



# Land Use Planning Update

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## Since Our Last Newsletter...

Since the last newsletter in March, the Board has been busy implementing the Plan and has completed many of the planning activities that were reported as being in progress.

### The projects we have completed:

- The phase 1 Ecological assessment report for the Arctic Red River Headwaters is finished. The Board reviewed it and are looking into potential research partnerships for the next steps.
- The phase 1 Cultural assessment of the Arctic Red River Headwaters has been completed and the Board has extended the GSCI's contract to include interviews and translation of old interview cassettes.
- The Travaillant Lake and River, Thunder River, and Cardinal Lake phase 1 ecological assessment is

not fully complete and is expected to be after a vegetation analysis has been done.

- The phase 1 ecological assessment of the Campbell Hills study area has been completed. The Board received the final report and are looking into further planning.
- The Special Management zone conditions assessment has been completed. The Board is looking at starting the next steps.
- Testing and printing the Curriculum-based Youth Planning project.



### Our activities for 2005/2006 will hopefully include:

- Starting phase II of the Arctic Red River Headwaters Cultural Assessment.
- Starting the non-renewable resource assessment and the renewable resource assessment of the Arctic Red River Headwaters through the NWT Geo-science Centre.
- Begin a detailed study of the Campbell Hills area.
- Begin detailed planning along the pipeline corridor.
- Begin detailed planning for the Delta.
- Start work on Yukon Trans-boundary areas.
- Start a study to identify wildlife habitat and determine areas of importance for the whole GSA.
- Begin Granular resources studies.
- Distribute the Curriculum-based Classroom guide to GSA schools.

These projects are presented in more detail in the following pages of this newsletter.

*This newsletter is part of the Boards commitment to keep people informed about our activities. For more information on the topics in this newsletter, please contact our office and we will be happy to provide it.*

## More Assessments Needed for the Arctic Red River Area

A phase I assessment of non-renewable resources is the third of four assessments needed for more detailed planning in the Arctic Red River headwaters area. What we are calling a “phase I assessment” is a summary of the existing information about the area. This one should look at mineral and oil & gas potential, and include an evaluation of potential geological tourism values along the length of the river.

A phase I renewable resource assessment is the fourth of the ‘slate of reports’ required. This assessment would look at potential renewable resource land uses such as commercial forestry .

These assessments should also provide a comprehensive list of potential impacts by taking into account all associated activities and infrastructure. This information is required to round out what is needed for discussion with the communities and other planning partners, so that we have as complete a picture of the area

### Review of the Special Management Zone Conditions

With the report recommendations in hand, further planning for special management zone conditions has been identified. This includes doing a visual analysis of the Dempster (Transportation SMZ conditions), so we can more appropriately assess the impact of potential development and so conditions can be properly set to meet the management objectives of the zone. This will be a high priority by 2007 for the five-year review.

as possible. It would be complemented by the cultural and ecological assessments.

The reports need to make recommendations to the Board on any changes in conditions, boundary, or zone classification, further actions that will be needed for the five-year review. Therefore, these projects will be a high priority by 2007, so they are available for the five-year review of the Plan in 2008.

We are currently seeking outside funding from planning partners to begin these two projects under the PAS process is a phase I assessment of renewable resources. We believe this should be done for the river and headwaters at the same time.

## Campbell Hills Area Planning

Now that we have the phase I report, we want to work with partners to do more detailed planning for the Campbell Hills and surrounding areas. The work will consider:

- commercial tourism potential
- Relationship of the surrounding Plan zones to the Gwich’in Territorial Park
- The potential development from MGP and related activities
- traditional and recreational uses

The area is very diverse and interesting ecologically and culturally. At the same time, development is not only ‘at the doorstep’, but within the area. It is important to find the balance for these potentially conflicting land uses, so this has become high priority work.



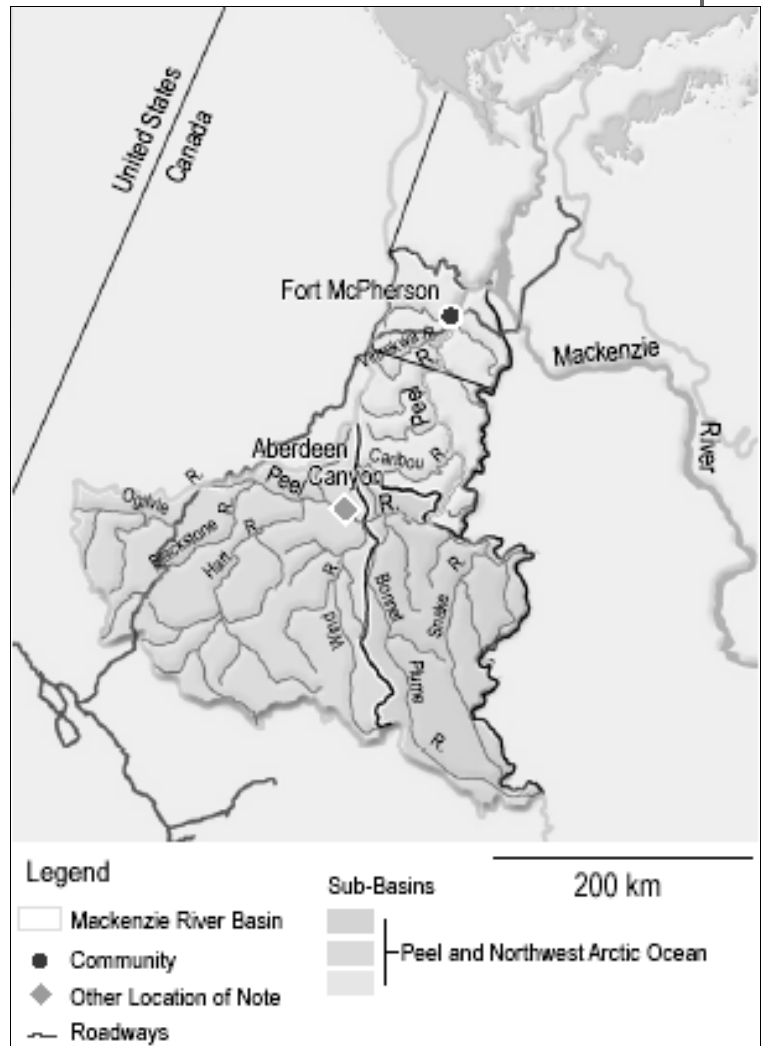
## Yukon Transboundary Planning

With the start-up of the Peel Watershed Planning Commission (PWPC), the Board needs to first work out a co-operative planning arrangement with the PWPC, then implement it. This is meant to help define and meet the requirement in the Land Claim Agreement for cooperative planning. The commission is expecting to have their draft land use plan completed by October 2007. This timeline makes this work a high priority for the Board

The Planning Board wants to make sure that the full watershed is considered under any planning activities. Because the watershed is split by a jurisdictional boundary (territorial border), transboundary work is essential. To ensure this, we need to:

- a) Review and provide input into the Precise Terms of Reference for the PWPC by Sept.
- b) get planning input from Aklavik (the Commission is only including Ft. McPherson in consultation meetings),
- c) develop appropriate watershed base maps, and exchange transboundary mapping with the PWPC

While there is no requirement for transboundary planning for across the Richardson mountains, we also hope to work with the North Yukon Planning Commission over the next year or two while they are actively planning.



Map from Mackenzie River Basin Board Report-2003

## Youth Involvement in Planning

In addition to the research projects, we will be continuing our efforts to inform and involve youth in land use planning. This project; already well underway, is a curriculum-based resource about the Land Use Plan for Grades 4, 7, and 10. The resource material was tested in the Aklavik school this spring, and after revisions was printed and is ready for the upcoming school year.

While in-service training for the teachers would be the most effi-

cient way of making sure this project is used effectively in all Gwich'in Settlement Area communities, there is no regional teacher's conference at the beginning of the school year. Because we can't meet with all the appropriate teachers at once, in-service would require going to each school. And as we have not budgeted for this, we will instead send copies to each school, and evaluate the project partway

through the school year.

The assessment of how well the material is being used will be done through phone interview with the schools/teachers in February. At that point, we will determine if in-service is needed in any of the schools, and whether an updated package should be produced.

## Detailed Planning for the Mackenzie Delta

A number of factors are pushing the need for more detailed planning in the Mackenzie delta (focussed on the actual river delta area and not the region as a whole). These include:

- b) there are overlapping forestry management plans. The Aklavik and Inuvik Inuvialuit community conservation plans have forestry management items that should be checked against the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board work on forestry management.
- c) it is predicted that the cumulative effects of oil and gas exploration and development will be high for this area, and we need to be prepared to manage those effects. One possibility for getting prepared would be under the Cumulative Effects Assessment Management Framework. The federal government coordinates this initiative to set up communication amongst agencies that are responsible for managing cumulative effects. The Board would like to see discussions of opportunities of

developing a Beaufort Delta Regional Plan of Action taking place.

- a) the need to review the land use implications of the recently signed Inuvialuit/Gwich'in transboundary agreement
- e) there is a relative lack of conditions in the Plan for guiding land use of this area as most of the delta is in general use zones with some special management zones. The Board wants to look at the delta as a planning unit and assess whether the Plan needs changes to the current policies to ensure the maintenance of this intricate ecosystem.

Planning for this area will be a high priority to be completed by 2007 so it can be included the five-year review. As noted, this work will require significant cooperative planning with the Inuvialuit. This has to happen to provide effective management of the delta as a natural feature divided by political boundaries.



## Applications for an Amendment & Exception to the Land Use Plan

Although the detailed project permit/licence applications for the **Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP)** have not been reviewed yet for all issues of conformity with the Gwich'in Land Use Plan, some issues have been identified. Imperial Oil has submitted applications to the Planning Board for exceptions and an amendment to the Plan that will be required before any authorisations to build can be granted by a regulatory authority.



The application for an **amendment** to the Land Use Plan requests permission to develop one borrow site within the Travaillant Lake, Mackenzie/Tree River Conservation Zone. Because of the significant impacts and more permanent nature of a borrow site, this activity will require an amendment.

Approval of an amendment is given by the GTC, GNWT, and Federal Government. Community and other stakeholders input is an important part the decision making process. The Board's role is to facilitate this process.

The MGP application for **exceptions** to the Land Use Plan requests permission for some activities associated with the project:

- the development of 3.4 km of winter access road to five sources of water,
- the withdrawal of water from those five water sources, and
- the visibility from the Dempster Highway of the Campbell Lake Camp site and two borrow sites.

The Board will first make certain that the above activities are not expected to have a significant or long term impact and do fit into the category for exceptions. It is the Board who will make the decision on approval after consulting with stakeholder groups.

The Planning Board will be hosting community meetings once the applications have been reviewed. These will be set up to discuss the issues and to refine the process for determining community approvals on these applications. We are targeting October and November for the first of these meetings.

## Granular Resources Planning

The project would cover two aspects of granular (sand and gravel) resources related planning:

- a) A Report of Best Practices: (to set appropriate conditions/evaluate plans; develop template for standard pit management plan, including standard terms and conditions.
- b) Regional planning for use of granular materials (review granular materials to be used, how much left, ensure communities have access to nearby sources)

The timing on this is now a priority, given the MGP requirements for granular resources and the application for an amendment to the Land Use Plan.



## Identifying Wildlife Habitat and Studying it for Areas of Importance

This project could also be described as a habitat classification and productivity/suitability analysis and ecosystem representation analysis. In plain English, it is a regional study aimed at:

1. Finding the best habitats for wildlife and checking to see if they have already been addressed in the planning process (analysis of habitat classifications and productivity)
2. Looking to see if there are areas of all different types of habitat that are kept in a state that continues to support the wildlife that live there. (analysis of ecological representation or looking for gaps in 'Goal 2' of the Protected Areas Strategy)
3. Identifying recommendations on whether the Plan needs any additional conservation zones, changes made to any conservation zone or SMZ boundaries, or changes to SMZ conditions



4. Making certain that the location and type of zone in the Plan fits with how wildlife live and move. An example of this would be that if there are two conservation zones to protect habitat for a specific type of wildlife, the wildlife must also be allowed to travel between these areas. This could be achieved by a special management zone (SMZ) that allows development only at times that won't interfere with this travel (analysis of connectivity and buffering of conservation zones through special management zones)

We need this study to support our work in determining the areas most sensitive to development, and natural areas of most significance. Once we know this then we can look at the best ways to manage these areas.

Preliminary work related to this project has been done by the Ducks Unlimited Canada (habitat identification in some GSA areas), the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board (management inventory of several productive and high forest use areas in the GSA), and the GNWT (a Conservation Suitability Analysis).

These bits and pieces of work need to be properly pulled together for the Gwich'in Settlement Area, with reference to areas across the GSA boundary (transboundary areas).

The first step will be discussions with the GRRB and GNWT department of the Environment and Natural Resources (ENR - both the Inuvik and Sahtu regional offices) and the Peel River Watershed Planning Commission to inform them that this is a priority for the Planning Board.

We will determine their possible inputs and requirements, gaps in any information, and if there is a need for field work to help fill these gaps. Then we would determine the type of analysis that can be done. A compiled report would then give us an integrated method for tackling this issue, including a suitable time frame and budget for the second stage of this work.

## Planning Along the Pipeline Corridor

Aside from evaluating the direct impacts of the proposed pipeline there is the need to look at land use issues that will be created by a pipeline development. This detailed planning related to the pipeline will be dealt with at two levels: at the corridor level and a broad regional planning level.

The corridor specific planning will look at increased access to areas along the pipeline route. We need to manage the effects of this increased access, so we have to start finding the answers to the following types of questions:

- Which lakes will be most affected by increased access (fishing, recreation, etc.)?
- What is the status of these lakes? (to figure what the potential impacts might be, we have to know what the lake looks like right now)
- What number of cabins is most desirable to people (locations relative to other cabins)?
- What type of cabin 'layout' is most suitable to the environment (locations relative to natural features)?
- How do we further detail the conditions in the special management zones to protect those resources, as well as the conservation zone?

While the Plan does not regulate recreational or traditional use it does provide the opportunity to discuss how access created by development can impact these other land uses.

At the regional planning level there has been considerable work done by the MGP on an appropriate corridor for the pipeline. Other potential activities in the region should be considered as well when determining the pipeline route. For example, the often talked about Mackenzie highway extension proposal deserves some consideration, so we should look at options for one utilities corridor. The idea being that a single corridor containing the pipeline, a highway, and other potential linear services would minimize impacts and costs.

This planning project includes gathering base map information on the lakes and other resources likely to be affected, conduct interviews to help quantify likely use increases and effects, interviews on cabin use, gather information of disposal of garbage and sewage waste associated with recreational use.



## Preparation for the 5-Year Review of the Land Use Plan

While the projects in this newsletter are part of the preparation needed for the 5-year review, other process specific tasks are:

- a) agree with planning partners on the process for the 5-year review and what the objectives for it are
- b) put together all additional digital and non-digital information into our computer mapping system and then identify any additional gaps not yet addressed
- c) start an independent evaluation of the Plan, looking for clear statements of strengths and weaknesses of the existing Plan. This evaluation should extend to look at where the Board

is putting its resources and the results of those resources

- d) workshop to discuss SMZ conditions with land use inspectors
- e) complete all research projects
- f) determine any proposed changes to the Plan with stakeholders, GTC, and government. These consultations will also help determine priority projects for the next five year planning process
- g) prepare draft plan for approval process (approval process includes more consultation)

This is an on-going project for the Board and is intend to be completed by 2007.

## Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board

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*Provision for the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board was made through the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement in 1992. Soon after the Land Claim was signed, the Planning Board operated as an interim board until it was officially established by the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act in 1998.*

*The Planning Board's job is to develop and implement a land use plan for the Gwich'in Settlement Area. In following the principles outlined in the Land Claim and the Mackenzie Valley Act, the Planning Board's goal has been to develop a land use plan that provides for the conservation, development and utilization of land, water and resources. The goal of the Planning Board has also been to develop a land use plan that is particularly devoted to the needs of the Gwich'in, while considering the needs of all Canadians.*



## Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board Membership

**The board members are:**  
Bob Simpson (Chair)  
Charlie Snowshoe (Vice Chair)  
Fanny Greenland  
Joseph Tetlich  
Ian McLeod

**Board staff:**  
Susan McKenzie, Planner  
Amy Wright, Planning Assistant

The Planning Board has five members. The Gwich'in Tribal Council nominates two members and the Government of the Northwest Territories and Government of Canada each nominate one member. These four members then nominate a chairperson. The Planning Board is a public board and the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs appoints each of the nominees to be members. Once appointed, members represent the interests of the public, not the interests of the group that nominated them. They have a three year term and can be nominated for reappointment.