

## PROTECTED AREAS STRATEGY

Vision [additional material]

The establishment of a protected areas system in the Yukon is a significant contribution by the people of the Yukon and Canada to the global ecological and cultural legacy. This protected areas network will contribute to the protection of ecological values, while simultaneously providing a model for protection that recognizes the cultural and constitutional foundations of the Yukon, including its aboriginal and non-aboriginal past.

Government will ensure that protected areas contribute to strong and healthy communities in the Yukon, and that protected areas contribute to a high quality of life for Yukon people today and in future generations.

*Goal #3: To ensure protected areas reflect a balance of Yukon peoples' values*

It is the goal of government to ensure that the protected areas strategy results in a protected areas system that reflects the broad public interest and that the development of a protected areas system in the Yukon reflects the values and contributes to the aspirations of Yukon people. To this end, as well as protecting ecological values, the following principles and values will be taken into account in the planning and implementation of the protected areas strategy.

Planning and implementation of the protected areas system will recognize:

- the need for a broad economic and fiscal base to secure sustainable communities in the Yukon
- the need to consider the impacts on the land and resource based activities, and associated economy
- the central role of access to the widest possible land base to support resource-based activities
- the need for certainty on the part of industry, in order to effectively contribute to economic development in the Yukon
- the need for national and international competitiveness of the Yukon economy
- the economic opportunities associated with the establishment of a network of protected areas
- the objective of ensuring that the benefits of protected areas are distributed equitably across society
- the objective of ensuring that the management of protected areas development and implementation provide for equitable opportunities for Yukon people
- the full range of economic, social and cultural values in considering uses where some level of human activity is compatible with the ecological objectives for an area
- the resource potential of the area in question and fully consider these values before taking decisions to create protected areas.

*Goal #4: Ensure responsible decision-making*

Responsible decision-making is informed and timely decision-making. Throughout the development and implementation of the strategy, government will actively provide for meaningful public participation. Furthermore, the Yukon Government is committed to a protected areas system that serves the public interest in an ongoing, responsive manner.

To these ends, the following principles and measures will be observed:

- In planning for, selecting, managing and reviewing protected areas, governments will ensure a process that is open, accountable, accessible and responsible.
- The Yukon Government will work with all other levels of government in the development and delivery of a protected areas system, honouring the provisions of land claims agreements in the Yukon, and recognizing the political context and constitutional development of the Yukon within Canada.
- Government will ensure that obligations and commitments to various stakeholders and third party interests, through legislation and policies such as the Whitehorse Mining Initiative, the Minerals and Metals Policy Canada, and the National Forest Strategy, are met throughout the implementation of the protected areas strategy.
- In developing and delivering the protected areas strategy, government will work in partnership with:
  - A) communities, in order to ensure local needs are considered;
  - B) industry, to develop management strategies which support protection objectives and encourage sustainable development;
  - C) mandated boards and councils, non-government organizations, service groups and associations, to ensure specific interests are considered; and,
  - D) the governments of adjacent jurisdictions, to ensure coordination, effectiveness and efficiency in achieving goals for protection.
- Adequate time will be provided for responsible planning and implementation for the protected areas strategy.
- Ensure high-quality, relevant and unbiased information grounded in sound science is available and used effectively in the establishment of a protected areas network.
- Ensure the consideration of traditional ecological knowledge in the development of the protected areas.
- Consider the use of other available instruments, both regulatory and non-regulatory (such as programs, incentives, codes of practice, performance agreements and guidelines) to achieve the appropriate level of protection.
- In establishing and managing protected areas, government will ensure that third party interests are fully protected and addressed in a fair and timely manner.