

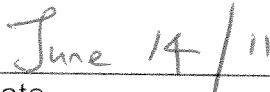
**Clear Creek
Timber Harvest Plan**
within the
Dawson Annual Allowable Cut Area

FOREST MANAGEMENT BRANCH
ENERGY MINES AND RESOURCES
YUKON GOVERNMENT

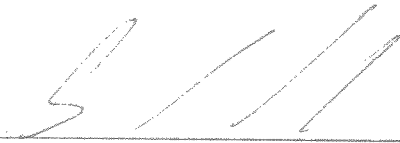
Prepared: April 2011



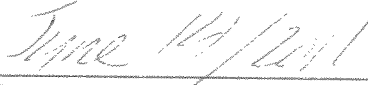
Approved by
Director Forest Management Branch



Date



Submitted by
Greg Thompson, Forest Practices Forester



Date

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Executive Summary

The objective of the Clear Creek Timber Harvest Plan (THP) is to provide Dawson City, Mayo and the surrounding area with a sustainable supply of economical fuel wood in an integrated and balanced approach to forest management. Under the new Forest Resources Act, all commercial harvesting must be conducted under an approved THP. Clear Creek has been a traditional harvest area for Dawson's fuel wood. This THP proposes the harvesting across 103ha for a maximum of 5000m³. This THP is consistent with both the draft Dawson Forest Resources Management Plan¹ (October, 2009) and direction provided in the draft Planning Regulation of the Forest Resources Act.

¹ The Draft Dawson FRMP was released in the summer of 2010 and is subject to final review and approval.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Clear Creek THP is located south of Dawson at 597km on the Klondike Highway and on the boundary between the Dawson District and the Central Yukon District. The area is an overlap traditional territory for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Na-cho Nyäk Dun. The area is a mixed stand consisting primarily of spruce and aspen. There is scattered deadwood throughout the block likely the result of a fluctuating water table in the area. The estimated volume of the area is 100m³/ha.

1.2 Eco-region and Drainages

This THP is located within the Boreal Cordillera Eco-zone, Klondike Plateau Eco-region and Klondike River Landscape Unit. Characteristic terrain features include smooth, unglaciated, rolling plateau topography with moderate to deeply incised valleys and large structural basins composed of level to undulating glaciated terrain. The area is relatively flat with most grades at less than 10%. The forest is made up primarily of a mix of spruce and aspen.

1.3 Socio-economic Values

Dawson City is home to approximately 1,300 people. The major economic drivers in the region are tourism and gold mining. The current annual demand in Dawson is approximately 3500m³ for sawlog and 1500m³ for fuel wood. The industry consists primarily of one sawmill and numerous fuel wood operators. The forests in the Dawson region provide significant ecological and aesthetic values, cultural and heritage values, recreational values, and other non-timber values. Dawson's forests can sustain a vibrant, small-scale forest industry that provides timber for local markets, energy, economic opportunity, and employment for the region's residents (Draft SFMP 2009). Many of the residents of Dawson rely on fuel wood harvesting as an economical heating alternative throughout the winter.

2.0 Planning Area Identification

The total identified is 103ha with a maximum harvest volume of 5000m³ (see Table 1).

TABLE 1: Area and Volume Summary

Proposed Blocks	Estimated Volume/ Hectare (m ³ /ha)	Slope (%)	Aspect	Block Size (ha)	Total Volume Available for Harvest(m ³)	Species Composition	Average Stem Height (m)
Clear Creek	100	4	West	103	5000	65% Spruce 35% Aspen	10

2.1 Wildlife

All site plans and operational development must be consistent with current wildlife standards² available from Forest Management Branch (FMB). These standards have been developed to ensure well thought-out and balanced planning occurs with respect to wildlife and forest resources. The THP is located more than 20km south west of the Clear Creek caribou herds winter range. Throughout the preliminary reconnaissance and consultation, no significant wildlife concerns were noted. This area does not conflict with any fish or wildlife management plans.

2.2 Riparian and Water Resources

All riparian management must follow the most current FMB riparian management standards². The closest stream is Slough Creek located on the far side of the highway and 500m away from the THP. Clear creek is located east of the THP and is approximately 900m away.

2.3 Heritage and Archaeological Sites

Yukon Heritage Unit and the Yukon Historic Sites Unit did not identify any known historic or archaeological sites within the Clear Creek THP. The area within the THP did not raise any concerns during the assessment (Heritage Resources Overview February 2011)

² The FMB standards are located in the Timber Harvesting Planning and Operating Guidebook 1999 with new standards being developed and expected to be completed by the winter of 2011.

2.4 Soils Conservation

All harvesting operations must follow current FMB soil conservation standards². These standards will ensure that the integrity of soils is maintained across all sites. Harvesting will only be permitted during dry summer or winter conditions in order to mitigate any risks to soil. Utilizing existing access in the area will help minimize any soil compaction in the harvest areas. Due to a fluctuating water table and diverse conditions within the block this will need to be closely monitored by operators to ensure that they are within the soil conservation standards set by the FMB.

2.5 Traditional Land Users

This area is also known as a traditional hunting and berry picking area. There is also an active trapline in Clear Creek area. These activities have been considered throughout the planning process and are considered compatible with the THP.

3.0 Harvesting Section

3.1 Harvesting

25% dispersed in-block retention is required across the cutblock and a target of 5000m³ may be removed from the THP. The retention will provide structure now and provide coarse woody debris in the future. Harvesting operations shall minimize unnecessary damage to any regeneration.

Harvesting methods include both hand and mechanical falling. Harvesting activities may occur in dry weather and winter conditions and is expected to continue in the area until harvesting is completed. The estimated completion date is 2025, however this is dependant on industry demands, other sources of wood and may be extended if harvesting opportunities still exist. A review will be conducted if 5000m³ is reached or in 2023.

The volume limit for the area was set based on expected demand for that area and is not necessarily an environmental threshold. Thus, if 5000m³ is harvested it may be appropriate to reassess the area to determine if harvesting opportunities still exist within the same area.

3.2 Reforestation

The schedule for a post-harvest establishment survey(s) will be outlined as part of the site plan for each harvest block. The results of this survey(s), the Silviculture Regulation and the silviculture standards² will guide decision-making with respect to regenerating these harvest blocks. Natural regeneration is the preferred option with artificial regeneration being used to supplement natural regeneration when necessary. It is expected that due to the high percentage of Aspen on site natural regeneration will likely regenerate to a fully stocked condition.

4.0 Access Management Considerations

The primary objective of access management for the area is to minimize the creation of long-term access. The block is very easily accessed from the highway, however some small haul roads may be needed in the future to gain access to different areas of the block (Appendix 2). Any new road development, would need to go through the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board. In line with the current operations in the area small skid trails will be used to access the timber. Harvesting will occur in dry weather and winter only.

5.0 References

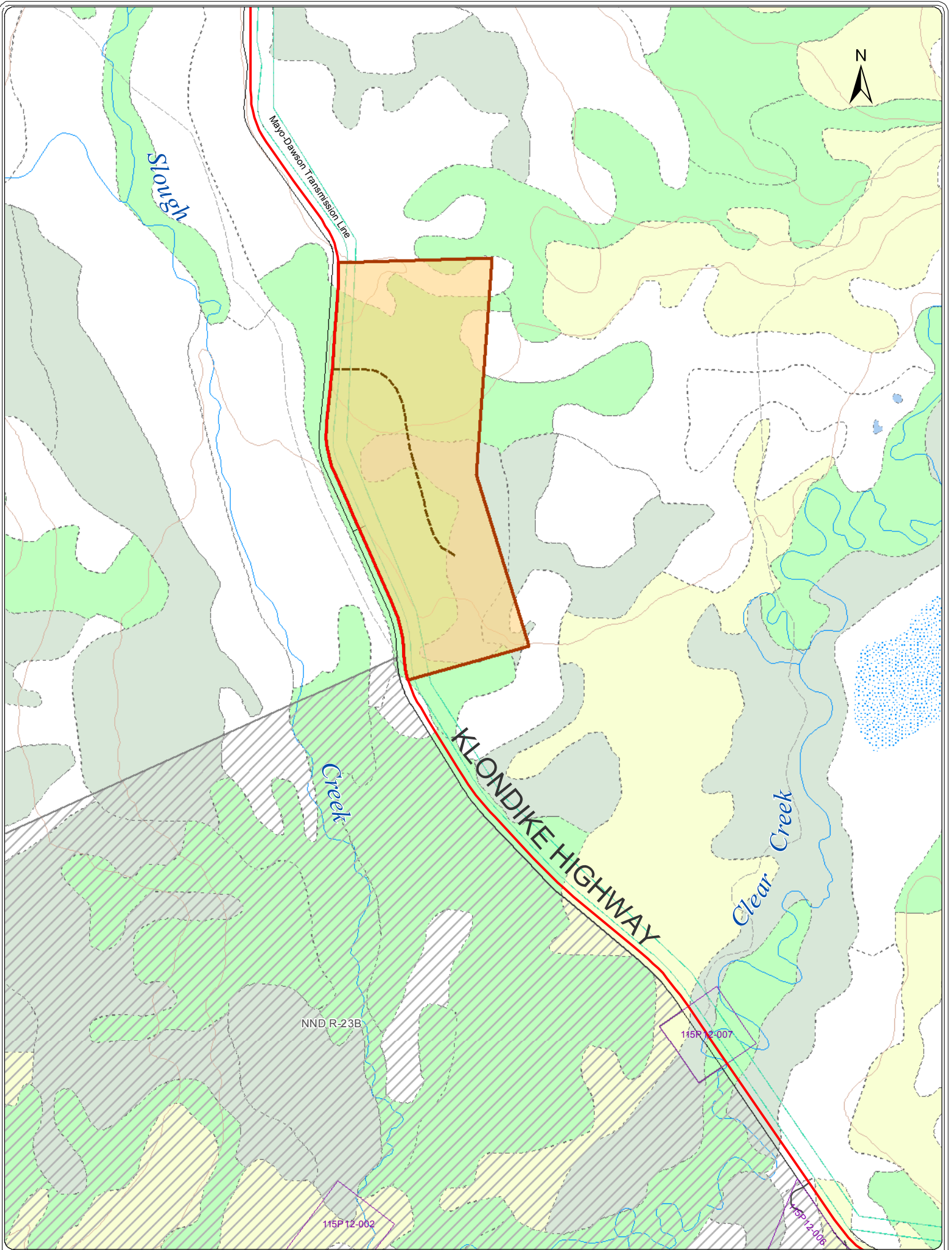
Dawson Forest Management Planning Team “Dawson Forest Resources Draft Management Plan.” October, 2009.

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Clear Creek Fuelwood Area

Appendix 2: Clear Creek Overview Map

Appendix 3: Representations

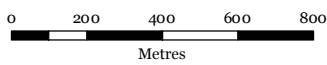


Appendix 1: Clear Creek Timber Harvest Plan Area

**Klondike District
Dawson AAC Region**

For more timber harvest information
Web: www.emr.gov.yk.ca/forestry
Phone: 1.867.456.3999

Date: May 02, 2011

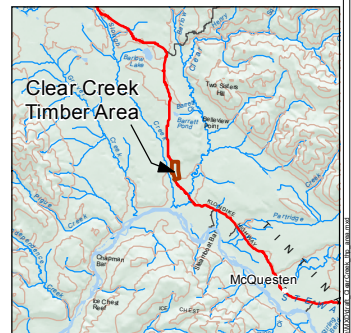


1:20,000 Yukon Albers
NAD 83

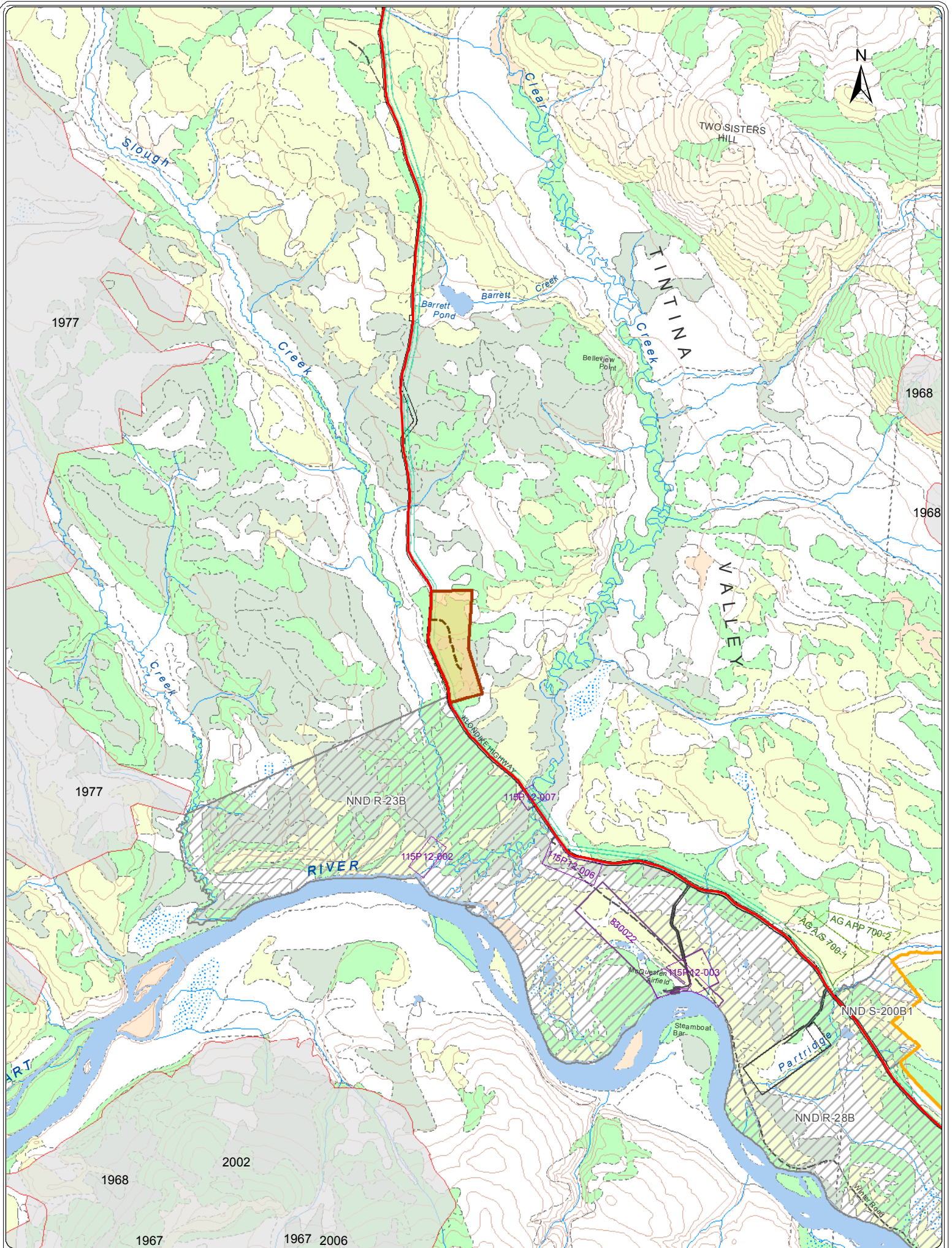
Forestry spatial data managed and maintained by the Forest Management Branch, Yukon Government. All other spatial data provided by Geomatics Yukon.

- × Permanent Sample Plot
- Proposed Roads
- Harvest Blocks
- Operating Units
- - - Non Forested Polygons
- White Spruce
- Lodgepole Pine
- Alpine Fir
- Black Spruce
- Balsam Poplar
- Trembling Aspen
- White Birch
- Larch

- Agricultural Land Applications
- Agricultural Land Dispositions
- Land Applications - Active
- Land Dispositions
- Land Licenses
- Notations
- Development Hold Areas
- Surveyed Easements
- Surveyed Land Parcels
- Municipal/Community Bdry
- YESAA Community Bdry
- A: Surface and Subsurface Rights
- B: Surface Rights
- FS: Fee Simple
- Unsurveyed Interim Protected



- Highway
- Primary Roads
- Local Roads
- Resource/Recreation
- Alley/Service Lane
- Winter

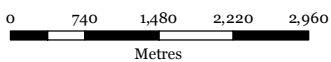


Appendix 2: Clear Creek Timber Harvest Plan Overview

Klondike District Dawson AAC Region

For more timber harvest information
 Web: www.emr.gov.yk.ca/forestry
 Phone: 1.867.456.3999

Date: May 02, 2011



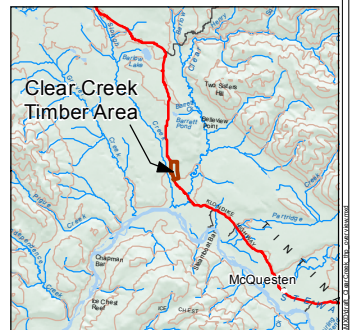
1:75,000 Yukon Albers
 NAD 83

Forestry spatial data managed and maintained by the Forest Management Branch, Yukon Government. All other spatial data provided by Geomatics Yukon.

- ✕ Permanent Sample Plot
- Proposed Roads
- Harvest Blocks
- Operating Units
- Fire History

- Non Forested Polygons
- White Spruce
- Lodgepole Pine
- Alpine Fir
- Black Spruce
- Balsam Poplar
- Trembling Aspen
- White Birch
- Larch

- Agricultural Land Applications
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- Highway
- Primary Roads
- Local Roads
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- Alley/Service Lane
- Winter

Appendix 3: Representation Summary
Clear Creek Timber Harvest Plan
Prepared: June 2011
Prepared by: Greg Thompson

A total of 4 comments were received during the notification period on the Draft Clear Creek Timber Harvest Plan.

Comments were received from:

- Trondek Hwech'in
- Government of Yukon – Environment
- Compliance Service and Inspections
- Donovan McGlaughlin

The following table contains a summary of the comments received, with responses to the comment and how the comment has been addressed.

Draft Flat Creek Timber Harvest Plan

August 2010

Topic <List Table of Content Sections>	Name/ Organization	Comment	Consultation Comment Response	How comment/s have been addressed.
General	Yukon ENV Na-Cho Nyak Dun CS&I Donovan McGlaughlin	No Concerns	Generally everyone was happy with the process and outcome	