ıı

Earl's Place (H02)

There used to be a small town at this site in the 1920s and 1930s. This site refers to where Rudolph Channel and the East Channel of the Mackenzie River meet and flow together.[90] Many cabins were built in this area. There was also a trading post run by Billy Phillips (Tommy Wright's grandfather) and his wife Jane Enoch Phillips.[91] Billy Phillips' trading post was popular because it meant people did not have to travel to Aklavik or Tsiigehtchic for supplies.

Vıhtr'ıı tshık

Thunder River (H03)

Vihtr'ii tshik is a very important site for the Gwichya Gwich'in. The Gwichya Gwich'in used to travel up the Mackenzie River to this site to find stones for making arrowheads, scrapers and flint.[92] These tools were absolutely necessary. The Vihtr'ii tshik site was where people found stones and made tools. According to custom, people would acknowledge the importance of the site by leaving a small item as a token of gratitude in place of the stone that had been removed.[93]

Teetshık goghaa

Old Arctic Red River (H04)

Teetshik goghaa is the old town site for Tsiigehtchic. It is about 10 kilometres down river from Tsiigehtchic on the Mackenzie River. People used to arrive at Teetshik goghaa in the spring and stay about a month.[94] After the long winter people would enjoy each others company and have many feasts and dances. The Roman Catholic Church built a small mission at this site. As it was a very windy spot, the mission and town site was moved to its present location.

Eltyın choo chıhvyàh k'yıt

Jackfish Creek (H05)

Eltyin choo chihvyah k'yit refers to the mouth of Jackfish Creek on the Arctic Red River. People coming from the mountains in their moose skin boats would stop at the mouth of the creek to fish jackfish.[95] Whitefish and jackfish run out of the creek in the spring. There used to be a number of cabins at this site. The creek is also significant for its forest. There are many large, old white spruce trees along the banks of the creek.

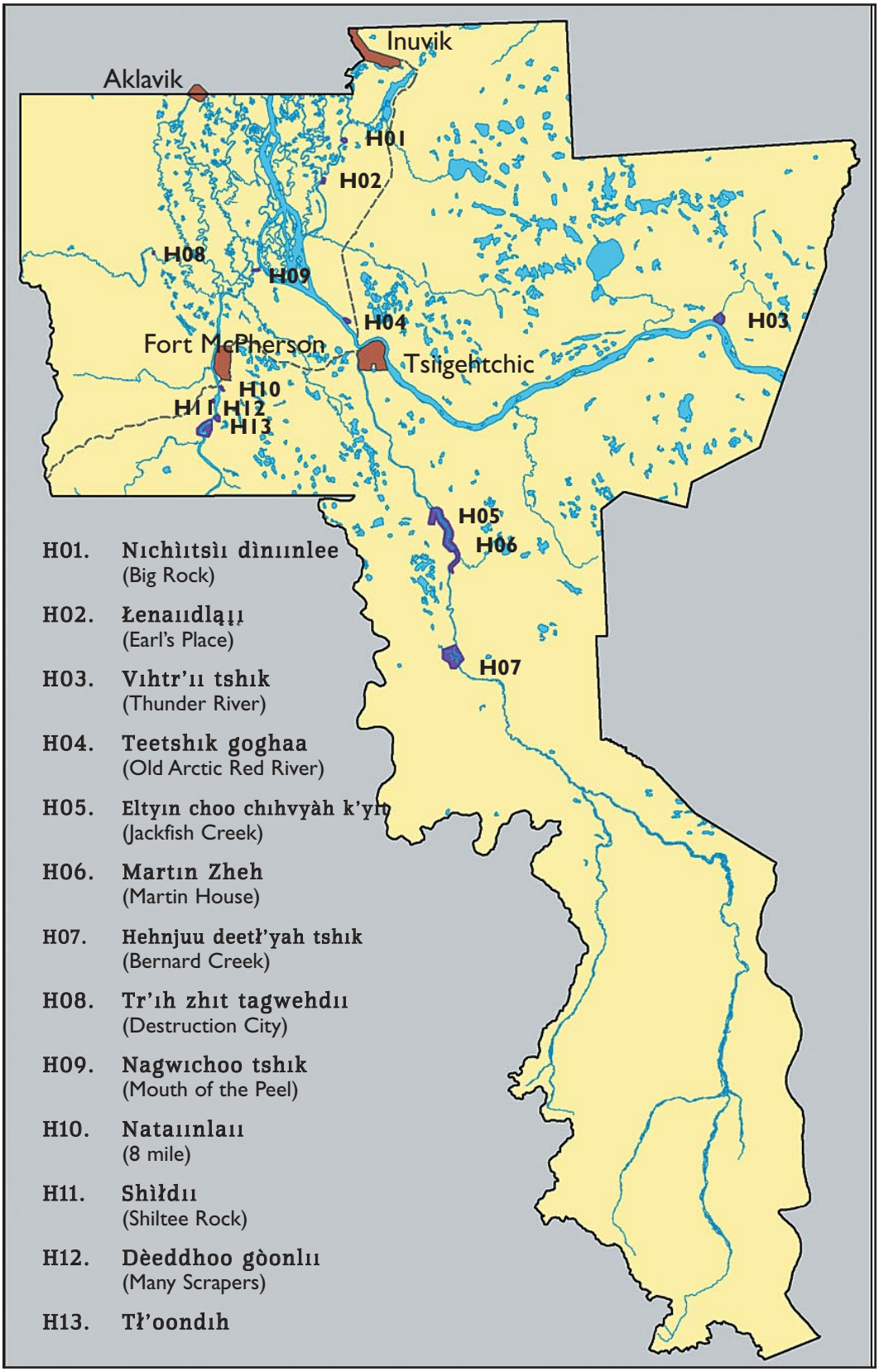
Martın Zheh

Martin House (H06)

Martin Zheh is named after a trapper who lived on the east side of the river in a cabin in the 1920s.[96] There were many other cabins in this vicinity and many people referred to Martin Zheh as a town. Trapping was good in this area particularly for marten.

Included in the boundaries of the Martin Zheh Heritage Conservation Zone is Nehtruh tshì'. It is described as a miniature badlands.[97] Elders tell a story of a giant wolverine that came out of a nearby lake and then burrowed itself underneath the ground breaking up the hill in this area. Elders who know of this place are still cautious around the site because the giant wolverine is considered wicked and will kill any person it encounters.

Gwich'in Heritage Conservation Zones **Scale: 1:2,000,000**



Hehnjuu deetł'yah tshık

Bernard Creek (H07)

Ron Cruikshank

Bernard Creek

This is one of the most important heritage sites along the Arctic Red River.[98] In the 1900s, this was the site of a small town and a trading post. Many cabins and tents existed on both sides of the creek. People used to travel from the mountains to buy supplies. A major trail to the mountains begins at Hehnjuu deetł'yah tshık.

At present there is one cabin standing at Hehnjuu deetł'yah tshık.

Tr'ıh zhıt tagwehdıı

Destruction City (H08)

This site is approximately 40 km up the Rat River. Many people congregated in this area during the Yukon Gold Rush. Prospectors overwintered at Tr'ih zhit tagwehdu. The name means "that's as far as you can go with boat". At this point on the river, the water gets very shallow and the Gwich'in used to leave their canoes at this site and walk into the mountains to hunt.[99] The site got its English name "Destruction City" because this was the spot where people could no longer continue on their journey across the mountains to the Yukon by boat.

Nagwıchoo tshık

Mouth of the Peel (H09)

Nagwichoo tshik refers to a village site upstream from the mouth of the Peel River.[100] The mouth of the Peel River was a traditional summer fishing spot for the Teetl'it Gwich'in. People would fish herring in July and whitefish in August. Some people stayed year round at Nagwichoo tshik. In the summer, steam boats used to stop at the village site.

Nataıınlaıı

8 mile (H10)

Nataiinlaii refers to a creek that flows into the Peel River. The site is just south of the current ferry crossing on the Peel River. Nataiinlaii was a place where many wars were fought with the Inuvialuit.[101] It was also a place where there were many fish camps and cabins. Today the site is still used for fishing in the summer.

Shìłdıı

Shiltee Rock (H11)

Shìłdı is a sacred site on the Peel River about 18 km above Fort McPherson. There are many legends and stories connected to Shìłdıı. One interpretation of the stories is that Shìłdı represents 'the fossilized remains of two brothers who were turned into stone when their younger sister inadvertently violated a taboo imposed on her at puberty'.[102]

Dèeddhoo gòonlıı

Many Scrapers (H12)

Dèeddhoo gòonlii chi refers to a hill up the Peel River from Shìłdıı. It is a companion site to Shìłdıı and many of the stories about Shildii mention this hill. Dèeddhoo gòonlii means "many scrapers". It got this name from the flat stones that you find on this hill that can be used to scrape skins.[103]

Tł'oondıh

(H13)

Tł'oondıh is found 32 km up the Peel River from Fort McPherson. There have been many camps and cabins at Tł'oondıh over the years. Old Vittrekwa and old Brian Francis both had cabins here.[104] Today there is a healing camp at Tł'oondıh.

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5.0 Land Use Plan for the Future: Land Use Issues and Actions

Ron Cruikshank

This chapter gives detailed direction for dealing with land use issues taking a broad view of land as being the whole environment. Goals, objectives and recommended actions are outlined for 11 different topic areas. Communities, Gwich'in, government, co-management and business groups have all contributed to the development of these recommended actions. The recommended actions apply across all land zones.

The 11 topic areas/issues are:

1. Community Involvement
2. Economic Development
3. Gwich'in Heritage Resources
4. Water and Air Resources
5. Renewable Resources
6. Non-Renewable Resources
7. Pollution and Waste Management
8. Transportation, Utilities and Communications
9. Tourism and Recreation
10. Transboundary Areas
11. Legislated Protected Areas

Land Use Issue 1

Community Involvement

Our goal is to directly involve residents, communities, Gwich'in and designated Gwich'in organizations in land use planning and to build their capacity for participating in decision-making concerning the use, management and conservation of land, water and resources.

Gwich'in Land and Water Board

Integrated Resource Management and Land Use Planning Workshop March, 1997, Inuvik

Based on Section 1.1.7 and 24.2.4 of the *Gwich'in Land Claim*

Objectives

- To build community understanding about their role in land, water, air and resource decision making.
- To improve the capacity for Gwich'in and community involvement in decision making about the use, management and conservation of land, water and resources.

Issues and Analysis

People in the local communities want to be more involved in decisions about land, water, air and resource management. As Gwich'in have a special relationship with the land and rely on the land for food, wood and other resources, they want to take care of the land properly.

The Gwich'in Land Claim and the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act provide the Gwich'in the right to participate in decision making about land, water and resources. But many people do not feel a part of the decision making processes and they do not think that their knowledge of the land is being taken into account. Presently at the community level there is not a clear understanding of how the regulatory and resource management system works or how the system is changing due to the Gwich'in Land Claim.

Many times resource management information and issues are not presented to the communities. Other times the information provided is not in plain language. People need to have a clear understanding of:

- what groups make decisions about land, water, air, wildlife and resources,
- what decisions these groups can make, and
- what role the communities play in making those decisions.

All groups need to review how and when they do community consultation. Community needs, values, knowledge and experience should be considered in all management decisions. Having the communities involved from the beginning of a research or development project, from its design to how it is monitored, is beneficial. Considering community knowledge and experience will help in making better management decisions. Community involvement at the beginning of processes also reduces conflicts between communities and groups proposing activities.

Action Items

1. The Planning Board recommends that all management and regulatory groups work with communities to improve the level of understanding of communities about decision making processes.

2. In order to improve communications in the future[1], the Planning Board recommends that all management and regulatory groups review on an ongoing basis:

   i) when and how often they consult with communities, and

   ii) how effective they are in involving communities in decision making.

3. The Planning Board recommends that co-management boards continue to develop an integrated management system to improve the level of involvement of Gwich'in, communities and representative organizations in decision making processes.

4. The Planning Board's Implementation Plan shall describe a process for involving Gwich'in, communities, and representative organizations in land use planning decision making.

5. The Planning Board as part of the Gwich'in Land Use Plan Review will conduct a survey on community involvement in decision making. The survey will evaluate how well groups have involved communities in decision making about land, water, air and resource management.

Land Use Issue 2

Economic Development

Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board

Our goal is to promote development of resources for the existing and future well being of the residents, communities and Gwich'in of the settlement area, having regard to the interests of all Canadians.

Based on section 24.2.4 of the *Gwich'in Land Claim*

Objectives

- To promote the development of a stronger, diverse economy.
- To promote land, water and resource activities that complement the skills of the Gwich'in, residents and communities of the Gwich'in Settlement Area.
- To promote economic stability in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.
- To work towards the economic self-sufficiency of Gwich'in beneficiaries.
- To recognize and encourage the Gwich'in way of life which is based on the cultural and economic relationship between the Gwich'in and the land.

Issues and Analysis

Communities have strongly expressed their need for more employment and training.[2] New businesses need to be established in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and existing businesses need to be supported.

Communities would like to see more incentives for local commercial activities building on skills they possess and that are related to traditional activities. Areas where there is expertise in the Gwich'in Settlement Area include renewable resource harvesting and management, water and land transportation, oil and gas activities, construction, tourism and traditional arts and crafts. Taking advantage of the expertise found in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and improving skill levels will lead to economic self-sufficiency.

The Gwich'in traditional land uses should be encouraged as they provide an economic option other than the wage economy. Traditional activities include trap-

ping, hunting, fishing, vegetation harvesting, trail cutting, camp and cabin construction, making of traditional clothing as well as arts and crafts. Taking advantage of the expertise found in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and improving skill levels will lead to economic self-sufficiency. Traditional activities include trapping, hunting, fishing, vegetation harvesting, trail cutting, camp and cabin construction, making of traditional clothing, as well as arts and crafts. Traditional activities continue to be an important part of Gwich'in life and should be complemented by employment opportunities in the wage economy.

In the recent past, economic activity has not been stable in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. There was a boom time when the oil and gas industry was active, however as the oil and gas industry declined so did the overall economy. Land activities that provide a long term investment in the Gwich'in Settlement Area are needed.

Business groups may be hesitant to invest in the Gwich'in Settlement Area as they are unfamiliar with the new Land Claim system and changes to the regulatory system. Confidence in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and the new system needs to be built. Business groups need to know that there is a stable situation in areas where they are investing. They also need to know what the rules are for conducting activities.[3] These rules include when to involve communities, what community expectations are, as well as government regulations. A Land Use Plan helps let business groups know what is expected of them when they enter an area and creates a greater understanding of the management system.

Action Items

1. The Planning Board recommends that the Planning Board with the assistance of the Gwich'in Land and Water Board produce a pamphlet about Gwich'in Land Use Planning and Land Use Permitting to describe steps businesses need to take to conduct land, water and resource activities in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.
2. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council with the assistance of the Gwich'in co-management boards[4] and government groups[5] produce a map series for Gwich'in beneficiaries showing areas of high resource development potential for the settlement area.
3. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council and government promote economic activities and promote research and options for improving the economic self sufficiency of Gwich'in beneficiaries and communities.
4. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council with the involvement of the Designated Gwich'in Organizations develop a long term economic strategy.[6]
5. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council with the involvement of the Designated Gwich'in Organizations identify economic opportunities on Gwich'in Settlement Lands and develop economic plans for them.

Land Use Issue 3

Gwich'in Heritage Resources

Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute

Our goal is to protect and promote Gwich'in culture for present and future generations, through the protection and management of its heritage resources in a manner that is consistent with Gwich'in values, culture and beliefs.

Based on Sections 1.1.3, 24.2.4, and 25.1.4 of the *Gwich'in Land Claim*

Objectives

- To protect heritage resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.
- To support the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute in their work to document, preserve, and promote Gwich'in culture.
- To develop and apply the concept of cultural landscapes.

Issues and Analysis

Heritage resources are important to the Gwich'in. Gwich'in heritage resources include locations considered to be of cultural value such as burial and sacred sites, archaeological sites, historic sites and associated artifacts, documentation and records related to Gwich'in culture and history.[8] These resources need to be protected as they provide a record of Gwich'in use and knowledge of the land through time. Heritage resources reflect the close relationship between the Gwich'in, their culture and the land. It is important to the Gwich'in that their heritage resources be taken into consideration when any development is proposed in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and that they are managed in a way that is consistent with Gwich'in values and beliefs.

The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute is the main group working to document, preserve and promote the practice of Gwich'in culture, language, traditional knowledge and values. The Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute's work is revealing that heritage resources are more than just archaeological sites or single sites but larger cultural landscapes. These areas share similar cultural characteristics. Giving recognition to cultural landscapes has been the focus of several recent

initiatives in the Gwich'in Settlement Area including the National Historic Site on the Mackenzie River and the designation of the Arctic Red River as a Canadian Heritage River. Some of these areas may merit more protection through legislative protection. In deciding what areas are protected in the Gwich'in Settlement Area the concept of cultural landscapes should be more clearly defined and protection options for cultural landscapes explored.

With the help of the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and communities, the Planning Board has identified heritage sites of special value that are protected through the Gwich'in Conservation Zone designation. Other areas in the Gwich'in Settlement Area that are significant for heritage have been identified in Gwich'in Special Management Zones. In this zone before a development activity can take place certain land use planning conditions must be met (see Section 4.8: Special Management Zones and Planning Conditions).

The work of documenting heritage resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area by the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute is ongoing and not yet complete. They may in the future recommend to the Planning Board that other areas be placed in the Gwich'in Conservation Zone or Gwich'in Special Management Zone based on heritage resources. The Planning Board will consider these recommendations and may make changes to the zoning through exceptions to the Land Use Plan. These changes may also be made through amendments during the review of the Land Use Plan.

Action Items

1. The Planning Board shall consider recommendations by the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute for the addition of areas to the Gwich'in Conservation Zones or Gwich'in Special Management Zones during the life of the Land Use Plan.[9]

2. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute identify heritage areas or cultural landscapes meriting legislative protected area status in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Land Use Issue 4

Water and Air Resources

Gwich'in Land and Water Board

Our goal is to provide for the conservation of the environment including water and air and to develop and use these resources for the future well-being of the residents, communities and Gwich'in of the settlement area.

Based on Sections 1.1.8 and 24.2.4 *Gwich'in Land Claim*

Objectives

- To maintain and monitor water and air resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area for the overall health of the environment.
- To maintain the ability to drink safe water out on the land and eat healthy fish.
- To maintain water at levels that allow Gwich'in to conduct traditional activities.
- To limit the negative effects of water and air uses outside of the Gwich'in Settlement Area on water, air, wildlife and other resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Issues and Analysis

The potential for outside uses of water and air effecting the quality of the resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area is great. Every opportunity should be taken to influence decisions that effect water and air resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Water and air uses, in and outside the Gwich'in Settlement Area, include transportation, waste disposal, industrial activities, forest fire control, recreational activities and domestic use.

People are particularly concerned that water quality is becoming poorer in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and will continue to become poorer.[10] Up to this point people in the Gwich'in Settlement Area have been able to go out on the land and drink untreated water and eat fish without documented health problems. They are concerned that this won't be the case in the future. They are aware that they are at

the bottom end of the water system and the water here carries contaminants from the south. Making sure water is safe to drink and that fish are healthy is a high priority for communities. They have said "we should do whatever possible to make sure water quality remains good".[11]

Concerns about water stem from lack of detailed information about the status of water quality and quantity.[12] People are concerned that water quality and quantity is not being monitored closely enough in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The possible closing of water gauging stations due to budget cuts is adding to peoples' concerns.[13] These water gauging stations have been in existence for decades and provide a valuable historical record of water resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Water management groups should work together to keep water stations open and continue monitoring activities.

Some of the issues identified may be resolved by better communication between water management agencies and communities. More information about water quality and quantity needs to be available to communities and other interested groups in plain language. It is difficult to figure out what water testing and monitoring is taking place as there are so many different groups working on water related issues. These groups include municipalities, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Environment Canada, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

All groups involved in water management and water related issues should provide some basic information in plain language to communities:

- Who is doing water related testing?
- What are the tests for?
- Where are they testing?
- When is it done?
- What are the results?
- Do the results confirm that water is safe to drink and fish are safe to eat?

As there are a number of groups working on water issues, a report on the state of water quality and quantity using all available information would be useful for communities and other resource management groups.

Water and air monitoring is needed and will continue to be needed to keep track of changes to water and air over time. A Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program is designed for the Gwich'in Settlement Area and the rest of the Northwest Territories. Co-management, Gwich'in and government groups are working with the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development on this monitoring program. Communities are being involved in this process. Community concerns about water and air should be addressed by this monitoring program.

Action Items

1. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Land and Water Board develop a status report on water quality and quantity in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The status report should look at community concerns with water and gaps in water monitoring.

2. The Planning Board recommends that water management groups provide communities with plain language information on water quality and quantity.

3. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Land and Water Board take the lead in developing strategies for maintaining water gauging stations.

4. The Planning Board recommends that the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program:

   i) deal with land, water and air quality concerns of all four settlement area communities; and

   ii) involve communities in the actual monitoring of land, water and air resources.[14]

5. The Planning Board shall review the findings of the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program with respect to land, water and air during each five year review of the Gwich'in Land Use Plan, and will integrate the Program's recommendations into the Plan.

6. The Planning Board recommends that resource management groups in the Gwich'in Settlement Area work together and develop a strategy for dealing with the effects of outside activities on resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Land Use Issue 5

Renewable Resources

Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board

Wildlife, Fish, Forests, Vegetation and Energy

Our goal is to provide for the conservation, development and use of renewable resources while:

- protecting and conserving wildlife and environment; and
- protecting and promoting the existing and future well-being of the residents, communities and Gwich'in of the settlement area.

Based on Sections 24.2.4 and 1.1.8 of the *Gwich'in Land Claim*

Wildlife and Fish Objectives

- To maintain biodiversity and to manage wildlife and fish populations for desired numbers and health.
- To protect critical and sensitive wildlife and fish areas through land zoning and management plans.
- To involve communities in decision making about wildlife and fish management.

Issues and Analysis

Overall there are no critical wildlife and fish issues in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. There are some local concerns about certain species such as Porcupine caribou, Bluenose caribou, grizzly bear, Dall's sheep and dolly varden charr. The main groups dealing with wildlife and fish are the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Renewable Resource Councils and government wildlife management groups. In consultation with these groups, the Planning Board is protecting key wildlife and fish habitat areas through land zones (Gwich'in Conservation Zones and Gwich'in Special Management Zones). Activities are highly restricted in Gwich'in Conservation Zones. In Gwich'in Special Management Zones, conditions on activities have been placed by the Planning Board. The Planning Board will review these conditions on a regular basis and make changes to reflect traditional knowledge and new scientific information.

Wildlife and Fish Action Items

1. The Planning Board will review completed wildlife and fish management plans and consider how to integrate these plans with the Gwich'in Land Use Plan.
2. The Planning Board recommends that wildlife management groups produce plans for Dall's sheep and other wildlife with economic commercial potential.[15]
3. The Planning Board will review conditions placed on Gwich'in Special Management Zones with the assistance of appropriate groups taking into account traditional knowledge and scientific information.

Protecting wildlife and fish habitat through land zoning only partially deals with wildlife and fish concerns. Wildlife and fish uses such as harvesting are not being addressed though the Gwich'in Land Use Plan. For the fish species dolly varden charr over harvesting may be a critical issue. The Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and local communities can deal with harvesting issues and may set harvesting quotas if necessary. Wildlife and fish management plans are being developed by the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and government fish and wildlife management groups. Wildlife and fish management plans will provide direction on issues such as harvesting. Other issues that may be addressed though wildlife and fish management plans are commercial activities such as sport hunting and outfitting.

Once wildlife and fish management plans are complete, the Planning Board will review them and consider how to integrate the wildlife and fish management plans with the Gwich'in Land Use Plan. The Planning Board may make changes to the Gwich'in Land Use Plan through exceptions and amendments or during the five year review of the Land Use Plan.

Forest and Forest Resources Objectives

- To practice sustainable forestry that places priority on subsistence uses.
- To maintain biodiversity.
- To support non-timber uses of the forest.
- To promote more community involvement in forest management.

Issues and Analysis

The main issue for forest management in the Gwich'in Settlement Area is sustainable use. All groups want to make sure there are healthy forests and trees available in the future. The issue of sustainable use of forests and all other issues will be addressed by the development of Forest Management Plans (Gwich'in Tribal Council and Renewable Resource Councils, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development).

Forest and Vegetation Action Items

1. Planning Board will review completed Forest Management Plans and consider how to integrate them with the Gwich'in Land Use Plan.
2. The Planning Board recommends Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development continue to work together in reviewing and developing fire management policies and plans.

The communities will be directly involved in the development of Forest Management Plans. Some of the issues Forest Management Plans may address include:

- traditional uses and cultural values of forests and plants,
- forest fire management,
- non-timber forest uses,
- community forest harvesting zones, and
- a process for monitoring how much wood is being harvested and where.

Once Forest Management Plans are completed, the Planning Board will review the plans and consider how to integrate them with the Land Use Plan. The Planning Board may make changes to the Gwich'in Land Use Plan through exceptions and amendments or during the five year review.

The Gwich'in Land Use Plan does provide protection for some forest areas through land zoning. In the following areas, with significant forest resources, commercial forest harvesting is not allowed:

- Travaillant Lake, Mackenzie/Tree River Gwich'in Conservation Zone
- Jackfish Creek Gwich'in Heritage Conservation Zone
- Bernard Creek Gwich'in Heritage Conservation Zone

Communities listed forests specifically as a reason to protect these areas.

Energy Objectives

- To promote the use of alternative sources of energy for increased self-sufficiency.

Energy Action Item

1. The Planning Board recommends that the Aurora Research Institute and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development continue to investigate and support the use of alternative sources of energy.

Issues and Analysis

There are various reasons to use alternative sources of energy like solar power and wind power. The cost of fuels like oil and gas remain high in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. And in some communities there are few forest resources available nearby. Although not widely used, solar and wind power have been used successfully at a number of camps as a supplement to oil and wood fuels.

Land Use Issue 6

Non-Renewable Resources

GNWT–RWED

Oil, Gas, Minerals, Sand, Gravel and Crushed Rock

Our goal is to provide for the conservation, development and use of non-renewable resources, while protecting and promoting the existing and future well being of the residents, communities, and Gwich'in of the settlement area having regard to the interests of all Canadians.

Based on Sections 1.1.4, 24.2.4 of the *Gwich'in Land Claim*

Objectives

- To promote development of non-renewable resources for the benefit of people in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, and of all Canadians.
- To promote development of non-renewable resources in a way that maintains land, water, air, wildlife and heritage resources.
- To ensure there are rehabilitation plans for all non-renewable resource development sites including pits and quarries.

Issues and Analysis

People would benefit in many ways from the development of non-renewable resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Benefits would include employment as well as new business and training opportunities.[16] In addition, non-renewable resource developments provide materials required both within and outside of the settlement area.

At present, there is a resurgence of interest in exploration of the Mackenzie Delta-Beaufort Sea gas reserves. It is probable that a pipeline will be proposed in the next five years. There may be a small gas development in the Gwich'in Settlement Area on the border with the Sahtu Settlement Area. Four parcels of land have been awarded as oil and gas exploration licences to Grand River Resources and Foxboro Limited.[17]

The possibility of even a small gas development has raised many community concerns about oil and gas activities in the Gwich'in Settlement Area in general. Historically, oil and gas activities took place on Gwich'in traditional lands without the Gwich'in being compensated for the use of land or Gwich'in involvement in decision-making. Gwich'in today, due to the Gwich'in Land Claim, have the right:

- to be compensated for the use of lands and resources, and
- to participate in resource decision-making.

Communities want to directly benefit from non-renewable resource activities through employment, businesses, training, and compensation for the use of lands and resources.

Mineral development on a large scale is not expected to occur in the Gwich'in Settlement Area in the next five years. There is some prospecting taking place in the headwaters of the Arctic Red River.

There is an inadequate information base for mineral resources of the Gwich'in Settlement Area. This lack of knowledge makes it difficult to evaluate the pros and cons of proposed protected areas. The Board encourages government and industry to take steps to improve the information base so that the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Board can make informed decisions about the future well-being of residents. The Board will be pleased to review the Land Use Plan when new information on mineral resources is available.

Sand, gravel and crushed rock will continue to be in demand in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Some current pits will need to be expanded and new pits opened to supply material for the widening and general maintenance of the Dempster Highway. The widening of the Dempster Highway will require a significant amount of material in the next five years. Sand, gravel and rock management plans are needed for Gwich'in Settlement Lands and for government lands (Crown land).[18] The management plans should deal with:

- the demand for highway maintenance and construction materials and other materials (carving stone) in the Gwich'in Settlement Area,
- rehabilitation/restoration of abandoned and existing pits, and environmental impacts along the Dempster corridor.

The need for large land areas for non-renewable resource exploration has been one of the Planning Board's considerations in developing land zoning. Non-renewable resource activities are excluded only from 10% of the settlement area to protect resources identified by communities and management groups as having outstanding value. Clearly identifying where non-renewable resource activities are not allowed should make it easier for developers to focus activities in appropriate areas.

Action Items

1. The Planning Board recommends that with the consent of the landowners the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development initiate a review of oil and gas resources of the Gwich'in Settlement Area to promote the economic well being of the Gwich'in.[19]

2. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, in conjunction with other government agencies, and in consultation with the mineral industry, initiate a review of the mineral resources of the Gwich'in Settlement Area to promote the economic well being of the Gwich'in.

3. The Planning Board recommends that the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development prepare a sand, gravel and rock (crushed rock and carving stone[20]) management plan for Crown lands in the Gwich'in Settlement Area that would include specific management plans for operating pits.

4. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council prepare a sand, gravel and rock (crushed rock and carving stone[21]) management plan for Gwich'in Settlement Lands in the Gwich'in Settlement Area that would include specific management plans for operating pits.[22]

5. The Planning Board recommends that the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development plan for the clean-up of abandoned and old pits that have not been rehabilitated. This includes the installation of barriers to access.[23]

Land Use Issue 7

Pollution and Waste Management

Gwich'in Land and Water Board

To protect and conserve... the environment of the settlement area for the well being of present and future generations

Based on Section 1.18 of the *Gwich'in Land Claim*

Objectives

- To identify and address waste sites in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.
- To minimize air, water and land pollution and waste sites in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.
- To take every opportunity for raising concerns nationally and globally about the effects of pollution on the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Issues and Analysis

Waste sites and pollution are concerns in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The federal Action on Waste program began work on cleaning-up waste sites, but the program ended in 1997. The remediation of contaminated sites is now managed by the Contaminated Sites Office in Yellowknife. The program does not have dedicated funding, but manages to secure funding on a year-by-year basis. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is only focussing on sites with immediate health and safety concerns and liabilities. Communities want to see remaining waste sites identified, cleaned-up and sites restored to their natural state. Funding for the clean-ups should come from the groups responsible for creating the waste site. If it can not be determined which group is responsible for a waste site the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, as the responsible regulatory group when the waste site was created, should incur the cost of site clean up and restoration.[24]

People do not want to see new unplanned waste sites and garbage problems created. Many times garbage can be seen along both ice roads and regular roads. There is also garbage and other wastes found at many camp sites. All sites with garbage in the settlement area should be cleaned-up. A policy or "code of good conduct" should be developed for all land users to ensure garbage is disposed of properly. An education campaign has been suggested as a possible strategy for instilling respect for the land.

Some of the pollution and waste found in the Gwich'in Settlement Area does not originate in the area. Pollutants are being transferred through air and water currents from different parts of the country and world. People are worried about the effect of these pollutants on their health and the environment. The Mackenzie Delta is a hot spot for the effects of global warming. Communities have noticed changes on the land that may be related to climate change (water and snow levels, waterfowl numbers, etc.). Communities want to see the level of contaminants monitored in the settlement area. Every opportunity should be taken to raise concerns nationally and globally about the effects of long range air and water pollutants on the people and environment of the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Action Items

1. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development shall provide all available information on known waste sites for the Gwich'in Settlement Area to Gwich'in and co-management groups.

2. The Planning Board recommends that the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and appropriate industry groups develop strategies for the clean-up of remaining waste sites.

3. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Renewable Resource Councils, Designated Gwich'in Organization and co-management boards work together to develop a "Code of Good Conduct" for the disposal of garbage by all land users.

4. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Renewable Resource Councils, Designated Gwich'in Organizations, co-management boards, and appropriate government groups work together to develop a strategy for cleaning up camp sites, ice road garbage and other areas littered by garbage on the land. The Planning Board recommends that education on appropriate disposal methods for all types of garbage be a part of this strategy.[25]

5. The Planning Board recommends that Gwich'in, community, co-management, government and circumpolar groups work together to develop strategies to reduce the transfer of long range air and water pollutants in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Land Use Issue 8

Transportation, Utilities and Communication

Gwich'in Land and Water Board

Our goal is to promote activities related to transportation, pipelines and communication for the existing and future well being of the residents, communities and Gwich'in of the settlement area and Canadians generally.

Based on Sections 1.1.4, 24.2.4 of the *Gwich'in Land Claim*

Objectives

- To improve networks supporting transportation, communication and utilities[26] (such as pipelines) for social and economic benefit.
- To promote continued use of traditional trails and transportation corridors.
- To promote transportation, communication and pipeline corridors which minimize environmental impacts.

Issues and Analysis

Transportation and communication networks play a significant role in the economy and life of the people of the Gwich'in Settlement Area.[27] Major transportation avenues include air travel with jet access to Inuvik, barging and boating on the larger rivers, as well as road access on the Dempster Highway. The Dempster Highway is open year round except for short periods in the spring and fall.

Widening and maintenance of the Dempster Highway will likely be the focus of transportation activities in the next five years. Another known activity is the installation of radio towers by NorthwesTel within the settlement area.

Other possible projects include an extension of the Mackenzie Highway and pipeline corridors. The Department of Transportation is reviewing the concept of an extension of the Mackenzie Highway into the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The

main corridor being looked at is north of the Mackenzie River, although a corridor south of the Mackenzie River is also possible. The corridor north of the Mackenzie River is acknowledged in the Gwich'in Land Claim and in this Gwich'in Land Use Plan. The Mackenzie Highway extension is therefore considered a permitted use in all land zones of the Plan. If the highway extension project moves forward within the five year life of the Land Use Plan, it could have significant implications for land use planning. The Planning Board will do more detailed planning along the proposed corridor.

Action Items

1. The Gwich'in Land and Water Board will consider public and community concerns with respect to ferry landings at the Mackenzie and Peel Rivers during the review process for the water licences associated with the ferry landings.[28]

2. The Planning Board recommends that the Department of Transportation with the involvement of co-management boards, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and community groups coordinate a study to address community concerns about the long term effects on fish and water resources of placing gravel in the rivers every year for ferry landings.[29]

3. The Planning Board will conduct more detailed land use planning along the Dempster Highway and where new transportation and utility corridors are proposed. Potential corridors include the Mackenzie Highway extension and a Mackenzie pipeline corridor.

The potential need for a pipeline connecting significant oil and gas reserves in the Mackenzie Delta – Beaufort Sea region with southern markets has been recognized since the 1970's. Given the current interest in gas reserves in the Delta – Beaufort region, it is probable that a pipeline will be proposed in the next five years. Possible alternative corridors have been raised by the oil and gas industry and examined in previous land use planning processes. The Planning Board recognizes the pipeline as a potential land use through the region, although the preferred routing has yet to be determined. The Planning Board will review alternative pipeline corridor proposals and make recommendations on a preferred corridor. The Planning Board will consider, with all other appropriate groups, a proposed pipeline. The preference of the Planning Board would be a pipeline and Mackenzie Highway aligned in the same corridor. If the proposed corridor is through a Gwich'in Conservation Zone, it is considered a permitted land use provided that it meets the conditions set out in section 4.2.4.

The development and impacts of new transportation and pipeline corridors should be addressed through the land use planning process. More detailed land use planning needs to occur in areas where new transportation, pipeline or communication corridors are proposed. The potential environmental, social and economic impacts of proposed transportation, pipeline and communications corridors needs to be evaluated.

A current transportation issue is the existing ferry landings on the Peel and Mackenzie Rivers servicing the Dempster Highway. Many people are worried about possible effects of the ferry landings on water resources and fish. A study on the possible effects of the ferry landings needs to be conducted. The dumping of gravel into the rivers for ferry landings every year is an ongoing issue for communities.

Land Use Issue 9

Tourism and Recreation

Gwich'in Land and Water Board

Our goal is to promote the use of tourism and recreation resources, and the development of the tourism industry, so as to protect and promote the existing and future well being of residents, communities and Gwich'in of the settlement area.

Based on Sections 1.1.4 and 24.2.4 of the *Gwich'in Land Claim*

Objectives

- To promote tourism activities in all communities.
- To promote local outfitters and the hiring of local people for tourist activities.
- To minimize the effects of tourism activities on the environment.
- To promote land and water based recreation by Gwich'in Settlement Area residents.

Issues and Analysis

More work needs to be done to draw tourists to the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Local and regional projects that encourage tourism should be supported. One example is the production of the "Western Arctic Handbook". Another is the development of the TransCanada Trail through the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Attention needs to be focused on areas of high tourism potential like the:

- Richardson and Mackenzie Mountains,
- Campbell Hills, and
- Mackenzie River and Delta.

Territorial parks are tools that can be used to draw tourists into the Gwich'in Settlement Area and should be considered in the future. More attractions and services along the Dempster Highway are needed to attract tourists. Each community has tourism plans that need to be implemented. Tourists are interested in cultural activities, opportunities to see wildlife and sport fishing and hunting.

Gwich'in want to be part of tourism operations in their area through activities such as guiding and local outfitting. In the Gwich'in Settlement Area, it is the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board that can establish policies around commercial harvesting and activities related to wildlife, including setting policies for guiding and outfitting and hunting, fishing and naturalist camps and lodges.

There is agreement that tourism activities should happen in an environmentally friendly and culturally sensitive way. There are concerns about the effects of tourism activities on the environment and traditional areas. Community concerns about the effects of tourism could be dealt with through a "Tourism Code of Ethics". A "Tourism Code of Ethics" would outline how tourists should conduct themselves out on the land. Direction could be given to tourists on issues such as heritage sites, garbage disposal, encounters with wildlife and access to Gwich'in Settlement Lands.

Action Items

1. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council in cooperation with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development develop a regionally specific Tourism Code of Ethics for the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

2. The Gwich'in Tribal Council shall, with the assistance of the Planning Board, produce a management plan for the Campbell Hills that addresses the commercial tourism potential of the area and relationship to Gwich'in Territorial Park.[30]

3. The Planning Board recommends that the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development develop, with the assistance of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and co-management boards, a tourism economic plan for the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Land Use Issue 10

Transboundary Areas

Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board

Our goal is to address transboundary issues so as to protect and promote the existing and future well-being of the residents, communities, and Gwich'in of the settlement area.

Based on Sections 1.1.4, 24.2.4 of the *Gwich'in Land Claim*

Objectives

- To work with neighbouring groups for the conservation, development and use of land, water, air and other resources and for the mutual benefit of all groups.
- To monitor non-renewable resource activities in the Peel River Watershed and the Mackenzie Valley.

Issues and Analysis

There are many transboundary issues with neighbouring areas of Gwich'in Settlement Area (Sahtu Settlement Area, Inuvialuit Settlement Region and the Yukon Territory). Shared resources amongst areas include land, air, water and wildlife. Groups have expressed interest in working together on protected areas, wildlife and water resources, however there are few processes established for cooperation with respect to land use planning. It is difficult to establish co-operative processes as all neighbouring groups are at different stages in managing resources. Both the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board and the Yukon Planning Council are beginning land use planning processes. The Planning Board hopes to work co-operatively with both these groups on planning issues. The Inuvialuit do not have a parallel planning process in place, however, the Planning Board does work with the Inuvialuit groups on various issues.

Communities are concerned about transboundary issues. Water quality is one of the communities' major concerns, and particularly the downstream effects of activities in the Peel River Watershed in the Yukon Territory and the Mackenzie River Basin on the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Wildlife issues are another area of concern. Caribou migrate, calve and over-winter in various jurisdictions and are of great importance to the Gwich'in. There are many other species that migrate into and out of the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Working together on issues will help avoid duplication of efforts and maximize products. Research and information should be shared amongst groups. The Planning Board as well as other co-management and Gwich'in groups are interested in monitoring activities outside the Gwich'in Settlement Area that may effect this area.

Action Items

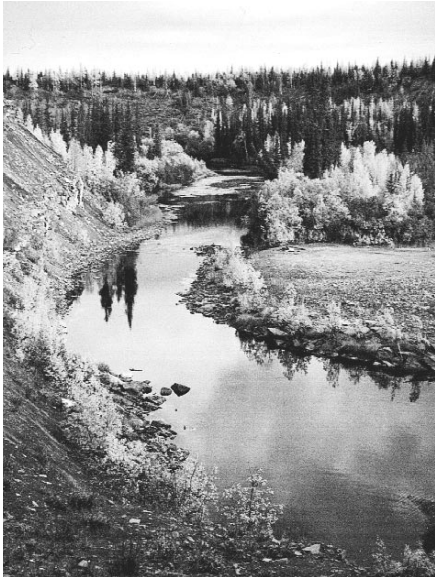
1. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council and co-management boards work with transboundary groups to monitor activities in the Peel River Watershed in the Yukon Territory and the Mackenzie Valley.

2. The Planning Board will initiate discussions to establish cooperative planning processes. The Board will work with neighbouring groups, including the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, Joint Secretariat of the Inuvialuit and Sahtu Land Use Planning Board, on transboundary land use planning.

3. The Planning Board will work with local municipalities, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Gwich'in Land and Water Board, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board on transboundary issues with respect to municipal boundaries.

Land Use Issue 11

Legislated Protected Areas



Gwich'in Land and Water Board

Our goal is to support the establishment of legislative protected areas so as to protect and promote the existing and future well being of residents, communities and Gwich'in of the settlement area.

Based on Sections 16 and 24.2.4 of the
Gwich'in Land Claim

Objective

- To facilitate the establishment of community supported legislative protected areas in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Issues and Analysis

The Planning Board recognizes the potential for additional legislated protected areas in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. By a legislated protected area we mean a territorial park, national park or area with a similar type of government status that offers long term protection. Through nearly twenty years of planning work, the Gwich'in have identified environmentally and culturally significant areas. These important areas are recognized in the Gwich'in Land Zones, but these zones are very different from the legislated protected areas that are considered in the Northwest Territories Protected Areas Strategy. The Zones within the Land Use Plan do not have the same status as long term legislated protected areas.[31] Exceptions and amendments may be made at any time to the rules of the Gwich'in Land Zones and all of the zones will be reviewed every five years. Although the areas identified in the Land Use Plan are very important to the Gwich'in, it is up to the communities and the Gwich'in Tribal Council to decide if they want to consider any of those areas for long term legislated protection. The NWT Protected Areas Strategy provides a framework to guide further work on identifying and establishing legislative protected areas.

Presently, less than 1% of the Gwich'in Settlement Area is committed to long term protection. The Planning Board supports additional long term protected areas in the Gwich'in Settlement Area because of their role in:

- protecting natural and cultural resources, ecoregions as well as wildlife and harvesting areas;
- recognizing, protecting and celebrating distinct cultural areas; and
- attracting and managing tourism and recreation.

Only one ecoregion, the Mackenzie Delta, is represented by the Gwich'in Territorial Park. Major ecoregions in the settlement area are the: Mackenzie Delta, British-Richardson Mountains, Great Bear Lake Plain, the Peel River Plateau, the Fort McPherson Plain and the Mackenzie Mountains. All these ecoregions are transboundary and may possibly be represented outside of the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Within the Gwich'in Settlement Area there are four bands deserving cultural recognition through protected areas: Ehdiitat Gwich'in (Aklavik), Gwichya Gwich'in (Tsiigehtchic), Nihtat Gwich'in (Inuvik), Teetl'it Gwich'in (Fort McPherson). Protected areas that celebrate each of the band's culture and history are needed to reflect all of Gwich'in culture. Currently, the Gwichya Gwich'in are recognized through the Mackenzie River National Historic Site and the Arctic Red River heritage designation. The Teetl'it Gwich'in have an opportunity to present their band's history at the Natainlaii Campground and at the town's visitor centre. However, a larger centre or cultural landscape designation would be appropriate. The Nihtat Gwich'in have opportunities for cultural promotion at the Western Arctic Regional Visitors Centre and Gwich'in Territorial Park. The Ehdiitat Gwich'in in Aklavik appear to be missing an opportunity to have their history recognized, despite the rich history associated with Aklavik.

The Planning Board has identified a few areas in the Gwich'in Settlement Area where legislated protected areas may be possible:

- Rengleng River
- Central Mackenzie Delta (east of the Peel Channel)
- Rat River Watershed
- James Creek Area
- Headwaters of the Arctic Red River
- Mackenzie River
- Jackfish Creek along the Arctic Red River

Of these, three are priority areas: James Creek Area, Rat River Watershed and the Mackenzie River. In the James Creek Area and Rat River Watershed there is an opportunity for a transboundary legislated protected area between the Yukon and Northwest Territories. On the Mackenzie River there is the opportunity to protect a section or all of the Nagwichoonjik (Mackenzie River) National Historic Site which presently does not have any true protection measures attached with it.

The Headwaters of the Arctic Red River may also be an area where a legislative protected area is appropriate. However, at the present time there is not enough scientific or traditional knowledge available to evaluate this area. More information needs to be collected during the life of the Gwich'in Land Use Plan.

The Planning Board also recognizes that some types of protected areas do not allow multiple use. Therefore, a legislated protected area would not conform to the Gwich'in Land Use Plan if it was established in a Gwich'in General Use Zone or a Gwich'in Special Management Zone. If a legislative protected area like a territorial park was proposed in a Gwich'in Special Management Zone or a Gwich'in General Use Zone, an amendment to the Gwich'in Land Use Plan would be required from the Planning Board. Non-restrictive types of legislative protected areas that make allowances for multiple use like National Historic Sites would not require an amendment to the Gwich'in Land Use Plan.

Action Items

1. The Planning Board recommends that the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (Protected Areas Strategy Secretariat) with the full involvement of Gwich'in groups work with the appropriate Yukon agencies in investigating transboundary legislative protected areas.

2. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and appropriate government groups investigate the possibility of legislated protected area that supports the Nagwichoonjik (Mackenzie River) National Historic Site. This work should be done within the framework set out in the NWT Protected Areas Strategy.

3. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, the Ehdiitat Gwich'in and government groups work together in identifying a cultural site to recognize and celebrate the Ehdiitat Gwich'in.

4. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council, government and co-management boards evaluate the potential for a tribal park within the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

5. The Planning Board recommends that Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development review the process for establishing and managing territorial parks and review the management of Gwich'in Territorial Park specifically.[32]

6. The Planning Board recommends that scientific and traditional knowledge studies be conducted in the Headwaters of the Arctic Red River to determine if a legislative protected area or a Gwich'in Conservation Zone under the Land Use Plan should be established in the area.

   Studies required include:
   i) wildlife, vegetation and other ecological inventories;
   ii) non renewable resource inventory and potential analysis; and
   iii) traditional use and heritage resource inventories.

   Groups that should be involved in conducting studies include the Planning Board, the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council, the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.[33]

7. The Planning Board recommends that groups and agencies working on establishing protected areas use the NWT Protected Areas Strategy as a framework to guide their identification and analysis of protected areas.

References

[1] Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, 1998, Comments on Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan.

[2] Minutes Community Land Use Planning Meetings, October, 1997

[3] Minutes of Meetings between the Gwich'in Interim Land Use planning board and government and business groups, June, 1997

[4] Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board, Gwich'in Land and Water Board and Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board.

[5] Suggested groups at the April 17, 1999 Land Use Planning Briefing Session in Yellowknife were the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, National Energy Board, Geological Survey of Canada and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

[6]Recommendation: Gwich'in Land Use Planning Workshop, March 15-16, 1999. Co-sponsored by the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board.

[7] Recommendation: Gwich'in Land Use Planning Workshop, March 15-16, 1999. Co-sponsored by the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board.

[8] Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, 1998, Comments on Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan.

[9] Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, 1998, Comments on Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan.

[10] Integrated Resource Management and Land Use Planning Workshop Report, Inuvik, 1997

[11] Minutes Tsiigehtchic Community Land Use Planning Meeting, October, 1997

[12] Minutes Community land Use Planning Meeting, October, 1997

[13] Integrated Resource Management and Land Use Planning Workshop Report, Inuvik, 1997

[14]Recommendation: Gwich'in Land Use Planning Workshop, March 15-16, 1999. Co-sponsored by the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board.

[15] Recommendation: Gwich'in Land Use Planning Workshop, March 15-16, 1999. Co-sponsored by the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board.

[16] Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, 1998, Comments on Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan.

[17] Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, 1998, Comments on Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan.

[18] Gwich'in Tribal Council, 1998, Comments on Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan.

[19] As amended on April 27, 1999 at the Land Use Planning Briefing Session in Yellowknife.

[20] Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, April 28, 1999: Comments at Briefing Session in Yellowknife.

[21] Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, April 28, 1999: Comments at Briefing Session in Yellowknife.

[22] Recommendation: Gwich'in Land Use Planning Workshop, March 15-16, 1999. Co-sponsored by the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board.

[23] Department of Transportation, 1998, Comments on Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan.

[24] Nunavut Planning Commission, Draft West Kitikmeot Regional Land Use Plan, September, 1997

[25] Recommendation: Gwich'in Land Use Planning Workshop, March 15-16, 1999. Co-sponsored by the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board.

[26] Utilities refer to potential pipelines, communication lines, radio towers etc.

[27] NWT Chamber of Mines, 1998, Comments on Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan.

[28] Recommendation: Gwich'in Land Use Planning Workshop, March 15-16, 1999. Co-sponsored by the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board.

[29] Gwich'in Land and Water Board, 1998, Comments on Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan.

[30] Recommendation: Gwich'in Land Use Planning Workshop, March 15-16, 1999. Co-sponsored by the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board.

[31] Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, 1998, Comments on Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan.

[32] Recommendation: Gwich'in Land Use Planning Workshop, March 15-16, 1999. Co-sponsored by the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board.

[33] Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, May 7, 1999. Recommendation for the addition of this Action Item. Yellowknife.

6.0 Procedures for Implementing the Land Use Plan

Conformity, Exceptions, Amendments, Review and Monitoring

Gwich'in Land and Water Board

Integrated Resources Management and Land Use Planning Workshop, Inuvik, 1997.

6.1 General Considerations

Land Use Plan implementation is a core responsibility of the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board. Co-management, government, Gwich'in, community and business groups will also play important roles in the implementation of the Land Use Plan.

The Planning Board has included an Implementation Plan Outline (see Chapter 7.0) in the Land Use Plan. A more detailed Implementation Plan will be prepared by the Board in conjunction with the planning partners. The Implementation Plan Outline lists recommended actions and outlines implementation responsibilities of the Planning Board, planning partners, and other groups. Groups will be consulted as the detailed Implementation Plan is developed.

The Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board has the following implementation responsibilities:

1. Prepare the implementation plan in consultation with planning partners.
2. Review applications for authorizations for conformity with the Land Use Plan.
3. Monitor the implementation of the Land Use Plan.
4. Review and consider requests for exceptions and amendments to the Land Use Plan.
5. Implement recommended actions of the Land Use Plan.
6. Review the effectiveness of the Land Use Plan in meeting its goals and objectives.
7. Prepare and conduct a comprehensive review of the Land Use Plan five years after it is approved.

6.2 Obligations for Implementation

When the Gwich'in Tribal Council approves the Land Use Plan, or any amendment to the Land Use Plan, they must notify the territorial and federal Ministers in writing. When the territorial Minister approves the Land Use Plan, or any amendments to the Land Use Plan, he or she must notify the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the federal Minister in writing. Upon approval by the federal Minister, the Land Use Plan, or any amendment to the Plan, takes effect.

Once the Land Use Plan is approved the Gwich'in, territorial and federal agencies take on the obligation to carry out their powers according to the Land Use Plan. This includes Gwich'in co-management boards and all departments, agencies and groups having authority to issue licences, permits, or other authorizations relating to the use of land, waters and the deposit of wastes. Applications for land and water activities must be in conformity with the Land Use Plan.

As well, the approval process imposes obligations with respect to "Actions" in the Implementation Plan Outline. Actions stating "shall" mean an obligation to carry out that action. Actions stating "recommended" mean that there is an obligation to make the best effort to carry out that action.

6.3 Conformity with the Land Use Plan

The Gwich'in Land Claim states that all groups, that issue land and water related authorizations, have to conform to the Land Use Plan. The Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act makes the same statement. Conforming with the Land

Use Plan will require groups to follow the zoning presented in Chapter 4 and implement the action items of each major land use issue section. Through the Land Use Plan the use of the word "shall" indicates an action that must be completed by the end of the life of the Land Use Plan. The use of the word "recommends" indicates an action that should be considered for completion over the life of the Plan by groups identified.

Regulatory groups can decide without consulting with the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board whether an application is in conformity with the Land Use Plan. In dealing with applications, regulatory groups should understand that they have the legal obligation to be in conformity with the Land Use Plan.

In Section 47 (1) of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act the relationship between the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board and regulatory groups is addressed:

> *A planning board shall determine whether an activity is in accordance with the land use plan where*
>
> *(a) the activity is referred to the planning board by a first nation or a department or agency of the federal or territorial government or by the body having authority under any federal or territorial law to issue a license, permit or other authorization in respect of the activity; or*
>
> *(b) an application for such a determination is made by any person directly affected by an activity for which an application has been made for a license, permit or authorization.*

Proposals for activities should be formally referred to the Planning Board in cases where conformity with the Land Use Plan is not clear. In these cases the Planning Board will make the final decision on conformity.

6.4 Exceptions to the Land Use Plan

The Planning Board may grant an exception to the Land Use Plan. An exception will allow an activity to take place that is not in conformity with the Land Use Plan. When considering an application for an exception the Planning Board will make a decision based on the following criteria:

1. The exception must be a minor exception from the provisions of the Land Use Plan. If it is not a minor exception, the Planning Board may consider proposing an amendment to the Land Use Plan.

2. The exception must be desirable in the opinion of the Board for the appropriate development or use of the land. In determining whether or not the exception is desirable, the Board will consider:
   a. whether it benefits the residents and communities of the Gwich'in Settlement Area;
   b. whether it has the support of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada;
   c. what the environmental, cultural and economic consequences of allowing the activity will be; and
   d. what implications will it have for other activities that are occurring or will potentially occur in the area.
3. The general intent and purpose of the Land Use Plan must be maintained.

To obtain an exception to the Land Use Plan, applicants will have to apply directly in writing to the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board. Once the Planning Board has received in writing a request for an exception it will consider the application and make a decision within 30 days of receiving the exception application. A record of decision will form the Planning Board's response. Applicants may be asked to make a presentation to the Planning Board on the proposed exception.

A standard exception form will be part of the Implementation Plan. The exception form will outline:

1. applicant name and address,
2. summary of exception request,
3. summary of activity proposed,
4. location in settlement area,
5. land use planning zone,
6. summary of potential environmental and cultural effects, and
7. reasons justifying exception relating to benefits of the land use to the residents and communities of the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

6.4.1 Possible Exception for Commercial Renewable Resource Activities

In some cases communities have expressed an interest in commercial renewable resource activities within Gwich'in Conservation Zones. The Planning Board is prepared to consider exceptions for community sponsored commercial renewable resource activities that are sustainable and are supported by the local Renewable Resource Council, the local Designated Gwich'in Organization, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and the Gwich'in Land

and Water Board. The Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board has the authority to establish policies about commercial harvesting and activities related to wildlife. The Planning Board will only consider an exception, if the activity is consistent with the policies established by the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board.

6.5 Amendments to the Land Use Plan

Amendments can be made to effect long term changes to the Land Use Plan. The Planning Board, or another group, can propose an amendment to the Land Use Plan at any time, although amendments are most likely to occur as a result of the five year comprehensive reviews of the Land Use Plan.

The Planning Board may decide on its own to amend the Land Use Plan. However, approvals for a Land Use Plan amendment must go through the same process as for approval of the Land Use Plan (see Section 42 and 43 of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act). The requirements for an amendment therefore include:

- a published notice inviting interested persons to examine the proposed amendment,
- public hearings in relation to the proposed amendment (at the discretion of the Planning Board), and
- submission and approval of the proposed amendment by the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the territorial Minister and the federal Minister.

The above process is demanding, and suggests that there will not be frequent amendments to the Land Use Plan. However, an amendment may be considered at any time to address:

1. changes in land, water, wildlife or resource information,
2. an unconsidered land, water, wildlife or resource use,
3. concerns of Gwich'in Settlement Area groups, or
4. more specific management direction from other co-management, Gwich'in or government groups, and
5. changes in the socio-economic situation of the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

6.6 Comprehensive Reviews of the Land Use Plan

A formal Plan Review will occur five years after the Land Use Plan is approved. The Plan Review is an opportunity to makes changes to the Land Use Plan by evaluating the success of the Plan in meeting its goals and objectives. Changes to the Land Use Plan should be expected, as the Planning Board will be monitoring land use information and issues throughout the life of the Plan. Land use planning is a

continuing cycle where up-to-date information and issues are considered in the process on an ongoing-basis.

As part of the Plan Review, there will be a consultation process. Communities, approval agencies and other groups will be asked to give their views on how well the Land Use Plan has addressed land use issues. By consulting with communities and other groups the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board should gain an understanding of whether the Land Use Plan is meeting land users' needs and expectations.

To be able to properly review the Land Use Plan in five years, a framework for review will need to be developed. The review should assess:

- if the Land Use Plan met the planning principles found in the Gwich'in Land Claim and the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act;
- if the Action Items were implemented and assess successes, failures and omissions;
- the requests for exceptions and amendments to the Land Use Plan;
- the number of applications for permits, licences and authorizations that were not in conformity with the Land Use Plan and why; and
- the accuracy of forecasts and the information base used in Land Use Plan production

The five year review of the Land Use Plan will provide information about the Gwich'in Settlement Area and the Land Use Plan. This data could provide information for the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program for the Mackenzie Valley being coordinated by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development with other groups. Cumulative impact monitoring looks at the combined effects of activities on the environment. Land use planning in the Gwich'in Settlement Area should be linked to the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program for the Mackenzie Valley.

7.0 Implementation Plan Outline

7.1 Introduction

The Planning Board will play a critical role in implementing the Plan. Overseeing the implementation of the Plan will be a challenging task as the Plan covers a broad range of issues such as water quality, tourism planning, conservation of heritage resources and economic development. The Gwich'in Land Use Plan, as much as possible, deals with these issues in an integrated way, which means that issues are considered together. The Planning Board will therefore be involved in many different areas facilitating, where possible, the resolution of issues identified in the Plan.

The Action Items for each issue area are concrete ways that have been recommended as a starting point for addressing issues. Throughout the life of the Plan, the Planning Board will work to see the Action Items implemented.

Grouping the Action Items into general topics, the Planning Board has identified the following areas as needing particular attention:

1. Continued Information Gathering

To keep improving the Plan, the Planning Board needs information to be gathered on a continuing basis. For this Plan, the Planning Board has used the best information available to make decisions. In all areas more information would be helpful for planning. In most cases, it looks likely that new information will be collected. In terms of heritage resources, Gwich'in groups are continuing to collect new information. Renewable resource groups like the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board will continue to do research on wildlife, fish and forests. One area where it is less certain that a concerted effort is being made to collect information is with non-renewable resources. The Planning Board will be encouraging the Gwich'in, government and industry to evaluate non-renewable resource development potential in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Specifically the Planning Board encourages information gathering in areas where there is community interest and a limited knowledge base. In the Gwich'in Settlement Area the following areas are of interest:

i) the Mackenzie Mountains;

ii) the Richardson Mountains; and

iii) along potential transportation and pipeline corridors.

With new information the Planning Board will re-evaluate land zones and action items.

2. Focus on Economic Development

This Plan sets out clearly what areas are open for activities and what areas, due to community use, heritage resources, renewable resources and a number of other reasons, activities are restricted. From the community perspective, conservation measures needed to be looked at before economic issues could be fully addressed. In the next five years, the Planning Board has been given direction by communities, Gwich'in and government groups to focus on economic development opportunities. To this end the Planning Board will be working with these groups to assess economic opportunities. Areas that have been identified as possible opportunities include outfitting and other tourism ventures, oil and gas development as well as transportation. All possible opportunities will be looked at.

3. Focus on More Detailed Planning

The current Plan is a general one. In some cases more detailed land use planning may be required where there are more land uses or where a higher level of land use is expected. The Dempster corridor is an example of a high land use area where more detailed land use planning is needed. Potentially other areas include the Mackenzie Highway extension and Mackenzie pipeline corridor.

The Gwich'in Tribal Council may also be beginning land use planning on Gwich'in Settlement Land. Through the land use planning process, the Campbell Hills, an area owned by the Gwich'in, has been identified as an area requiring a more detailed land use and economic plan. The Planning Board is ready to assist the Gwich'in Tribal Council as needed in their land use planning work.

4. Focus on Monitoring

The Planning Board is mandated to monitor implementation of the Plan. The Planning Board will report annually on the monitoring process, and make recommendations as deemed necessary with respect to Plan Implementation. As the Plan requires all groups to conform with it, the Planning Board will make an effort to make sure groups are aware of the Plan, and facilitate its implementation.

7.2 Required and Recommended Actions

1. The Planning Board recommends that all management and regulatory groups work with communities to improve the level of understanding of communities about decision making processes.

2. The Planning Board recommends, to improve communications in the future, that all management and regulatory groups review on an ongoing basis:
   i) when and how often they consult with communities, and
   ii) how effective they are in involving communities in decision making.

3. The Planning Board recommends that co-management boards continue to develop an integrated management system to improve the level of involvement of Gwich'in, communities and representative organizations in decision making processes.

4. The Planning Board's Implementation Plan shall describe a process for involving Gwich'in, communities, and representative organizations in land use planning decision making.

5. The Planning Board as part of the Gwich'in Land Use Plan Review will conduct a survey on community involvement in decision making. The survey will evaluate how well groups have involved communities in decision making about land, water, air and resource management.

6. The Planning Board recommends that the Planning Board with the assistance of the Gwich'in Land and Water Board produce a pamphlet about Gwich'in Land Use Planning and Land Use Permitting to describe steps businesses need to take to conduct land, water and resource activities in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

7. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council with the assistance of the Gwich'in co-management boards and government groups produce a map series for Gwich'in beneficiaries showing areas of high resource development potential for the settlement area.

8. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council and government promote economic activities and promote research and options for improving the economic self sufficiency of Gwich'in beneficiaries and communities.

9. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council with the involvement of the Designated Gwich'in Organizations develop a long term economic strategy.

10. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council with the involvement of the Designated Gwich'in Organizations identify economic opportunities on Gwich'in Settlement Lands and develop economic plans for them.

11. The Planning Board shall consider recommendations by the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute for the addition of areas to the Gwich'in Conservation Zones or Gwich'in Special Management Zones during the life of the Land Use Plan.

12. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute identify heritage areas or cultural landscapes meriting legislative protected area status in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

13. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Land and Water Board develop a status report on water quality and quantity in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The status report should look at community concerns with water and gaps in water monitoring.

14. The Planning Board recommends that water management groups provide communities with plain language information on water quality and quantity.

15. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Land and Water Board take the lead in developing strategies for maintaining water gauging stations.

16. The Planning Board recommends that the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program:

    i) deal with land, water and air quality concerns of all four settlement area communities; and
    ii) involve communities in the actual monitoring of land, water and air resources.

17. The Planning Board shall review the findings of the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program with respect to land, water and air during each five year review of the Gwich'in Land Use Plan, and will integrate the Program's recommendations into the Plan.

18. The Planning Board recommends that resource management groups in the Gwich'in Settlement Area work together and develop a strategy for dealing with the effects of outside activities on resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

19. The Planning Board will review completed wildlife and fish management plans and consider how to integrate these plans with the Gwich'in Land Use Plan.

20. The Planning Board recommends that wildlife management groups produce plans for Dall's sheep and other wildlife with economic commercial potential.

21. The Planning Board will review conditions placed on Gwich'in Special Management Zones with the assistance of appropriate groups taking into account traditional knowledge and scientific information.

22. Planning Board will review completed Forest Management Plans and consider how to integrate them with the Gwich'in Land Use Plan.

23. The Planning Board recommends Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development continue to work together in reviewing and developing fire management policies and plans.

24. The Planning Board recommends that the Aurora Research Institute and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development continue to investigate and support the use of alternative sources of energy.

25. The Planning Board recommends that with the consent of the landowners the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development initiate a review of oil and gas resources of the Gwich'in Settlement Area to promote the economic well being of the Gwich'in.

26. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, in conjunction with other government agencies, and in consultation with the mineral industry, initiate a review of the mineral resources of the Gwich'in Settlement Area to promote the economic well being of the Gwich'in.

27. The Planning Board recommends that the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development prepare a sand, gravel and rock (crushed rock and carving stone) management plan for Crown lands in the Gwich'in Settlement Area that would include specific management plans for operating pits.

28. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council prepare a sand, gravel and rock (crushed rock and carving stone) management plan for Gwich'in Settlement Lands in the Gwich'in Settlement Area that would include specific management plans for operating pits.

29. The Planning Board recommends that the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development plan for the clean-up of abandoned and old pits that have not been rehabilitated. This includes the installation of barriers to access.

30. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development shall provide all available information on known waste sites for the Gwich'in Settlement Area to Gwich'in and co-management groups.

31. The Planning Board recommends that the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and appropriate industry groups develop strategies for the clean-up of remaining waste sites.

32. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Renewable Resource Councils, Designated Gwich'in Organizations and co-management boards work together to develop a "Code of Good Conduct" for the disposal of garbage by all land users.

33. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Renewable Resource Councils, Designated Gwich'in Organizations, co-management boards and appropriate government groups work together to develop a strategy for cleaning up camp sites, ice road garbage and other areas littered by garbage on the land. The Planning Board recommends that education on appropriate disposal methods for all types of garbage be a part of this strategy.

34. The Planning Board recommends that Gwich'in, community, co-management, government and circumpolar groups work together to develop strategies to reduce the transfer of long range air and water pollutants in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

35. The Gwich'in Land and Water Board will consider public and community concerns with respect to ferry landings at the Mackenzie and Peel Rivers during the review process for the water licences associated with the ferry landings.

36. The Planning Board recommends that the Department of Transportation with the involvement of co-management boards, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and community groups co-ordinate a study to address community concerns with the long term effects on fish and water resources of placing gravel in the rivers every year for ferry landings.

37. The Planning Board will conduct more detailed land use planning along the Dempster Highway and where new transportation and utility corridors are proposed. Potential corridors include the Mackenzie Highway extension and a Mackenzie pipeline corridor.

38. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council in cooperation with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development develop a Tourism Code of Ethics.

39. The Gwich'in Tribal Council shall, with the assistance of the Planning Board, produce a management plan for the Campbell Hills that addresses the commercial tourism potential of the area and relationship to Gwich'in Territorial Park.

40. The Planning Board recommends that the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development develop, with the assistance of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and co-management boards, a tourism economic plan for the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

41. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council and co-management boards work with transboundary groups to monitor activities in the Peel River Watershed in the Yukon Territory and the Mackenzie Valley.

42. Planning Board will initiate discussions to establish cooperative planning processes. The Board will work with neighbouring groups, including the Yukon Land Use Planning Council, Sahtu Land Use Planning Board and Joint Secretariat of the Inuvialuit on transboundary land use planning.

43. The Planning Board will work with local municipalities, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Gwich'in Land and Water Board, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board on transboundary issues with respect to municipal boundaries.

44. The Planning Board recommends that the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (Protected Areas Strategy Secretariat) with the full involvement of Gwich'in groups work with the appropriate Yukon agencies in investigating a transboundary legislative protected areas.

45. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and appropriate government groups investigate the possibility of legislated protected area that supports the Nagwichoonjik (Mackenzie River) National Historic Site. This work should be done within the framework set out in the NWT Protected Areas Strategy.

46. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, the Ehdiitat Gwich'in and government groups work together in identifying a cultural site to recognize and celebrate the Ehdiitat Gwich'in.

47. The Planning Board recommends that the Gwich'in Tribal Council, government and co-management boards evaluate the potential for a tribal park within the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

48. The Planning Board recommends that Gwich'in Tribal Council and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development review the process for establishing and managing territorial parks and review the management of Gwich'in Territorial Park specifically.

49. The Planning Board recommends that scientific and traditional knowledge studies be conducted in the Headwaters of the Arctic Red River to determine if a legislative protected area or a Gwich'in Protected Area under the Land Use Plan should be established in the area.

    Studies required include:
    i) wildlife, vegetation and other ecological inventories;
    ii) non-renewable resource inventory and potential analysis; and
    iii) traditional use and heritage resource inventories.

    Groups that should be involved in conducting studies include the Planning Board, the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute, the Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council, the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

50. The Planning Board recommends that groups and agencies working on establishing protected areas use the NWT Protected Areas Strategy as a framework to guide their identification and analysis of protected areas.

8.0 Appendix A

Land Use Planning Consultation Groups

Aurora Research Institute
Canadian Arctic Resource Committee
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers
Canadian Heritage
Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
Deline Land Corporation
Department of Education, Culture and Employment
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Department of National Defense
Department of Resources, Wildlife & Economic Development
Department of Transportation
Designated Gwich'in Organizations
Diavik Diamond Mines Inc.
Environment Canada
Geological Survey of Canada
Gwich'in Elder and Youth groups
Gwich'in Land Administration
Gwich'in Land and Water Board
Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board
Gwich'in Renewable Resource Councils
Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute
Gwich'in Tribal Council
Interprovincial Pipelines Ltd.
Hamlet of Aklavik
Hamlet of Fort McPherson
Inuvialuit Environmental Impact Screening Committee
Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
Municipal and Community Affairs
National Energy Board
Natural Resources Canada
Northern Transportation Company Limited
Northwest Territories Water Board
Northwestel

NWT Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists
NWT Chamber of Mines
Peel River Watershed Advisory Committee
Sahtu Renewable Resource Board
Sahtu Land Use Planning Board
Sahtu Land & Water Board
Town of Inuvik
Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation
Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Yukon North Slope)
World Wildlife Fund
Yukon Land Use Planning Council
Yukon Parks Service

List of Land Use Planning Meetings

February, 1994 – Issues Identification, Planning Board and four communities

October, 1995 – Information Gathering Meetings, Planning Board and four communities

December, 1996 – Mapping and Land Classification work. Planning Board, Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Tsiigehtchic

December, 1996 – Mapping and Land Classification work. Planning Board, Nihtat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Inuvik

December, 1996 – Mapping and Land Classification work. Planning Board, Teetl'it Gwich'in Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Fort McPherson

January, 1997 – Mapping and Land Classification work. Planning Board, Ehdiitat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Aklavik

March, 1997 – Integrated Resource Management and Land Use Planning Workshop, Inuvik.

June, 1997 – Plan Options Consultation. Planning Board and Federal Departments, Yellowknife

June, 1997 – Plan Options Consultation. Planning Board and Territorial Departments, Yellowknife

June, 1997 – Plan Options Consultation. Planning Board and Oil, Gas and Mineral interests, Yellowknife

June, 1997 – Mapping and Plan Options Review. Planning Board, Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Tsiigehtchic

June, 1997 – Mapping and Plan Options Review. Planning Board, Nihtat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Inuvik

June, 1997 – Mapping and Plan Options Review. Planning Board, Teetl'it Gwich'in Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Fort McPherson

June, 1997 – Mapping and Plan Options Review. Planning Board, Ehdiitat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Aklavik

October, 1997 – Forecasting and Issues. Planning Board, Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Tsiigehtchic

October, 1997 – Forecasting and Issues. Planning Board, Nihtat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Inuvik

October, 1997 – Forecasting and Issues. Planning Board, Teetl'it Gwich'in Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Fort McPherson

October, 1997 – Forecasting and Issues. Planning Board, Ehdiitat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Aklavik

November, 1997 – Protected Areas Strategy for the Gwich'in Settlement Region, Inuvik

June, 1998 – Review of Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan, Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Tsiigehtchic

June, 1998 – Review of Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan, Nihtat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Inuvik

June, 1998 – Review of Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan, Teetl'it Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Fort McPherson

June, 1998 – Review of Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan, Ehdiitat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Aklavik

July, 1998 – Presentation on Draft Land Zones at NWT Protected Areas Strategy meeting, Yellowknife

August, 1998 – Review of Draft Land Zones, Nihtat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Inuvik

August, 1998 – Review of Draft Land Zones, Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Tsiigehtchic

August, 1998 – Review of Draft Land Zones, Ehdiitat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Aklavik

September, 1998 – Presentation on Draft Land Use Plan at the Gwich'in Annual General Assembly, Aklavik

November, 1998 – Presentation on Draft Land Use Plan and Land Zones at the GeoScience Forum, Yellowknife

November, 1998 – Information Session for Industry, Calgary

February, 1999 – Review of Draft Land Zones, Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Tsiigehtchic

February, 1999 – Review of Draft Land Zones, Teetl'it Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Fort McPherson

March, 1999 – Review of Draft Land Zones, Nihtat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Inuvik

March, 1999 – Review of Draft Land Zones, Ehdiitat Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council and other community representatives, Aklavik

March, 1999 – Regional Workshop on Land Use Planning co-sponsored by the Gwich'in Land use Planning Board and the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvik

April, 1999 – Information Session with Government Groups, Yellowknife

April, 1999 – Information Session with Industry Groups, Yellowknife

April, 1999 – Information Session with Government Groups, Inuvik

November, 2000 – Presentation on Draft Land Use Plan and Land Zones at the GeoScience Forum, Yellowknife

December, 2000 – Meeting with GTC and Minister Nault, Yellowknife

January, 2001 – Update of plan approval at Regional Renewable Resource Council meeting, Fort McPherson

December, 2001 – DIAND and GLUPB meeting to finalize plan wording, Calgary

February, 2002 – Update of plan approval at regional Renewable Resource Council meeting, Tsiigehtchic

June, 2002 – Update of plan approval at Inuvik Petroleum show, Inuvik

November, 2002 – Presented plan revisions for community approval, Inuvik

November, 2002 – Presented plan revisions for community approval, Aklavik

November, 2002 – Presented plan revisions for community approval, Tsiigehtchic

December, 2002 – Presented plan revisions for community approval, Fort McPherson

December, 2002 – Presented plan revisions at Gwich'in Tribal Council board meeting, Tsiigehtchic

January, 2003 – Update of plan approval at regional Renewable Resource Council meeting, Inuvik

February, 2003 – Discussed plan revisions at Gwich'in Tribal Council board meeting, Fort McPherson

April, 2003 – Final presentation of plan revisions to Designated Gwich'in Organization and Renewable Resource Council, Inuvik

April, 2003 – Final presentation of plan revisions to Designated Gwich'in Organization and Renewable Resource Council, Tsiigehtchic

April, 2003 – Final presentation of plan revision to Designated Gwich'in Organizations and Renewable Resource Council, Fort McPherson

April, 2003 – Final presentation of plan revisions to Designated Gwich'in Organization and Renewable Resource Council, Aklavik

April, 2003 – Motion made to approve Plan by Gwich'in Tribal Council board, Aklavik

June, 2003 – Update of plan approval at Inuvik Petroleum show, Inuvik

July, 2003 – Approval of revised Plan by GNWT, Yellowknife

August, 2003 – Approval of revised Plan by Government of Canada, Ottawa