

## Parks and Protected Areas

### Issues

- Selection of candidates should be part of open and consultative process, as proposed in draft of Protected Area Strategy (PAS)
- Need commitment from government to make Resource Assessments a part of selection process, draft it in the PAS
- Analysis of opportunities costs need to be factored into selection of protected area through consultation with pertinent departments.
- Need a cap on size of protected areas (ex: % of ecoregion)
- Interim protection of study-areas not an option, specially considering their sizes. Need to explore alternatives, investigate other jurisdictions.
- Philosophy and method of compensation need to be addressed in drafting of PAS.
- Yukon-wide assessment provides a regional perspective on mineral potential (phase 1).
- Yukon-wide assessment will provide basic layer of mineral potential information to help RR and other bodies involved in the selection process (Renewable Resource Councils, etc). This tool should be used prior to the selection of candidates. Prospective candidates can be selected by avoiding areas of high mineral potential where possible. RR should wait for this document to be available (spring 98) before proposing any other protected areas. In this way, we can work with RR in the establishment of a network of protected areas.
- Selected candidates should then be assessed in more detail for their mineral potential (phase 2). More work might be needed depending on the quality of the data feeding into the overall assessment. Need commitment on the part of government for this assessment targeted towards specific candidates. Make it part of the PAS.
- Need a protocol for consultation on assessment. Make it part of the PAS.
- Who decides on final Park selections? How much weight if any will we have?

### Background

- Protected Area Strategy workshop: participants agreed to use an open and consultative selection process.
- Whitehorse Mining Initiative agreed to support network of protected areas where scientific and consultative processes are used.
- RR tries to use Land claims as the vehicle to create network of parks. Not an open and consultative process
- See proposal for Yukon-wide assessment
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