

Oil and Gas Best Management Practices



Goals:

- Avoid sensitive landscape and habitat
- Minimize disturbance
- Conserve vegetation and surface soil
- Avoid permafrost disturbance
- Conserve wildlife and fisheries habitat
- Set the stage for eventual restoration

Best Management Practices Under Development:

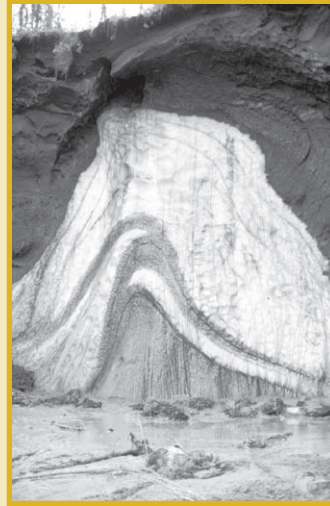
Woodland Caribou and Habitat & Winter Range of the Porcupine Caribou Herd

Observations of caribou indicate differences and varying degrees of sensitivity to human disturbance. Seasonal control of activity, control of human behavior, and awareness of critical times of sensitivity and habitat must be taken into account when choosing the appropriate practices.



Permafrost

The prevention and minimization of thermal degradation in regions which have discontinuous or continuous permafrost is of paramount importance. Response to disturbance can be rapid and re-growth slow in permafrost regions. Reclamation and revegetation may minimize thermal degradation but is unlikely to allow restoration of the thermal balance once disrupted.



Wetlands

Wetlands are considered to be among the most productive ecosystems on Earth. In most cases access and activity in wetlands should be restricted to winter operating seasons with sufficient ice and snow cover to protect soil and vegetation. Bird and mammal protection is also likely to be achieved using winter access only.

Trapping

Trapping in the Yukon is a historical and traditional occupation and an important economic activity. A healthy and vibrant Yukon trapping industry that continues to provide local economic benefits relies on functional wilderness habitat and protection of trapping infrastructure such as trails and cabins.



Heritage values

Heritage values such as historic resources exist throughout the Yukon landscape in all terrains and are vulnerable to looting or unauthorized collection. Increased activity in a previously isolated area may see the loss of irreplaceable objects that are part of Yukon's history. Seismic work, access development and other activities associated with a project should plan to avoid known sites and areas of high historic site potential. Techniques that minimize ground disturbance and clearing are recommended.



Seismic activity

Old seismic practices carried out during the 1970s have left a visible legacy on the landscape. More common today is the use of "Low Impact Seismic" (LIS) practices. LIS reduces the need for long and wide corridors by using a combination of satellite technology, meandering lines, smaller low ground pressure equipment and helicopters, as well as the application of seasonal timing windows to address wildlife, human and terrain specific needs.



Wilderness Tourism

Wilderness tourism operators guide and accommodate tourists all year round and rely on the Yukon's large wilderness areas to maintain their livelihood. Best Practices that help reduce conflict with wilderness tourism operations include identifying and avoiding key wilderness tourism travel corridors, providing buffers and setbacks between exploration and development projects and seasonal variation in activities.

Best Management Practices On The Web

The Yukon Department of Energy Mines and Resources, in partnership with other governments, stakeholders and industry, is developing Best Management Practices (Best Management Practices) for oil and gas exploration and development.

The Best Management Practices are currently being incorporated into a web site which will link resource information, identified resource values, resource management objectives and best practices for the different regions in the Yukon.



Ongoing research which influences Best Management Practices and changes in social, scientific and cultural thinking will be incorporated into the web site on an ongoing basis and will ensure the most current information is available.

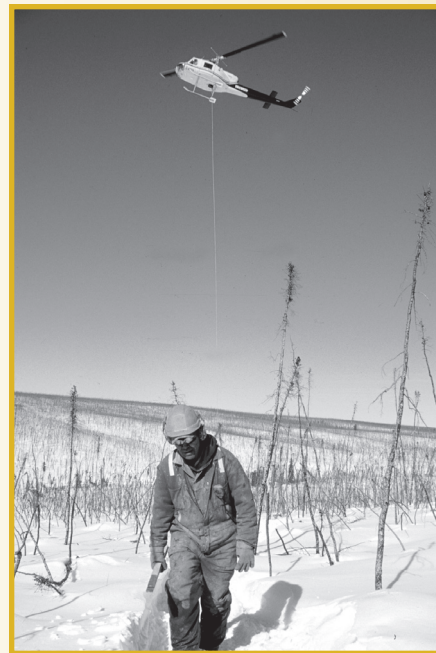
Yukon's Best Management Practices are objectives driven; risk and results based; and promote a flexible approach to government and industry cooperation.

Best Management Practices are not standards which are measured or evaluated for compliance purposes nor are they intended to provide guidance about what is or is not an appropriate land use for a particular region.

Best Management Practices should not be regarded as either exhaustive or restrictive. Nor would they preclude the need for additional or different information for a particular project.

Purpose:

- Guide developers, stakeholders and regulators in determining the appropriate way to carry out exploration and development activities.
- Contribute to the establishment of a viable and economic oil and gas industry.
- Conserve biodiversity and protect the essential characteristics and functions of the environment.
- Ensure competitive economic and subsistence interests are accommodated in the design and planning of oil and gas projects.
- Provide information on current oil and gas best practices both in general and within a unique northern landscape.
- Promote a better understanding of responsible environmental stewardship and sensitivity to community interests in oil and gas exploration and development in the north.



www.yukonoilandgas.com



For more Information on these and other Best Management Practices contact our office at:
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Yukon
Energy, Mines and Resources



Yukon Oil and Gas Best Management Practices

- A range of practices that can reduce the time, intensity or duration of the footprint on the land base – not usually prescriptive;
- Innovative, creative and responsive measures or approaches intended to deal with unique cultural, economic, ecological and geographical sensitivities;
- Planning tools or strategies that increase the chances of meeting the long-term goals and objectives of each project; and
- Selected on the basis of unique site-specific conditions that reflect natural background conditions and political, social, economic, and technical feasibility.