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YUKON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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January 22nd, 1998

To: **Bob Kuiper**, Chair, YPAS Advisory Committee
From: **Grant Bossenberry**, Executive Director, YCC
RE: **YCC 's Proposed Vision Statement for the YPAS**

Please accept this as the Yukon Chamber of Commerce's submission for discussion, regarding the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy vision statement. We have also listed our most important needs and concerns we would like to have addressed.

"The Yukon Protected Areas Strategy provides a set of commonly agreed upon guidelines that assist in the identification, selection, designation, management and protection of unique and special Yukon land areas. The application of the guidelines will make best efforts to balance the needs for ecological integrity, economic development and cultural significance with the objective of providing future generations of Canadians with a rich mix of wilderness activity, cultural enrichment and economic sustainability."

The following elements are essential for Yukon Chamber of Commerce support;

- 1) The systematic identification of unique and special areas to be designated by the completion of a resource inventory;
- 2) The development of an agreed upon "set" of selection guidelines that balance the interests of all stakeholders;
- 3) The definition of what interim designation and designation means for stakeholders;
- 4) The time limited development of a management regime for a protected area that addresses the need for a balance between protection and use; and, amongst economic development, cultural significance and economic sustainability.


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Other important factors include;

- 1) The need for greater public awareness of impacts and benefits of the YPAS regime;
- 2) Community based (local, regional, territorial, national) participation in selection of Protected Areas;
- 3) Clear, performance based time frames for evaluation after interim designation;
- 4) Simplicity of process throughout the identification, selection, designation, management and protection activities so that the whole process is transparent to all Yukoners.

We are looking forward to the workshop on February 5 – 7th for further discussion on this very important strategy.

Regards,



Grant Bossenberry
Executive Director
Yukon Chamber of Commerce

c.c. Yukon Chamber of Commerce Membership

January 15, 1998

Yukon Protected Areas Strategy
Vision Statement

The Protected Area Strategy has to be a process by which the values to be protected are beneficial to the Yukon populace as a whole. I certainly do support the protection of certain core representative areas, but only after a very thorough study and assessment of all the aspects of said areas, be they ecological or economical, coming forth from this process. There should be a system of ranking for both ecological and economic values, from which ideally the protection of ecological reserves with the highest value would be located on land masses of the lowest economic potential.

The process should have the flexibility to recognize that each region affected will have different needs and consensus. Thus regionally driven planning must be recognized. Also, within this process there should be a mechanism to support varying levels of protection as dictated by the system of ranking. This would in turn lend to the multi-usage concept of some protected areas.

Sincerely,

John Alton

Director

Klondike Placer Miners Association

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CRAWS VISION

2. A vision for a system of protected areas in the Yukon should include or reflect the following elements:
 - protection and conservation of the variety of life and ecological processes throughout the Yukon with a system of protected areas within healthy ecosystems, where human activities allow for the continued regeneration, movement and evolution of all native species in their natural habitat,
 - protection of wilderness and recognition of the intrinsic values associated with wilderness,
 - reflect the ecological and cultural diversity of the Yukon and the importance of healthy ecosystems for the sustenance of all life including humans,
 - reflect the Yukon way of life as well as our global responsibility to protect biodiversity and the values associated with protecting wild nature,
 - protection of cultural heritage sites, sacred places, historic sites and routes, places of spiritual importance,
 - ecologically representative and viable protected areas in all ecoregions,
 - protection of wetlands and key wildlife habitat wherever they occur,
 - based on scientific principles, as well as local and traditional ecological and cultural knowledge,

Values and Features to be Protected

The statement in the introduction suggests that it may not be possible to protect local sites of value. While it is true that all local sites may not meet the criteria for territorial protection, there is no reason other less restrictive land use planning mechanisms could not be used at the local level to ensure the maintenance of ecosystem health. Conservation must embrace all of the Yukon, while territorial or national protected areas will be established in the most important areas. Protected areas are one key link in maintaining biodiversity and the health of ecosystems. We should not discourage local efforts at conservation – in fact, we should encourage local people to see how they can help maintain the ecological integrity of the protected areas network and the rest of the landscape.

1. Include a broad range of overlapping values and features to determine priorities for protection. Begin with values and features necessary for the largest areas that have the greatest potential to sustain ecosystem health, then consider smaller areas that may meet more specific protection needs of features or species and their habitat.