

NORTH YUKON REGIONAL LAND USE PLAN CONFORMITY CHECK

YESAB Project #	2013 0091 (amendment of 2010-0206)		
Project Title:	Old Crow Winter Road		
Date:	July 10, 2013	Completed by: (name)	Ron Cruikshank
Submitted to:	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

Affected Landscape Management Unit(LMU)(s): (insert rows as needed for additional LMUs) Map 1 and Section 6			
LM Unit #	2A	LMU Name:	Community Area
Zoning:	CA	Land Owner:	YG
LM Unit #	2B	LMU Name:	Bluefish River – David Lord Creek
Zoning:	IMA – Zone III	Land Owner:	YG, VGFN (Category A)
LM Unit #	2C	LMU Name:	Bluefish – Cadzow Lake Wetlands
Zoning:	IMA – Zone I	Land Owner:	YG, VGFN (Category A)
LM Unit #	6	LMU Name:	Ahvee and Sharp Mountains
Zoning:	IMA – Zone III	Land Owner:	YG
LM Unit #	7	LMU Name:	Johnson Creek
Zoning:	IMA – Zone IV	Land Owner:	YG
LM Unit #	8C	LMU Name:	Porcupine River
Zoning:	IMA – Zone I	Land Owner:	YG
LM Unit #	9	LMU Name:	Eagle Plains
Zoning:	IMA – Zone IV	Land Owner:	YG, VGFN (Category A)

Landscape Disturbance Indicators:) 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
2A/CA	NA***	NA***	Not yet provided	0 ha***	NA	No	No
2B	1156 ha	1541 ha	>23.5 ha	0 ha***	Not possible	No	No
2C	73.5 ha	98.0 ha	>13.6 ha	0 ha***		No	No
6	1018 ha	1357 ha	>7.7 ha	0 ha***		No	No
7	2422 ha	3230 ha	>29.7 ha	0 ha***		No	No
8C	22.7 ha	30.2 ha	>3.8 ha	0 ha***		No	No
9	4811 ha	6415 ha	>54.5 ha	0 ha***		No	No
Linear Disturbance (km):							
LMU	Cautionary Level	Critical Level	*Current est. Level	Project Estimate	Total Estimate	Notification Rqr'd**	Parties Notified
2A/CA	NA***	NA***	Not yet provided	0 km***	NA	No	No
2B	1156 km	1541 km	>47.1 km	0 km***	Not possible	No	No
2C	73.5 km	98.0 km	>27.3 km	0 km***		No	No
6	1018 km	1357 km	>15.4 km	0 km***		No	No
7	2422 km	3230 km	>59.4 km	0 km***		No	No
8C	22.7 km	30.2 km	>7.5 km	0 km***		No	No
9	4811 km	6415 km	>109.1 km	0 km***		No	No
<p>*current <u>estimated</u> cumulative effects levels are to be provided by the Plan Parties, however figures shown here show the estimated disturbance of the winter road only.</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>***Project estimates assume that the existing cleared route will be used on subsequent years, thus resulting in no additional disturbance.</p>							

Special Management Considerations: (Section 6, LMUs)	
LMU	Special Management Consideration
2A/CA	Old Crow Community Area noted for community infrastructure requirements.
All	Maintain existing routing of Old Crow winter road.
6	Important caribou concentrated use area during several seasons.
8C	In the IMA, Zone I designation identifies high ecological and cultural values within a sensitive biophysical setting.
8C	Regionally significant and rare riparian mixed-wood forests occur in unit.
Affected Values and General Management Directions (GMD): (Section 5) Only include values identified in LMU. If no GMDs exist or are relevant, do not include in this table.	
Ecological Resources:	Corresponding GMD:
Terrestrial habitat	2.3.1 Avoid or reduce activities in significant wildlife habitats during important biological periods (e.g., utilize timing windows).
Aquatic habitat	3.1.1 Minimize surface and vegetation disturbance in riparian areas. 3.3.1 Avoid direct disturbance to sensitive over-wintering habitats. 3.3.4 Avoid or reduce winter in-stream water withdrawals in sensitive over-wintering fish habitat.
Wetlands, lakes, rivers, and sensitive permafrost areas	4.1.1 Avoid or minimize industrial land use activities in wetlands and riparian areas. 4.1.3 Reduce surface and vegetation impacts in riparian and sensitive permafrost areas. 4.2.1 Avoid or minimize industrial land use activities in wetlands and riparian areas. 4.5.1 Avoid or reduce water withdrawals in sensitive wetland areas.
Heritage, Social, Cultural Resources:	Corresponding GMD:
Heritage and cultural resources/Subsistence lifestyle	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). 5.1.4 Where impacts to identified heritage and cultural sites and resources are unavoidable, implement appropriate mitigation practices.

Plan Recommended Best Management Practices: (Section 5 following each value)	
Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid or minimize the size, extent, duration and level of activities in concentrated seasonal use areas. • Use appropriate operational timing-windows in significant wildlife habitats to minimize activities, whenever possible, during periods of wildlife use
Wetlands & lakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If land use activities are required in wetlands, hydrology, water flow, and natural drainage patterns should be maintained. • If required, surface disturbance within and adjacent to wetlands and lakes should not result in diminished water quality or quantity.
Major Rivers and Valleys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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.
Heritage and cultural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In identified current community use areas (see Map 3, Appendix 1) exploration and construction activities should be minimized or mitigated during subsistence harvesting periods.
Transportation & Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). • 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). • Limit and/or control use of new industrial access routes to authorized users only.

Additional Analysis or Comments:

The North Yukon Regional Land Use Planning clearly supports the construction of the Old Crow winter road when needed (5.4.1.2). Since this winter road will generally re-use existing disturbance, this work generally does not add any new disturbance. The proposal's 200m wide corridor gives the proponents the flexibility needed to circumvent mapping inaccuracies and changing landforms (e.g., slope failures). However, like all human-caused disturbances in the Planning Region, additional clearing should be avoided whenever possible, and when necessary, it should be tracked and reported to YG and VGFN. A 200m swath of disturbance was not envisioned by the Commission when it considered the Old Crow winter road. The existing route is assumed to be used in the project, with the enlargement to 10 m every 10 kms acknowledge as a change from the 10-0206 submission.

The Old Crow winter road route does pass through Porcupine Caribou winter habitat and the related current community use area (adjacent to the Dempster Highway). This route also crosses and often runs along significant rivers, streams, wetlands and riparian areas. Gates and other mitigative measures described in this proposal are generally consistent with the Plan's recommendations. Temporary work camps, fuel stores, and other temporary infrastructure should not be located in these areas. This temporary infrastructure also should not be located in LMUs 2C and 8C whenever possible, and only if no further clearing is required, as both the disturbance indicators of these units likely are approaching their critical levels.

It is difficult to determine if a project with a 30-50 year lifespan is in conformity to a plan which will almost certainly be reviewed during this period. This should be considered when assessing the duration and flexibility of this proposed permit.