

## **Mineral Assessment of Ddhaw Ghro SMA**

A mineral assessment of Ddhaw Ghro SMA will take place in Whitehorse, on September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

### **Ddhaw Ghro SMA - background**

Ddhaw Ghro Special Management Area (SMA) was created through the Selkirk First Nation and Na'Cho N'y'Ak Dun First Nation Land Claims processes. The outline of Ddhaw Ghro SMA corresponds to that of the McArthur Game Sanctuary, except for the southern portion, which is now Category A Settlement Land for Selkirk First Nation. Ddhaw Ghro SMA was withdrawn from staking in September, 1997. The interim mineral withdrawal is effective until 2005 or completion of a management plan. Selkirk First Nations indicated that they are not interested in any Yukon Protected Areas Strategy processes in the Ddhaw Ghro area.

### **Ddhaw Ghro SMA Management Plan**

The first round of public consultation towards a management plan took place in Whitehorse, Pelly, and Mayo, in May 2000. Another round of community workshops is planned for the Winter 2001/2002, when management options will be considered, and a preliminary management plan should be drafted. The management committee, comprised of Yukon Government, Federal Government, and Selkirk First Nation will make recommendations on the land status, and they must decide if any or all of the SMA will remain withdrawn, or that the interim protection be dropped. A review of the draft management plan will be conducted by Summer 2002. The management plan must be approved by Selkirk First Nation, Yukon Government, and Federal Government.

### **Mineral potential map**

The mineral potential map of Ddhaw Ghro SMA, recommendations by the expert panel, and potential implications of mineral withdrawals in habitat protection areas will be presented to the Minister and Deputy Minister of Economic Development. Presentations on the geological and mineral potential maps of the area will be given by Yukon Geology staff during the public workshops in Whitehorse, Pelly, and Mayo, when a policy analyst from the department of Economic Development will speak to the importance of maintaining areas of significant mineral potential open for mineral activity.

### **Data used for the mineral assessment**

Only public data and data collected by Yukon Government geologists will be used for the mineral assessment of Ddhaw Ghro SMA. Experts participating in the assessment will volunteer information as allowed by their companies. No confidentiality agreement will be used, since the area is currently withdrawn from staking.