

Interim Wood Supply Plan

Hyland River



Summary Report of
The Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council
Interim Wood Supply Recommendations

Summary:

In January 2004, the Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council (KFRSC) made recommendations on interim wood supply for Forest Management Units Y02, Y03, and Y09. The recommendations were based on information provided by the Interim Wood Supply Technical Committee, consultants, and public input.

This report is a summary of the information, concerns, and outcomes for interim wood supply. Each section will have a brief summary in point form, and the Council's recommendation. In addition, each section will reference an Appendix that contains the technical material used by KFRSC in making decisions. The technical materials used for interim wood supply include:

- Appendix 1. Detailed Maps of Interim Wood Supply Areas
- Appendix 2. Marten Information
- Appendix 3. Watershed Information
- Appendix 4. Site Plans
- Appendix 5. Block Reports and Cruise Information
- Appendix 6. Total Chance Landscape Plan
- Appendix 7. October 2003 Public Interim Wood Supply Materials
- Appendix 8. Variable Retention Information

The Interim Wood Supply Plan is only for three years or until a Regional Forest Management Plan is completed. Any recommendations only relate to this plan, and all these plan areas will be considered again for regional planning.

This material will be available at KFRSC's office in Watson Lake, on the website (www.kfrsc.ca), Yukon Forest Management Branch Whitehorse and Watson Lake offices, and Kaska offices.

KFRSC has submitted the information to the Parties of the MOU, to an Environmental Screening, and is requesting public input by February 20, 2004. In addition, KFRSC will be having public and community meetings in February as another opportunity for public input.

Finally, this information represents the most recent information from the Council for Interim Wood Supply Plan.

Acknowledgements:

The information used by Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council was provided by the Interim Wood Supply Technical Committee (IWSTC), and Industrial Forest Services Ltd. (IFS).

In addition, Brand Consulting Ltd. was involved in preparing materials for the public. Finally, the photographs used in this document were taken by Industrial Forest Services Ltd., and Brand Consulting Ltd.

Background:

MOU

The Memorandum of Understanding on Forest Stewardship for the Kaska Traditional Territory (MOU) asked that a process be established, with the help of the Kaska, for the development of a Forest Management Plan for Kaska Traditional Territory in the Southeast Yukon. This job was given to the Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council (KFRSC). Producing an Interim Wood Supply Plan was the first order of business, while a regional forest plan is being developed.



Autumn Aspen

Principles of the MOU

- *Plans must be ecosystem based
- *Process must be integrated and balanced
- *Annual Allowable Cut and Timber Supply Analysis must be based on forest plans
- *Management requires integration of Traditional Knowledge (TK) with Science
- *Kaska land stewards and information must be considered

Planning Requirements of the MOU

- *TK must be obtained and used once a TK Protocol has been agreed upon between the Kaska and Council
- *Must make best efforts to avoid areas of high conflict with forest values and lands under selection by the Kaska
- *Public Input is included in planning processes

Interim Wood Supply (IWS)

For some time now, a Technical Working Group has been preparing a harvest plan (up to 128,000 cubic meters/yr for 3 years, in YO2 & YO3) for short term timber harvest opportunities in the South-East Yukon. In addition, 5000 cubic meters over three years for Ross River was also to be identified (YO9).

IWS Technical Working Group

This group is made up of people from the Yukon Forest Management Branch, Yukon Dept. of Environment, Environment Canada, Environmental Conservation Branch, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, Kaska, and includes an independent chairperson. Their job is to provide technical support to the council, with the immediate task of developing an Interim

Wood Supply Plan.

IWS Plan:

The purpose of the plan is to recommend where, when, and how timber harvesting will occur. The life of the plan is three years-until the regional forest plan is developed.



SouthEast Yukon

Goals of the Plan

- 1-To identify up to 128,000 cubic meters/year of commercial timber for three years
- 2-To apply an ecosystem-based approach so that biodiversity and forest patterns are maintained, and impacts to forest values are minimized
- 3-To apply adaptive management strategies
- 4-To be technical, concise, clearly understood and transparent

Forest Management Planning Scales (Appendix 7)

There are four levels of forestry management used for planning:

- 1-Regional
- 2- Landscape or forest level (forest pattern, composition, structure, and function)
- 3-Stand level (composition, structure and function)
- 4-Site level (stand attributes, soil, vegetation, location, position, aspect, etc.)

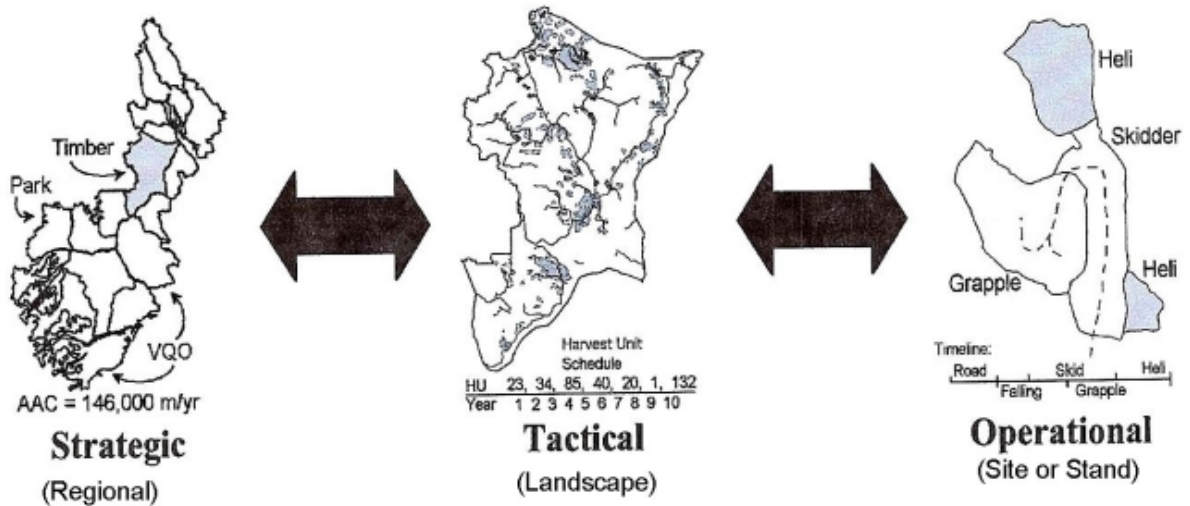
Data & Analysis Used for the Plan

- Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Knowledge Protocol
- Economic Values: Landscape Total Chance Plan - IFS Report
- Ecological Values: Technical Analysis & Expert Opinion
- Cultural and Traditional Values
- Stakeholder Interests (trappers, outfitters, mining claims, leases, etc.)

Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Knowledge Protocol

At the time of this report, the Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council and Kaska do not have a final protocol. It is hoped that in the near future, this will be completed and the information collected to date can be applied to further refine and modify the plan.

Forest Management Planning Scales



Source: Boyland 2003

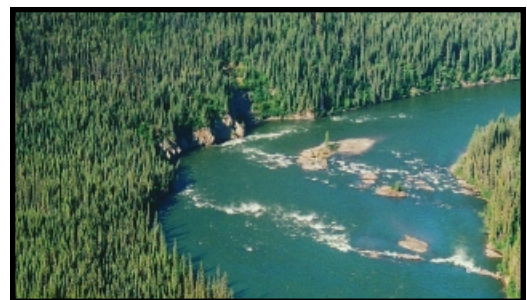
Stakeholder's Interests

Non Kaska land stewards (trappers, guide outfitters) were invited to provide comments

How the Interim Wood Planning Area was selected (Appendix 6 & 7):

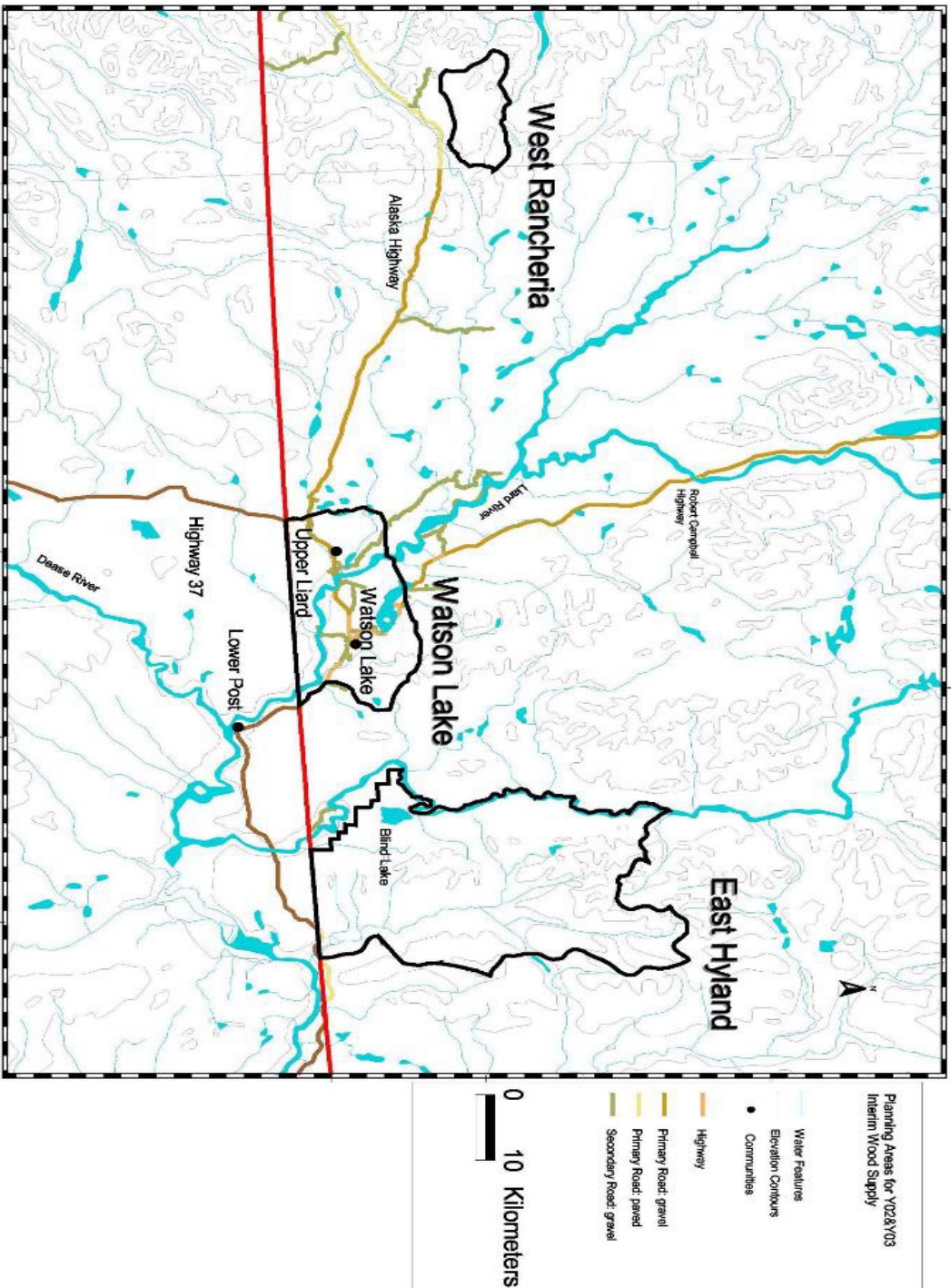
The technical working group chose planning areas based on the following criteria:

- Minimal conflict with forest values
- Avoidance of lands selected by Kaska
- Sufficient timber volume potential
- Economically viable, accessible wood (close to Watson Lake)
- Site sensitivity and geography
- Previous logging history
- Minimal Operational constraints
- Length of planning horizon



Hyland River

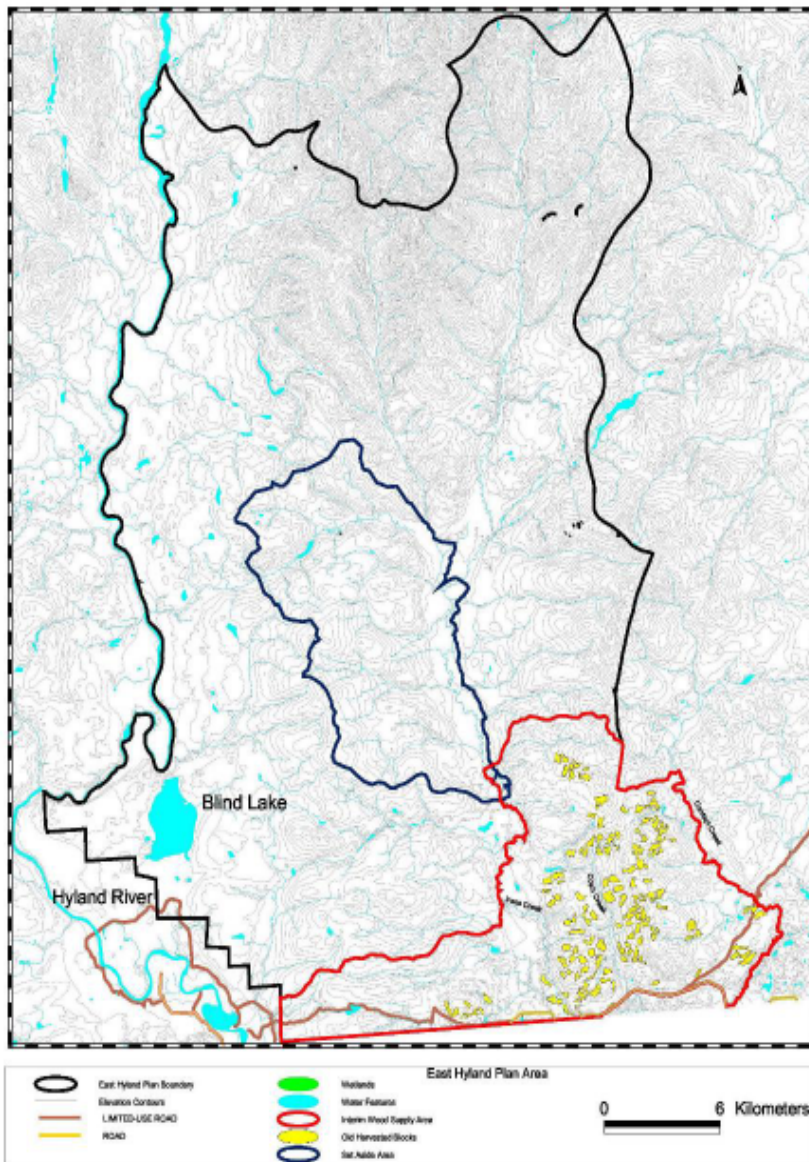
Planning Areas for Interim Wood Supply Plan



Proposed Planning Areas and their Key Values :

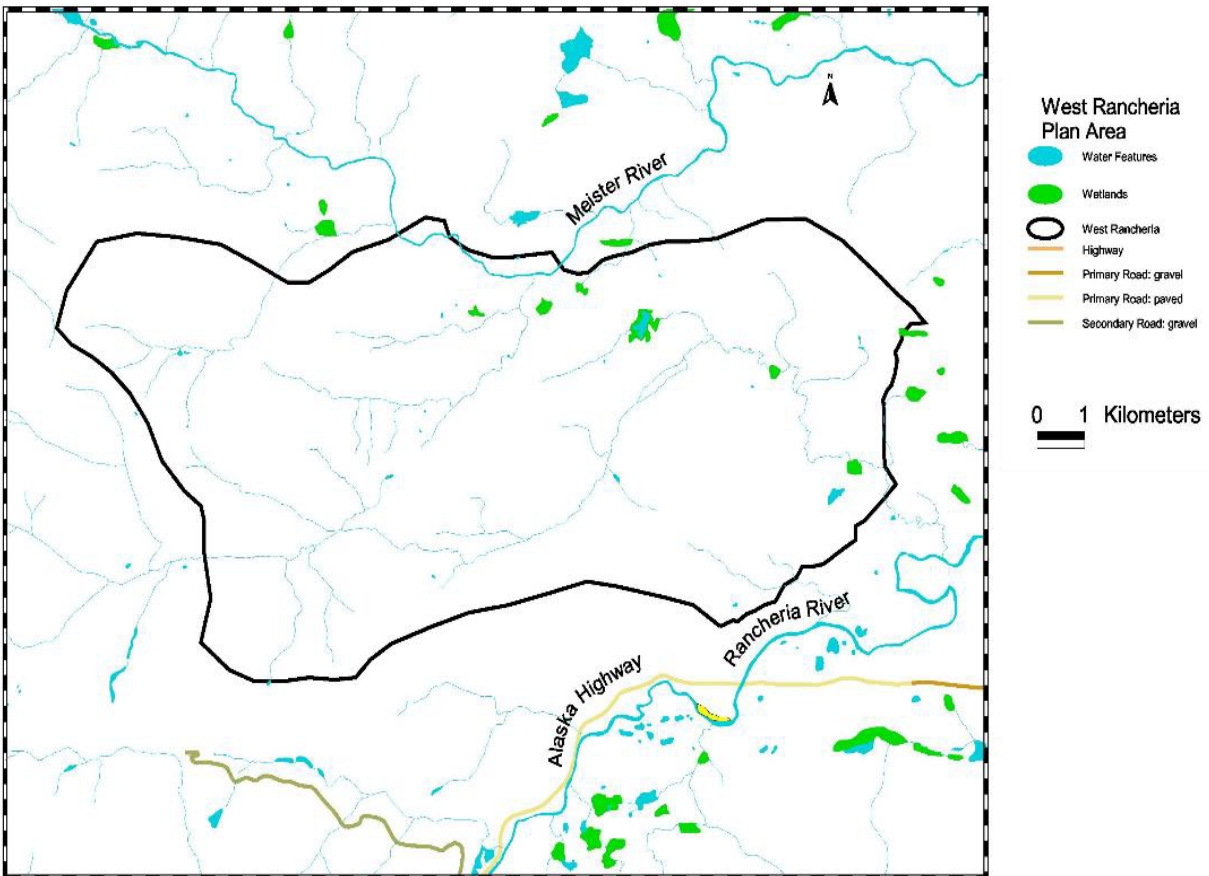
East Hyland Supply Area Key Values

- Black Tern Colony
- Forest Birds
- Marten
- Moose
- Kaska land stewards traditional uses and traplines
- Wilderness values-recreation uses and visual quality (how it looks)
- Active Trappers
- Guide Outfitter
- Wilderness Tourism



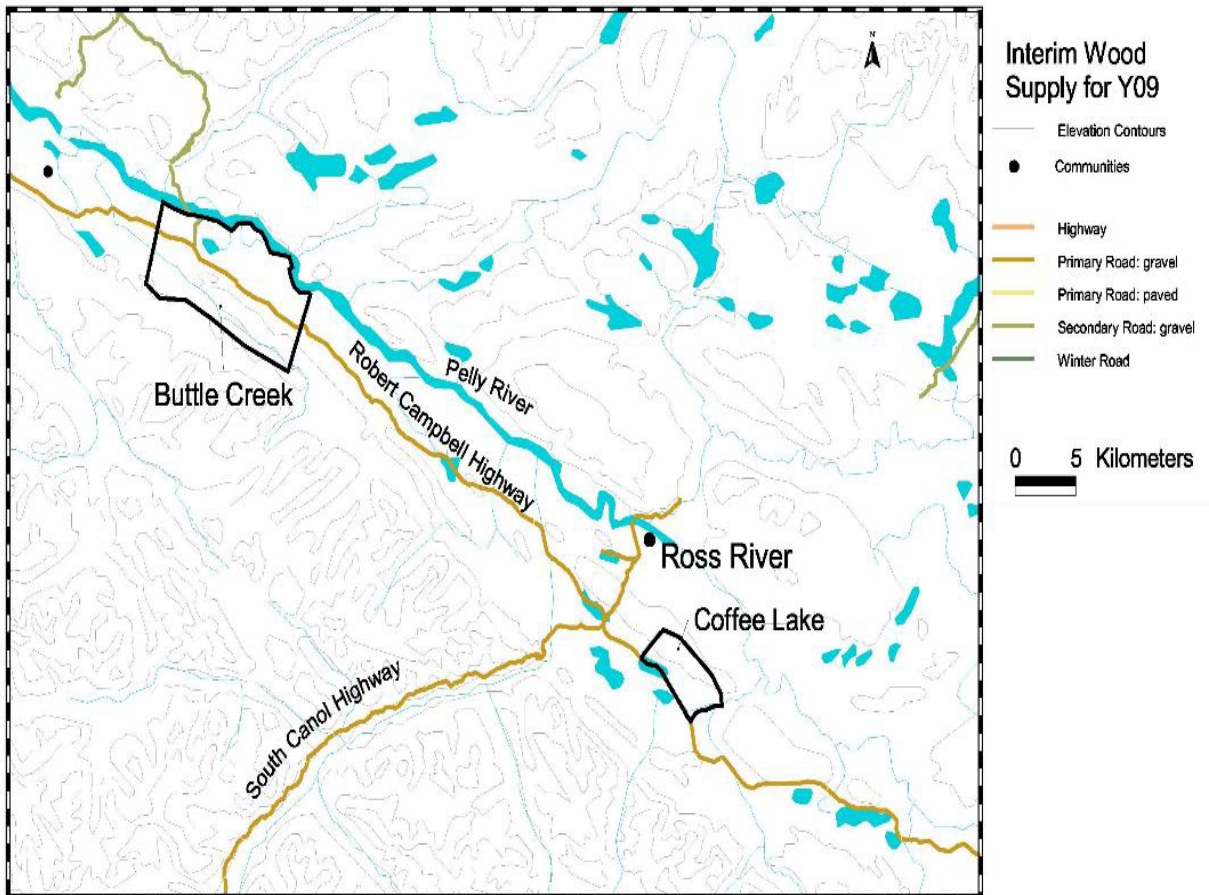
West Rancheria Supply Area Key Values

- Woodland Caribou
 - Marten
 - Moose
- Fire skips and riparian habitats (green vegetated areas on either sides of streams and rivers)
- Kaska Land Stewards-traditional uses and traplines
- Wilderness values-recreation uses and visual quality (how it looks)
- Active Trappers



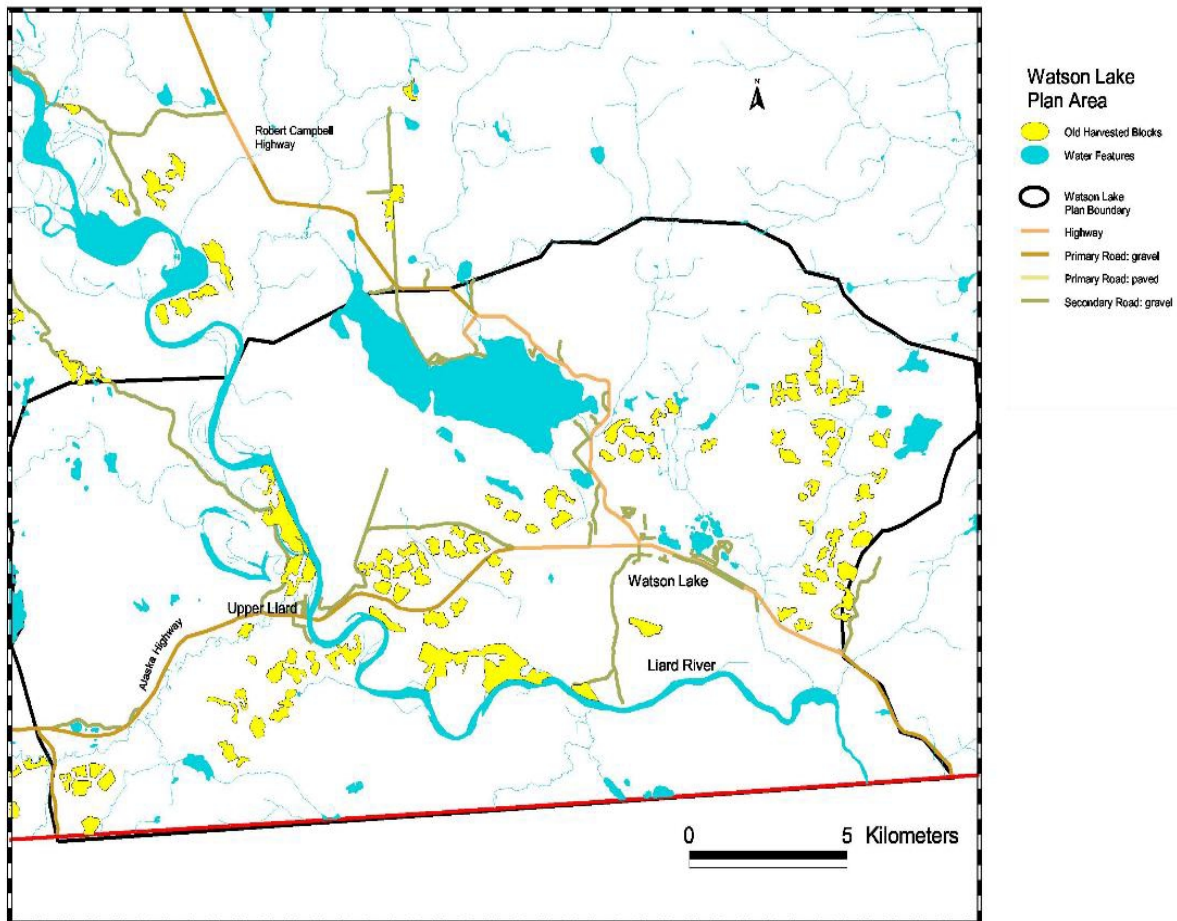
Ross River Supply Area Key Values

- Woodland Caribou
- Forest birds
- Marten
- Moose
- Kaska Land Stewards-traditional uses and traplines
- Wilderness values-recreation uses and visual quality (how it looks)
- Active Trappers
- Community Uses



Watson Lake Supply Area Key Values

- Woodland Caribou
- Forest birds
- Marten
- Moose
- Kaska Land Stewards-traditional uses and traplines
- Wilderness values-recreation uses and visual quality (how it looks)
- Active Trappers
- Community Uses



Economic Values for Planning Areas

Summary of Interim Wood Supply Areas
(information modified from IFS report 2003)



Cutblock

Area of Interest	Area (ha)	Forested Land Base(ha)	Mature and Old Forest (ha)	Average volume of forest stands (m3/ha)	Distance from Community	Existing Access
East Hyland	109,222	97,638	56,336	225	~ 45 km	Yes
Watson Lake	39,471	33,585	27,494	136	1-3 km	Yes
West Rancheria	11,078	8,839	8,718	130	~ 70 km	No
Ross River	11,604	8,379	7,011	94	5-10 km	Yes

Selection of Interim Wood Supply Area

West Rancheria was recommended not to be developed due to environmental impacts and marginal economic benefits

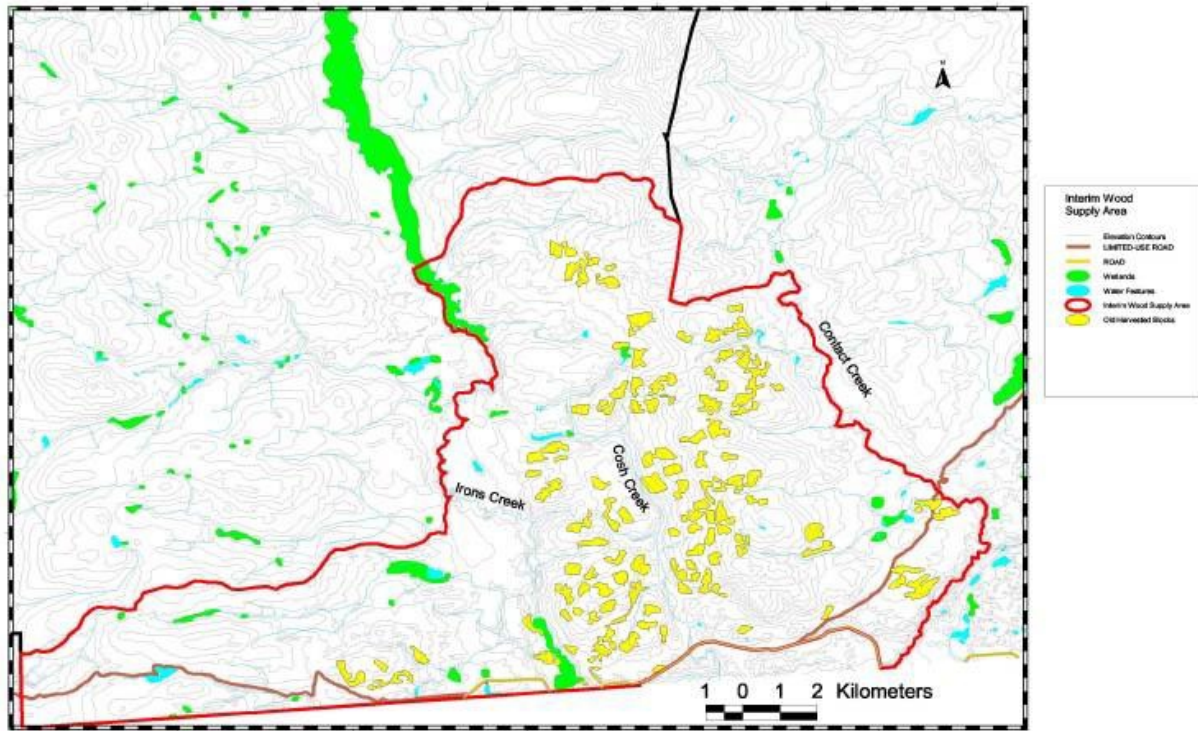
Watson Lake was recommended to provide point source wood to local operators (3,000-5,000 m3/yr) but technical and community review of proposed blocks still to occur

East Hylands' southeast corner was recommended to provide the remaining volume due to the economic benefits, with the environmental strategy of concentrating the harvest then letting the area rest for 80-100 years. It also meets most of the IWS criteria.

The Forest Development Area has been identified, but only the first year of timber is being reviewed. Timber/blocks for year 2 or 3 still has to be reviewed.

Ross River was recommended to provide 5000 m3 over 3 years, with further technical & community review still to occur

Proposed Interim Wood Supply Area for East Hyland Plan Area:



Forest Type (Strata)	Age Class (ha)				Total
	0-30	31-79	80-130	131+	
Black Spruce		371.21	2191.65		2562.86
Bum	2105.48				2105.48
Fir		206.67	122.29		328.95
Hardwood		192.17			192.17
Hardwood/Pine		563.31	151.81		715.12
Hardwood/Spruce		553.73	89.97		643.70
Pine	69.30	25.39	1001.77		1096.46
Pine/Hardwood		261.59	143.92		405.51
Pine/Spruce	435.93	1642.62	2027.22	53.01	4158.78
Spruce/Hardwood	31.02	66.85	202.40		300.27
Spruce/Pine	800.12	670.14	2489.22	47.89	4007.37
White Spruce	176.14	102.40	737.41	137.50	1153.45
Total	3617.98	4656.07	9157.65	238.40	17670.11

Forest Type (Strata)	Age Class (%)				Total
	0-30	31-79	80-130	131+	
Black Spruce	0.00	2.10	12.40	0.00	14.50
Bum	11.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.92
Fir	0.00	1.17	0.69	0.00	1.86
Hardwood	0.00	1.09	0.00	0.00	1.09
Hardwood/Pine	0.00	3.19	0.86	0.00	4.05
Hardwood/Spruce	0.00	3.13	0.51	0.00	3.64
Pine	0.39	0.14	5.67	0.00	6.21
Pine/Hardwood	0.00	1.48	0.81	0.00	2.29
Pine/Spruce	2.47	9.30	11.47	0.30	23.54
Spruce/Hardwood	0.18	0.38	1.15	0.00	1.70
Spruce/Pine	4.53	3.79	14.09	0.27	22.68
White Spruce	1.00	0.58	4.17	0.78	6.53
	20.49	26.35	51.82	1.35	100

Selection for Year 1:

East Hyland Planning Area

The criteria directed the Technical Working Group to the East Hyland Plan Area, and this is the area that the first year plan is focusing on. It is the largest of the four main proposed zones at 109,222 ha. Of this about 90% of it is forested, and 52% classed as productive forest. It is about 45 km East of Watson Lake, along the Alaska Highway. It is bounded by the Hyland River to the west, and Contact Creek to the East, the BC/Yukon Border on the south, and the headwaters of Irons Creek to the north.

The process by which the main source for the interim wood supply was narrowed down to the lower East Hyland Area was sound. Given the need to make interim wood for winter 2003-2004, it was practical to focus on an area that is relatively accessible and has proven stands of merchantable timber. This approach means that no new areas need be opened for timber on a short time-line, and more of the regions' forests can be planned carefully during larger scale regional planning.

Taking Care of Forest Values

How Forest Values were chosen:

- 1- cultural and commercial importance
- 2- indicator of system health (umbrella species)
- 3-species at risk
- 4-geographic limitations
- 5-sensitive species (habitat specialists, low reproductive rates, sensitive to disturbance and hunting)
- 6-keystone species

What are some Forest Values?

- Biological Diversity
- Ecological Sustainability
- Habitats: Wetlands, riparian areas, alluvial spruce
- Mammals: Marten, caribou, moose, bats, northern flying squirrel
- Birds: boreal owl, goshawk, passerines, three-toed Woodpecker, trumpeter swan and black tern
- Fish & water
- Amphibians

The assumption is that managing for these values will adequately manage for other forest values (e.g.: goshawk)

Strategies for Minimizing Impacts of Timber Harvest



WoodlandCaribou

-Zoning

Forest Ecosystem Network (FEN:No forest operations in lowland, riverine, subalpine, and alpine areas) allows for connecting lower elevation ecosystems to alpine ecosystems.

Regenerating Burns - no forest operations until the burns have grown into mature forests

Upland Forests - Area where forest operations will occur and landscape and stand practices are applied to maintain connectivity , habitats, and forest types for the forest values in the ecosystem

-Establishing a set-aside area

An area of similar forest types, zones, and merchantable forests as the Interim Wood Supply Area. The area was identified to maintain forest values (such as marten, moose, trapping, wilderness values) on the landscape. As part of the Adaptive Management strategies, this area will allow for comparisons/monitoring how the forest regenerates after timber harvesting and how wildlife use the area over time. No timber harvesting will be allowed in the area for at least 40 years.

-Ecological thresholds

Removal of forest cover will impact other forest values including aquatic ecosystems and furbearers. By identifying what percentage of forest cover can be removed before impacts occur, mitigations can be used for forest management planning.

-Zoning to distinguish simple from complex uplands and applying the proper management strategy

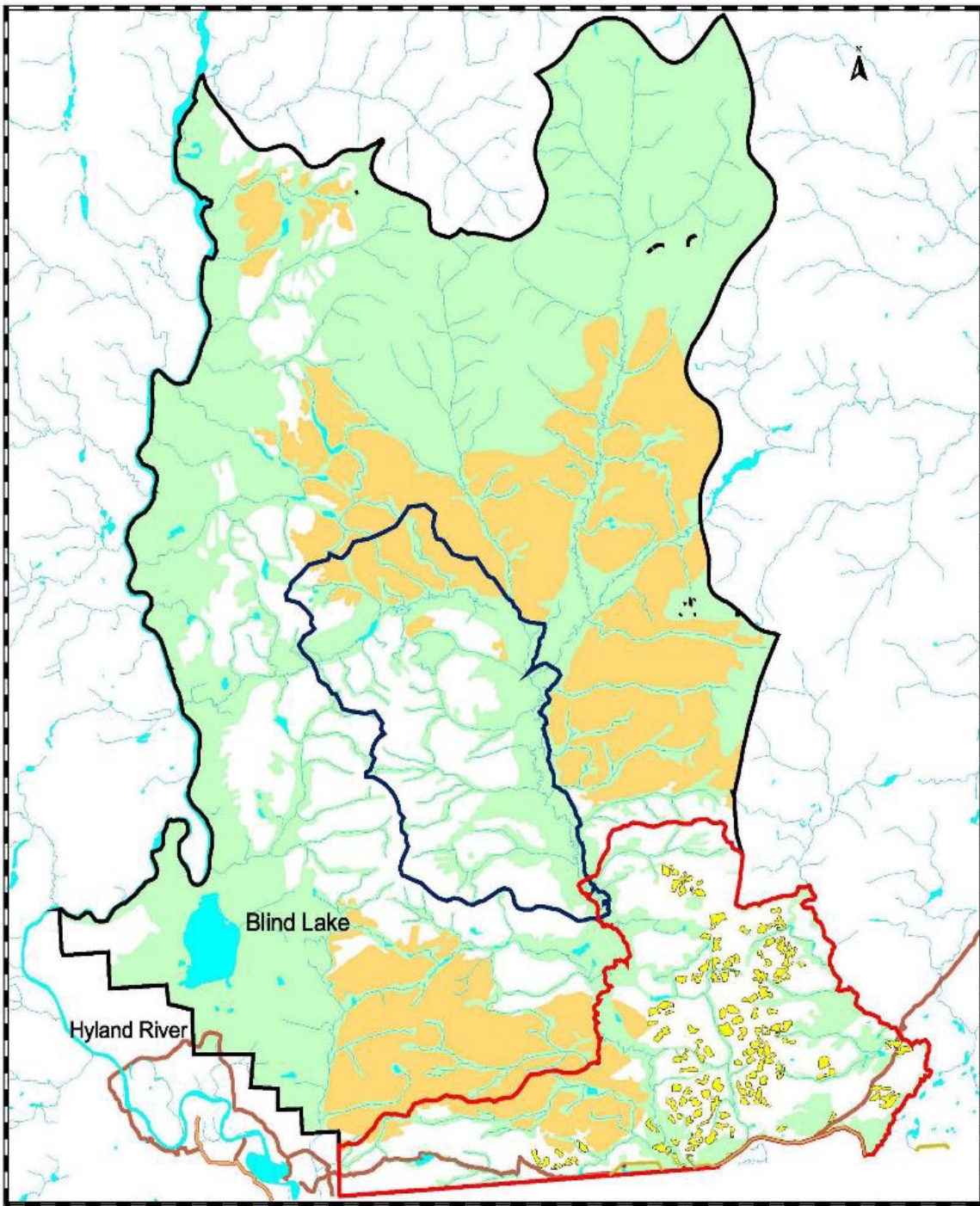
The upland forests in the East Hyland have both simple and complex upland ecosystems. Further work is required to classify these differences so forest practices can be better applied to mimic the existing stand sizes and patterns.

-Using watersheds as the planning unit for all forest management planning scales












Watersheds will be used for all forest planning and for all scales of planning

-Manage for multiple forest values by:

- 1-Maintaining suitable habitats and protecting unique habitats (uncommon old age classes)
- 2-Connecting corridors to provide for animal/plant movement
- 3-Maintaining the right mix of forest types
- 4-Applying the Best Management Practices for habitat and species maintenance
- 5-Encouraging early recovery (replanting, road decommission) of the forest or stand.



East Hyland Plan Area

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---|----------------------|
|  | East Hyland Plan Boundary |  | Old Harvested Blocks |
|  | LIMITED-USE ROAD |  | Set Aside Area |
|  | ROAD |  | Regenerating Burns |
|  | Wetlands |  | FEN |
|  | Water Features |  | Upland Forests |
|  | Interim Wood Supply Area | | |

0  10 Kilometers

Monitoring Area or Set Aside Zone

Forest Type (Strata)	Age Class (ha)				Total
	0-30	31-79	80-130	131+	
Black Spruce		918.72	1358.42	106.36	2383.51
Burn	2526.11				2526.11
Hardwood/Pine		61.23	103.76		164.99
Hardwood/Spruce		105.79	29.39		135.18
Pine		171.94	338.45		510.39
Pine/Hardwood		97.4	159.78		257.18
Pine/Spruce		2050.11	725.58		2775.69
Spruce/Hardwood		151.65	31.14		182.8
Spruce/Pine		1620.91	925.89		2546.8
White Spruce		12.83	499.76	6.99	519.58
Total	2526.11	5190.58	4172.19	113.35	12002.2

Forest Type (Strata)	Age Class (% of total area)				Total
	0-30	31-79	80-130	131+	
Black Spruce	0	7.7	11.3	0.9	19.9
Burn	21	0	0	0	21
Hardwood/Pine	0	0.5	0.9	0	1.4
Hardwood/Spruce	0	0.9	0.2	0	1.1
Pine	0	1.4	2.8	0	4.3
Pine/Hardwood	0	0.8	1.3	0	2.1
Pine/Spruce	0	17.1	6	0	23.1
Spruce/Hardwood	0	1.3	0.3	0	1.5
Spruce/Pine	0	13.5	7.7	0	21.2
White Spruce	0	0.1	4.2	0.1	4.3
Total	21	43.2	34.8	0.9	100

Stand Practices (Appendix 4 & 8)

All tops and limbs of trees should remain on site, and should not be burned as slash.

Non-merchantable trees should be left standing, preferably in groups.

Wildlife tree patches should be 3 ha or more (minimum size to provide one songbird territory), connected to surrounding uncut forest by unbroken forested corridors, and should be representative of the forest being harvested. An unbroken corridor would encourage use of the patch by species like marten that will not cross large, open spaces.

The edges of all cut-blocks should be wind-firm and should follow natural contours, so that they look like natural forest openings.

Snags 25cm dbh or greater should be retained within a clump of standing trees to improve their wind-firm attributes. This is the minimum size to be used by some cavity-nesting bird species.

Block boundaries should be modified to include any active or inactive Northern Goshawk nests within a patch of unharvested forest at least 24ha in size.

Variable retention applied on harvesting areas:

Dispersed retention - retains individual trees scattered throughout a cutblock

Aggregate (group) retention - retains trees in clumps or clusters.

Strategies for Minimizing Impacts of Timber Harvest (How to Take Care of...)

Marten (Appendix 2)

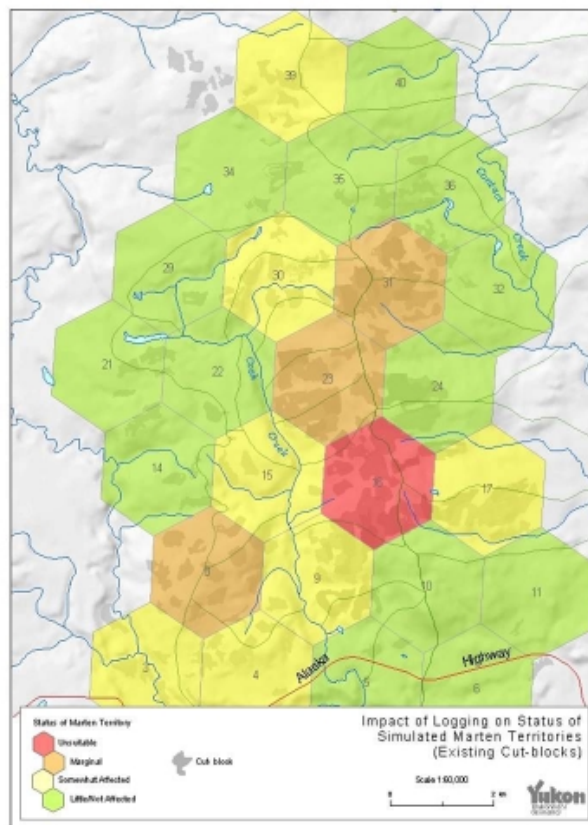
- have a concentrated rather than a dispersed harvest as it impacts fewer marten
- removing more than 30% of the forest can have impacts to a marten home range
- Keep opening sizes smaller than 300 m, retain large patches of conifer forest
- Impacts to marten were measured for proposed blocks for Year One by looking at the forest cover removal within a 400 ha area (assumed home range of Yukon marten) in the Cosh Creek watershed. Potential impacts to marten from existing, proposed, or modified blocks were estimated.

Because of concerns for marten and other forest values, a number of blocks were recommended for further technical review or to be removed (see recommendations).

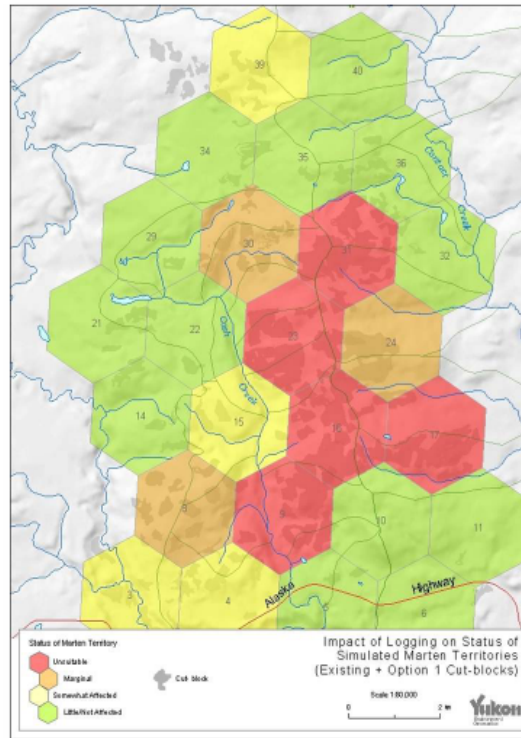
Totals of simulated marten territories in categories of likely impact by existing, existing+currently proposed and existing+proposed modified harvest

Category of effect	Existing cut-blocks		Existing+currently proposed cut-blocks		Existing+proposed modified cut-blocks	
	Number of territories	Percentage of total	Number of territories	Percentage of total	Number of territories	Percentage of total
Little/Not Affected (91-100% forested)	14	56	14	56	14	56
Somewhat affected (81-90% forested)	5	24	4	16	4	16
Marginal (71-80% forested)	3	12	2	8	3	12
Unsuitable (0-70% forested)	1	4	5	20	4	16

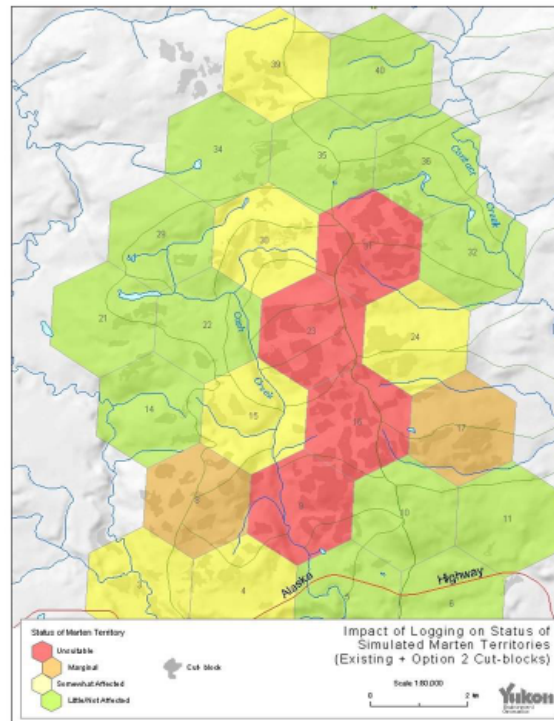
Map 1 - Impacts on Marten Home Range with existing blocks



Map 2-Impact on Marten home ranges of proposed blocks



Map 3-Impact on Marten home ranges of modified blocks



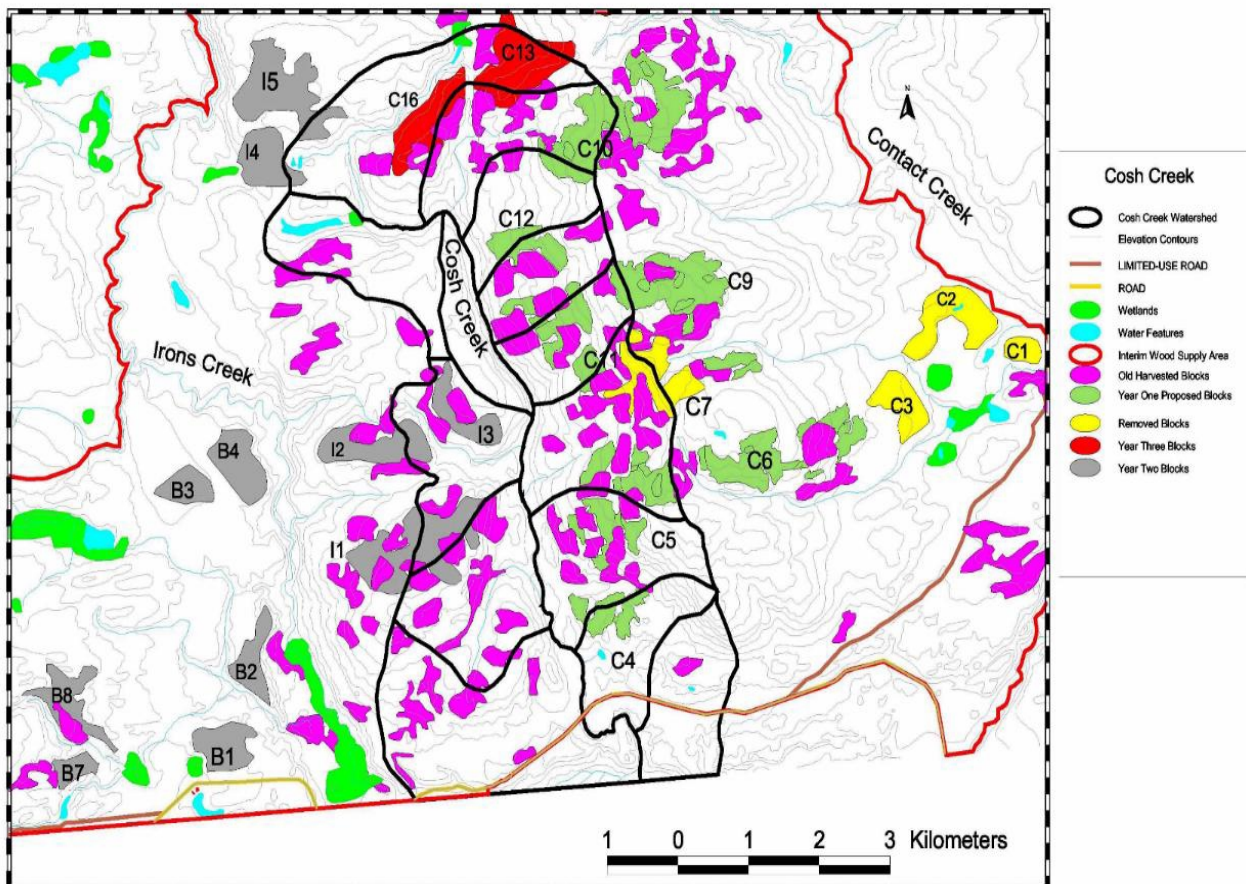
Fish and Watersheds (Appendix 3)

Planning needs to consider:

- 1-The fish ecosystem (Cosh Creek and Contact Creek drainages)
- 2 -The subwatersheds that make up these ecosystems
- 3 -How forest practices and forest removal will affect the ecosystem, water flow, and water quality

Cosh Creek Watershed is a small watershed for the Yukon (37 sq.km) and has a number of proposed blocks for Interim Wood Supply.

Cosh Creek Watershed and proposed blocks



Previous harvesting in the Cosh Creek Watershed 5 to 7 years ago has removed 13 % of forest, and harvesting the proposed blocks for Year One would result in 18-23 % of the forest cover removed. The range of forest cover removal to the subwatersheds ranges from 0 - 52 %. As a result the following was recommended:

1. Proposed blocks for west side and north end of the watershed be removed and not considered for harvesting.
2. Apply inblock retention and stand practices
3. Riparian management guidelines will be enough to lessen point source impacts

Moose

- keep their optimum ratio of bush to open ground: 70 % cover to 30 % openings
- openings should be no larger than 400 m across
- From anywhere in a block, the distance to thermal or hiding cover should be no more than 200 m
- Hiding Cover dimensions be at least 200 m across, and at least 3-5 ha in size
- Thermal Cover dimensions must be at least 200 m across, and at least 10 ha in size, with high percentage of conifer trees.
- Lines of sight within blocks must be less than 350 m



Moose Habitat

Birds

- Focus on species known to be negatively impacted by even-aged harvesting
- Some species and habitats of concern (Blind Lake Black Tern colony, riparian/lowland/ wetland habitat) addressed by the FEN
- Ensure the following:
 - 1-Maintain connections amongst upland habitats and between upland and lowland habitats
 - 2-Rare and old habitats are maintained on the landscape in both upland and lowland systems
 - 3-Practices within- and between -block retention strategies

Adaptive Management Strategies

A number of strategies and practices have been proposed for timber harvesting to minimize impacts to forest values. In addition, new practices for timber harvesting such as variable retention have not been tried operationally in the Yukon. Adaptive management needs to monitor the timber harvesting practices over time and be able to quickly use the information for further planning. The monitoring area will provide some opportunity to make comparison over time, and monitoring strategies for the Interim Wood Supply Area are being prepared.

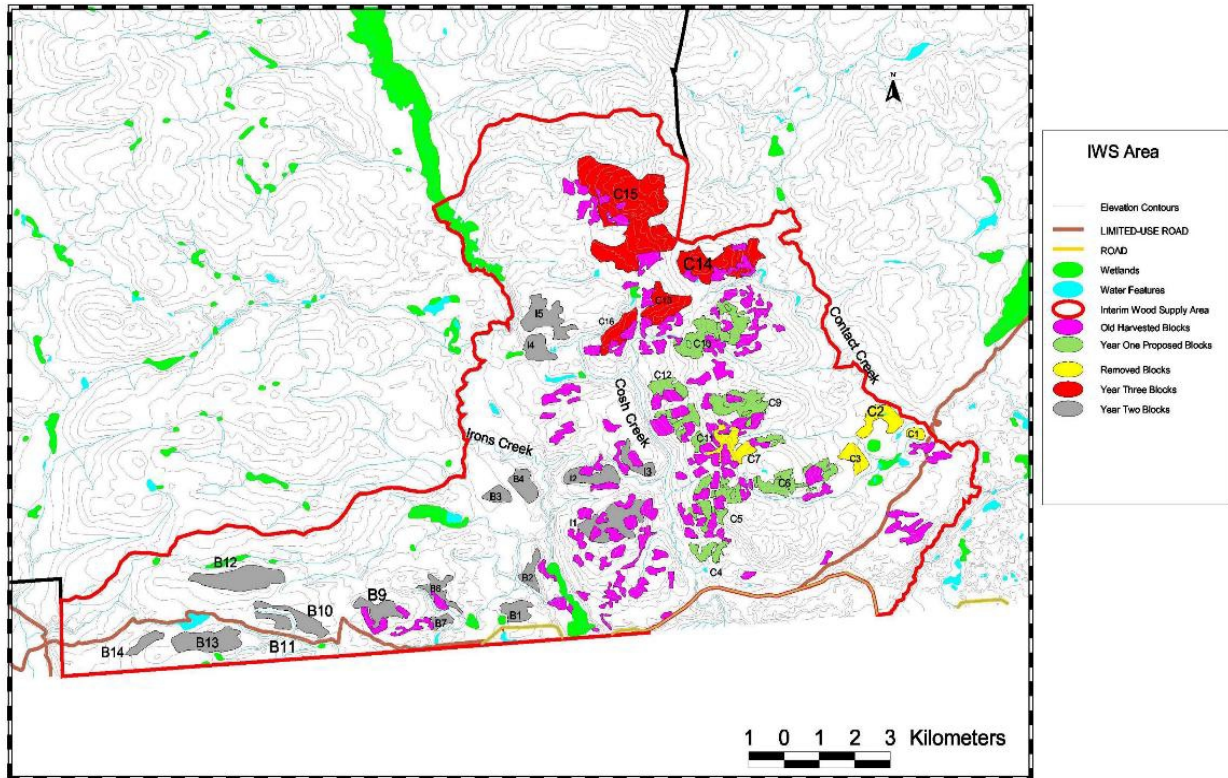
Interim Wood Supply Blocks

Based on field work, community input, and recommendations from the working group a number of blocks have been removed for the interim wood supply. In particular Blocks C1, C2, C3, and C7 have been removed.

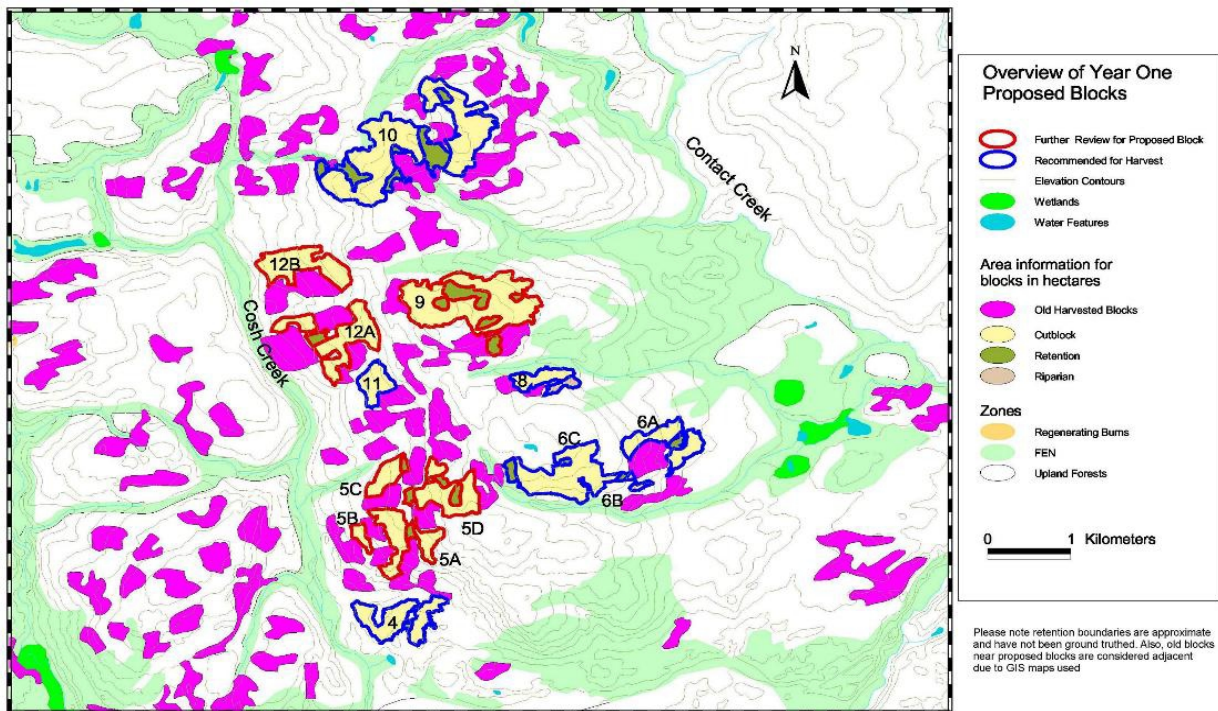
These blocks are in addition to blocks identified to be removed or reviewed because of concerns for other forest values.

At this time KFRSC is only providing recommendations for one year of interim wood. However, blocks for year two and three need to be reviewed and recommended before

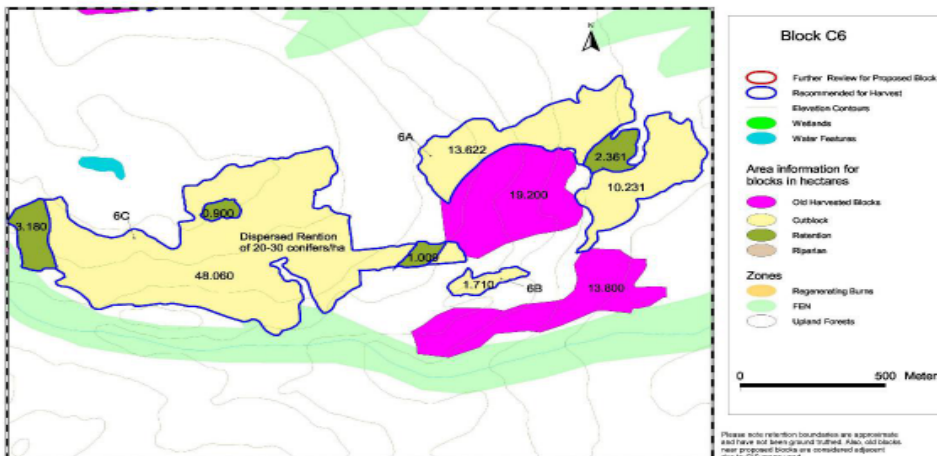
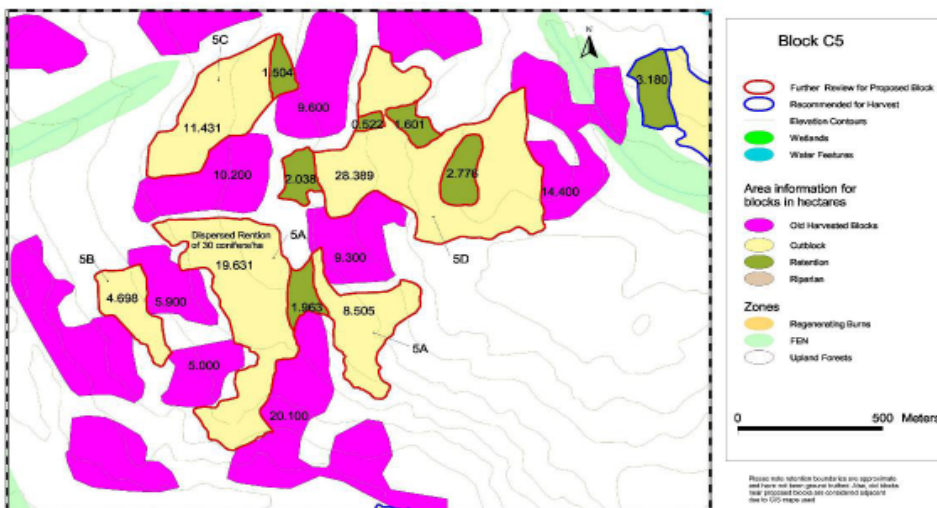
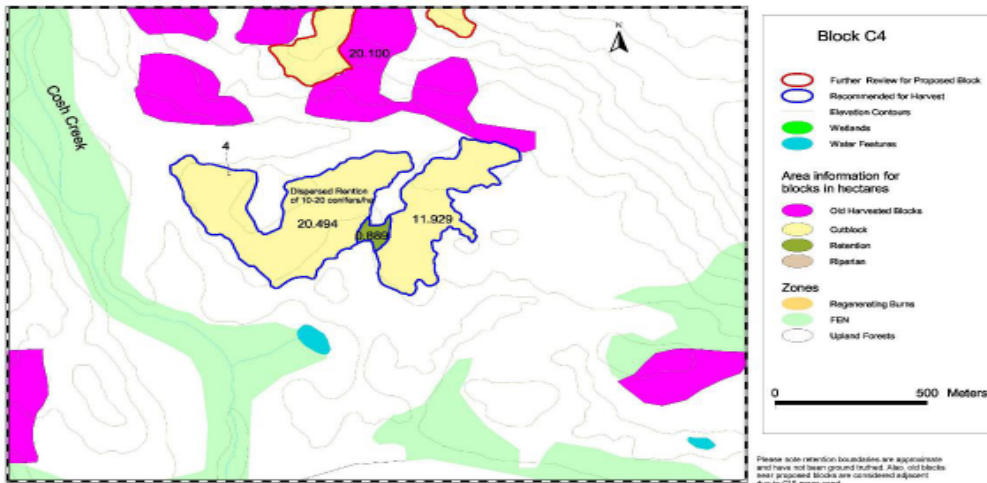
Proposed blocks for Interim Wood Supply Area (Appendix 1)

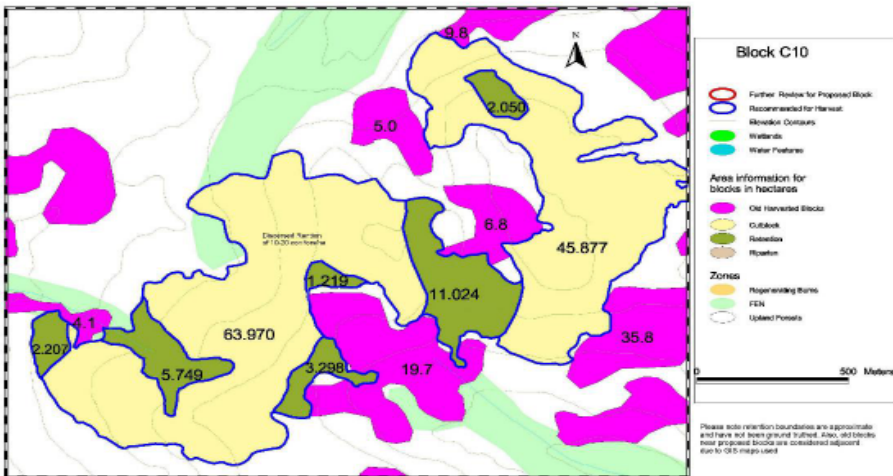
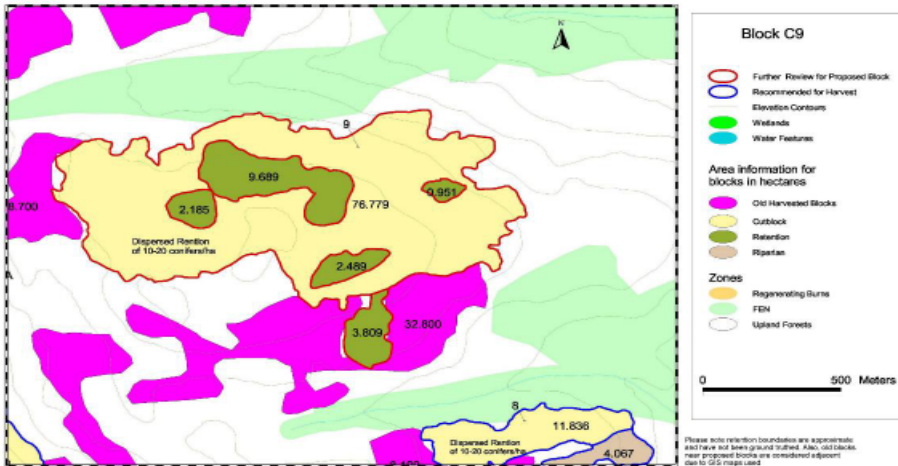
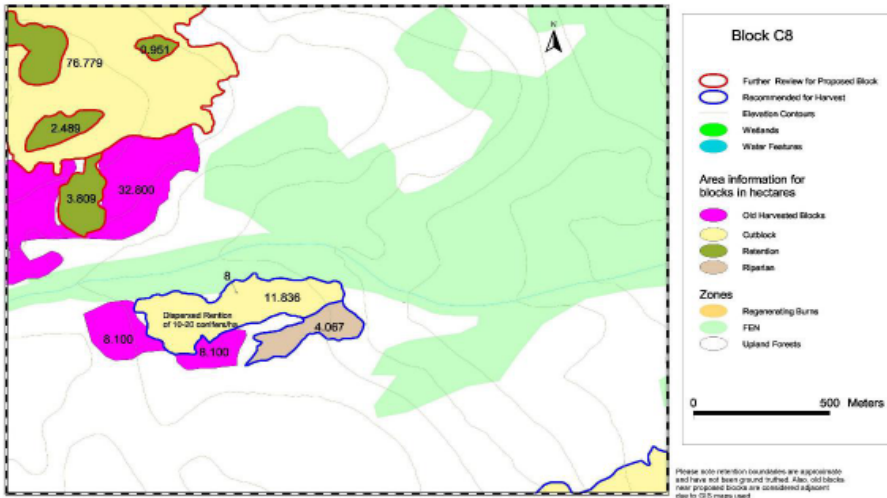


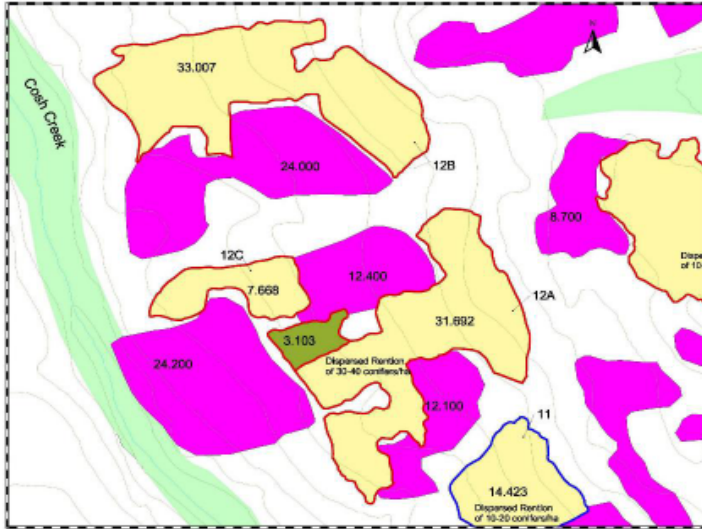
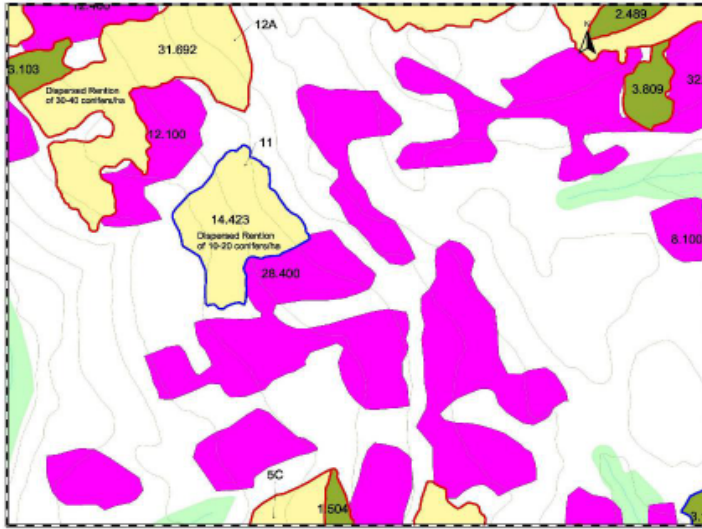
Proposed blocks for Year One (Appendix 1)



Proposed blocks for Year One (Appendix 1, 4, 5,&8)







Year One Proposed Block Summary (Appendix 1, 4,5,&8)

Block No.	Opening Size (ha)	Adjacent Openings (ha)	Grouped Retention (ha)	Dispersed Retention	Recommendation
C4	20.5 11.9	0 0	0.9	10-20 trees/ha 10-20trees/ha	For EA Screening For EA Screening
C5-A	27.6	50.5	1.9	30 trees/ha	Further Modifications
- B	4.7	24.3	0	30 trees/ha	Further Modifications
- C	11.4	19.8	1.5	30 trees/ha	Further Modifications
- D	28.3	33.3	6.9	30 trees/ha	Further Modifications
C6 -A	23.8	19.2	2.3	20-30 trees/ha	For EA Screening
- B	1.7	0	0	20-30 trees/ha	For EA Screening
- C	48.1	19.2	5.1	20-30 trees/ha	For EA Screening
C8	15.9	16.2	0	10-20 trees/ha	For EA Screening
C9	77.6	41.5	19.1	10-20 trees/ha	Further Modifications
C10	64.0 45.9	23.8 57.4	12.4 13.1	10-20 trees/ha 10-20 trees/ha	For EA Screening For EA Screening
C11	14.4	28.4	0	10-20 trees/ha	For EA Screening
C12 - A	31.7	48.7	3.1	30-40 trees/ha	Further Modifications
- B	33.0	24.0	0	30-40 trees/ha	Further Modifications
- C	7.7	36.6	0	30-40 trees/ha	Further Modifications

The Council realizes that by concentrating the timber harvest and providing for forest values at the landscape and stand scale, that the size of the blocks and retention practices proposed are new to the Yukon. While further work is required for a number of the proposed blocks, KFRSC wanted to provide an opportunity for public input on the proposed blocks for environmental screening and public comment. Forest planning requires the consideration of cultural, social, economic, and ecological values.

Currently a set of guidelines exist for timber harvesting (Timber Harvesting Planning and Operations Guidelines) that provide direction, but also allow for changes to practices with a management rationale. The guidelines were developed in 1999. Since then a number of changes to forest practices have occurred and the guidelines need to be updated. KFRSC is recommending that these guidelines be updated through a process that uses expertise in northern Canadian boreal forests and includes public input.

Other Considerations for Interim Wood Supply

KFRSC reviewed other considerations for wood supply and recommended that permitting occur throughout the year so winter and summer logging can occur. Council also recommended that it does not support timber being exported and processed outside of Yukon. Steps need to be taken when permitting timber that provides timber for Yukon Residents, gives priority to local residents who want to process the wood, and provides for timber in summer and winter.

Council also recommended that the following be considered for interim wood supply:

1. Interim wood supply also includes commercial permits for green wood related to salvage logging, agricultural dispositions, clearing related to right of ways or land dispositions (e.g. roads or gravel pits).
2. To be adaptive to interest in timber, Forest Management Branch will report quarterly on the commercial timber permits to Council. KFRSC will monitor the volume being permitted.
3. Interim wood supply is sequenced to include seasonal harvesting, and multi-year (e.g. 3 year) permits be considered for blocks available this year.

Interim Wood Supply considerations for Watson Lake

KFRSC recommended that although the Watson Lake interim wood supply strategy is still undergoing technical review, in the short term, point source wood (up to 3,000 – 5000 cubic meters for the area) will be made available using existing guidelines, policies, and timber in the Miscellaneous Timber Unit.

Community input into forest values, recreational uses, and other values will be requested during public review of interim wood supply.

Blocks identified for this year and the next 2 years will be completed before March 31, 2004 and the volume for this year attributed to this year's 128, 000 cubic meters.

Interim Wood Supply considerations for Ross River

KFRSC recommended that Ross River interim wood supply for Y09 will be identified once Ross River Dena Council provides direction on the proposed areas and recommendations. However based on the review of forest values and timber opportunities, Council suggested that:

- a. The cultural, social, and ecological values identified in the Buttle Creek are greater than the timber values and this area be removed for interim wood supply
- b. Blocks near Coffee Lake be removed, and visual quality from Coffee Lake be maintained
- c. Once the block is identified to provide the 5000 cubic meters over three years, it is laid out using existing guidelines, and policies.

In Summary...

Have We Met the Goals?

-Have we found up to 128,000 cubic meters?

-East Hyland, Watson Lake, Ross River

* With this plan, approximately 60,000 - 80,000 cubic meters will be made available depending on the outcome of environmental assessment and public review. Further volume will be identified once the review of remaining blocks is completed.



Fire Slash

-Will we maintain biodiversity?

* Landscape and stand practices have been used to minimize impacts to biodiversity, and further review of several blocks are required.

-Will we minimize the impact on non-timber values?

-upland forest ecosystem

-moose

-marten

-fish

-birds

-trapping interests, etc.

* These values and interests were considered in planning, specific practices applied, and blocks removed or requiring further review by the Technical Working Group.

-Is our information adequate?

* No plan has enough information, and this plan was developed without a Regional Forest Management Plan to provide direction. It was also prepared without Traditional Knowledge and it will be incorporated once the Protocol is established. In addition, adaptive management strategies will allow for monitoring to occur and new information used in future forest management of the area.

Kaska Forest Resources Stewardship Council January 22 Recommendations (further modified on February 4) :

1. That watersheds be the basic unit for planning and be used for all levels of forest planning (Regional– Operational)
2. That the stand practices agreed by the Interim Wood Supply Committee and included in Site and Harvest Plans be applied for harvesting interim wood.
3. At this point, a Traditional Knowledge Protocol has not been signed with the Council, once this occurs Traditional Knowledge will be used to update interim wood supply.
4. That interim wood supply also includes commercial permits for green wood related to salvage logging, agricultural dispositions, clearing related to right of ways or land dispositions (e.g. roads or gravel pits).
5. That for regional planning, timber criteria for planning should be set at 150 m³/ha
6. That the existing Timber Harvesting Practices and Operation Guidelines document is reviewed and forest management practices updated through a third party (e.g. Sustainable Forest Management Network) review with public input.
7. That to be adaptive to interest in timber, Forest Management Branch will report quarterly on the commercial timber permits to Council. KFRSC will monitor the volume being permitted.
8. That interim wood supply is sequenced to include seasonal harvesting, and multi-year (e.g. 3 year) permits be considered for blocks available this year. However, similar strategies for restricting raw log export proposed in October by KFRSC be used in permitting wood.
9. Blocks that are made available but not awarded will be made available in the next fiscal instead of new blocks being laid out.
10. That the following blocks identified in the Industrial Forest Service's Total Chance Landscape Plan (2003) be removed for timber harvesting in the East Hyland:
 - a. Blocks C1, C2, C3
 - b. Block C7
11. Due to concerns from forest cover removal in the Cosh Creek watershed on forest values, water quality, and aquatic ecosystems the following occur:
 - a. All blocks identified in the west and north portions of the watershed be removed (Year two or three blocks)
 - b. Blocks identified for Year one interim wood and on the eastern portion of the watershed be harvested in winter and apply mitigations as agreed by the Interim Wood Supply Technical Committee.

12. Upland ecosystem zoning in the East Hyland is more complex than indicated and a better classification is required for planning and regional planning.

13. Due to interest on adaptive management and monitoring of new forest practices, and as mitigations for forest values in the East Hyland, a set aside has been identified that has similar

forest composition as the Interim Wood Supply Area. This area will be a temporary deferral for at least half a rotation, and will be used to provide comparisons when monitoring the outcomes of Interim Wood Supply Plan over time.

14. That the following blocks be made available for opportunity this winter, the volume be attributed to this year's 128,000 m³ volume, and apply the prescriptions in the Site and Harvest Plans:

a. Blocks C4, C6, C8, C11, C10

15. Blocks C5, C9, and C12 will be returned to the Interim Wood Supply Technical Committee for technical review. These blocks and blocks identified for the next 2 years will be completed before March 31, 2004 and the volume from C9, C12, or C5 attributed to this year's 128, 000 cubic meters.

16. The remaining blocks for year one will be considered for summer harvesting even though volumes will be from this years available volume

17. The Watson Lake interim wood supply strategy is still undergoing technical review, but in the short term, point source wood (up to 3,000 – 5000 cubic meters for the area) will be made available using existing guidelines, policies, and timber in the Miscellaneous Timber Unit. Community input into forest values, recreational uses, and other values will be requested during public review of interim wood supply. These blocks and blocks identified for the next 2 years will be completed before March 31, 2004 and the volume attributed to this year's 128, 000 cubic meters.

18. Ross River interim wood supply will be identified once Ross River Dena Council can provide direction on the proposed areas and recommendations:

a. That the cultural, social, and ecological values, identified in the Buttler Creek are greater than the timber values and this area and could be removed for interim wood supply

b. That blocks near Coffee Lake be removed, and visual quality from Coffee Lake be maintained

c. That once the block is identified to provide the 5000 cubic meters over three years, it is laid out using existing guidelines, and policies.

