

## NORTH YUKON REGIONAL LAND USE PLAN CONFORMITY CHECK

<b>YESAB Project #</b>	2013-0067 (066-1) June 24, 2013 information used		
<b>Project Title:</b>	Eagle Plains 3D Seismic Survey		
<b>Date:</b>	June 27, 2013	<b>Completed by:</b>	Ron Cruikshank
<b>Submitted to:</b>	YESAB Dawson Designated Office Box 5060 Dawson City, YT Y0B 1G0		

**Project conforms to Regional Land Use Plan:** (select one) **Yes**

### Background Information and Conformity Check Analysis

<b>Affected Landscape Management Unit(LMU)(s):</b> (insert rows as needed for additional LMUs) Map 1 and Section 6							
LM Unit #	9	LMU Name:	Eagle Plains				
Zoning:	IMA – Zone IV	Land Owner:	YG & VGFN				
<b>Landscape Disturbance Indicators:</b> ) Table 3.2, sections 3.3.1.1, 5.1.1							
Surface Disturbance (ha):							
LMU	Cautionary Level	Critical Level	*Current est. Level	Project Estimate	Total Estimate	Notification Rqr'd**	Parties Notified
9	4811	6415	1246	248***	1495***	No	No
Linear Disturbance (km/km <sup>2</sup> ):							
LMU	Cautionary Level	Critical Level	*Current est. Level	Project Estimate	Total Estimate	Notification Rqr'd**	Parties Notified
9	4811	6415	1309	971***	2280***	No	No
<p>*current <u>estimated</u> cumulative effects levels are to be provided by the Plan Parties</p> <p>** the YLUPC shall notify the Parties prior to submitting the conformity check to YESAB if they are concerned cautionary or critical levels may be reached</p> <p>***estimates based upon the definition of Functional Disturbance, pg.3-2, North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan, June 2009.</p>							

<b>Special Management Considerations:</b> (Section 6, LMUs)	
LMU	Special Management Consideration
	25% of this LMU was affected by wildfire in summers of 2004 and 2005
<b>Affected Values and General Management Directions (GMD):</b> (Section 5) Only include values identified in LMU. If no GMDs exist or are relevant, do not include in this table.	
<b>Ecological Resources:</b>	Corresponding GMD:
<b>Wildlife</b>	<p>2.1.1 Reduce size, intensity and duration of human-caused physical surface disturbances (e.g., utilize low impact seismic, winter roads and enhanced reclamation).</p> <p>2.1.2 Reduce other human land use impacts such as noise, smell and light.</p> <p>2.2. Minimize habitat fragmentation as a result of human features.</p> <p>2.2.1 Coordinate, manage and minimize new road and trail access.</p> <p>2.3. Minimize potential habitat avoidance that results from human features and activities.</p> <p>2.3.1 Avoid or reduce activities in significant wildlife habitats during important biological periods (e.g., utilize timing windows).</p>
<b>Fish</b>	<p>3.1.1 Minimize surface and vegetation disturbance in riparian areas.</p> <p>3.1.2 Avoid in-stream aggregate (gravel) extraction.</p> <p>3.3.1 Avoid direct disturbance to sensitive over-wintering habitats.</p> <p>3.3.3 Avoid or reduce activities in fish habitat during important biological periods or seasons (e.g., utilize timing windows).</p> <p>3.3.4 Avoid or reduce winter in-stream water withdrawals in sensitive over-wintering fish habitat.</p> <p>3.4.1 Avoid direct or indirect blocking of identified fish migration routes.</p>

<b>Heritage, Social, Cultural Resources:</b>	Corresponding GMD:
	<p>5.1.1 Minimize land use impacts in the vicinity of identified heritage and historic resources.</p> <p>5.1.2 Minimize land use conflicts by avoiding or reducing the level of land use activities in important subsistence harvesting and current community use areas.</p> <p>5.1.3 Avoid or reduce activities in significant heritage and current community use areas during important seasonal use periods (e.g., utilize timing windows).</p> <p>5.1.4 Where impacts to identified heritage and cultural sites and resources are unavoidable, implement appropriate mitigation practices.</p>
<b>Economic Development:</b>	Corresponding General Management Direction:
	6.3.3 Manage location, scale and intensity of land use.

<b>Plan Recommended Best Management Practices:</b> (Section 5 following each value)	
<b>Wildlife</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid or minimize the creation of new access roads and trails; utilize existing routes unless their use will cause additional long term environmental impacts (e.g., permafrost degradation).</li> <li>• Avoid or minimize the size, extent, duration and level of activities in concentrated seasonal use areas.</li> <li>• Use appropriate operational timing-windows in significant wildlife habitats to minimize activities, whenever possible, during periods of wildlife use.</li> </ul> <p><b>When new access creation is necessary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-permanent winter access routes should be developed and utilized versus all-season access routes.</li> <li>• Gate or otherwise restrict hunting along new access routes.</li> <li>• Where possible, direct new access routes through less significant wildlife habitats.</li> </ul>
<b>Porcupine Caribou</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid or minimize the size, extent, duration and level of activities in concentrated seasonal use areas</li> <li>• Avoid using or crossing seasonal migration corridors with new access routes.</li> <li>• Define and implement safe operating distances from the herd.</li> <li>• Consider the following seasons when determining appropriate operational timing-windows (seasons when Porcupine caribou occupy the region)</li> </ul> <p>           Winter: December 1 to March 31            Spring migration: April 1 to May 31            Early summer: July 1 to July 15            Mid to late summer: July 16 to August 7            Fall migration: August 8 to October 7            Rut: October 8 to November 30         </p>
<b>Moose</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid seasonal use/concentration areas and migration corridors.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid using or crossing seasonal migration corridors with new access routes.</li> </ul>
<b>Sheep</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid sensitive sheep habitats and key areas, with emphasis on winter range avoidance</li> </ul>
<b>Fish</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To minimize potential impacts to regional fish populations, aggregate (gravel) mining should be prohibited in significant fish habitats.</li> </ul>
<b>Wetlands, Lakes and Rivers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All-season infrastructure should be discouraged in key wetland complexes.</li> <li>• Locations of all-season infrastructure should maintain a minimum distance of 100m from wetlands and lakes.</li> <li>• Activities in the vicinity of wetlands and wetland complexes should be carried out during the winter period.</li> <li>• If land use activities are required in wetlands, hydrology, water flow, and natural drainage patterns should be maintained.</li> <li>• If required, surface disturbance within and adjacent to wetlands and lakes should not result in diminished water quality or quantity.</li> <li>• To maintain visual quality and aesthetics, all-season infrastructure should be discouraged within Major River Corridors.</li> <li>• Minimize construction of new permanent river crossing structures and routing new all-season access roads through Major River and other riparian corridors.</li> <li>• Where new all-season or winter access roads and/or trails are required to cross Major River and other riparian corridors, these should be designed, constructed, and used in a manner that minimizes direct and indirect impacts to fish, wildlife and their habitats.</li> <li>• Surface disturbance and land use activities within and adjacent to Major River and other riparian corridors should not result in diminished water quality, quantity or flow.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Heritage, Social, Cultural Resources:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid and/or mitigate exploration and development activities and impacts in areas with known heritage or historic resource values, where such areas or sites are not otherwise protected through existing land withdrawals</li> <li>• In identified current community use areas exploration and construction activities should be minimized or mitigated during subsistence harvesting periods.</li> <li>• Work camps associated with resource exploration and development activity should be sited near areas of resource production, away from identified heritage routes, historic sites, current community use areas, and the Old Crow Community Area.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transportation and Access</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid or minimize the creation of new access roads and trails; utilize existing routes unless their use will cause additional long term environmental impacts (e.g., permafrost degradation).</li> <li>• Where new all-season or winter access roads and/or trails are required, these should be designed, constructed and used in a manner that minimizes direct and indirect impacts to fish and wildlife, their habitats and human viewsapes (i.e., minimize size and extent of features).</li> <li>• Avoid significant caribou, moose, marten, and sheep habitat when constructing new access routes.</li> <li>• Avoid important trapping, harvesting, and current use areas.</li> <li>• Avoid using or crossing wildlife seasonal migration corridors with new access routes.</li> <li>• Whenever possible, land use activities should be coordinated to utilize the same access route(s).</li> <li>• Reclamation requirements and decommissioning strategies should be considered during planning and assessment of new road and access features.</li> <li>• Limit and/or control use</li> </ul>

## **Additional Analysis or Comments:**

### **General**

- This project does not utilize many of the Best Management Practices or General Management Direction identified in the land use plan.

### **5.4.1 Access to Resources**

The North Yukon Land Use Plan considered the maintenance of access to resources across the working landscape through land use designation and cumulative effects indicators. The Plan does not recommend specific locations for future road and access routes, nor does it prescribe road construction techniques.

As a general guideline, in order to minimize potential impacts to valued ecological and heritage/cultural resources it is recommended that where road access is required, winter roads, ice roads and other temporary access techniques be utilized preferentially over all-season roads.

Requirements and locations for new road and access construction are at the discretion of a project proponent in consideration of the strategies, best management practices, and recommendations proposed in the North Yukon Land Use Plan.