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From: Jesse Duke <jesse.duke@gov.yk.ca>
Subject: Strategy for Ec Dev. involvement

Based on our meeting Wednesday June 12, I am trying to capture the following key points.

(kind of rough, but will work on it)
Your corrections, additions, deletions welcome. I will finalise this on Thursday.

Basic Principals:

PAS is a component of land use planning. decisions to protect an area, should be done in the context of a full understanding of all other resource values and the loss of opportunities that may be associated with those values. The process should be linked with the Land Use Planning Processes, as mandated by the Land Claims Umbrella Final Agreement. Community involvement, particularly through regional Resource and land use planning councils, will be critical to the success of the strategy.

Any area selection should be done in the context of maximising the longterm potential benefit to Yukon residents from Yukon's natural resource endowment, including minerals, oil and gas, forestry, tourism and recreation. A decision to protect an area excludes Yukoners enjoyment and benefit from the natural resources of the area. Area selections must be made to ensure the impact on Yukon's ability to profit and benefit from the natural resources in minimized.

rephrase RR sees their values as "resources" as exclude benefit from the economic

Recommendations for a Protected Areas Strategy:

We are proposing a new method of conducting resource assessments to assist the Yukon Government achieve the objectives of quickly identifying areas appropriate for protection. This method would incorporate mineral resource information in the initial selection process.

The Yukon Geology Program Management Committee approved a plan to conduct a Yukon-wide compilation of mineral resource information. This information will provide the basic database from which resource management decisions, including identifying areas where additional information may be required, can be made. The primary purpose is to ensure the government has all available information on mineral resources prior to recommending areas for withdrawal from future development opportunities. This work is to begin immediately, with completion expected in April 1998.

in the fall, we hope to have a working document by the end of May 98

This mineral resource compilation will become an important tool to assist in all land-use planning processes in the future. To be effective, use of this information must be considered effectively in the land use planning decision process. The PAS should clearly address this issue.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROTECTED AREAS STRATEGY:

Clear methodology for identifying all resource values needs to be established (for all sectors). The strategy should clearly recognise and commit to integrating resource assessment information into the initial selection of protected areas.

A Yukon Government 'Steering Committee' that includes departments with specific resource responsibilities should coordinate resource value assessments and jointly recommend appropriate areas for protection based on clearly defined principals (as suggested above). Yukon Government interests include parks, oil and gas, minerals, tourism and recreation.

The roles and responsibilities of the other groups, particularly those

mandated under the Land Claims UFA, should be clearly identified and integrated into the process.

BACKGROUND:

Based on our discussions, the following were noted:

There is concern that offers by geological staff to date to engage actively in the PAS have been received with a 'lukewarm' response. The steering committee set up a RR to guide the PAS does not have any other departmental representation.

There is a strong sense the final decisions for a PAS will be community based and driven by First Nations, under the authority of the UFA Land Use Planning processes. It is not clear if Yukon Government fully understands this role.

RR has not offered to involve Ec Dev. in the decision process for recommending a protected area. We expect considerable resistance to this. Information about potential candidates for protection have 'traditionally' been very difficult to obtain. Geology staff have requested the ability to 'revisit' park selections, not just fiddle with the boundaries, when mineral resource values are at stake. The commitment to involve Ec.Dev. in the initial planning process is missing.

The above principals and recommendations for a strategy is expected to be resisted by some, given past experience at the technical level.

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Tourism as economic benefit as opposed to resource extraction,