

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT



**Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area  
Draft Management Plan**

MAY 2006

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PREPARED BY THE DDHAW GHRO HPA STEERING COMMITTEE



## **Letter from the Ddhaw Ghro steering committee:**

We are pleased to present this draft Management Plan for public review and comment. Consultation on this draft will be from May 29 to September 11, 2006. The public review process will involve the following steps:

- **Public Open Houses:** During late May and early June, the steering committee will be holding public open houses in Mayo, Pelly Crossing, Carmacks and Whitehorse. These events will feature a brief presentation of the draft plan and invite input through facilitated group discussion. These events will also provide opportunities for one on one discussion with the Chair and steering committee members.
- **Written Submissions:** Written input is welcomed. Comments may be submitted by mail, fax or e-mail to one of the following addresses:
  - Fax: (867) 634-7026
  - Email: hayes@lincsat.com
  - Regular Mail:  
Bob Hayes, Chair: Ddhaw Ghro steering committee  
Box 5499  
Haines Junction, YT  
Y0B 1L0
- **Phone:** You may phone in your comments to Bob Hayes, Chair of the Ddhaw Ghro steering committee at (867) 634-2765.
- **One on One Meetings:** One on one meetings with the Chair or the steering committee may be arranged by special request. Please contact the Chair if you wish to have such a meeting.
- **Digital Display and Review:** A digital version of the Ddhaw Ghro Draft Management Plan can be viewed on-line at: [www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/pubs.html](http://www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/pubs.html).

**The deadline for public comment on this draft is September 11, 2006.**

Once public input has been received on this draft plan, the comments will be considered by the steering committee in preparing a final recommended plan. The final recommended plan will be then submitted to the Parties, the Yukon Government, the Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, for final review and approval, as per the requirements of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement.

Thank you for taking the time to review this draft management plan. We look forward to receiving your comments.

Sincerely,

Bob Hayes, Chair,  
Ddhaw Ghro steering committee



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# Executive Summary

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**D**dhaw Ghro is an isolated mountain range in central Yukon. The area has been important to Northern Tutchone people for thousands of years. It has several features of regional significance, including unglaciated alpine areas and plant communities. It is also known for the Chu Tthaw Hot Springs, the fannin sheep population, the rich cultural history of the Northern Tutchone People and the intact mountain ecosystem.

In 1948, the government of Canada established the Ddhaw Ghro area as the McArthur Game Sanctuary. Then, in 1993, it was identified for further protection under the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Final Agreement. In 1997, the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement confirmed the establishment of the area as a future Habitat Protection Area.

As part of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement, a Ddhaw Ghro steering committee was established and tasked with developing a five-year Management Plan for the Habitat Protection Area. The Final Agreement identified objectives for the Habitat Protection Area and included guidelines for what needed to be considered in developing the plan. The steering committee followed these requirements. It gave thorough consideration to a wide range of factors, including fish and wildlife inventories, cultural research, fire management, trapping, tourism, land tenure, access and the potential for possible resource activities such as mining and forestry.

This draft Management Plan was developed through a community-based planning approach. Between 2000 and 2006, many field studies were done with the involvement of community members. Several community planning workshops were also held. A special effort was made to involve Northern Tutchone elders and incorporate traditional knowledge, and this provided valuable guidance and direction throughout the development of the plan. The steering committee also commissioned scientific and cultural research to fill information gaps. The committee then evaluated the potential effects of possible management activities in relation to meeting the area's objectives as identified in the Final Agreement. These objectives include protecting the important fish and wildlife populations and their habitats, protecting the traditional interests of the Northern Tutchone people and allowing for the appreciation of the area by all Yukon people.

As articulated in this draft plan, the committee's vision for Ddhaw Ghro is to *leave it as it is*. That is, the whole Area should remain in its natural state, the fish and wildlife populations and habitats should not be disturbed, and the area should continue to be used mainly for traditional First Nation activities and values.

Consistent with this vision, the draft plan makes several recommendations to maintain the ecological and cultural resources of the area in a healthy state. It recommends that ongoing research and monitoring take place for wildlife and fish populations in Ddhaw Ghro. It recommends that the cultural studies started as part of the planning process be continued. It also makes recommendations for fire management, including recommendations to help reduce the risk of wildfires in the vicinity of the Chu Tthaw Hot Springs.

The steering committee also recommends that development activities be prohibited in Ddhaw Ghro. This includes the following:

- the permanent withdrawal of the Habitat Protection Area from mineral disposition;
- no commercial forestry;
- no land dispositions or land-use permits permitted;
- no new access trails, and no expansion of existing trails;
- no use of motorized off road vehicles;
- the continued exclusion of trapping; and,
- a cautious approach to tourism for the first 5 years of the plan.



The draft plan also recommends that the three Parties, First Nation of the Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, the Selkirk First Nation and the Yukon Government, consider including an 'Additional Area' to the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area. This is because there are several key and important habitats outside the current boundary that are regularly used by the fish and wildlife populations that Ddhaw Ghro was established to protect. These key and important habitat areas outside the current boundaries include: 1) the sheep range on Mt. Sether; 2) the winter range and rutting areas for the Ethel Lake caribou herd; and 3) the riparian areas along the boundaries of the Habitat Protection Area, including important wetlands, seasonal moose habitats, Chinook salmon spawning areas and raptor nesting sites.

The committee recommends that an integrated and community based approach be used to help implement the plan. It recommends that an implementation team be established with representation from all three Parties. It also recommends that this team work closely with the Northern Tutchone First Nations through the annual May Gathering to review research and monitoring information on the area and identify potential management activities. Through the May Gathering, elders and community members can also give the implementation team advice regarding traditional knowledge and laws.



As per the requirement of the Final Agreement, the Management Plan is to be reviewed in the next five years. The Committee recommends that the review include consideration of the following:

- examination of the successes and shortcomings of implementation,
- review of the adequacy of funding for implementation,
- review the capacity of the Parties to implement recommendations and actions,
- identification of the potential risks to Ddhaw Ghro fish and wildlife populations by development in areas nearby,
- determination of whether the Habitat Protection Area designation provides appropriate protection,
- identification of any changing conditions or evolving perspectives that may affect the plan and,
- the need for revised recommendations and implementation action items.

The steering committee's job is limited to making plan recommendations. The Yukon government, the Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of the Na-Cho Nyäk Dun are responsible for approving and implementing the plan.



# Acknowledgements

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The Ddhaw Ghro steering committee would like to thank all those who contributed to the production of this plan. Selkirk First Nation citizens who were Committee members include: Darin Isaac, Alex Joe, Roger Alfred, Styd Klugie, Don Trudeau, Fred Green, Lizzie Hall, Danny Joe, and Johnson Edwards. First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun members include: Mikolay Peter, Frank Patterson, Joella Hogan, Albert Genier, Kristina Kane, Steve Buyck, Millie Olsen, Jimmy Johnny, Pat Van Bibber Sr., and Tommy Moses. Johnny Sam was the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation delegate. Yukon Government appointed members included: Mark O'Donoghue, Bob Kuiper, Ella LeGresley, Bruce McLean, and John Meikle.

Karen Clyde and Tim Sellars provided secretariat support to the steering committee. Doug Urquhart and Robert Hayes were the independent chairs.

Staff members from Selkirk First Nation, the First Nation Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Yukon Government provided technical advice and knowledge. Elders and members of the Selkirk First Nation, the First Nation Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Little Salmon/Carmacks provided equally valuable information and guidance. Lizzie Hall provided the translation into Northern Tutchone at many community workshops.



# 1. Introduction

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The Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area (Ddhaw Ghro) is an isolated mountain block of about 1,600 km<sup>2</sup> lying between the Pelly and Stewart Rivers in the central Yukon. The name ‘Ddhaw Ghro’ means “many peaks” in the Northern Tutchone language and applies to the McArthur Mountains.

This Area has important spiritual and cultural values and has been treated with great respect by Northern Tutchone People for many thousands of years. Traditional law has guided the use and management of the area for many generations. The importance of Ddhaw Ghro and its uses by First Nations People are detailed in the 1987 document *Selkirk Indian Band: Culture and Land Use Study* by Ruth Gotthardt. As far back as elders tell, Northern Tutchone People have harvested sheep, moose, caribou, rabbits, porcupine, grouse, ptarmigan, ducks, fish, medicinal plants and berries in Ddhaw Ghro as part of their seasonal travels. The Area became the McArthur Game Sanctuary in 1948, established primarily to protect a small, isolated population of dark-colored mountain sheep, the special natural features and cultural and spiritual values of the area.

The Chu Tthaw Hot Springs is a 50 hectare parcel of category ‘A’ settlement land belonging to the Selkirk First Nation. It falls within the boundary of Ddhaw Ghro, but is not part of the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area. The Selkirk First Nation is solely responsible for management and planning of the Hot Springs settlement parcel.

The Ddhaw Ghro area is identified to become a Habitat Protection Area under the Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Selkirk First Nation Final Agreements. Development of this Management Plan began in 2000.

## The Purpose of the Plan

This plan provides recommendations to the Parties (Yukon government, Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation Na-Cho Nyäk Dun) for the long-term management of the Ddhaw Ghro area in a manner consistent with the objectives listed in Section 1.c of this plan. The plan also identifies who is responsible for implementation of the recommendations, and when.

## Vision

### *Leave Ddhaw Ghro as it is.*

The vision for Ddhaw Ghro is to leave it as a natural Area that remains untouched by industrial development. Northern Tutchone elders consider Ddhaw Ghro their legacy to be willed to their children and grandchildren. Through responsible land and resource management, future Yukon generations will continue to benefit from the existence of Ddhaw Ghro. Ddhaw Ghro should remain an Area of unique beauty and character, with a healthy ecosystem that supports a diversity of wildlife.

Ddhaw Ghro is to be managed in a manner that respects and uses traditional law and traditional knowledge — as well as contemporary law and knowledge. This is consistent with the values of cooperation and co-management reflected in the establishment of the area and in the preparation of the management plan.

## Plan Objectives

Five objectives were established for Ddhaw Ghro in Schedule ‘A’ of Chapter 10 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement:

1. *to conserve and protect important fish and wildlife, and fish and wildlife habitat in the area for the benefit of all Yukon people;*
2. *to recognize and protect the use of the area by the Selkirk People and Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and to facilitate their interest in sharing the area with Little Salmon/Carmacks People and other Yukon Indian People;*
3. *to provide for the management and protection of the area;*
4. *to protect the full diversity of wildlife populations and their habitats in the area from activities which could reduce the area’s capability to support wildlife; and*
5. *to encourage public awareness of, and appreciation for, the natural resources of the area.*

## Management Topics to be Addressed

Chapter 10, Schedule 'A' (section 6.4) requires that when developing the Management Plan, the steering committee shall fairly consider and may include the following topics:

1. *fish and wildlife management and protection;*
2. *the necessity for inventories of wildlife and habitat;*
3. *habitat management and protection;*
4. *land use;*
5. *recreation use;*
6. *access to and use of the area for commercial wilderness purposes;*
7. *harvesting of forest resources;*
8. *scientific research;*
9. *traditional knowledge, customs and culture of the Yukon Indian People in connection within the area;*
10. *the role and views of First Nation elders in the development of the Management Plan;*
11. *ways to increase public awareness and appreciation of the area;*
12. *recommendations respecting any withdrawal of portions of the mines and minerals of the area from locating, prospecting or mining under the Yukon Quartz Mining Act and the Yukon Placer Mining Act; from exploration and development under the Canadian Petroleum Resources Act; and from staking out a location for the mining of coal and from issuance of a license to explore for coal pursuant to the Territorial Lands Act;*
13. *division of the area into management zones;*
14. *economic opportunities for Selkirk and Na-Cho Nyäk Dun First Nations People or firms; and*
15. *permitting or other methods of regulating uses of the area in accordance with the Management Plan.*

The steering committee's task has been to evaluate these topics against the five objectives in Schedule A, recommend how certain activities should be managed and identify which activities should and should not be allowed in the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area.

## How the Plan was Developed

Chapter 10, Schedule 'A' of the Selkirk First Nations Final Agreement requires that a Management Plan for Ddhaw Ghro be recommended by a steering committee composed of two members each appointed by Selkirk and Na-Cho Nyäk Dun First Nations, and two members appointed by Yukon government.

In considering the management topics listed above, the steering committee chose a community-based approach to information gathering and consultation (see Appendix D: Community Comments).

The following steps were followed to prepare this plan:

1. information was gathered, including science and traditional knowledge;
2. field studies were conducted to fill information gaps;
3. detailed consultations were held in the communities and Whitehorse;
4. issues were identified by community and steering committee members;
5. workshops were held to gather more traditional knowledge and advice on the issues; and
6. points of view of steering committee members and elders were discussed, and recommendations and actions drafted.

At each step the steering committee incorporated traditional and scientific knowledge with equal weight. There was a large effort spent to collect traditional knowledge during workshops, and in the field. Elders were brought to Ddhaw Ghro to give their advice about the suitability of various areas as different wildlife habitats, and to locate culturally important places. At the same time, several scientific studies were conducted in the Ddhaw Ghro area.

Community meetings were held to review information, hear the views and knowledge of elders about management topics, and get advice on recommendations. The steering committee invited experts to present information about heritage, archaeology, geology, mining, land-use, wildfire management, forestry, tourism and recreation. The committee also provided progress updates to communities and the Parties.

## 2. Background

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### Location and Status

#### **Location of Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area**

The Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area is about 1,600 km<sup>2</sup> in size. The boundaries mainly follow the original McArthur Game Sanctuary boundary. North Crooked Creek and Nogold Creek form the northern border. The western border follows Crooked Creek. The eastern boundary follows various landmarks and mountain peaks from Nogold Creek to the Kalzas River (Map 2). The legal boundary is noted in Appendix 'B' of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement.

#### **Land Status**

Ddhaw Ghro is Crown Land under the administration of Yukon government. The Selkirk Final Agreement ensures governments are obliged to maintain the natural and cultural environment of Ddhaw Ghro for the benefit of Yukoners and other Canadians. Yukon First Nations People have the constitutional right to pursue their traditional lifestyle in the area.

Ddhaw Ghro was made a Special Management Area in 1993 under Chapter 10 of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Final Agreement. In 1997, Chapter 10 Schedule 'A' of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement states that Ddhaw Ghro is to be designated a Habitat Protection Area under the *Yukon Wildlife Act*.

Schedule 'A' required that mineral staking be temporarily prohibited under the Placer and Quartz Mining Act while planning proceeds for the Habitat Protection Area. This prohibition made by Order-in-Council ends August 31, 2007. There were no active mining claims in Ddhaw Ghro at the time of prohibition.

Besides Crown Land there are two small Selkirk First Nation land selections located in the boundaries of Ddhaw Ghro: a one-hectare parcel at Crystal Lake (S60B/D), and a 50-hectare parcel on Hot Springs Creek (S-116A/D). In 2002, the Selkirk First Nation produced a management plan for their settlement lands, including these two parcels. The Chu Tthaw Land Use Plan sets out rules and recommendations for the Hot Springs (see Appendix E), based upon Doòli/traditional laws of the Northern Tutchone people. Any person who wishes to visit the Chu Tthaw Hot Springs must get permission from the Selkirk First Nation and follow their rules for visiting the area. The Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement states that parcel R-27A, which is adjacent to the southern boundary of Ddhaw Ghro, shall be managed in a manner consistent with the objectives of the Habitat Protection Area.

### Natural Setting

#### **Terrain and Vegetation**

Ddhaw Ghro is a special Area. Much of the area was not covered by the continental ice sheets during the recent ice ages (Map 3). For thousands of years, the high peaks of Ddhaw Ghro were much like an island in a sea of surrounding ice, providing a refuge for many plants and animals. After the ice sheets melted, Ddhaw Ghro was one of the few places in the central Yukon that had un-glaciated geology, undisturbed soils and ancient grasslands.

Ddhaw Ghro is the traditional Northern Tutchone name for the McArthur Mountains, which reach elevations of 2194 meters. At the highest elevations, melting glaciers have created cirques with near-vertical headwalls, giving the range a rugged character. At higher elevations, there are many post-glacial features associated with the colder climate, including rock glaciers and fractured bedrock terraces. The glaciers, tarn lakes and temporary snow pack have an important role in the hydrology of Ddhaw Ghro by providing surface and subsurface water in summer. Alpine soils have variable moisture conditions, resulting in a wide range of vegetation, a benefit to wildlife using these habitats.

Glacial moraines are common in Ddhaw Ghro. Moraines consist of wide-ranging sediment sizes and are generally well-drained. There are also various landforms in the valleys caused by the melting of the Cordilleran ice-sheet, such as narrow lakes which line the bottom of canyon-like channels in the Kalzas River valley. A notable feature in Ddhaw Ghro is the North Crooked Creek canyon. The creek has cut deeply into the granite bedrock and provides remarkable vistas.

Landslides are common and terrain instability appears to be widespread in the region. Landslides are associated with steep terrain, glacial sediment and ground water. These features are common throughout Ddhaw Ghro.

There are many types of terrain and plant communities, ranging from exposed rock at high elevations to mixed forest in the lower valleys (Map 4). The alpine community includes ancient grasslands, sedge, shrub and lichen. Sub-alpine areas vary from wide scree slopes with little vegetation, to areas of abundant willow, dwarf birch shrubs and feather moss scattered with sub-alpine fir and white spruce. Lower elevations are mainly mixed stands of spruce pine and aspen. Poorly drained areas contain small ponds, swamps, and lakes.

In 2004, wildfires burned large tracts of forest in the lower elevations especially in the Crystal Creek, Woodburn Creek and Grey Hunter Creek areas (Map 5).

The Chu Tthaw Hot Springs are located in the southwest foothills of Ddhaw Ghro. The springs are caused by circulation of groundwater that flows through porous sedimentary rock. The water is heated deep in the earth, then it rises back to the surface through fractures along the Tintina Fault. The constant warmth and moisture produced by the Hot Springs results in unique vegetation. The hot springs are special in Canada due to the high temperature, low dissolved-solid content and high fluoride and silica content.

### **Wildlife and Habitats**

First Nations people have always known Ddhaw Ghro for its rich and abundant plant communities and animal populations. The high mountains of Ddhaw Ghro rise above the lower hills and mountain ranges of the Upper Yukon Plateau, providing important alpine habitats for wildlife.

About 70 dark-colored mountain sheep (fannin) live in Ddhaw Ghro and on adjacent Mount Sether. Because Ddhaw Ghro and Mount Sether are isolated from other mountain ranges, there are no other sheep populations nearby. It is not known if these sheep were present during the ice age or if they moved there since the ice receded. The McArthur Game Sanctuary was established largely to protect these isolated sheep. People were worried that the construction of the Klondike Highway would provide easy access and the sheep would be over-hunted. The no-hunting rules of the sanctuary have been followed by all Yukoners, including First Nation people. Sheep numbers have remained low, making the herd especially sensitive to over-hunting and habitat disturbance.

The Ethel Lake woodland caribou herd consists of about 300 animals. Most of the summer and fall range is within Ddhaw Ghro, but most of the winter range lies outside. This small woodland caribou herd is also vulnerable to disturbance and harvest. Genetic studies show that woodland caribou seldom cross-breed with nearby herds, increasing the risk to the Ethel Lake herd of over-hunting, disturbance or loss of important habitat. In recent years, there have been few calves that survive their first year, further increasing the risk of the herd declining.

The Ethel Lake herd ranges within Ddhaw Ghro during most of the year. In the spring, cows calve in the high alpine to protect their young from predators. The herd forages in the alpine in summer and they rut there in the fall. During winter the herd moves to the lowland areas. In 2004, about 40% of the winter range of Ethel Lake herd was burned, increasing the value of the remaining winter habitat that surrounds Ddhaw Ghro. First Nations people believe that caribou and other animals use seasonal ranges to consume plants that provide nourishment and have medicinal value which promotes healing.

Ddhaw Ghro also provides important shrubs for moose to feed on through the fall and early winter. This habitat is critical for moose to regain body condition after the rut and before the long Yukon winter begins. In winter, moose move to lower areas or use some of the higher willow draws in Ddhaw Ghro. In summer, moose calve and inhabit the rich riparian areas along the creeks and rivers that form the boundaries of Ddhaw Ghro.

Ddhaw Ghro is important habitat for other wildlife. Waterfowl breed in the wetland complex on the west side of the Habitat Protection Area (Map 6). Peregrine falcons, gyrfalcons, and golden eagles nest in its mountains. Chinook salmon are known to spawn in Little Kalzas River, Kalzas River and Crooked Creek. They likely spawn in some of the smaller creeks in the Habitat Protection Area. In the 1930s, trappers caught many furbearers in Ddhaw Ghro, including coyotes, fox and beaver. Grizzly bears, black bears, wolves, marmots, pika and a host of other animals and plants make their homes in the wide variety of habitats from lowland forests to alpine ridges.

# Human History

## *Prehistoric and Recent History*

First Nations people have lived in south-central Yukon for thousands of years. There are pre-historic aboriginal sites near Ddhaw Ghro ranging from 3,000–4,000 years ago to recent times. The Area has few permanent cultural sites, but there are Northern Tutchone names for prominent features in Ddhaw Ghro, showing traditional use of the area for a long time.

Long ago, Ddhaw Ghro was an important hunting place and used for seasonal travel. Some families traveled from Ta'tla Mun (Tatmain Lake) to Ddhaw Ghro where they would gather summer foods, dry meat, then return to the lake for the winter. Sheep and caribou in Ddhaw Ghro regularly attracted hunters from the Isaac, Simon and Johnny families.

Robert Campbell of the Hudson's Bay Company was the first European person to settle in the central Yukon. He set up a trading post at Fort Selkirk, in 1848. Ddhaw Ghro and Little Kalzas Lake were hunted and fished by the Hudson's Bay Company.

Between 1900 and 1948, Ira and Eliza Van Bibber and their family built cabins and camps for trapping and hunting in and around Ddhaw Ghro. Anton Leland, Harry Woodburn and Joe Winterholder built trapping cabins along the western edge of Ddhaw Ghro.

There was a small mineral staking rush on the south branch of Crooked Creek in 1915. Various geological surveys were made from the 1920s to the 1940s.

In the 1940s, following the advice of First Nations People, Dr. Hugh Bostock carried out scientific studies of the geology of Ddhaw Ghro, the hot springs and rare plant communities. He recommended the area be protected. In 1948, the McArthur Game Sanctuary was designated by the Yukon Territorial Government. Within the sanctuary there could be no trapping or hunting. The Van Bibber family was forced to leave their cabins and trap lines without compensation for the loss of livelihood.

In the late 1950s, the McArthur Game Sanctuary was seen as important enough to be considered for a national park. The interest eventually shifted to the Kluane area. In 1968, biologists working for the International Biological Program did more studies in the Sanctuary. Their report recommended human activities be excluded to protect the sheep, ancient alpine grassland plants, the hot spring flora and diverse alpine plant communities.

Prospecting and mining activities were not encouraged, neither were they prohibited. In the early 1970s, Grey Hunter Peak was heavily staked, but only modest exploration followed. Since then there has been little mining interest in Ddhaw Ghro. In 1995, there were no active claims when the area was first designated a Special Management Area in the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Final Agreement. No mining activities have been allowed since then.

If you fly over Ddhaw Ghro, you will see a mainly pristine wilderness with little evidence of human activity besides the scattered cabins. Northern Tutchone people continue to visit the Chu Tthaw Hot Springs, which has no structures built in the vicinity. Most of the old trapper cabins in Ddhaw Ghro have either collapsed or have been burned by wildfires. There are no useable cabins remaining. Most of the traditional trapping and hunting trails have become overgrown. There are no mining exploration roads, trails or abandoned camps in the area.

## 3. Traditional Knowledge

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### ***Understanding the Role and Use of Traditional Knowledge and Law in this Plan***

Elders have contributed their extensive traditional knowledge to the Ddhaw Ghro planning process. This plan has greatly benefited from the contribution, guidance and wisdom of the elders' traditional concepts about protecting the land and all the things that live on it for future generations.

Throughout the process, and with the guidance of the elders, some traditional knowledge has been recorded on maps, in reports, on audio and video recordings and in the minutes from meetings and workshops. The result has been a greater understanding and appreciation for traditional knowledge among steering committee members and technical staff.

From a First Nations perspective, the ecosystem is always seen as a connected whole, and cannot be defined by separating it into parts. Human activities, such as hunting, fishing and trapping, cannot be separated from the spiritual beliefs, traditional law and cultural values and principles of how people relate to and understand the Ddhaw Ghro area. It is impossible to fully communicate this relationship and understanding of the plants, wildlife, fish and the land and water of this Area through text.

The steering committee has struggled with how to present the large amount of traditional knowledge documented over the years, and relay the importance of the information in a way that readers can fully appreciate. Including traditional knowledge in the text has required taking some elements and separating them into the various parts of the management plan. This selected traditional knowledge is included in this Management Plan on the maps and in sidebars in the relevant sections. The information is only a small example of the traditional knowledge about each subject that helped guide this plan.

It is everybody's responsibility to respect and protect Northern Tutchone traditional knowledge. To ensure the objectives of the plan are met, traditional knowledge of Selkirk, Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Little/Salmon Carmacks First Nations elders will continue to guide the implementation of this plan. This will be done according to traditional processes that include annual May Gatherings, general assemblies, traditional land management, Doòli, traditional consultation and traditional law initiatives.

### ***May Gathering***

The May Gathering will incorporate traditional knowledge and provide guidance for the ongoing management of Ddhaw Ghro. The annual May Gathering of the Selkirk First Nation is an important part of the self-governing process, based on the principles of respect, caring, sharing and teaching. The May Gathering promotes awareness and responsibility as well as the stewardship role of First Nations. Elders from the three Northern Tutchone First Nations, staff, and interested citizens meet to discuss the status of fish, wildlife and the land. The May Gathering is also a time to visit and enjoy traditional foods and entertainment. Each May Gathering is summarized in three reports:

1. Detailed account of wildlife populations and harvests.
2. Minutes of the Gathering
3. Summary of decisions, recommendations and resolutions

Recommendations from traditional governance processes will be brought forward by the First Nations for consideration in the annual implementation of the Ddhaw Ghro Management Plan.



## 4. Resource Descriptions and Management Recommendations

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### Fish and Wildlife

There has been considerable effort spent to gather scientific and traditional knowledge about fish and wildlife populations and their habitat needs, in Ddhaw Ghro. Detailed traditional knowledge and sensitive information such as the locations of raptor nests and mineral licks are not included in the Management Plan, but such information was considered by the steering committee in making its recommendations.

Fish and wildlife recommendations in the following sections have the common theme of encouraging healthy populations through preservation of habitat and population monitoring. Management recommendations are timely and involve decision-making processes at both the community and government levels.

Chapter 10, Appendix 'A', of the Selkirk Final Agreement states that public harvest of wildlife will continue to be prohibited in the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area. The governments of the Selkirk and Na-Cho Nyäk Dun First Nations, and their citizens, have the constitutional right to continue to harvest fish and wildlife in Ddhaw Ghro. They also have powers and responsibilities (Chapter 16 of the Final Agreements) in the co-management of fish, wildlife and their habitats in Ddhaw Ghro, with the Yukon Government. In addition, there are special provisions to accommodate the sharing of the area with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation People.

### Sheep

#### *Traditional Knowledge*

According to the elders, there were three different kinds of sheep in the 1930s, including white Dall sheep, stone and the black sheep. The dark sheep that are there today are described as a cross between Dall and stone sheep.

#### *Work to Date*

There is more historical information about mountain sheep in Ddhaw Ghro than any other wildlife. Geologist Hugh Bostock mapped the places where he saw sheep between 1939 and 1943 as part of the research to designate the McArthur Game Sanctuary. Two biologists studied the sheep population and the habitat between 1969 and 1972. Aerial and ground surveys of sheep in the McArthur Range were carried out by Yukon Government biologists during the spring lambing in 1986 and 1995, and in late summer and fall in 1976 and 1978.

The steering committee requested information to help determine the status of sheep and where the most important seasonal habitats were, within Ddhaw Ghro. Marilyn Van Bibber and the Yukon Fish & Wildlife Branch conducted interviews with 21 Northern Tutchone elders who knew the area. The elders mapped their traditional knowledge of seasonally important habitats, mineral licks and places they formerly hunt sheep. Biologists (in aircraft) surveyed sheep in the spring and fall of 2001, and during early and late winter of 2001 and 2002. All survey information was used to map "key habitats" of sheep during lambing, rutting and winter periods (Map 7). The vegetation map of Ddhaw Ghro was used as the basis for developing habitat suitability maps for sheep (Map 8) in the summer and winter seasons, using ratings provided by biologists and elders (see Appendix F for methods).

## Current Status

There are presently about 65–70 sheep that live in Ddhaw Ghro. This is about the same number estimated in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Their range is mostly in the northern part of Ddhaw Ghro, although some sheep migrate to Mount Sether, outside of the Habitat Protection Area boundary, to the northwest. Elder interviews and the records of Hugh Bostock indicate that sheep formerly ranged in southern mountains of Ddhaw Ghro. Sheep left this part of their range some time after the 1940s.

Lambing occurs mainly on steep cliffs on Big Sheep Mountain and other northern mountains of Ddhaw Ghro. Rutting occurs in November and December, mostly in the northern mountain ranges, on Big Sheep Mountain and on the riparian bluffs above Nogold Creek. Winter habitat is more restricted, with most sheep concentrating on Big Sheep Mountain and the Nogold Creek bluffs. Elders mapped eight mineral licks within the sheep range. Habitat suitability mapping (Map 7) indicates there is good quality habitat for sheep in the southern mountains of Ddhaw Ghro, consistent with historical records.

Mount Sether is still open to public hunting. However, due to the small number of sheep using the Mount Sether area, there is no current licensed harvest and little First Nation hunting of these sheep.

## Management Concerns:

This is a small and isolated population of sheep. They could be sensitive to the effects of climate change on habitat, and to development activities outside of Ddhaw Ghro. These sheep need to be monitored closely to determine if numbers decline, remain stable or increase.

## RECOMMENDATION:

**Conduct annual surveys of the sheep in Ddhaw Ghro. Monitor the age and sex composition as an indication of the herd's condition, and investigate causes if problems are found.** If a problem is found, the Parties and the Selkirk and Mayo Renewable Resources Councils should be responsible for determining any actions to address problems.

## Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Aerial sheep counts at the same time as annual Ethel Lake caribou rut counts	Yukon government	Every September/October
Monitor and report sheep information and make management recommendations	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering

## Management Concern:

Sheep might benefit from controlled burning of their range, but more research is needed to understand traditional fire management and the possible benefits and impacts relating to the natural environment and the Ddhaw Ghro sheep.

## RECOMMENDATION:

**Research the use of controlled burns to enhance sheep range in Ddhaw Ghro.** Specifically, look at the results of fire that has been used elsewhere to improve sheep range, and consider traditional fire management to decide if and where to burn.

### **Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Fire use research	Yukon government	Early in Plan
Traditional fire management research	Selkirk First Nation, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Renewable Resources Councils	Early in Plan

### **Management Concern:**

Ddhaw Ghro sheep move to Mount Sether at times, which is outside the Habitat Protection Area. People sometimes hunt these sheep, and even a small harvest could cause numbers to decline in Ddhaw Ghro.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Monitor and report sheep harvest in and around Ddhaw Ghro to ensure hunting is sustainable.** If a problem is found, the Parties should consult with Renewable Resources Councils to determine actions to address any harvest problems.

### **Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Monitor harvest of sheep by all hunters	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering
Management recommendations	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering

## **Caribou**

### **Traditional Knowledge**

During the 1930s, the migratory Fortymile Herd passed through the area. One elder said the caribou were “just like squirrels” as they were so plentiful. Another elder described the caribou coming through at Pelly Crossing as “coming over the hill all day, a steady wide stream of caribou”, and also said, the caribou made it difficult to trap in the Ddhaw Ghro area, because there were so many of them:

*“One winter in the early 30s, we could hardly trap there was so many caribou, the whole country was dug up with caribou”. This herd never stays in one area, and is constantly moving.*  
— Elder comment.

### **Work to Date**

Radio-collared caribou were followed in and around Ddhaw Ghro from 1989 to 1993 to identify the range and important seasonal habitats of the Ethel Lake herd. Locations of these animals were used to map the key rutting and winter habitats (Map 9). The herd was last counted in 1993. Since 1993, the Yukon Fish & Wildlife Branch has conducted an annual composition count of the proportion of bulls, cows and calves in the herd. As a part of the Ddhaw Ghro planning process, the steering committee collected detailed information about caribou in the area, from interviews with 21 elders. Biologists also rated the seasonal use of the different vegetation types in Ddhaw Ghro by caribou, to prepare habitat suitability maps (Map 10).

### **Current Status**

Historically, the Fortymile herd sometimes wintered in the region, but it has not been seen in the area for many decades. The Ethel Lake woodland caribou are the only herd inhabiting Ddhaw Ghro today. Current herd size is about 320 animals, the same as in 1993. Its range centers in the Ddhaw Ghro Mountains, and extends north to the Stewart River, east to Big Kalzas Lake, and south to the Macmillan River and west to the Willow Hills (Map 9). Most calves are born in the high alpine areas of Ddhaw Ghro and surrounding mountains. The herd spends most of the summer on subalpine plateaus in and around Ddhaw Ghro. The traditional fall rutting areas are mainly on the subalpine ridges in north and east parts of Ddhaw Ghro, on Big and Little Sheep Mountains, on the mountains south of Ethel Lake, on the ridges north and east of Nogold Creek and on Kalzas Twins. During winter, caribou inhabit forested cover along Crooked, North Crooked and Nogold Creeks. Elders have mapped 14 mineral licks within the range of this herd.

### **Management Concern:**

A large fire in 2004 burned about 40% of the known winter range of the Ethel Lake herd (Map 5). By doing annual herd counts, biologists monitor calf production and can determine if the herd is increasing, decreasing, or is stable.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Monitor the Ethel Lake Caribou herd annually to determine the health of the population by counting the number of cows, bulls and calves.**

### **Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Caribou population counts	Yukon government	Annually
Report caribou information	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering
Management recommendations	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering

### **Management Concern:**

Any harvest during this period of low calf survival could cause the Ethel Lake Caribou Herd to decline. The voluntary closure of hunting follows First Nation traditional management practices of periodically giving an area a rest from hunting.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Continue with voluntary no-hunting request as long as calf survival stays low.** Wait until survival is above 20 calves for every 100 cows for at least two years before lifting the no-hunting request.

## **Implementation:**

<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>WHEN</b>
Promote continued voluntary hunting closure	The three Parties, (Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	Ongoing
Report caribou information	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering
Management recommendations	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering

## **Moose**

### **Traditional Knowledge**

Elders say the moose were found all over the Ddhaw Ghro area and were very abundant in the 1930s and 1940s. Moose are still a very important food source for Northern Tutchone people. There are several factors that contribute to where moose may be found in each season, but moose movements are generally more localized than caribou.

### **Work to Date**

There is considerably less scientific information about moose in Ddhaw Ghro than there is about sheep or caribou. The Yukon government Fish & Wildlife Branch conducted early-winter surveys of moose in the western part of Ddhaw Ghro in 1988, and a late-winter survey in the same area in 1989. Late-winter aerial surveys of moose recruitment were conducted annually from 1993 to 1999, which included parts of Ddhaw Ghro. No key habitats for moose have been mapped in Ddhaw Ghro. Selkirk First Nation funded a survey of late-winter moose habitat over the whole region in 2001. In 2002, the Selkirk First Nation worked with the Yukon Fish & Wildlife Branch to complete early-winter moose surveys covering the western part of Ddhaw Ghro. The steering committee gathered traditional knowledge of the important seasonal habitat areas for moose from elder interviews. Elders and biologists mapped moose habitat suitability for all seasons using the vegetation map of Ddhaw Ghro (Map 11).

### **Current Status**

Densities of moose are about 160 for every 1000 km<sup>2</sup> in Ddhaw Ghro, slightly above the Yukon average. At this time, the proportions of calves and bulls are healthy enough to sustain the population. Moose have their calves in late May, in sheltered habitats that provide good food and protection from predators. Lowland habitats along rivers and creeks are good calving areas. In the summer and fall, moose reside in a variety of habitats often near water. After rutting in September and October, moose move into high-elevation sub-alpine shrub habitats. The willow and birch flats and draws around Ddhaw Ghro are ideal for moose, until deep snows force them to low-elevation forest cover, later in the winter. Kalzas River, Crooked and North Crooked Creeks and the lower parts of Grey Hunter Creek are all important late-winter habitats for moose. Fires burned some of the late-winter range along Crooked Creek and the lower Kalzas River, in 2004. These burn areas will provide little late winter habitat for moose, especially in deep-snow years, until the forest grows back.

### **Management Concern:**

There is currently no harvest of moose in Ddhaw Ghro, but moose seasonally move in and out of the Habitat Protection Area. Moose numbers need to be monitored in the region because they are the main subsistence food for local residents.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Continue to monitor moose populations in and near Ddhaw Ghro.**

**Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Aerial and ground-based moose monitoring	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils	Ongoing
Report moose population information	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering
Management recommendations	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering

**Management Concern:**

Although there is no moose harvest in Ddhaw Ghro, over harvest in nearby areas could affect moose that use Ddhaw Ghro.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Continue to monitor harvest of moose in and around Ddhaw Ghro.**

**Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Public moose harvest information collection	Yukon government	Annually
First Nation hunter interviews	Selkirk First Nation, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation)	Annually
Report moose harvest information	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils (and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation)	May Gathering
Management recommendations	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils	May Gathering

## Bears

### **Traditional Knowledge**

One elder said the grizzly bears are “living right up around timberline. They’d eat grass and everything, chasing sheep-they’d kill sheep and whistlers (marmots), they’d dig up whistlers and gopher out of the rocks. They’d eat berries.” This elder also talked about there being a lot of bear sign around the Hot Springs where he even once saw a bear lying on its back in the water.

### **Work to Date**

When the Ddhaw Ghro planning process started, there was no information about bear numbers or habitat use in Ddhaw Ghro. To fill this gap, elders mapped their traditional knowledge of important habitats for grizzly and black bears, and the steering committee prepared habitat suitability maps from elder ratings of the different vegetation types for bears (Map 12).

### **Current Status**

The number of bears that use Ddhaw Ghro is unknown. Elders say that grizzly bears are abundant there. The extensive alpine and sub-alpine areas in Ddhaw Ghro and surrounding mountains are preferred by grizzly bears. Black bears are likely more abundant in valley bottoms, especially along Crooked Creek and the Little Kalzas River.

### **Management Concern:**

Based upon current knowledge, bear populations appear to be healthy. Grizzly bears are listed as a species of special concern in the federal ‘Species at Risk’ legislation. Grizzly bears are also a significant predator of various big game species, and have the potential to affect the number of sheep, moose and caribou living in Ddhaw Ghro.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**There are no immediate management concerns or recommendations about bears in this plan.** Local information will continue to be gathered, and recommendations will be considered, should a change in bear numbers be observed.

### **Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Consideration of management measures for bear, as issues arise, and based on occasional research and monitoring	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils (and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation)	May Gathering

# Waterfowl

## Traditional Knowledge

Ducks are a traditional food and are very important for First Nation people. There are a wide variety of birds in this Area including many ducks such as mallards, bluebills, butterball/buffalo head (bufflehead), black ducks and canvasbacks.

*“It seems there are less and less ducks every summer. When I used to hunt muskrat — the ducks drove me crazy — making so much noise — but not anymore.”*

*— Elder comment.*

## Work to Date

Elders mapped their traditional knowledge of nesting and staging habitat for ducks, geese, and swans in and around Ddhaw Ghro. In June 2004 and 2005, Ducks Unlimited Canada surveyed waterfowl from helicopters on 53 ponds in the wetland complex stretching from Little Kalzas Lake in the southeast to the northwest corner of Ddhaw Ghro along Crooked Creek. The southern portion of Ddhaw Ghro is excellent habitat for ducks and geese, either for staging temporarily in spring and fall, or for nesting.

## Current Status

The wetlands along the Little Kalzas River, Woodburn Creek and Crooked Creek, that make up the southwest border of Ddhaw Ghro (Map 6), are excellent nesting habitat for ducks. There were 15 species of ducks, loons and grebes found nesting during aerial surveys. There were especially high numbers of scaup, which are a duck of conservation concern in North America. The 2004 wildfires burned many areas around the ponds, but 2005 surveys showed that waterfowl continued to use most of the ponds. Little Kalzas Lake is just outside the Habitat Protection Area and is used for fall migration, as well as by nesting swans and ducks.

## Management Concern:

The wetlands along the western edge of Ddhaw Ghro are the only substantial wetlands in the Habitat Protection Area. Much of the forest cover surrounding the wetlands was burned by wild-fires in 2004. Given concerns about the effects of fire on wildlife habitat, the wetland survey before the 2004 fires provides the opportunity to monitor the post-fire recovery of wetlands in the northern boreal forest.

## RECOMMENDATION:

**Continue regular monitoring of waterfowl use along the Little Kalzas River, Woodburn Creek, and Crooked Creek.**

## Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Waterfowl study — effects of wildfires on waterfowl, use of Ddhaw Ghro Lakes	Ducks Unlimited Canada and Yukon government	Annually
Waterfowl monitoring support	Yukon government, Selkirk First Nation	Annually
Report to May Gathering	Yukon government and Ducks Unlimited Canada	Annually



## **Birds of Prey**

### ***Traditional Knowledge***

Eagles are an important part of Northern Tutchone culture, and have nests in Ddhaw Ghro. They have spiritual value and there are many customs which relate to eagles.

### ***Work to Date***

There were no key habitats of eagles or hawks mapped in Ddhaw Ghro at the start of this planning process. Elders mapped traditional bald eagle nest sites and places that they had seen activity by bald eagles, golden eagles, hawks, owls and ravens. In June 2004, Yukon government conducted an aerial survey of Ddhaw Ghro to locate cliff-nesting raptors.

### ***Current Status***

There are four known bald eagle nesting sites along creeks and lakes in Ddhaw Ghro. Also mapped are seven golden eagle nests, one gyrfalcon nest and two peregrine falcon nests in Ddhaw Ghro (Map 13). These nesting sites are used from year to year by these birds. Nesting birds are especially sensitive to disturbance by human activity.

### ***Management Concerns and Recommendations***

There are no concerns or recommendations for birds of prey in this Management Plan.

## **Fish**

### ***Traditional Knowledge***

Fish plays a vital part in the health of the Northern Tutchone People and the animals. The fish need good quality, fresh water for continued survival in the ecosystem. Although no elder claims to have seen it, some of them recall hearing about flying fish in Crystal Lake when they were young. Those elders now say that maybe they were talking about grayling because of their large fins which span when they jump out of the water.

### ***Work to Date***

Field studies of Chinook salmon were carried out in the 1990s by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Selkirk First Nation, on Crooked Creek and the Little Kalzas River. In 1993, interviews were conducted with elders about salmon in the Mayo area. As a part of the Ddhaw Ghro planning process, field studies of fish were conducted in 2002 in the three largest lakes in and around the Habitat Protection Area: Little Kalzas, Crystal and Sideslip Lakes. Also in 2002, Selkirk First Nation funded fish research in Macmillan River tributary streams, including the Little Kalzas and Kalzas Rivers. Elders have mapped their traditional knowledge of freshwater fish and salmon in the creeks and lakes in Ddhaw Ghro.

### ***Current Status***

Adult Chinook salmon spawn and juveniles live in Crooked Creek as far upstream as its junction with Woodburn Creek. Salmon spawning and rearing have been documented in the Little Kalzas River up to Little Kalzas Lake. Kalzas River is also used as salmon spawning and rearing habitat. Some of its tributaries, including Grey Hunter Creek, could also be suitable salmon habitat. Elders have seen adult salmon entering Nogold Creek during August and the creek has good spawning habitat, but there have been no scientific surveys to document use of this creek by salmon (See Map 14).

Arctic grayling and slimy sculpins are widely spread throughout the creeks, ponds, and lakes of Ddhaw Ghro. Little Kalzas Lake has lake trout, whitefish, pike, suckers and burbot. The inlet and outlet of the lake are both whitefish spawning areas. Crystal Lake has good populations of arctic grayling and round whitefish. Sideslip Lake has large numbers of arctic grayling and suckers spawn at the lake outlet. Woodburn Lake and some other small lakes have good pike spawning in the weedy shores and creeks.

Chinook salmon are a main subsistence food of the Northern Tutchone People, and salmon has great cultural importance. Conservation of salmon habitat is a high priority for these First Nations.

**Management Concern:**

Nogold and Grey Hunter Creeks are important watersheds originating in Ddhaw Ghro, and use of these creeks by salmon has not been documented.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Conduct a study of salmon use of Nogold Creek and Grey Hunter Creek.**

**Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Research proposal submission to Yukon River Panel, Restoration and Enhancement Fund	First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun	Early in the plan
Salmon counts on Nogold and Grey Hunter Creeks.	First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and a contractor	Early in the plan

**Management Concern:**

There is a lack of information regarding various fish species. Critical areas have not been documented for freshwater fish such as whitefish and trout.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Evaluate whether research should be done for various fish species in other rivers and creeks of Ddhaw Ghro.**

**Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Evaluation of whether research is needed.	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils, Department of Fisheries and Oceans	May Gathering

## **Other Wildlife**

### ***Traditional Knowledge***

In the early days, big and small game animals were abundant throughout the Ddhaw Ghro area. Some fur bearing animals, like coyotes and rabbits, came into abundance in cycles. They would be plentiful, then disappear for a few years before coming back. Coyotes seemed to die out when the Fortymile Caribou herd stopped coming through.

Elders remember wolves running in large packs and that there were “wide wolf trails”. One elder told a story of her mother calling the children back. They thought that they heard their father coming home with the dog team and were rushing down the trail to meet him. “It was not our father’s dog team, but a great big pack of wolves”.

### ***Work to Date***

Hunting, trapping, fishing and the gathering of berries and medicinal plants happened throughout Ddhaw Ghro. Elders have mapped their traditional knowledge about squirrel, marmot, pika, snowshoe hares and porcupine. They have also mapped traditional hunting, trapping, and fishing areas and traditional places where they harvested berries and medicinal plants.

In 1987, the Yukon government Fish & Wildlife Branch and Selkirk First Nation conducted a vegetation survey in Ddhaw Ghro. They recorded plants, animals and animal sign at over 500 sites in the area.

### ***Current Status***

Ddhaw Ghro provides habitat for a wide range of mammals, birds, plants and other wildlife, most of which have been inadequately documented in the Habitat Protection Area. In addition to the fish and wildlife discussed above, it is known that the high mountains are good habitat for marmot, arctic ground squirrel and pika. Lowland forests are home to marten, lynx and wolves. The wetlands along the creeks, rivers and lakes likely have healthy numbers of beaver, muskrat, mink, otters and birds.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

There are no significant management concerns or recommendations for other wildlife in this Management Plan.

## **Trapping**

### ***Traditional Knowledge***

The elders recall learning to hunt and trap for small game such as squirrels, rabbits and weasels when they were small children. Any trapping activities in Ddhaw Ghro should consider Doöli law, as there are traditional ways that Northern Tutchone people handle animals.

### ***Trapping History***

For centuries before the establishment of Fort Selkirk by the Hudson’s Bay Company, the Northern Tutchone had been regular traders with other native groups, including the coastal Tlingit, Tagish, Dene, Han, Kutchin and Inuit. The Northern Tutchone People depended on other native peoples for manufactured goods, trading their valuable interior furs for these items.

The Van Bibber family trapped in the Ddhaw Ghro area since the early 1900s. Others trapped parts of the area during the 1920s to 1940s. During the 1930s, the Van Bibber family trapped over 100 coyotes in one season. The coyote population suddenly declined in the late 1930s. Then, foxes quickly increased and the Van Bibbers caught over 100 in one winter. Large wolf packs were common, especially when the Fortymile Caribou Herd wintered in the area. Lynx, wolverine and marten were never abundant in Ddhaw Ghro and there were only a few places that they were trapped. Trapping in Ddhaw Ghro ended in 1948, when the McArthur Game Sanctuary was established. Trapline cabins were abandoned and have since fallen into disrepair.

### **Management Concern:**

Selkirk and Na-Cho Nyäk Dun elders were consulted about their interest in trapping in Ddhaw Ghro, and all said they did not want trapping re-opened. They believe the area should be left as it is. The key reason is that they are concerned about providing new access into Ddhaw Ghro.

Special trapping could be required to address future conservation problems in and around Ddhaw Ghro. Wolves are significant predators of moose, caribou and sheep, and their numbers could be reduced if there was a conservation problem with big game. Also, beavers are significant, because they dam creeks and could limit the movement of fish, including spawning salmon.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**There should be no commercial trapping or development of trapping trails in Ddhaw Ghro.** Government and First Nations should not establish commercial trapping concessions within Ddhaw Ghro.

**Special trapping could be allowed in Ddhaw Ghro in the future to address wildlife conservation problems identified by the Parties.** Any such trapping, and associated access should be carried out under the direction of the three Parties.

### **Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
No commercial concessions to be issued in Ddhaw Ghro	Yukon government	Ongoing
Identify conservation problems, if any, for which trapping would be appropriate	The three Parties (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	May Gathering
Establish rules for how, where and when trapping activities for conservation purposes are appropriate	The three Parties (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	Before trapping for conservation proceeds.
Recommendations regarding need for trapping	The three Parties (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	May Gathering

# Fire Ecology and Management

## ***Traditional Knowledge***

Traditionally, fire would be left alone to burn out, unless it posed an immediate danger to animals, communities, trap lines or other interests. In such cases, axes, shovels and picks would be used to build fire guards around an area that needed protecting. Any fire fighting would be done at night, when the fire is calmer, and fire fighters would pay close attention to signs such as wind.

First Nations have traditionally applied various fire use management activities as a habitat maintenance measure and to “keep it clean”. They did this to maintain their life style and livelihood. For example, after an area has been subject to fire, animals are attracted by the opportunity to feed on the new growth.

There are a variety of ways in which fire was used to maintain or improve habitat, and for safety. When the first snow fell, Selkirk First Nation People created a fire guard at the lowest snow elevation, to prevent summer fires from destroying the alpine feeding ranges of various species. In the fall and winter, individual trees in wetland areas would be set on fire at any site where they harvested big game, limiting the fuel load of the area. Selective burning of grass and shrubs was conducted in spring to deal with disease, debris and troublesome weeds.

## ***Work Completed to Date***

The Yukon government has mapped recent wildfires in and around Ddhaw Ghro (Map 5). In 2004, a large area in and to the southwest of Ddhaw Ghro was burned in a wildfire (including the Little Kalzas River, Woodburn Creek and Crystal Creek areas). There was another large burn in the Grey Hunter Creek area.

The 2004 Wildland Fire Review Panel traveled to Yukon communities to discuss some of the problems surrounding communications and methods of fire fighting that summer. Some of the recommendations of the “2004 Wildland Fire Review Final Report” are shown below, reflecting similar recommendations to this plan.

- An enhanced mitigation approach to fuel management and continuation of the Fire Smart program;
- Adoption of the Community Services Certification Manual and expanded training at all fire management levels;
- Addition of heli-attack crew, supported by a medium helicopter on contract; and
- Develop and implement fire management plans for woodland caribou and other wildlife populations that have established and approved species management plans.

## ***Current Situation***

Large wildfires are a natural component of the Yukon’s ecosystem. Ddhaw Ghro has experienced fire disturbance for thousands of years, and many species of plants and animals have adapted to this boreal fire regime. This management plan recognizes the role that fire plays in maintaining the ecosystem in its natural state.

Fires have both positive and negative effects on habitats of different wildlife species. Species requiring mature forest habitats such as caribou, marten and some songbirds will avoid recently burnt areas. Moose, lynx and snowshoes hares, on the other hand, are attracted to burns because of the growth of shrubs following fires. In 2004 about 40% of the winter range of the Ethel Lake caribou herd burned. These areas will not be suitable winter habitat for caribou for another 50-100 years. This plan considers the effects of fire on wildlife habitat in making recommendations for how fire should be managed in Ddhaw Ghro.

An exception to the natural fire disturbance cycle is the Chu Tthaw Hot Springs. Regardless of annual precipitation levels, the Hot Springs area remains verdant throughout the summer, due to the constant supply of water, which filters throughout the area’s subsurface. The result is that vegetation in the Hot Springs area has not experienced the natural fire disturbance that the other portions of Ddhaw Ghro have.

Wildfire in Ddhaw Ghro has been infrequent but variable, with between one and eight fires per decade over the past 50 years, burning a total of about 22,000 hectares since 1950. The fire cycle is an indicator of how often an area can be expected to burn based upon historical fire patterns. The fire cycle for the Ddhaw Ghro is about 315 years. The surrounding region burns more frequently, with a fire cycle of about 118 years. The higher elevation of Ddhaw Ghro is the main difference.

Table 1: Wildland fires in the Ddhaw Ghro 1950 to 2005 (source: Yukon Government Wildland Fire Management)

DECADE	NUMBER OF FIRES	AREA BURNED (hectares)
1950 to 1959	1	201
1960 to 1969	3	25
1970 to 1979	7	3,544
1980 to 1989	3	275
1990 to 1999	8	42
2000 to 2005	2	18,200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22,287</b>

Wildfires are caused by humans or by lightning. Lightning causes most fire in the central Yukon. The forests of Ddhaw Ghro are near the North Klondike Highway and the Ethel Lake campground, adding the risk of human-caused ignitions.

One of the primary factors determining the fire regime is elevation. Most burned areas in the Yukon are at lower and mid-slope elevations. Higher areas are characterized by cooler, damper conditions that impede vigorous burning. Because much of Ddhaw Ghro is high mountains, the risk of fire is limited to the lower slopes.

Wild fires are dealt with by Yukon government’s Wildland Fire Management. The Fire Management Program manages wildfires in the Yukon based on zoning. Ddhaw Ghro falls within various fire response zones. Western Ddhaw Ghro includes a Full Fire Management Zone, Strategic Fire Management Zone and Transitional Fire Management Zone. The Chu Tthaw Hot Springs is a “Value at Risk”, a category which usually provides site protection. Ddhaw Ghro is in the “Wilderness Zone” response category, which covers about 75% of the Yukon. The “Wilderness Zone” means that crews will not likely respond with suppression, but will monitor the fire and take action only where socio-economic effects are likely.

During the fire season, efforts focus on the safety of lives and protecting property. Because fire is a valuable part of the forest’s natural ecosystem, fires not threatening these values are often monitored, but are not fought by crews.

A variety of methods are employed to control fires, depending on the location and severity. District offices maintain fire crews in a state of readiness to respond quickly. “Initial attack” teams use helicopters to deliver crews to fire sites and “bucket” water onto fires while air tankers drop retardant to slow the fire’s progress.

All fire fighters are trained in a wide variety of skills, including fire behavior and suppression, standard first aid and radio communications.

**Concerns:**

There is currently no fire management plan in place. Large areas in and around Ddhaw Ghro have recently been burned, resulting in an increasing habitat value of remaining mature forests. Fire protection is desired for the Hot Springs, existing heritage sites and any new structures that are recommended in this plan.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Develop a fire management plan for all of Ddhaw Ghro, based on traditional and contemporary fire management principles.** Including traditional fire management practices is especially appropriate for the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area.

### **Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Write a document about traditional fire management practices	Selkirk First Nation, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, (and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation)	Early in the plan
Develop and implement fire management plan	The three Parties, (and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation)	Early in the plan
Review fire management plan	The three Parties, (and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation)	As required

### **Concern:**

In 2004, the communities of Mayo and Pelly Crossing were frustrated that local First Nation crews were not consulted about the values that required protection or the ways to fight wildfires in and around Ddhaw Ghro.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**The parties should develop effective protocols and action plans to ensure local fire crews from Pelly Crossing and Mayo can respond to wildfires in Ddhaw Ghro.**

### **Implementation**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Train local fire crews	The three Parties, (and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation)	Early in the plan
Develop an effective local fire response (protocols and action plans)	The three Parties, (and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation)	Early in the plan

### **Concern:**

The Chu Tthaw Land Use Plan includes a recommendation to establish a fire management buffer around the Hot Springs. The Hot Springs is a very important cultural area and needs protection. There needs to be effective coordination of fire management methods between S-116 and the buffer area.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Change the designation of the area surrounding the Chu Tthaw Hot Springs from Wilderness Zone to a Strategic Fire Management Zone. Develop a plan to manage wildfires in the buffer zone which is coordinated with a Selkirk First Nation fire management plan for S-116.**

## **Implementation:**

<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>WHEN</b>
Delineate an adequate buffer area around S-116	The three Parties	Early in the plan
Designate Chu Tthaw buffer area as Strategic Fire Management Zone	Yukon government	Early in the plan
Use aggressive initial attack by aerial crews to suppress fires in the areas surrounding S-116	Yukon government	Ongoing
Develop and implement a fire management action plan for the buffer area	The three Parties	Early the plan

## **Hot Springs Concerns:**

The Chu Tthaw Hot Springs is an important cultural place for Northern Tutchone People, but is perceived to have little fire protection. During Ddhaw Ghro public consultations, many ideas about ways to protect the Hot Springs from wildfire were proposed. As Selkirk First Nation is the land owner at the Hot Springs (S-116), these ideas are being provided for their consideration.

- Need to use low impact aerial and ground suppression of fires threatening the Hot Springs. Fire retardant chemicals would affect the Hot Springs and its surrounding environment and should not be used to fight fire in the area. The use of mechanized equipment could cause significant damage to the area.
- The Hot Springs is a sensitive place and a landing site for helicopters needs to be developed away from the current one next to the pools.
- The trees surrounding the Hot Springs have not burned in recent times. The fuel load is a significant hazard.
- There could be better success of fighting a fire at the Hot Springs (S-116) if fire-fighting tools were stored in the area.
- Traditional fire management practices focused on activities outside the summer fire-season. Fire training in the use of traditional, light-ground methods is needed in the Hot Springs area to increase the knowledge of the area by fire crews and develop appropriate fire fighting strategies. The Selkirk First Nation is developing a document outlining how wildfire was traditionally managed at the Hot Springs, caribou winter range and around wetlands.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SELKIRK FIRST NATION TO CONSIDER REGARDING FIRE MANAGEMENT WITHIN S-116 (CHU TTHAW HOT SPRINGS):**

- **Develop a fire management plan for the Selkirk First Nation S-116 Hot Springs parcel. The management plan should include the following:**
  - Use low impact ground and aerial fire suppression for fires in the Hot Springs (S-116) parcel, unless agreed to by Selkirk First Nation.
  - Identify and develop a landing site to get fire crews safely in and out of the Hot Springs site.
  - Consider ways to reduce fire hazards in the Chu Tthaw Hot Springs parcel. Involve elders in any fire protection program to ensure important hot spring features and medicinal plants are protected.
  - Build a structure to house fire pumps, hoses and other hand equipment for fire fighting and hoses at Hot Springs.
  - Use the Hot Springs area for training in traditional fire suppression methods.



## **Hot Springs Implementation:**

<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHO</b>	<b>WHEN</b>
Develop a fire management plan for the S-116 parcel, coordinated with the buffer area fire management plan	Selkirk First Nation	Early in the plan

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## **Cultural Resources**

### **Traditional Knowledge**

Due to the sensitivity of cultural information, this plan does not identify the exact location of places and artifacts discussed herein. First Nations elders talk about Ddhaw Ghro and how it has been used for many generations of Northern Tutchone People. This use is supported by archaeological evidence dating back at least 3,000 and 4,000 years ago. In recent times, several projects have aimed at identifying this evidence of occupation and documenting oral histories.

In the 1930s and 1940s, there were 12 cabins in Ddhaw Ghro, used by the Van Bibber family. Over the years, these cabins were also used by other families and hunters in Ddhaw Ghro. Today, only a few of these structures still remain. At that time, there existed an extensive trail network throughout Ddhaw Ghro. These are animal and foot trails that were used by people on foot, snowshoe and dog teams. One gravesite has been identified in Ddhaw Ghro. Oral accounts suggest it belongs to a Pelly Crossing family from around 1900. Other evidence of occupation includes various caches, traps, a sheep snare and many historic and archaeological artifacts.

### **Work Completed to Date**

Extensive cultural research has been done with northern Tutchone elders about Ddhaw Ghro between 2000 and 2003. Information was collected through interviews, workshops, and meetings in Pelly Crossing and Mayo. In addition, there were surveys and reports about the history and heritage of Ddhaw Ghro and the Chu Tthaw Hot Springs. Some of this work has been done in partnership with Yukon Government.

Elders have provided information about the locations of good hunting and fishing spots, trapping areas, locations of cabins, old camps and graves. Many of the sites have historical significance. Work in the area has led to the discovery of one pre-contact era archaeological site. Artifacts include three partially shaped stone knives, stone flakes and burned animal bone.

Also evident in much of the research was the special healing uses of the Hot Springs and of people who have been cured by using the Hot Springs. One result of the heritage work is the “Ddhaw Ghro Hot Springs — Rules for Using the Hot Springs”, which are discussed in Chapter 7 of the Chu Tthaw Hot Springs Land Use Plan (available from Selkirk First Nation).

### **Management Concern:**

The heritage studies that were conducted are only a preliminary review of the cultural resources of Ddhaw Ghro. More field work is required to document sites and include them for possible protection under *Historic Resources Act*. Archaeological sites are more often discovered when there is proposed development in an area.

In Ddhaw Ghro, there is an urgency to document traditional knowledge and cultural sites before elders pass on, and the information is lost forever. Because of the cultural importance of Ddhaw Ghro, heritage research should be an important priority.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**The Parties should work to document, do field studies and map cultural sites and trails that have been identified by elders.**

### **Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Document, do field work and map cultural sites and trails	The three Parties, (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	As resources are available
Ensure protection of heritage/ historic sites under <i>Historic Resources Act</i>	Yukon government, Tourism and Culture Department	In conjunction with other projects in Ddhaw Ghro

### **Management Concern:**

Northern Tutchone place names in Ddhaw Ghro are not complete, and they are not shown on past maps. Because of the strong emphasis on traditional uses in Ddhaw Ghro, traditional names for places, waterways, and areas need to be included in all documents. Similarly, many features in Ddhaw Ghro were given English names by the Van Bibber family. These local place names need to be recorded for historical reasons.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Northern Tutchone and local place names of creeks and mountains should be included in all Ddhaw Ghro documents, maps, and awareness and appreciation products.**

### **Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Submission of names to Geographical Names Program, Yukon Government Tourism & Culture	The three Parties, (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation), Geographical Place Names Board	2008
Use of officially approved English and Tutchone (Selkirk dialect) names in documents and maps	The three Parties, and Government of Canada	Ongoing

## Resource-based Land Use

### Forestry

#### *Traditional Knowledge*

Long ago, when the land and its resources were thick and healthy, Selkirk First Nation people used traditional knowledge to guide mankind in all management of land, water, resources and the environment. The traditional knowledge of the Northern Tutchone takes into account all of the forest as a continuous living useful resource, as a whole.

#### *Work to Date*

Yukon government has completed a forest inventory for much of the Yukon, including the Ddhaw Ghro area. The forest inventory is compiled from a combination of air photo interpretation and field work. The inventory identifies leading vegetation species, tree age, height, canopy cover and other details. From this information, it is possible to map where timber is of appropriate size for commercial harvest. Yukon government also tracks wildfire areas based upon satellite photos.

#### *Current Status*

The forests of Ddhaw Ghro are composed of about equal amounts of pine, spruce and aspen. Areas with significant forest stands are mainly along the major creek and river valleys. These areas include Little Kalzas River, Kalzas River, Woodburn Creek, Grey Hunter Creek, Nogold Creek, Sideslip Creek, Crooked Creek and North Crooked Creek (Map 5). There has been no commercial harvesting of timber in Ddhaw Ghro mainly because there is no easy access. There are more suitable areas for commercial timber harvest elsewhere in the region.

Several large areas in Ddhaw Ghro were burned in 2004 providing potential commercial fuel wood. Because there is no access and there is a large supply of fuel wood in surrounding areas, harvest of fuel wood in Ddhaw Ghro is not economical.

#### *Management Concern:*

Boreal forests provide habitat for a variety of wildlife. Much of the mature forest around Ddhaw Ghro burned in 2004. The remaining forests are important winter range for the Ethel Lake caribou herd. Any harvest of wood in Ddhaw Ghro would require access roads, which would be a major concern.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Harvest of remaining mature forests in Ddhaw Ghro should be avoided to protect important habitats. There should be no commercial harvest of timber in Ddhaw Ghro.**

**Harvesting could be acceptable to protect the forest from insect infestation, disease or forest fire mitigation, in keeping with the management objectives of this plan.**

**Wood cutting should be allowed for personal use only when people are in Ddhaw Ghro. Logs may be harvested to provide timber for construction of educational or cultural structures as discussed in other sections of this plan.**

**Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
No issue of commercial timber or fuel wood cutting permits	Yukon government	Effective immediately
Collecting information about forest infestation and disease	Yukon government	Ongoing
Inform visitors of plan recommendations regarding forest harvesting	The three Parties	As soon as practicable.



## **Mineral Resources**

### ***Traditional Knowledge***

The introduction of mining in the Yukon brought about many changes to the culture and lifestyles of First Nations people and damaged the environment upon which the First Nations people are dependent. The Northern Tutchone people have seen the direct results of this through the mining on Mount Nansen as well as nearby in Dawson and Faro. Elders today often talk about the changes that mining brought to the region and are adamantly against allowing the industry in Ddhaw Ghro. Elders feel that Ddhaw Ghro is an area to teach about the old ways to the younger generations and that allowing mining in there goes against Dòli and traditional values.

### ***Geology of Ddhaw Ghro***

Ddhaw Ghro is located in the McArthur Mountains immediately northeast of the Tintina Trench. The region is within the maximum western limit of Pleistocene Glaciations (1.8 million years to 10,000 years before present), when continental ice sheets filled the lower surrounding valleys (Map 3). The peaks of Ddhaw Ghro were not glaciated and much of the ancient terrain remains, including felsenmeer flanks and scattered erosion remnants (tors) on ridge tops.

Sedimentary rocks form much of Ddhaw Ghro. The McArthur batholith is a large igneous formation that underlies the central part of the area. The batholith contains components of the older sedimentary rock and is surrounded by metamorphic structure that formed through reaction with the sedimentary rocks. The hot springs in the area result from the circulation of groundwater through porous sedimentary rocks. The water is heated deep within the earth, and then rises up through structures that are related to the Tintina Fault.

### ***Previous Geological Work***

Mineral exploration in the region dates back to 1929, when Treadwell Yukon claimed to have discovered a large, low-grade copper deposit in the McArthur Mountains. More recent investigations have failed to locate the occurrence.

Hugh Bostock, a geologist with the Geological Survey of Canada, first studied the geology of the Ddhaw Ghro region from 1939–1942. Charlie Roots, with GSC, mapped the bedrock geology of the region in 1997. Exploration by individuals and companies happened sporadically in the region from 1969 to 1997, identifying several mineral occurrences.

In the early 1970s, the mountains around Grey Hunter Peak were heavily staked, but exploration by individuals and companies happened only sporadically over the next three decades. However, several mineral occurrences were reported. By 1995, when Ddhaw Ghro was designated a Special Management Area, there were no active mineral claims. At that time, the area was temporarily withdrawn from mineral prospecting and mining.

### ***Mineral potential of Ddhaw Ghro***

Currently there are no defined mineral resources in the region. The Yukon government completed a regional mineral assessment of Ddhaw Ghro in 2001. The study concluded that in relation to other areas of the Yukon, Ddhaw Ghro contains geology that has areas of moderate to high potential for the future discovery of metallic minerals.

A subsequent detailed mineral assessment divided Ddhaw Ghro into 16 tracts based upon the underlying geology. Tracts were assessed individually for up to 15 different mineral deposit types.

The detailed mineral assessment made the following observations and conclusions:

- Ddhaw Ghro has potential to contain several types of mineral deposits, including poly-metallic veins, skarns and intrusion-related gold deposits.
- There is also potential for deposits within sedimentary rocks of the Earn Group and limestone of the Hyland Group and Rabbitkettle Formation.
- Ddhaw Ghro contains anomalous metals in stream sediment samples. The source of these metals is unknown.
- Ddhaw Ghro has the potential to contain gold, copper, lead, zinc, tungsten, silver and barite.
- The Area has no potential for oil and gas deposits.

Mineral resource assessments are inherently uncertain because they rely mainly on estimations of the probability of finding economical ore bodies, rather than direct study and measurements of minerals in the ground. These assessments are limited by the available data and current knowledge. Relative rankings of land tracts can also change as geological knowledge, technology and societal demand for resources evolve. Further assessment work might or might not result in the delineation of economic amounts of minerals within the Habitat Protection Area.

### **Current Situation**

The Ddhaw Ghro area is presently under a temporary withdrawal order from mineral staking. This order is scheduled to expire on August 31, 2007.

### **Management Concerns:**

There are two important management concerns in relation to mineral development:

1. The potential impacts of mineral development on the capability of Ddhaw Ghro to protect and support its full diversity of wildlife populations and habitats; and,
2. The potential impacts of mineral development on the use of the area by the Selkirk, Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nations people.

### **Potential impacts on Wildlife and Habitats:**

The majority of Ddhaw Ghro supports wildlife habitats that have been assessed as either being “key” or “highest suitability rating” for various species. These include key habitats for sheep, woodland caribou and birds of prey. Ddhaw Ghro also has habitats with the highest suitability ratings in critical seasons for woodland caribou, sheep, moose, bears, and birds of prey. These habitats are considered to be limited in their regional availability; the areas are historically used and critical to the health and survival of wildlife populations.

Limited mineral exploration activities and controlled aerial access may have little or no effects on wildlife and habitat. On the other hand, actual mineral extraction and development operations have demonstrated a greater potential for negative effects on wildlife habitats and populations. These include:

- Direct loss of habitat;
- Behavioral disturbance of wildlife caused by human activities;
- Detrimental effects of contaminants on the wildlife, fish, land, and water; and,
- The development of access roads resulting in:
  - disturbance of habitat areas that will need to be traversed by the road;
  - additional use of the road by other people including other development interests, hunters and recreationalists; and
  - spread of alien invasive plants species along access routes.

These negative effects could reduce the ability of key habitat areas to support fish and wildlife populations, and therefore would be inconsistent with the management objectives of the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area.

### **Potential impacts on the use of the area by First Nations people:**

The Selkirk, Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Little Salmon/Carmacks people currently use Ddhaw Ghro for practicing their traditional culture, and as a place of healing. These First Nations have clearly and consistently stated that they wish continue to use the area for this purpose, therefore Ddhaw Ghro must be kept in a natural and undisturbed state. The Northern Tutchone people have expressed strong objections to any exploration or development of mineral or petroleum resources within the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area. They have also consistently rejected their own economic opportunities in Ddhaw Ghro. Community comments reflect this perspective (see Public Comments, Appendix D).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Withdraw the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area from mineral exploration and development under the Yukon Quartz Mining Act and the Yukon Placer Mining Act, and from oil and gas exploration and development under the Yukon Oil and Gas Act.**

**Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Withdraw the area from mineral and oil and gas exploration and disposition	Yukon government	As soon as practicable

## Tourism and Recreation

### **Traditional Knowledge**

When considering tourism, all of Ddhaw Ghro is traditionally important to the First Nations people, not just the Hot Springs. The entire area must be treated with respect to ensure the protection of the land and the traditional ways. Although Ddhaw Ghro belongs to all people and should be shared with all people having the responsibility of protecting the area, Doòli/Traditional Laws should be respected throughout Ddhaw Ghro.

### **Work to Date**

During community consultations, there was limited interest expressed in using Ddhaw Ghro for tourism and recreation (Appendix D). The steering committee found there is some interest in future tourism and recreation.

There has not been any real analysis of the tourism or recreation potential of the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area. In 1988, a recreation features inventory of the Yukon was completed, including areas in Ddhaw Ghro (Map 16). The central mountains, including Black Ram Peak, are ranked as high potential value for hiking and landscape viewing. The Silver Trail Region Tourism Plan, produced in 1998, did not identify tourism associated with Ddhaw Ghro. One local tourism operator ran guided tours in Ddhaw Ghro, but stopped when the area was identified as a Special Management Area under the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Final Agreement.

Fishing-related tourism is limited in Crystal Lake and Sideslip Lake, which support small arctic grayling and other freshwater fish, but these lakes are accessible only by air. The rivers and creeks of the area have higher potential for recreational fishing, mostly for grayling.

The Chu Tthaw Hot Springs is a sacred healing place and not appropriate for tourism or recreation. Because the hot springs are entirely within Selkirk First Nation settlement land the control and management is not part of this plan.

### **Current Status**

There are currently no commercial tourism activities in the area. There is no easy way to get to Ddhaw Ghro, except by horseback or by aircraft. There is some hiking associated wildlife and landscape viewing, and fishing. People sometimes visit the Hot Springs by helicopter, which is an important concern of the Selkirk First Nation.

### **Management Concern:**

The designation of Ddhaw Ghro as a Habitat Protection Area could increase the attractiveness of the area for personal recreation, and for commercial wilderness guiding opportunities. Unmanaged tourism could affect wildlife behavior and habitats, environmental values and traditional uses. Currently, the limited access keeps interest in recreation and tourism activities low. It is important that ways to effectively manage and control visitor use be in place before increasing tourism opportunities. Although existing laws cannot prevent visitors from going to Ddhaw Ghro, public awareness of the area and cooperation from tourism operators can help minimize recreation and tourism effects at this time.

There is a strong community concern that access to Chu Tthaw Hot Springs through Ddhaw Ghro could degrade this sensitive area. The uncontrolled development of the Nash Creek Hot Springs north of Mayo was often referred in community meetings as an example of how a culturally important hot springs can be degraded by mismanagement.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**There should be no land tenure granted for the purpose of tourism in Ddhaw Ghro.**

**There should not be active promotion of Ddhaw Ghro as a tourism destination at this time.** The Yukon government and First Nations should not advocate recreation and tourism activities in Ddhaw Ghro in information brochures and other materials. This recommendation could be revisited in future plan reviews, with respect to limited wilderness guiding and First Nation economic development.

### **Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
No disposition of lands for commercial tourism purposes	Yukon government	Ongoing
No active promotion of Ddhaw Ghro in tourism publications	The three Parties, (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	Ongoing



## Research and Monitoring

### Traditional Knowledge

Respect for all of the life in Ddhaw Ghro is vitally important, and traditional laws need to apply to the research and monitoring in the area. The traditional law process includes regular reporting of fish and wildlife harvest information at annual May Gatherings, providing a simple and efficient way to monitor wildlife use in the Ddhaw Ghro area. For thousands of years, traditional monitoring and stewardship by the First Peoples has been a responsibility, ensuring environmental and ecosystem balance.

*“There is lots of work to do. We don’t have to rush into things, take our time and do it right. Make things work better for our future generations.”*

— Elder comment.

### Work to Date and Current Situation

A wide variety of research has already been completed in Ddhaw Ghro as part of this planning. This includes fish and wildlife surveys, mapping of habitat and areas of traditional use, visits to heritage sites, forest inventory, mineral assessments, and vegetation studies. Details about these studies are provided in previous sections. Apart from the early studies in the McArthur Game Sanctuary, there has been little other scientific research in the area.

Traditional knowledge was collected as part of this planning. It is an important baseline for including in future research and monitoring in Ddhaw Ghro. Research can use traditional knowledge to assist in determining research gaps, study objectives, and field work planning.

One concern is that researchers rarely provide information about their study results to local communities in a format that is understandable. This fosters misunderstanding, distrust, and questions about the value of the studies. Future research projects will likely arise, especially after the area has been designated as a Habitat Protection Area. Currently, archaeological investigations require a permit under the Archaeological Sites Regulations of the *Historic Resources Act*. Under the provisions of the *Scientists and Explorers Act*, researchers from outside the territory require permits to do research but Yukon researchers do not require a permit. As part of the permit requirements, researchers should be required to better inform the communities about the purpose and results of their studies.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

**Research projects in Ddhaw Ghro should be reviewed and approved by the Parties.** Due to the sensitivity of Ddhaw Ghro, the Parties should develop a collaborative process for reviewing, approving and monitoring all research projects.

**Results of all research should be made available to the Parties and communities in an appropriate presentation and in a timely manner.**

**Any research dealing with traditional knowledge should be performed with respect for First Nation traditional law (i.e. Doòli).**

Other recommendations relating to research and monitoring are found in other sections of this plan and in Appendix A.

### Implementation:

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Develop a collaborative process for reviewing, approving and monitoring research projects.	The three Parties, (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	Later in the plan
Results of Ddhaw Ghro research projects to be made available to the Parties and local communities.	Researchers	As results are available
Consult with First Nations regarding traditional law.	Researchers	Before any traditional knowledge project proceeds

## Awareness and Appreciation

### **Traditional Knowledge:**

There is a traditionally held belief that there will always be changes to the land and the life on it. This principle should be part of the management of the Ddhaw Ghro area. There is respect for the area as a whole. The appreciation of the traditional practices and laws have protected and managed the Ddhaw Ghro area for thousands of years.

During the 2003 Traditional Mapping Project for the Ddhaw Ghro area, several elders talked about cultural knowledge used by the old timers. In an earlier interview, elders spoke about the “goodness and honesty” of people long ago and of “living a good life” on the land and caring for the animals so we have something to give our children when they need it. They were taught to “leave things as they are, not to disrupt nature”. Elders speak passionately about the sacred healing nature of the Chu Tthaw Hot Springs. Each elder interviewed has had a strong message of respect for the land, the animals and the plants.

*“People have wills. A long time ago the elders had nothing to leave behind. Ddhaw Ghro is like a will that we can leave for our future generations ”*

— Elder comment.

The following are elder comments to the steering committee about appreciating Ddhaw Ghro:

- “We need to keep this Area clean and good water for our future generations.”
- “And he can remember all the dog teams going by from Ross River to the Ddhaw Ghro Hot Springs. Generations have known about this Area”.
- “It is important that future generations know cultural ways, and know how to hunt and look after the animals”.

### **Management Concerns:**

Land and resources managers and users need to be aware of the importance of this Area, in order to make decisions which are in the best interest of the area. Ignorance about the precious habitat and wildlife of the area could lead to poor management decisions.

The steering committee is concerned that excessive publicity about the Ddhaw Ghro region may result in overuse, diminishing or destroying the natural values of the area.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The Parties should work towards creating greater public awareness of the Ddhaw Ghro region, in a way that does not promote increased travel to the area.**

**To encourage respect for Ddhaw Ghro, the Parties should make information available.** This information could include:

- Brochure and/or video to promote awareness of history, wildlife and sensitivity of the area
- Information in community and First Nation newsletters
- Highway pullout with interpretive signs stating:
  - General description of the natural features and values
  - Previously known as McArthur Wildlife Sanctuary
  - Status as a Habitat Protection Area under the Selkirk Final Agreement
  - History of people who used the area
  - Northern Tutchone history
  - Restrictions that apply

### **Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Develop a communications strategy	The three Parties	Early in the plan
Produce a brochure	The three Parties	Later in plan
Produce a video	The three Parties	Later in plan
Provide information in community and First Nation newsletters	Selkirk First Nation, Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Pelly Crossing, Village of Mayo	Ongoing
Develop and establish a highway pullout and signage	The three Parties	Later in plan

### **Management Concerns:**

There is a need and desire to educate Yukon people, especially youth about the significance of Ddhaw Ghro and the Chu Tthaw Hot Springs. Through education, they may appreciate and respect the land and wildlife, as well as have an understanding of the cultural and historic significance of the area. In the long run, respect for the area by the local residents will benefit Ddhaw Ghro.

Also, elders strongly believe Ddhaw Ghro should be used to educate younger generations about nature, cultural/traditional values and the environment to revitalize the traditional way of life. Traditional principles and practices need to be included in any education occurring in Ddhaw Ghro.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Use Ddhaw Ghro as a ‘classroom’ to teach about Northern Tutchone culture, traditions, and customary practices; and history, wildlife, ecosystems, tourism, climate change, geology and conservation.**

### **Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Develop lesson plans and resources, including opportunities for Elders to talk about the area	The three Parties, (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	Early in the plan
Ddhaw Ghro field trips	The three Parties, (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	As required
Regularly educate people	The three Parties, (and Little Salmon/ Carmacks First Nation)	Ongoing

## Land Management

### Land Use and Tenure

#### **Traditional Knowledge**

It is traditionally known that the land is provided to the first peoples by the “The Highest from Above” (“ot’o dinche” as elders stated in Northern Tutchone), God. The land is there to provide for a balanced life and the land has all that is needed to provide for life. Traditionally, land tenure and permits did not exist within the First Nations on papers. A land decision took into careful consideration all First Nations People and future generations, and was the responsibility all people. The people assigned lands to the family caretakers in defined areas.

#### **Current Situation**

Hunting, trapping, fishing and cultural activities were the important uses of Ddhaw Ghro in the past. Trapping cabin leases were the only lands granted in the area, but nearly all these structures have deteriorated since closure of trapping, in the area, in 1948. There were no other parcels of land that were tenured, before this management planning started.



With the exception of the two Selkirk First Nation settlement lands at Crystal Lake and Chu Tthaw Hot Springs, all land within Ddhaw Ghro is regulated under the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act*, as well as by Yukon government land administration policies. There are land interests near Ddhaw Ghro that could affect the area. At the northwest corner of Ddhaw Ghro the Klondike Highway right-of-way includes a notation for a power transmission line and three gravel pit reservations. To the south, the Selkirk R-27A R-Block borders the Habitat Protection Area. To the north is a provisional notation in the Ethel Lake area for a territorial park.

Ddhaw Ghro was protected as the McArthur Game Sanctuary for nearly 50 years before it was designated to become a Habitat Protection Area. There have been no known land use permits issued since detailed ledgers were developed in 1982.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**There should be no land tenure granted in Ddhaw Ghro for the following activities: gravel extraction, agriculture, grazing leases, rural or recreation residences, or for any commercial activity. Exceptions may be made for grandfathered family cabin sites and educational facilities agreed to by the Parties.**

**Land Use Permits not be issued, except to meet the requirements of this Management Plan.**

#### **Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
No issuance of land tenure in Ddhaw Ghro	Yukon government	Immediately
No issuance of land use permits in Ddhaw Ghro	Yukon government	Immediately

## Access

### **Traditional Knowledge:**

People made many trails in the area that animals and people continue to use. In the community Mapping Project, the elders identified 47 trails in Ddhaw Ghro. People traveled on these trails by foot and dog packs, snowshoes or by dog team.

“People moved around the area just like caribou.”

— *Elder comment.*

### **Current Situation:**

Apart from the northwest corner of Ddhaw Ghro near the Klondike Highway, most of the Habitat Protection Area is inaccessible by ground. Much of the forest around Ddhaw Ghro was burned in 2004, making some of the trails difficult to reach even by snowmachine in winter. The nearest other roads are the Ethel Lake road to the north and the Acorn Road to the southwest. Neither of these roads is close to Ddhaw Ghro.

With past travel trails in poor condition and creeks too small to travel on, there is no good ground access. Fixed wing access is limited to the larger lakes. Helicopter access is unlimited.

### **Management Concern:**

The main concern is that improved access routes will encourage more people to visit, which will result in negative environmental impacts to Ddhaw Ghro. Off-road vehicle traffic in Ddhaw Ghro could create serious negative impacts through destruction of vegetation, introduction of exotic plant species, disturbance of the soil, development of new access routes, creation of ruts that are susceptible to erosion and increased noise and human activity that will impact wildlife.

Some parties may wish to develop an access right-of-way through Ddhaw Ghro to travel to lands elsewhere. Because Ddhaw Ghro is mainly rugged mountains or is surrounded by incised creeks to the north and west, it seems unlikely that access through Ddhaw Ghro is feasible. More suitable routes exist outside the Habitat Protection Area.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**No motorized ground access should be allowed in Ddhaw Ghro.**

**Existing trails in Ddhaw Ghro should not be developed in a way that could allow motorized traffic.**

**Any access for emergency purposes should be by air.**

### **Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Inform motorized off-road users to avoid travelling in this area	The three Parties, Renewable Resources Councils (and Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation)	2006
Develop regulations under the <i>Yukon Wildlife Act</i> to prohibit motorized vehicles in the Habitat Protection Area.	Yukon government	As soon as practicable

# Important Wildlife Habitat in Areas Adjacent to Ddhaw Ghro

## **Traditional Knowledge:**

The Northern Tutchone people take into account all species habitat and other important connected species in their traditional management practices. This ensures a healthy ecosystem for future generations.

## **Work to Date**

Section 4.5 of Schedule 'A' (Chapter 10) of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement says the Parties may agree to expand the boundaries of Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area, should it be required to meet the objectives of the Schedule. The Parties can recommend a boundary expansion as an 'Additional Area'. This Additional Area must be guided by the five objectives of the Management Plan for the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area (see Schedule 'A', Section 4.5.3, 4.5.4 and 4.5.5).

In January 2002, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun recommended the Mount Sether-Ethel Lake area be included in the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area. In October 2002, the Minister of Environment replied that before any expansion could be considered, the Ddhaw Ghro steering committee should first identify the values and issues that extend beyond the current boundary. In 2003, First Nation elders of Selkirk and Na-Cho Nyäk Dun recommended 'that an expanded Area be considered to include the rich habitat areas adjacent to Ddhaw Ghro, along the south side of the Crooked Creek valley corridor...'.

Since 2003, the steering committee has reviewed the scientific and traditional knowledge gathered about wildlife and their habitats in Ddhaw Ghro and surrounding areas. In a March 2004 letter to the three Parties, the steering committee concluded that boundaries of Ddhaw Ghro do not include all the critical habitats that the Habitat Protection Area was meant to protect. Key issues outside the boundary included:

- The fannin sheep annual range includes Mount Sether, which is outside the Habitat Protection Area and has no special management conditions. Because the population is small it is vulnerable to disturbance and hunting on this part of its range.
- The Ethel Lake caribou herd winters mostly outside Ddhaw Ghro in the forested lowlands east, north, and southwest of Ddhaw Ghro. Also, many caribou rut on the alpine ridges north and west of Kalzas Twins and south of Ethel Lake, outside the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area. These habitats are considered critical to the Ethel Lake caribou herd (Map 17).
- The present Habitat Protection Area boundaries follow along the middle of creeks and rivers, protecting one side but not the other. These riparian areas are important calving and late winter range for moose, and provide key annual habitats for many wildlife species, including spawning Chinook salmon. Wetlands along Woodburn and Crooked Creeks are valuable habitat for waterfowl, beavers, and muskrats. Riparian habitats should be left intact so that they maintain their highest habitat values. This is especially important given the loss of much of these forested habitats in the 2004 fires.
- Nests of raptors including bald eagles, golden eagles, and peregrine falcons (which are a species at risk) are near and on the borders of Ddhaw Ghro, and these require adequate buffers to limit disturbance to the nests.

## **Current Situation**

There are land interests surrounding Ddhaw Ghro that could affect the objectives of the Habitat Protection Area in the future (Map 2). As discussed above, important habitats for fish and wildlife that live in Ddhaw Ghro extend outside the current boundary. These habitats need to be considered when developing access and resources in lands around Ddhaw Ghro.

The following are the known land interests. Other interest will undoubtedly arise in the future.

- At the northwest corner of Ddhaw Ghro the Klondike Highway right-of-way includes a notation for a power transmission line and three gravel pit reservations.
- To the south, the Selkirk R-27A R-Block borders the Habitat Protection Area.
- To the north is a provisional notation in the Ethel Lake area for a territorial park.
- Chapter 7.8 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement identifies the Granite Canyon on the upper Pelly River as a possible hydro-electric site. Should this development proceed, the water storage would flood areas below 1,900 ft., including much of the upper Pelly and MacMillan Rivers (Map 18). The flooded areas would include parts of Ddhaw Ghro drained by Little Kalzas River.
- Appendix A of The Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement includes access rights across the settlement lands for The Dromedary Resource Road and Proposed Extension. The 60-meter right-of-way begins at the Klondike Highway, passing south of Ddhaw Ghro, then arcing north-east through the Moose River to the Dromedary Mountain area.

- There are active mining claims on the Clarke Hills, southeast of Ddhaw Ghro (Map 19). Although there has been little development here, access to the claims could pass close to Ddhaw Ghro.
- Olympic Resources has recently explored for minerals at Kalzas Twins, about 20 km east of Ddhaw Ghro (Map 19). The mineral claim includes important fall rutting areas for the Ethel Lake caribou herd.
- The Selkirk Renewable Resources Council submitted a proposal to the Yukon government for a Habitat Protection Area along the MacMillan River to the south of Ddhaw Ghro. This area likely provides important winter range and calving habitat for Ddhaw Ghro moose.

**Management Concerns:**

Ddhaw Ghro fish and wildlife populations rely on important habitat and seasonal ranges found outside the boundary of the Habitat Protection Area. Activities occurring outside Ddhaw Ghro can affect these populations. For example, a potential Granite Canyon dam project flooding would have an impact on Ddhaw Ghro salmon and moose.

The Parties may recommend a boundary expansion to protect important fish and wildlife values. The steering committee was tasked by the Yukon government to assess the value of these outside habitats to Ddhaw Ghro populations. Based on extensive study, the steering committee recommends that the Parties consider a significant ‘Additional Area’ to meet the objectives of Schedule ‘A’, Chapter 10 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement, including areas shown in Map 17.

Although the committee has done a complete review of the fish and wildlife habitat values outside Ddhaw Ghro, we did not research other resource values (i.e., mining, forestry) that the Parties may review in considering an ‘Additional Area’.

As discussed in the “Current Use” text above, there are a variety of activities which may occur in the area surrounding Ddhaw Ghro. Land uses that occur adjacent to the Habitat Protection Area have potential to impact the wildlife population that Ddhaw Ghro Management Plan has been designed to protect, as the wildlife populations use important habitats both inside and outside the Habitat Protection Area.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Important habitat areas outside Ddhaw Ghro should be considered by the Parties for inclusion in an “Additional Area” as per section 4.5 of Chapter 10, Schedule A of the Selkirk Final Agreement. These include the Mount Sether sheep range, the riparian areas on both sides of boundary creeks, Ethel Lake caribou winter and rutting ranges, and buffers around raptor nests on the Habitat Protection Area border.**

**If the Parties agree on an “Additional Area”, they should consider managing the Additional Area using the same principles and recommendations as the Ddhaw Ghro Management Plan.**

**Land use activities in areas surrounding Ddhaw Ghro should be regularly monitored to determine if there are any significant changes that could justify a Management Plan review.**

**Environmental reviews of projects in surrounding areas should include consideration of potential effects on wildlife populations and habitats related to Ddhaw Ghro.**

**Implementation:**

WHAT	WHO	WHEN
Consideration of boundary expansion to include additional key habitats shown in this plan	The three Parties	As soon as practicable

# 5. Plan Approval and Implementation

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## Plan Approval

### *Involvement of the Parties*

This draft plan for the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area was developed by the steering committee, composed of members appointed by the Parties. It was completed with extensive practical knowledge of staff of Yukon government and First Nations experts. The final plan requires approval from Yukon government, Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation Na-Cho Nyäk Dun. Approval represents a commitment to carrying out the actions and responsibilities included in the management plan.

### *Public Involvement*

The Yukon public has had opportunities to provide input into the Ddhaw Ghro planning process. Community workshops were held in Mayo, Pelly Crossing, Carmacks, and Whitehorse in 2001. Between 2002 and 2006, there has been intensive consultation with communities of Pelly Crossing and Mayo as the plan was being developed. A list of public and First Nation comments gathered at various public and steering committee meetings are included in Appendix D.

Before the recommended plan is presented to the Parties, there needs to be final public consultation and review. The Committee will review public responses and further changes to the draft plan will be considered. The process for approval is outlined in Chapter 10, Schedule 'A' of the Selkirk Final Agreement.

## Plan Implementation

By approving the plan, the Parties commit to a variety of responsibilities, from ongoing research, to specific administrative actions.

In developing recommendations and actions, the steering committee has tried to ensure there is reasonable integration with existing programs and activities of the Parties. The committee recognizes that recommendations need to be consistent, justifiable, of cost-effective.

Through implementation of this plan, it is hoped that Ddhaw Ghro will not only continue to have a healthy ecosystem and strong wildlife populations, but will have a framework for management that enables harmony, clarity and certainty for land users in the area.

Future community-based fish and wildlife plans in the region should consider the recommendations of this plan.

First Nations and Yukon government must work together to ensure the vision is attained through implementation of the recommendations contained within this plan.

In order to implement the many recommendations, the funding sources and requirements need to be identified by the Parties. Funding for implementation has to come out of base budgets for the Parties, as land claims funding is only available to develop the plans.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Parties to work together to develop an implementation resources and action plan, as identified in the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement, Schedule 'A', Section 8.2.**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**An implementation team should be established by the Parties to review progress of the plan recommendations and commitments of this plan proceed.** Ddhaw Ghro information should be presented and discussed during the May Gathering as part of the implementation process. The team would consult with elders to receive guidance relating to how actions should be carried out in May Gathering.



## **RECOMMENDATION:**

**It is recommended that during the next five years, the Parties work together to develop ways to accommodate traditional knowledge and traditional law in the *Wildlife Act* and other legislation and regulations, in Ddhaw Ghro.** This could address situations where there is a disparity between traditional law and other legislation.

## ***Implementation Schedule***

It is anticipated that once the Management Plan is approved, the parties will immediately begin budgeting time and resources to complete the actions set out in the plan.

## **Plan Review**

Under Chapter 10, Schedule A, Section 8.3, a joint plan review by Yukon government, Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation Na-Cho Nyäk Dun are required within five years of plan approval. Thereafter, the need for reviews will be considered every five years, with joint reviews performed at no more than ten-year intervals. The Committee believes that changing conditions require more frequent reviews by the Parties.

Each plan review should include:

- examination of the successes and shortcomings in implementing the plan
- review of funding adequacy
- review of whether capacity to implement is sufficient
- risks related to development in adjacent areas
- determination of whether the Habitat Protection Area designation provides appropriate protection
- revisions that come from changing conditions and evolving perspectives
- revised recommendations table and timeline

Any Party may request a special plan review at any time, to respond to unforeseen circumstances or changing conditions that may warrant a revision to the management plan. Any such changes require agreement from Yukon government, Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.



# Appendix A: Recommendations

NUMBER	TOPIC	CONCERN	RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTATION/ACTIONS
1	Sheep	Population	Conduct annual surveys of the sheep population in Ddhaw Ghro.	<p>Monitor the age and sex composition of the sheep population as an indication of its condition, and investigate causes if this monitoring indicates problems. If a problem is indicated, the parties and Renewable Resources Councils are responsible for determining/identifying a course of action to address that problem.</p> <p>Aerial counts of sheep should be conducted at the same time as annual rut counts of Ethel Lake caribou (late September, early October). Information is reported at the May Gathering, from which annual wildlife management recommendations will be made.</p>
2	Sheep	Habitat	Research and consider using controlled burns to enhance sheep range in Ddhaw Ghro.	<p>Includes research into traditional practices.</p> <p>Look at the results of fires have been used elsewhere to improve sheep range, and consider traditional fire management, to decide on whether and where to burn.</p>
3	Sheep	Harvest	<p>Monitor and report harvest of sheep in and around Ddhaw Ghro to ensure the harvest is sustainable.</p> <p>If a problem is indicated, the parties and Renewable Resources Councils are responsible for determining/identifying a course of action to address that problem.</p>	<p>Harvest by both licensed and First Nation hunters should be carefully monitored to make sure it is sustainable. Information is reported at the May Gathering, from which annual wildlife management recommendations will be made.</p>
4	Caribou	Recruitment level	Monitor the Ethel Lake Caribou herd annually to determine the health of the population by counting the number of cows, bulls and calves.	<p>Keep track of the composition of the Ethel Lake herd each year. Information is reported at the May Gathering, from which annual wildlife management recommendations will be made.</p> <p>There is an existing commitment in the Mayo F&amp;W plan to do annual rut surveys of the herd until 2007.</p> <p>After that commitment, the herd composition will need to be monitored (annually) until this plan is reviewed (2011).</p>
5	Caribou	Harvest	Continue voluntary caribou no-harvest request if recruitment stays around 20 calves/ 100 cows.	<p>At least two years of good recruitment numbers are needed before the voluntary no-harvest request should be lifted.</p> <p>Information is to be reported at the May Gathering, from which annual wildlife management recommendations will be made.</p>
6	Moose	Population	Continue to monitor moose populations in areas where harvesting is occurring.	<p>Both aerial and ground-based monitoring of moose should be used to track population. Information is to be reported at the May Gathering, from which annual wildlife management recommendations will be made.</p>

NUMBER	TOPIC	CONCERN	RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTATION/ACTIONS
7	Moose	Harvest	Continue to monitor harvest of moose in the Ddhaw Ghro Area.	The Yukon Government will continue to collect harvest information from licensed hunters in Game Management Subzones near Ddhaw Ghro. Both Selkirk and Na-Cho Nyäk Dun First Nations will continue to interview their hunters to get harvest information. Information is to be reported at the May Gathering, from which annual wildlife management recommendations will be made.
8	Bears	Management Measures	It is not anticipated that special management measures are required, in the short term.	In the long term, Yukon government and First Nations need to be prepared to consider management measures based upon information provided at May Gatherings and occasional research or monitoring programs.
9	Waterfowl	Information Gaps	Continue regular monitoring of waterfowl use along the Little Kalzas River, Woodburn Creek and Crooked Creek.	Yukon Government and Selkirk First Nation will assist Ducks Unlimited in designing a scientific study to assess the effects of wildfires on waterfowl use of Ddhaw Ghro Lakes. Information is to be reported at the May Gathering, from which annual wildlife management recommendations will be made.
10	Salmon	Information Gaps	Conduct a study of salmon use of Nogold and Grey Hunter Creeks.	Submit a proposal to the Yukon River Panel for research. NND perform salmon counts on Nogold and Grey Hunter Creeks.
11	Fish	Information Gaps	Evaluate whether research should be done for various fish species in other rivers and creeks of Ddhaw Ghro.	Information is to be reported at the May Gathering, from which annual wildlife management recommendations will be made.
12	Trapping	Access	There should be no commercial trapping or development of trails in Ddhaw Ghro. Special trapping could be allowed in DG in the future to address wildlife conservation problems identified by the Parties.	The Parties will not establish commercial trapping concessions within Ddhaw Ghro. If special trapping activities are required, the Parties are to discuss how, where and when trapping be carried out. The Parties are to conduct consultation for special trapping actions and explain why trapping is recommended.  Identification and recommendations re. conservation problems to be identified at the May Gathering.
13	Fire Ecology and Management	Fire Management Plan	Develop a Fire Management Plan for the entire DG based upon traditional and contemporary fire management principles.	Northern Tutchone FN's are to research and develop documentation regarding traditional fire management practices. The outcome of this work should be considered by FN's and Yukon Government while developing a fire management plan for Ddhaw Ghro.
14	Fire Ecology and Management	Local Response	Develop effective protocols and action plans to ensure local fire crews can respond from Pelly Crossing and Mayo in managing wildfires in Ddhaw Ghro.	Training of local fire crews. Develop effective local fire response.
15	Fire Ecology and Management	Zonation	Change the designation of the area surrounding the Chu Tthaw Hot Springs from Wilderness Zone to Strategic Fire Management Zone. Develop a plan to manage wildfires in this buffer zone.	Yukon government to designate a buffer area around the Hot Springs as a Strategic Fire Management Zone. Use aggressive initial attack by aerial crews to suppress fires in the areas surrounding S-116. This plan to be developed in coordination with a Selkirk First Nation S-116 fire management plan.

NUMBER	TOPIC	CONCERN	RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTATION/ACTIONS
16	Fire Ecology and Management	Hot Springs Fire Management Plan	Develop a fire management plan for Selkirk First Nation S-116 Hot Springs parcel.	The fire management plan should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use low impact ground and aerial fire suppression for fires in the S-116 parcel, unless agreed to by Selkirk First Nation.</li> <li>• Identify and develop a landing site to get fire crews safely in and out of the site.</li> <li>• Consider methods to reduce fire hazards in the parcel. Involvement of elders in any fire protection program is required to ensure important features/plants are protected.</li> <li>• Build a structure to house fire pumps, hoses and other hand equipment for fire fighting and hoses.</li> <li>• Use the parcel for training in traditional fire suppression methods.</li> </ul>
17	Cultural Resources	Information Gaps	Document, ground truth and map historic sites and trails identified by elders.	First Nations and Yukon government to work together to further document and ground-truth cultural sites and trails. Ensure protection for these sites under the <i>Historic Resources Act</i> .
18	Cultural Resources	Names and Places	Northern Tutchone names and local place names, creeks and mountains should be included in all Ddhaw Ghro awareness and appreciation projects, and other applicable documents and maps.	Traditional and local place names should be submitted to the Geographical Names Program for review. English and Tutchone (Selkirk dialect) names should be applied to future documents and maps related to Ddhaw Ghro.
19	Forestry	Commercial and Personal Use	No commercial harvest of the forest in Ddhaw Ghro. Harvesting would be acceptable in extenuating circumstances of infestation, disease or forest fire mitigation, in keeping with the management objectives of this plan. Wood cutting for personal use within Ddhaw Ghro should be allowed.	Under the <i>Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act</i> , Yukon government is not to issue commercial timber harvest or fuel wood cutting permits in this area. Governments need to continue to gather information on forest infestations and disease to determine whether exceptional circumstances warrant cutting. Wood cutting for personal use within Ddhaw Ghro should be allowed.
20	Forestry	Construction Materials	Forest may be harvested to provide timber for construction of educational or cultural structures as discussed in other sections of this plan.	Permit cutting for such uses on a case-by-case basis.
21	Mineral Development	Dispositions	Withdraw Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area (surface and subsurface) from mineral exploration and development.	Yukon government to permanently withdraw minerals from Ddhaw Ghro under the <i>Yukon Quartz Mining Act</i> and the <i>Yukon Placer Mining Act</i> , and from oil and gas exploration and development under the <i>Yukon Oil and Gas Act</i> .
22	Tourism	Land Tenure	There should be no land tenure granted for the purpose of tourism or wilderness tourism within the Ddhaw Ghro Area.	The Parties are to ensure that tour operators are aware that tenure will not be granted for commercial tourism purposes, within the Ddhaw Ghro Area.

NUMBER	TOPIC	CONCERN	RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTATION/ACTIONS
23	Tourism	Tourism Impacts	There should not be promotion of Ddhaw Ghro as a tourism destination at this time.	Government is to avoid advocating tourism activities for Ddhaw Ghro in brochures and other materials. This recommendation can be revisited in future plan reviews, with respect to limited wilderness guiding and First Nation economic development.
24	Research and Monitoring	First Nation Involvement	Any research that occurs must be in consultation with the Parties and be performed in partnership, where possible, with First Nations. Results of research must be made available to the Parties. Research dealing with traditional knowledge must comply with First Nation traditional law (i.e. Doöli).	At the research proposal stage, researchers are to consult with both Yukon government and First Nations.
25	Awareness and Appreciation	Public Education	The Parties should work towards creating a greater public awareness of Ddhaw Ghro, in a way that does not promote increased travel to the Area. To encourage respect, the Parties should make information available.	Brochure and/or Video to promote awareness of history, wildlife and sensitivity of the Area. Information in community and First Nation newsletters, highway pullout with interpretive signs stating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General description of the natural features and values</li> <li>• Previously known as McArthur Wildlife Sanctuary</li> <li>• Status as an Habitat Protection Area under the Selkirk Final Agreement</li> <li>• History of people who used the Area</li> <li>• Northern Tutchone history</li> <li>• Restrictions that apply</li> </ul>
26	Awareness and Appreciation	Education in Schools	Use Ddhaw Ghro as a “classroom” to teach about First Nations culture-traditions-customary practices, history, wildlife, ecosystems, tourism, climate change, geology and conservation.	Develop and presentation of in-class lessons, opportunities for elders to talk about Area, allocation of time and resources for field trips to Ddhaw Ghro and other activities. Regularly educate people at various community workshops and other appropriate events.
27	Land Tenure	Land Dispositions	No land dispositions in Ddhaw Ghro.	Dispositions will not be issued for any land interests, including agricultural, grazing, rural residential, recreational, commercial and other types of land tenure. Exceptions may be made for grandfathered family cabin sites and a potential educational structure.
28	Land Use	Land Use Permits	Land Use Permits should not be issued, except to meet the requirements of this Management.	Application of land management tools to be applied to uphold the Ddhaw Ghro vision and objectives.
29	Access	Motorized and Emergency Access	No motorized ground access. Any access for emergency purposes should be by air.	Yukon government and First Nations to encourage off-road users to avoid motorized travel in Ddhaw Ghro through use of signage, local newsletters and related opportunities.  In the long run, Yukon government considers amending the <i>Wildlife Act</i> or <i>Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act</i> to allow for the regulation of off-road motorized vehicles.

NUMBER	TOPIC	CONCERN	RECOMMENDATION	IMPLEMENTATION/ACTIONS
30	Access	Trails	Existing trails in Ddhaw Ghro should not be developed in a way that could allow motorized traffic.	Do not issue land use permits allowing the development of trails into Ddhaw Ghro.
31	Adjacent Areas	Habitat Protection	Key habitat areas outside Ddhaw Ghro should be considered for inclusion in an "Additional Area".	If the Parties agree on an "Additional Area", they should consider managing the area using the same principles and recommendations as the Ddhaw Ghro Management Plan. These include the Mt. Sether sheep range, the riparian areas on both sides of boundary creeks and Ethel Lake caribou winter range.
32	Adjacent Areas	Activity Monitoring	Land use activities in areas surrounding Ddhaw Ghro should be monitored to determine if there are any significant changes that may justify management plan review.	
33	Adjacent Areas	Environmental Reviews	Environmental reviews conducted in relation to projects in surrounding areas should include consideration of potential impacts on wildlife populations related to Ddhaw Ghro.	
34	Traditional Law	Integration into Regulations	The Parties to work together to develop ways to accommodate traditional knowledge and law in legislation and regulations, for Ddhaw Ghro.	Address situations where there is a disparity or contradictions between traditional law and other legislation.
35	Implementation	Resources	Parties to work together to develop an implementation resources and action plan.	As identified in the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement, Schedule 'A', Section 8.2.
36	Implementation	Ongoing Review	An implementation team is established to review progress of the plan recommendations and commitments of this plan.	Ddhaw Ghro information should be presented and discussed during the May Gathering as part of the implementation process. The team would consult with elders to receive guidance relating to results of the May Gathering.





# Appendix B: Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement Excerpt — Chapter 10, Schedule “A”

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## DDHAW GHRO HABITAT PROTECTION AREA

### 1.0 Objectives

1.1 The objectives of this schedule are:

- 1.1.1 to establish the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area (the “Area”) to conserve and protect important Fish and Wildlife and Fish and Wildlife habitat for the benefit of all Yukon people;
- 1.1.2 to recognize and protect the use of the area by the Selkirk People and Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and to facilitate their interest in sharing the area with Little Salmon/Carmacks People and other Yukon Indian People;
- 1.1.3 to provide for the management and protection of the area;
- 1.1.4 to protect the full diversity of Wildlife populations and their habitats in the area from activities which could reduce the area’s capability to support Wildlife; and
- 1.1.5 to encourage public awareness of and appreciation for the natural resources of the area.

### 2.0 Definitions

In this schedule, the following definitions shall apply.

“Forest Resources” has the same meaning as in Chapter 17 — Forest Resources.

“Little Salmon/Carmacks People” has the same meaning as in the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation Final Agreement.

“Na-Cho Nyäk Dun” has the same meaning as in the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Final Agreement.

“Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Firm” has the same meaning as in the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Final Agreement.

### 3.0 Sharing Process

3.1 For greater certainty, the Selkirk First Nation may cause any of its rights, obligations and liabilities set out in this schedule to be held or performed on its behalf by an entity comprised of the Selkirk First Nation, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation or other Yukon First Nations, in accordance with 2.11.7 of Chapter 2 — General Provisions.

### 4.0 Establishment

- 4.1 The boundaries of the area shall be as set out on map “Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area, (DGHPA)” in Appendix B — Maps, which forms a separate volume to this Agreement and which for greater certainty includes Parcel S-60B/D and excludes Parcels R-27A and S-116A/D.
- 4.2 Canada shall transfer to the Commissioner of the Yukon Territory the administration and control of Crown Land within the area, excluding the mines and minerals and the right to work the mines and minerals, as soon as practicable after the Effective Date of this Agreement.
- 4.3 As soon as practicable after the transfer referred to in 4.2, the Yukon shall designate the area as a protected habitat area pursuant to the *Wildlife Act*, R.S.Y. 1986, c.178.
- 4.4 The designation as a protected habitat area shall not be removed from any part of the area except with the agreement of Government, the Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.
- 4.5 Government, the Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun may agree to expand the boundaries of the area.

- 4.5.1 The boundaries of the area shall not be altered except with the agreement of Government, the Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.
  - 4.5.2 Government, the Selkirk First Nation or the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun may, at any time, request the others to consider an expansion to the boundaries of the area, in which case the parties shall, within 90 days of receiving the request, advise each other of the manner in which each wishes to address the request.
  - 4.5.3 The identification of any expanded boundaries shall be guided by the objectives of and considerations consistent with this schedule.
  - 4.5.4 Except as provided for under 4.5.5, the provisions of this schedule shall apply to any area added as a result of the boundary expansion (the “Additional Area”).
  - 4.5.5 The public harvesting of Wildlife in the Additional Area shall be addressed in the agreement to expand the boundaries.
  - 4.5.6 The Additional Area may, for the purposes of this schedule, be designated by a name other than Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area.
- 4.6 Subject to 4.6.1, Canada shall withdraw the mines and minerals in the area from locating, prospecting or mining under the *Yukon Quartz Mining Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-4 and the *Yukon Placer Mining Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-3, from exploration and development under the *Canadian Petroleum Resources Act*, R.S.C. 1985 (2d Supp.), c. 36, and from staking out a location for the mining of coal and from issuance of a license to explore for coal pursuant to the *Territorial Lands Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. T-7, for 24 months from the Effective Date of this Agreement or until a management plan is approved under 7.0, whichever is earlier.
- 4.6.1 The withdrawal shall be subject to:
    - 4.6.1.1 recorded mineral claims and leases under the *Yukon Quartz Mining Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-4 and recorded placer mining claims and leases to prospect under the *Yukon Placer Mining Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-3, existing on the Effective Date;
    - 4.6.1.2 oil and gas rights, interests and privileges under the *Canadian Petroleum Resources Act*, R.S.C. 1985 (2d Supp.), c. 36, existing on the Effective Date;
    - 4.6.1.3 rights granted under section 8 of the *Territorial Lands Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. T-7, existing on the Effective Date; and
    - 4.6.1.4 new licenses, permits or other rights, which may be granted in respect of an interest described in 4.6.1.1, 4.6.1.2, or 4.6.1.3.

## 5.0 Fish and Wildlife

- 5.1 The public harvesting of Wildlife shall be prohibited within the area.
- 5.2 For greater certainty:
  - 5.5.1 the Selkirk First Nation, Selkirk People, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Na-Cho Nyäk Dun have, within the area, all rights set out in Chapter 16 — Fish and Wildlife, of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement and of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Final Agreement, respectively; and
  - 5.5.2 Little Salmon/Carmacks People have the right to harvest within the area in accordance with 16.4.0 with the consent of the Selkirk First Nation or the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun pursuant to 16.5.0 of Chapter 16 — Fish and Wildlife, of this Agreement or of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Final Agreement, as the case may be.

## 6.0 Management Plan

- 6.1 A management plan shall be prepared for the area.
- 6.2 A steering committee shall be established to prepare the management plan referred to in 6.1.
  - 6.2.1 The steering committee shall be comprised of six members of whom two shall be nominated by Government, two shall be nominated by the Selkirk First Nation and two shall be nominated by the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.
  - 6.2.2 Upon request by the steering committee, Government, the Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun shall make available to the steering committee information in their possession reasonably required for the steering committee to carry out its functions under this schedule.
- 6.3 The management plan shall be consistent with the objectives of this schedule.
- 6.4 The steering committee shall consider and the management plan may address matters pertaining to the management of the area including:
  - 6.4.1 Fish and Wildlife management and protection;
  - 6.4.2 the necessity for inventories of Wildlife and habitat;
  - 6.4.3 habitat management and protection;
  - 6.4.4 land use;
  - 6.4.5 recreational use;
  - 6.4.6 access to and use of the area for commercial wilderness purposes;
  - 6.4.7 harvesting of Forest Resources;
  - 6.4.8 scientific research;
  - 6.4.9 traditional knowledge, customs and culture of Yukon Indian People in connection with the area;
  - 6.4.10 the role and views of Yukon First Nation elders in the development of the management plan;
  - 6.4.11 measures to enhance public awareness and appreciation of the area;
  - 6.4.12 recommendations respecting any withdrawal of portions of the mines and minerals of the area from locating, prospecting or mining under the *Yukon Quartz Mining Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-4 and the *Yukon Placer Mining Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-3, from exploration and development under the *Canada Petroleum Resources Act*, R.S.C. 1985 (2d Supp.), c. 36, and from staking out a location for the mining of coal and from issuance of a license to explore for coal pursuant to the *Territorial Lands Act*, R.S.C. 1985, c. T-7;
  - 6.4.13 division of the area into zones for management purposes;
  - 6.4.14 specific economic opportunities for the Selkirk First Nation, Selkirk People, Selkirk Firms, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Firms; and
  - 6.4.15 permitting or other methods of regulating uses of the area in accordance with the management plan.
- 6.5 The preparation of the management plan shall include a process for public consultation, which, for greater certainty, includes consultation with Selkirk People, Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Little Salmon/Carmacks People.
- 6.6 The steering committee shall make best efforts to recommend the management plan to the Minister, the Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun within two years of the Effective Date of this Agreement.
  - 6.6.1 If the members of the steering committee are unable to reach agreement on the provisions to be included in the management plan, the Minister, the Selkirk First Nation or the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun may refer the matter to dispute resolution pursuant to 26.4.0.

## **7.0 Approval of the Management Plan**

- 7.1 Within 90 days of receipt of the management plan, the Minister, the Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun shall each decide whether to accept, vary or set aside the provisions set out therein.
- 7.2 Government, the Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun shall jointly review their decisions under 7.1.
- 7.3 Where the provisions set out in the management plan are accepted by the Minister, the Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, such management plan shall be the “Approved Management Plan”.
- 7.4 Where the Minister, the Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun do not agree on the provisions set out in the management plan, any of them may refer the matter to the dispute resolution process under 26.4.0.
- 7.5 In the event the dispute referred to the dispute resolution process under 7.4 is not resolved, the Minister may accept, vary or set aside the provisions set out in the management plan and the decision of the Minister shall be forwarded to the Selkirk First Nation and to the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun.
- 7.6 The management plan accepted pursuant to the process set out in 7.4 or decided upon under 7.5 shall be the “Approved Management Plan”.

## **8.0 Implementation and Review**

- 8.1 The Area shall be managed in accordance with the *Wildlife Act*, R.S.Y. 1986, c.178 and the Approved Management Plan.
- 8.2 Government, the Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun shall consider and may develop mechanisms or enter into agreements to facilitate co-operative implementation and monitoring of the Approved Management Plan.
- 8.3 Government, the Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun shall jointly review the Approved Management Plan and its implementation no later than five years after its initial approval and shall consider the need for review at least every five years thereafter, provided that there shall be a joint review at least every 10 years.

## **9.0 Interim Measures**

- 9.1 In the period prior to the implementation of the Approved Management Plan, the area shall be managed in a manner consistent with the objectives of this schedule.

## **10.0 Development Assessment and Land Use Planning**

- 10.1 In carrying out their functions under Chapter 12 — Development Assessment, the Yukon Development Assessment Board and a Designated Office shall consider the Approved Management Plan.
- 10.2 In developing a land use plan which includes all or part of the area, a Regional Land Use Planning Commission shall consider the Approved Management Plan.

## **11.0 Management of Settlement Land**

- 11.1 The Selkirk First Nation shall manage Parcel R-27A in a manner consistent with the objectives set out in 1.1.1 through 1.1.4 of this schedule.

# Appendix C: Ddhaw Ghro Planning History 2000–2006

DATES OF MEETING	TOPICS COVERED	STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT & ATTENDEES
3 May, 2000 Pelly Crossing	Defined the planning process, developed a budget, and discussed developing a terms of reference.	Mikolay Peter, NND Darren Isaac, SFN Fred Green, SFN Bruce McLean, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG
29 November, 2000 Whitehorse	Discussed information requirements and background materials needed, and operating procedures for the Steering Committee.	Frank Patterson, NND Darren Isaac, SFN Teddy Charlie, SFN George Magrum, SFN Bruce McLean, YG* Mark O'Donoghue, YG Bob Kuiper, YG
10 January, 2001 Pelly Crossing	Developed a terms of reference, workplan and budget.	Frank Patterson, NND Steve Buyck, NND Darren Isaac, SFN Alex Joe, SFN Elder Bruce McLean, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG Bob Kuiper, YG*
31 January, 2001 Mayo	Reviewed the steering committee's mandate, workplan, and discussed plans for public consultation.	Mikolay Peter, NND Steve Buyck, NND Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Tommy Moses, NND Elder Bruce McLean, YG* Mark O'Donoghue, YG Bob Kuiper, YG
22 February, 2001 Whitehorse	Discussed traplines, considered the extension of boundaries, and reviewed a workplan. Presentations were made regarding the Tombstone Park planning process, a mineral assessment, and wildlife data for Ddhaw Ghro.	Frank Patterson, NND Steve Buyck, NND Mikolay Peter, NND Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Tommy Moses, NND Elder Darren Isaac, SFN Fred Green, SFN Danny Joe, SFN Elder Bruce McLean, YG alternate Mark O'Donoghue, YG Bob Kuiper, YG* Shelley Gellatly, YG Parks Planner Dawn Dixon, Tombstone Park committee member Anna Fonseca, YG Minerals Branch

DATES OF MEETING	TOPICS COVERED	STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT & ATTENDEES
3 May, 2001 Mayo	Planned community workshops for May 2001, and presentations were made that covered fire management, surficial geology, and vegetation mapping.	Darren Isaac, SFN Fred Green, SFN Danny Joe, SFN Elder Johnson Edward, SFN Elder Frank Patterson, NND Mikolay Peter, NND Steve Buyck, NND Bob Kuiper, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG Bruce McLean, YG Johnny Sam, LSCFN Elder Paul Butra, YG Fire Protection Jeff Bond, YG Yukon Geological Survey Catherine Kennedy, YG Environment
22 May, 2001 Gold Rush Inn, Whitehorse <i>Public Information Session</i>	Presentations were made that included information about the planning process, geology, vegetation mapping, wildlife and habitat, and heritage.	Bob Kuiper, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG Jeff Bond, YG Yukon Geological Survey Catherine Kennedy, YG Environment Ruth Gotthardt, YG Heritage Bruce McLean, YG Doug Urquhart, Facilitator
24 May, 2001 Pelly Crossing <i>Public Information Session</i>	Information was exchanged about the planning process, access, economic opportunities, research, monitoring protection and management, Chu Tthaw hot springs, wildlife and habitats, timber harvesting, tourism.	Many participants from NND, SFN, YG, other levels of government and general public.
25 May, 2001 Mayo <i>Public Information Session</i>	Information was exchanged about the planning process, economic opportunities, research, monitoring protection and management, Chu Tthaw hot springs, wildlife and habitats, timber harvesting, tourism.	Many participants from NND, SFN, YG, other levels of government and general public; facilitated by John Reid.
7 June, 2001 Pelly Crossing	Planned for the 2001 field season.	Frank Patterson, NND Johnson Edwards, SFN Don Trudeau, SFN Bob Kuiper, YG Bruce McLean, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG
5 November, 2001 Pelly Crossing	Reviewed May workshops and summer fieldwork.	Steve Buyck, NND Dave Moses, NND Elder Danny Joe, SFN Elder Roger Alfred, SFN Robert Van Bibber, SFN Bob Kuiper, YG Bruce McLean, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG Karen Clyde, YG Fish & Wildlife Planner

DATES OF MEETING	TOPICS COVERED	STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT & ATTENDEES
3 December, 2001 Mayo	Reviewed geology fieldwork, May workshop summaries, and a draft newsletter.	Steve Buyck, NND Frank Patterson, NND* Melody Hutton, NND Jimmy Johnny, NND Roger Alfred, SFN Bob Kuiper, YG Bruce McLean, YG Karen Clyde, YG Fish & Wildlife Planner Anna Fonseca, YG Minerals Branch
14 January, 2002 Mayo	Reviewed SFN's Doöli law, a draft policy for using traditional knowledge, and concerns about outfitting, Chu Tthaw Hot Springs, mining, tourism, boundary expansion, access, and forestry	Frank Patterson, NND Mikolay Peter, NND* Danny Joe, SFN Roger Alfred, SFN Bob Kuiper, YG Bruce McLean, YG Karen Clyde, YG Fish & Wildlife Planner
18 January, 2002 Pelly Crossing	Discussed mineral assessment work. Planned next round of community consultations.	Steve Buyck, NND Frank Patterson, NND Pat Van Bibber, NND Roger Alfred, SFN Don Trudeau, SFN* Danny Joe, SFN Elder Bob Kuiper, YG Bruce McLean, YG Karen Clyde, YG Fish & Wildlife Planner
20 February, 2002 Whitehorse	Presentation by Steering Committee to Yukon government managers.	Steve Buyck, NND Frank Patterson, NND Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Roger Alfred, SFN Don Trudeau, SFN Danny Joe, SFN Elder Bob Kuiper, YG* Bruce McLean, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG Karen Clyde, YG Fish & Wildlife Planner Shirley Abercrombie, YG Energy, Mines & Resources Don Hutton, YG Environment Kent Jingfors, YG Environment Janet Moodie, YG Economic Development Catherine Kennedy, YG Environment Ruth Gotthardt, YG Heritage
11 April, 2002 Pelly Crossing	Reviewed mineral assessment reports posted on the Yukon Government website that related to Ddhaw Ghro.	Albert Genier, NND Don Trudeau, SFN Roger Alfred, SFN Bruce McLean, YG

DATES OF MEETING	TOPICS COVERED	STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT & ATTENDEES
3–4 October, 2002 Pelly Crossing	Established revised terms of reference, draft research guidelines, and interim operating procedures for the steering committee.	Mikolay Peter, NND Steve Buyck, NND Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Dave Moses, NND Elder Roger Alfred, SFN Fred Green, SFN Johnson Edwards, SFN Elder Danny Joe, SFN Elder Mark O'Donoghue, YG Bob Kuiper, YG John Meikle, YG Karen Clyde, YG Fish & Wildlife Planner Doug Urquhart, Chair
26–27 November, 2002 Mayo <i>Elders meeting</i>	Reviewed key management issues, process for plan approval, workplan, and operating procedures.	Albert Genier, NND Mikolay Peter, NND Jimmy Johnny, NND Elder Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Roger Alfred, SFN Danny Joe, SFN Elder Johnson Edwards, SFN Elder Lizzie Hall, SFN Elder (translator) Johnny Sam, LSCFN Elder Bob Kuiper, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG Karen Clyde YG Fish & Wildlife Planner Doug Urquhart, Chair
7 January, 2003	Develop workplan for collection of traditional knowledge.	Albert Genier, NND Roger Alfred, SFN Mark O'Donoghue, YG John Meikle, YG Karen Clyde YG Fish & Wildlife Planner
21 March, 2003 Pelly Crossing	Planned for 2003 summer field work.	Albert Genier, NND Roger Alfred, SFN Mark O'Donoghue, YG John Meikle, YG Karen Clyde YG Fish & Wildlife Planner
5 May, 2003 Pelly Crossing	Planned for 2003 summer field work.	Albert Genier, NND Roger Alfred, SFN Mark O'Donoghue, YG Karen Clyde YG Fish & Wildlife Planner Doug Urquhart, Chair Marilyn Van Bibber, Consultant



DATES OF MEETING	TOPICS COVERED	STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT & ATTENDEES
6–7 October, 2003 Pelly Crossing	Reviewed recommendations from summer traditional knowledge mapping project, and preliminary habitat mapping work. Developed workshop schedule for management plan recommendations by topic.	Kristina Kane, NND Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Roger Alfred, SFN Johnson Edwards, SFN Elder Lizzie Hall, SFN Elder (translator) Roddy Blackjack, LSCFN Elder Clyde Blackjack, LSCFN Elder Bob Kuiper, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG John Meikle, YG Karen Clyde, YG Fish & Wildlife Planner Bob Hayes, Chair Doug Urquhart, former Chair Chris Thomas, Consultant
1–3 December, 2003 Mayo	Discussed and developed draft recommendations regarding fish and wildlife population and habitat in Ddhaw Ghro.	Albert Genier, NND Kristina Kane, NND Roger Alfred, SFN Styd Klugie, SFN Bob Kuiper, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Johnson Edwards, SFN Elder Jimmy Johnny, NND alternate Karen Clyde, YG Fish & Wildlife Planner Bob Hayes, Chair
18–20 February, 2004 Pelly Crossing	Completed draft fish and wildlife recommendations; heard presentations on heritage values, and developed draft recommendations, and discussed trapping in Ddhaw Ghro.	Albert Genier, NND Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Chief Steve Buyck, NND Roger Alfred, SFN Danny Joe, SFN Elder Clyde Blackjack, LSCFN Elder Ruth Gotthardt, YG Heritage Chris Thomas, Consultant Bob Kuiper, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG Karen Clyde, YG Fish & Wildlife Planner Bob Hayes, Chair
15 March, 2004 Mayo <i>Elders' Meeting</i> 16–17 March, 2004 Pelly Crossing	Discussed recommendations about minerals, forestry and fire protection in Ddhaw Ghro.	Albert Genier, NND Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Roger Alfred, SFN Styd Klugie, SFN Danny Joe, SFN Elder Bob Kuiper, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG Ella LeGresley, YG Karen Clyde, YG Fish & Wildlife Planner Bob Hayes, Chair Geoff Bradshaw, YG Minerals Branch Judy St. Amand, YG Minerals Branch Pat McDonnell, YG Forest Planning Branch Al Beaver, YG Wildland Fire Management Branch

DATES OF MEETING	TOPICS COVERED	STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT & ATTENDEES
14 April, 2004 Pelly Crossing	Held a community meeting with Environment's Deputy Minister, stating community views on management of Ddhaw Ghro.	Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Roger Alfred, SFN Danny Joe, SFN Elder Bob Kuiper, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG Ella LeGresley, YG Karen Clyde, YG Fish & Wildlife Planner Bob Hayes, Chair Ed Huebert, YG Deputy Minister, Environment
27–28 October, 2004 Mayo	Discussed wildfire management during the 2004 fire season, and considered recommendations for the plan. Ducks Unlimited reported on summer 2004 field work in the Ddhaw Ghro area. Further fish and wildlife habitat use was considered.	Albert Genier, NND Joella Hogan, NND Millie Olsen, NND Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Roger Alfred, SFN Styd Klugie, SFN Danny Joe, SFN Elder Bob Kuiper, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG Karen Clyde, YG Fish & Wildlife Planner Bob Hayes, Chair Amy Leach, Ducks Unlimited Dave Milne, Wildland Fire Management Branch
16–17 November, 2004 Pelly Crossing	Reviewed fire management recommendations from Elders; discussed and drafted access and permitting recommendations.	Joella Hogan, NND Dave Moses, NND Elder Roger Alfred, SFN Styd Klugie, SFN Bob Kuiper, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG Danny Joe, SFN Elder Karen Clyde, YG Fish & Wildlife Planner Bob Hayes, Chair
7–10 December, 2004 Whitehorse	Discussed and drafted economic opportunities, tourism, recreation, public awareness and appreciation, and land tenure recommendations.	Albert Genier, NND Joella Hogan, NND Millie Olsen, NND Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Roger Alfred, SFN Styd Klugie, SFN Danny Joe, SFN Elder Bob Kuiper, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG Karen Clyde, YG Fish & Wildlife Planner Bob Hayes, Chair Cathryn Paish, YG Tourism Branch Afan Jones, YG Environment (Parks) Marg White, YG Lands Branch Mike Draper, YG Lands Branch

DATES OF MEETING	TOPICS COVERED	STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT & ATTENDEES
4 February, 2005 Mayo	Discussed fire management in Ddhaw Ghro and related research including traditional uses of fire, potential boundary expansion, and Chinook salmon habitat research.	Albert Genier, NND Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Jimmy Johnny, NND Elder Styd Klugie, SFN Roger Alfred, SFN Mark O'Donoghue, YG Bob Kuiper, YG Karen Clyde, YG Fish & Wildlife Planner Bob Hayes, Chair David Natcher, Memorial University
4 April, 2005 Pelly Crossing	Discussed fire ecology in the Ddhaw Ghro area, and fire management recommendations.	Albert Genier, NND Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Jimmy Johnny, NND Elder Roger Alfred, SFN Styd Klugie, SFN Mark O'Donoghue, YG Karen Clyde, YG Fish & Wildlife Planner Bob Hayes, Chair Dave Milne, YG Wildland Fire Management Branch
3–4 October, 2005 Whitehorse	Developed a vision statement for Ddhaw Ghro, reviewed recommendations completed, and developed a work plan and timeline for plan completion.	Joella Hogan, NND Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Roger Alfred, SFN Styd Klugie, SFN Lizzie Hall, SFN Elder (translator) Johnny Sam, LSCFN Elder Bob Kuiper, YG Bruce McLean, YG Tim Sellars, YG A/Fish & Wildlife Planner
7–8 November, 2005 Whitehorse	Confirm recommendations, plan content, and discussed funding concerns.	Joella Hogan, NND Millie Olsen, NND Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Roger Alfred, SFN Styd Klugie, SFN Lizzie Hall, SFN Elder Bob Kuiper, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG Tim Sellars, YG A/Fish & Wildlife Planner Bob Hayes, Chair
12–13 December, 2005 Whitehorse	Reviewed recommendations and confirmed timeline and workplan. Presentation was made regarding the Fort Selkirk Management Plan.	Joella Hogan, NND Millie Olsen, NND Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Roger Alfred, SFN Styd Klugie, SFN Lizzie Hall, SFN Elder Bob Kuiper, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG Tim Sellars, YG A/Fish & Wildlife Planner Bob Hayes, Chair Bruce Barrett, YG Tourism & Culture

DATES OF MEETING	TOPICS COVERED	STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT & ATTENDEES
16–17 February, 2006 Mayo	Reviewed input from Elders and government meetings, revised draft plan, and considered possible linkage between plan implementation and SFN's May Gathering.	Roger Alfred, SFN Styd Klugie, SFN Lizzie Hall, SFN Elder Joella Hogan, NND Millie Olsen, NND Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Bob Kuiper, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG Tim Sellars, YG A/Fish & Wildlife Planner Bob Hayes, Chair
27 March, 2006 Pelly Crossing	Revised the draft plan.	Millie Olsen, NND Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Roger Alfred, SFN Styd Klugie, SFN Lizzie Hall, SFN Elder Mark O'Donoghue, YG Tim Sellars, YG A/Fish & Wildlife Planner Bob Hayes, Chair
19-20 April, 2006 Mayo	Revised the draft plan, and considered public consultation requirements.	Joella Hogan, NND Millie Olsen, NND Pat Van Bibber, NND Elder Roger Alfred, SFN Styd Klugie, SFN Lizzie Hall, SFN Elder Bob Kuiper, YG Mark O'Donoghue, YG Tim Sellars, YG A/Fish & Wildlife Planner Bob Hayes, Chair

\* — identifies the Chair of the meeting.

## Appendix D: Public Comments

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The following summarizes public comments received by the Ddhaw Ghro HPA Steering Committee during the planning process from 2000 to 2006.

### **ACCESS**

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Increased access will lead to increased environmental impacts on the land and wildlife.

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No further development of trails in the area.

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No more access to the area than already exists.

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No motorized vehicles. Access should be by walking only.

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Place signs on trails stating no motorized vehicles allowed.

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Access should only be by skiing, hiking, helicopter or float plane.

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An access permit should be required for accessing the area. The permit would define rules for human activity in the area and provide an orientation to the area.

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Should develop rules and regulations for air access and educate the companies.

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We don't want anyone using the trails until a monitor is in place (at the Hot Springs).

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Should develop a walking trail from Woodburn Lake to the Hot Springs.

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Future development projects adjacent to the area will have economic impacts to consider, and may increase access to Ddhaw Ghro.

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Use of 4-wheelers in the NND territory has resulted in gas cans left behind on trails. This is disrespectful.

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There are no trails wide enough for a 4-wheeler.

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There is a trail from the Klondike Highway to Ddhaw Ghro that is being used for hunting. People should have to walk in after they come to Crooked Creek.

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Consider allowing Woodburn Lake access and cabin, as an alternative to the Hot Springs.

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Consider the need for access to take youth in or for conservation-based trapping (including snow machine access).

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Trappers and others can make trails up to the boundary of Ddhaw Ghro. There is no way to keep people off a trail that is already there.

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The area is very rough to travel through because of large boulders. Travel on the flats at the Ddhaw Ghro boundaries is a little easier. A snow machine trail could be made along Crooked Creek to Kalzas Creek.

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### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

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We have to look at the capacity, needs and priorities of the community.

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We need to involve both First Nations and other residents.

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Community training in forestry, business management, scientific research and surveying is needed.

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Find funding to help train First Nation in guiding and business management. Goal to have capacity for guided day hikes, backcountry excursions and other non-consumptive tourism operations.

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Organize seasonal culture camps, wildlife camps and science camps.

---

Important that kids are informed and involved in the planning process.

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There is the desire for education, teaching children and others about Ddhaw Ghro.

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Would like to go and spend some time in Ddhaw Ghro — “one week won’t hurt anyone”.

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## **FOREST FIRES**

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Use water, not chemicals to fight fires.

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If public awareness and appreciation increases, there will be more people in the area and an associated increase in risk of fire.

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A sustainable fire management plan involves fuel management.

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Fire protection involves thinning of fuel wood.

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Communication between First Nations and Yukon Government Wildland Fire Management needs to be improved.

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Camp fire is important to First Nations, especially for drying meat.

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Use of Fire Smart funding would put people to work and reduce forest fire risk – especially important for areas around cabins and at the Chu Tthaw Hot Springs.

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After a fire, the ponds and lakes expand. This results in more flooding and landslides.

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People should be looking in the winter for smoke in the area, to identify where fires may be smoldering and may start up again next year.

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The 2004 forest fires burned important caribou range, when people were not allowed to fight the fire.

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Elders say if government keeps fighting fires, it will only create a big fire.

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Years ago, people let the fires burn and things were fine.

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It is important to let fires burn fully so that the roots burn and allow new growth to be stronger.

---

First Nations have historically used fire as a management tool. People used to light fires and let it go to reduce brush growing up and getting thick. Burning it twice results in better growth.

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## **FOREST HARVESTING**

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Timber in certain areas could be considered for commercial timber harvesting.

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Issue with commercial harvest is that access would have to be developed.

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No commercial forestry, only personal use (fuel wood and tent poles).

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Leave this area alone, no forestry clear-cuts.

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There is interest in timber harvesting potential, particularly in the southeast corner.

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Forest harvesting could affect tourism and wildlife.

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Forestry has implications for wildlife, as they need trees to protect themselves from predators. Small animals are affected too.

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There should be no commercial timber harvesting. In addition to the habitat implications, there are related access issues.

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If you start cutting timber, it won't stop

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Personal use of wood should be allowed, providing it respects Doòli rules.

---

What about cutting a few to build a cabin? Cabin building would result in trails and outhouses.

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## **HOT SPRINGS**

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The hot springs are the heart of the area.

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The hot springs is a good hospital, a place for people to heal themselves, and has to be protected.

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The area is special and priceless: there are unique plants and unusual geological features that must be cared for.

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No one forgets that area. It is well known, and has to be respected. There is vegetation around it that is probably doing the healing and it should be very well managed and protected.

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Hot Springs is the hospital. Protect and take care of it, and it can be used for everyone. There is lots of power in that water.

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Hot Springs is a healing place, and our native people believe in using our own medicine.

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The animals use it too. Bears, caribou, sheep use the hot spring to heal themselves.

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The Chu Tthaw Hot Springs is Category A Selkirk First Nation land and is not included in the SMA.

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Selkirk First Nation has sole ownership rights of the Hot Springs

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The Hot Springs belong to all First Nations.

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Anyone who uses the areas should go to the First Nations for permission.

---

Managing the hot spring...is it up to the First Nation or the elders?

---

There is a need to integrate management for the Habitat Protection Area and the Hot Springs

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Work together so the Hot Springs will continue to be intact.

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The management plan has to recognize the traditional way of caring for the Hot Springs

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Protect the Hot Springs — keep it clean and have no road access.

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Hot Springs must stay in natural state — no cutting of trees or disturbing plants, no moving or removal of rocks.

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No soap or shampoo should be used or alcohol or drugs while at the Hot Springs.

---

No horses, as they destroy plants and cause erosion.

---

Build a cabin for storage of fire protection gear and comfort of the elders.

---

Fire protection zone should include the Hot Springs.

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Will there be somebody on site enforcing things like 'don't touch the plants' restrictions?

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Area should be open, as long as it is kept clean and is respected as a sacred place.

---

A 10-mile radius around the Hot Springs, where nothing happens (mining, logging, trapping, hunting), but have it open for use for everybody.

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When you go to the Hot Springs, don't break any plants and don't bring anything home. The plants are for healing. We use that spruce gum for infections. There is a lot of good medicine in the bush.

---

Any building at the Hot Springs should be downstream of the springs.

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Build a sidewalk around the water.

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Survey the whole area to find all hot spring outlets to make sure buffer is large enough

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No tourists or commercial enterprise at the Hot Springs.

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## **MANAGEMENT PLAN & PROCESS**

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Have to consider the objectives of the Final Agreement schedule for Ddhaw Ghro.

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Need good laws to management the area in a way that fits with the Final Agreement.

---

Should be kept the way it is now.

---

Will there be a formal management role for the First Nations or the elders?

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Let's make the level of protection clear.

---

There needs to be a list of what we will allow. Also how it should be done and why it should be done that way.

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We need flexibility and adaptive management.

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We need policies in place before we can allow development.

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We need a management plan that integrates with a plan for the entire traditional territory.

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There are lots of things we don't understand yet. A research agenda (strategy) should be reflected in the management plan.

---

The area is balanced and we need to keep it that way - that should be the main goal.

---

The area should be open for all Yukoners, not only First Nations.

---

People should be able to go in, with restrictions and if accompanied by a First Nation Elder.

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Nobody should be allowed in there.

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If it is closed off, grandchildren cannot go in there and it is important to get youth out in the bush.

---

Protect the habitat and the history.

---

There should be no mining, trapping or timber cutting

---

People that have lived in the area should be allowed to experience the area.

---

The original intention here was to create a "hands-off" area. For now, it should be that; money is no good compared to what we have.

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There is a desire to use the area for education and enhance public awareness, but don't want to have the area overrun with people.

---

We want to protect the existing ecological health of the area, or even enhance productivity in the area.

---

When will the government equivalent to elders (senior management) come to the meetings and hear the concerns?

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Sharing information with presentations and publications should be a requirement of permitting research applications.

---

Need translators at these workshops, to hear information in our own language.

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## **MINING**

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Keeping areas open for mining gives the message that Yukon is open for business.

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There should be no mining.

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Clean up other mines in Yukon before mining allowed in Ddhaw Ghro.

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Maybe we can leave minerals alone for now - use it as a fallback option for the future.

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Elders don't want to see old claim posts in Ddhaw Ghro. They have not been removed yet.

---

This plan has to address the issue of exploration for unknown placer potential.

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Crooked Creek has placer potential.

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There is a copper vein at the northwest end of Sideslip Creek.

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Copper has been found north of Hot Springs Creek, in a different drainage.

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If exploration and development are prohibited, the area could become a park.

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We may want to have the option of resource extraction at some point.

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First Nation people need prospecting training opportunities.

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Concern about the impact of mining on wildlife - e.g. moose at Fairchild Lake with yellow meat near oil spilled in the area.

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Ddhaw Ghro is important because it hasn't been damaged by mining.

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Concern over mining, waste disposal, the use of chemicals and the potential for pollution - specifically cyanide that may leach into water.

---

Mining activities poison the water and eventually kill the wildlife. This affects cultural activities.

---

## **RESEARCH AND MONITORING**

---

We need to create First Nation youth programs that would link with research and economic development.

---

Local participation in research is important, since the communities don't always know what type of research is being done.

---

Habitat, and fish and wildlife should be a priority on the research agenda.

---

We should look for contaminants in high altitudes, climate change, and waste accumulation, and do ongoing monitoring.

---

Research could contribute to tourism.

---

We need baseline information about the area.

---

---

We should look into identification and monitoring of indicator species.

---

We could have a 'State of Ddhaw Ghro Report'.

---

## **TOURISM AND RECREATION**

---

The area is suitable for commercial wilderness guiding.

---

Hiking guide companies should have a permit and be accompanied (monitored) by someone.

---

Taking people for healing and teaching is okay.

---

Skiing is an acceptable activity (not heli-skiing)

---

No 4-wheelers.

---

Set up a limit to the number of tourists at a time.

---

The Hot Springs are a draw for back-country tourists.

---

Don't promote tourism in Ddhaw Ghro.

---

It is important to share knowledge about the area with others.

---

Want to enhance public awareness but not have the area overrun with people.

---

Develop a pullout on highway with public information about Ddhaw Ghro, especially the history.

---

Have brochures available to people who want to go there explaining the history and importance of the area.

---

You allow tourists in there, and it can become too developed and polluted (with garbage and litter).

---

Tourism requires infrastructure (trails, cabins, and outhouses) and people to monitor use. This is too expensive for First Nations to monitor.

---

Tourism can be good and bad, but can get out of hand.

---

Concern that people in the area will disturb wildlife — even people taking pictures can leave their scent and scare off animals.

---

Make a special place for helicopters to land at the Hot Springs.

---

Elders suggest that some of the cabins could be fixed up for tourism (e.g. Woodburn Lake). Elders said that would be okay and that it would not hurt the animals.

---

The local community would benefit if tourism access was via the local community, rather than Whitehorse or Europe.

---

All guiding by First Nation guides only, Doòli should apply.

---

Take care of horses. Ensure they are not eating in sensitive areas which may result in loss of important plant life or cause erosion.

---

## **TRADITIONAL CULTURE , KNOWLEDGE AND LAWS**

---

Protect First Nations traditional use of Ddhaw Ghro.

---

All of Ddhaw Ghro is sacred.

---

---

Important that future generations know cultural ways, and know how to hunt and look after the animals.

---

Traditional knowledge is important — it should be collected and shared.

---

Work with school kids in Mayo, Pelly, and Carmacks to teach culture from elders.

---

Gather traditional stories while they are still available.

---

Develop skills in the context of the traditional culture.

---

English and Northern Tutchone names should be noted for places.

---

Suggestion that a mountain be named after the young boy who died.

---

## **VEGETATION**

---

Cotton grass growing in a cirque basin, which is quite unusual.

---

The weather is very rainy which makes for a very lush environment even at high elevations.

---

Vegetation should be surveyed and monitored.

---

## **WATER**

---

There should be a category in the plan for water protection and spirituality.

---

We need to keep the area clean and ensure good water for our future generations.

---

## **WILDLIFE**

---

The area was set aside to protect all wildlife and their habitats.

---

The current boundary doesn't encompass important habitats and full ranges of some wildlife populations.

---

Should be able to harvest game in there.

---

Never shoot a cow with a calf.

---

In an emergency, people may have to shoot animals, so we can't say "no hunting".

---

Fishing in there? If you can catch it, you eat it.

---

There should be no fly-fishing in that area.

---

Hunting regulations and restrictions should apply to both First Nation and non-First Nation people

---

Trapping rights which were taken away in the past should be reinstated.

---

Trapping of "problem" wildlife should be allowed under special circumstances (e.g. beavers, coyotes).

---

If it weren't for the animals there, the elders wouldn't be here. Concern that mining activity will turn Ddhaw Ghro into a "Dawson" and that people will have nowhere to hunt.

---

The meaning of "conserve and protect" needs to be understood. First Nations have always managed their wildlife, while conservation means something drastic.

---

---

First Nations are afraid that signing a plan for conservation will result in hunting getting cut off. “It is in our diet all of the time”.

---

Areas where rocks are covered with lichens make good habitat for sheep.

---

The slopes along Sideslip and Nogold are important for lambing.

---

Elders are concerned that mining and logging will affect important habitat. It is important that government hears this message.

---

Snow slides are one of the worst enemies of sheep in Ddhaw Ghro.

---

Golden eagles and grizzly bears are after the young sheep.

---

If sheep get near the bush, they may run into wolves. Should try to “erase” some of the wolves.

---

Concern expressed that predators are causing low wildlife numbers.

---

Concern of the accuracy of information on sheep populations.

---

It seems there are less ducks every summer.

---

Caribou stay at the edges of burns. Some caribou will feed in burned areas, including eating burned poplar bark.

---

When water levels rise after fire, minerals in the water benefit caribou.

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# Appendix E: Chu Tthaw Land Use Plan Recommendations

**FINAL DRAFT**  
**Chu Tthaw Land Use Plan Recommendations**  
**JUNE 2002**

USE	ACTIVITY	MANAGEMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WORK
Shooting	No shooting allowed within 3 mile radius of boundary.	No permits (show on all hunting permits and in hunter's manual). <i>This is a safety measure for people using the area and also to respect animals that come to the springs.</i>	Elder's field trip to look at boundaries. <i>Some elders need to travel to Chu Tthaw to check out where boundaries and buffers should go.</i> Include no hunting buffer in fish and wildlife Doòli book.
Trapping	Permitted in specific area only.	Advise trapper RRC "bylaw". <i>The RRC can make bylaws to restrict trapping.</i>	Contact RRC re trapping bylaw. Elder's field trip to include trapping boundaries.
Camping	Will be permitted in designated areas only.	Obey Doòli on permit. Monitors on site. Camping area paths and signs developed. Fees based on non commercial and commercial use. Campers orientation by Selkirk First Nation through <i>Chu Tthaw/Ddhaw Ghro</i> book.	Design and print Chu Tthaw access permit for various activities with attached rules behavior our Fully document all the traditional Doòli activities of respect for the area. Develop camping area below the spring. <i>This is to ensure no contamination of the water. Also to make it accessible for ill people. Camping area paths and bridge all designed with elder's advice.</i> Have two monitor/guides stationed there in the summer. Train the guides when the elder's are there.
Mining	No mining or exploration in this area or in Buffer Area.	No mineral exploration permits issued for <i>Chu Tthaw</i> and none for <i>Ddhaw Ghro</i> which will be the Buffer Area. <i>Particular concern about blasting near the springs and causing damage to the earth that might affect the flow of the water.</i>	Establish <i>Ddhaw Ghro</i> as the no mining Buffer Area for <i>Chu Tthaw</i> in the <i>Ddhaw Ghro</i> management plan.

USE	ACTIVITY	MANAGEMENT	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WORK
Fire Control	Stop fire in the area with minimum damage and contamination. <i>Particular concern about large machinery and retardant damaging the area. Local fires should be fought by hand.</i>	Selkirk First Nation training and coordination under UFA/Selkirk First Nation FA. Fire abatement around the immediate area. <i>Removing all the deadwood that might cause a fire near the spring.</i> <i>Ddhaw Ghro</i> will be the Buffer Area for <i>Chu Tthaw</i> for fire fighting coordinated with DIAND.	Work with DIAND on fire training. Clean up brush around spring. Establish <i>Ddhaw Ghro</i> as the fire fighting Buffer Area for <i>Chu Tthaw</i> in the <i>Ddhaw Ghro</i> management plan and the DIAND action zone map.
Logging	No logging in <i>Chu Tthaw</i> .	No permission for logging from Selkirk First Nation in <i>Chu Tthaw</i> . <i>Ddhaw Ghro</i> will be the no-logging Buffer Area for <i>Chu Tthaw</i> .	Establish <i>Ddhaw Ghro</i> as the no-logging Buffer Area for <i>Chu Tthaw</i> through the <i>Ddhaw Ghro</i> management plan.
Access	No vehicle access except helicopter. Human access only with permission from Selkirk First Nation.	Only foot trail access to the spring. <i>Signs will indicate No Off Road Vehicles.</i> Access Permit required for access. Attached to the permit will be rules for human activity in the area and orientation to the area by Selkirk First Nation through <i>Chu Tthaw/Ddhaw Ghro</i> book.	Produce signs on trail explaining no machines allowed. The trapper will have to walk up to <i>Chu Tthaw</i> and cannot use a skidoo to get there.
Tourism	Only with permission.	Permit and fee. Need an Selkirk First Nation guide. Tourist orientation by Selkirk First Nation through <i>Chu Tthaw/Ddhaw Ghro</i> book.	Guide training by Selkirk First Nation by elders. Guide training should happen during elder's field trip.
Heritage	Full appreciation of importance of area to Northern Tutchone.	History of <i>Chu Tthaw</i> documented.	Make a book about <i>Chu Tthaw</i> and <i>Ddhaw Ghro</i> . Coordinate 'story' gathering for book with elder's field trip.
Culture and Education	Ensuring that the youth understand the importance of the area and how to look after it.	Education for Northern Tutchone youth.	Field trips to area for elders to educate youth about their culture.

This is the draft of the *Chu Tthaw* Land Use Plan for community consultation before the General Assembly in June 2002.

# Appendix F: Development of Habitat Suitability Mapping

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## Background:

Habitat suitability refers to the quality of the habitat for an animal species. It does not mean that an animal was seen in the habitat. The habitat quality evaluation was done by elders and biologists familiar with the land and how animals use it.

Habitat Suitability maps are based upon vegetation classification work performed by the Yukon government's Environment Department and subsequent work with biologists and First Nation elders. Vegetation mapping involved initial interpretation of satellite imagery by Yukon government staff, to identify areas of similar vegetation. Subsequently, ground surveys were undertaken by Yukon government staff, accompanied by First Nation individuals, to classify the various vegetation areas.

Once the vegetation classification was complete, sessions were held with Yukon government biologists and First Nation elders, where the session leader asked biologists and elders about each habitat type and its suitability for use by sheep, caribou, moose, grizzly bear and black bear. Each vegetation class was rated on a scale of 0–3 as to the likelihood that the species would find a vegetation type suitable in a given season. Most of the suitability ratings involving elders were conducted in Ddhaw Ghro. Further sessions were held in Pelly Crossing and Mayo for elders and in Whitehorse for biologists, using photographs of the vegetation classes.

The values were defined as follows:

- 0 = not suitable
- 1 = some suitability
- 2 = modest suitability
- 3 = best suitability

Values provided were applied to each of the vegetation classes. Summary values which are depicted on the maps in this plan were calculated by applying the highest value assigned to each polygon, regardless of season or source.

## Sheep

Sheep habitat suitability mapping is based upon Yukon government and First Nation elders suitability ratings. Values provided by both sources were given equal weight. Sheep habitat suitability was rated for winter and spring/summer.

## Caribou

Caribou habitat suitability mapping is based upon Yukon government suitability ratings. Ratings gathered from First Nation elders were based largely upon Fortymile caribou herd knowledge. While useful to other discussions, given the current range of the Fortymile Caribou Herd, this information was seen as less appropriate for use in the Ddhaw Ghro management plan. Caribou ratings were done for winter, spring/summer and fall.

## Moose

Moose habitat suitability mapping is based upon Yukon government and First Nation elder's suitability ratings. Values provided by both sources were given equal weight. Moose ratings were done for Late Winter, Spring/Summer and Fall/Early Winter.

## Bear

Bear habitat suitability mapping is based upon First Nation elder's suitability ratings for both grizzly bear and black bear. Values provided for both sub-species were given equal weight. The ratings for bears were done as a single all-season value.

## **Limitations:**

Because the habitat suitability analysis is based predominantly upon vegetation classification, there are some limitations to the mapping. An area that has been designated as suitable is not necessarily where the population will be found. Likewise, animals may be found in locations that have been designated as unsuitable.

- Map 1: Regional Locator
- Map 2: Land Interests and Access
- Map 3: Glacial History
- Map 4: Vegetation



# Appendix G: Maps

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- Map 5: Mature Timber and Fire History
- Map 6: Wetlands
- Map 7: Sheep Key Areas
- Map 8: Sheep habitat suitability (combined biologist and elder ratings)
- Map 9: Caribou Range and Key Areas
- Map 10: Caribou habitat suitability (biologist ratings)
- Map 11: Moose habitat suitability (combined biologist and elder ratings)
- Map 12: Bear habitat suitability map (elder ratings)
- Map 13: Birds of Prey (raptors) Key Areas
- Map 14: Fish Habitat
- Map 15: Mineral Potential
- Map 16: Recreational Values
- Map 17: Wildlife Key Areas (all species)
- Map 18: Granite Canyon Potential Dam Flood Area
- Map 19: Adjacent Areas Regional Map

## Disclaimer:

Maps in this plan are for illustrative purposes only. These are graphical representations, which depict the approximate size, configuration and spatial relationship of geographic features and themes. While great care has been taken to ensure the best possible quality, these maps are not official land surveys and are not intended for legal descriptions and/or to calculate precise areas, dimensions or distances. We do not accept any responsibility for errors, omissions or inaccuracies in this data.

## Data Sources

**National Topographic Database (NTDB)** © Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, Department of Natural Resources. All rights reserved

**First Nations Settlement Lands** obtained from Natural Resources Canada 1:30,000 maps; recompiled by Environment Yukon against 1:250,000 NTDB.

## **Wildlife Key Area Inventory**

Wildlife Key Areas (WKA) are compiled by the Yukon Department of Environment WKA Inventory Program (November, 2005), against 1:250,000 NTDB from various data sources. Key Areas are based on observed locations of wildlife at key times of year, not on habitat assessment. With new information, boundaries and designations of Key Areas can change and additional Key Areas can be identified. Furthermore, Key Areas are not the only sites important for wildlife. Other information sources can identify other sites important for wildlife for reasons outside the scope of the WKA Inventory Program. Updates to Key Areas occur only periodically. For the most current information, please consult with the Regional Biologist for your area of interest. If you have questions or would like to contribute to the WKA database, please contact the WKA Inventory Program ([wka@gov.yk.ca](mailto:wka@gov.yk.ca)).





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