

Yukon Protected Areas Update Report

CCEA Annual General Meeting September 17, 2008

Annual Update

- Climate Change Strategy
 - Yukon Government Climate Change Action Plan was released for public consultation in May of 2008
 - four main goals focused on: understanding and awareness; Yukon's ability to adapt; reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; development of capacity for climate change research and innovation
 - Herschel Island Territorial Park, which sustains a significant research program with researchers from across the country, remains a focal point of climate change research and its value will likely increase in the coming years
 - other parks such as Kusawa and Tombstone are also becoming increasingly important for research and monitoring activities related to climate change

- Protected Areas Management Planning
 - parks established under land claims, Kusawa and Agay Mene, have begun work on park management planning through the work of Steering Committees
 - Steering Committees are made up of representatives of each of the parties
 - 3 First Nations [Champagne Aishihik, Kwanlin Dun and Carcross Tagish] and Yukon Government in the case of Kusawa; and 2 First Nations [Carcross Tagish and Teslin Tlingit] and Yukon Government in the case of Agay Mene
 - a management plan for Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area has been completed and final approval by the Parties is expected in 2008
 - draft Management plans for Stewart River Moose Calving and Nordenskiold Habitat Protection Areas have been completed and are undergoing final Party review & approval

- Regional Planning Processes
 - provisions of land claims requires that regional land use plans are developed that determine land use allocation and use beyond the land selections and principles of the claims
 - the North Yukon Regional Planning Process submitted their recommended plan to the Yukon Government earlier this year
 - the recommended North Yukon Plan contained two new protected areas: Whitefish Wetlands [a wetland complex and potential Habitat Protection

Area] and Summit Lake [an area of multiple resource values and potential territorial park]

- the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Planning Process is currently underway and land use scenarios are expected by the end of this year
- the Peel is a potentially highly controversial region that currently contains no protected areas but which has high values for both protection and resource development.

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