

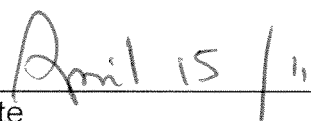
***5 Mile Dempster Highway
Timber Harvest Plan
within the
Dawson Annual Allowable Cut Area***

FOREST MANAGEMENT BRANCH
ENERGY MINES AND RESOURCES
YUKON GOVERNMENT

Prepared: April 2011



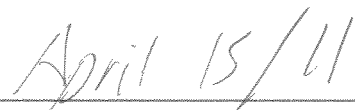
Approved by
Director Forest Management Branch



Date



Submitted by
Greg Thompson, Forest Practices Forester



Date

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Executive Summary

The 5 Mile Dempster Highway Timber Harvest Plan (THP) is designed to meet the needs of the Dawson forest industry. The area consists mostly of fuel wood; however, a small amount of saw logs may be salvaged from the area. Under the Forest Resources Act, all commercial harvesting must be conducted under an approved THP. This is a traditional harvest area for Dawson's fuel wood and thus, was selected for the creation of a THP. This THP proposes the harvesting of 320 hectares and an estimated 12,000 m³ of fuel wood. The THP is consistent with both the current Draft Dawson Forest Resource Management Plan¹ (October, 2009) and direction provided in the Forest Resources Regulation.

¹ The Draft Dawson FRMP is subject to review and final approval

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

The 5 Mile Area has been a traditional harvest area for Dawson City residents for several years. This Timber Harvest Plan (THP) is designed to help meet the social and economic forest product demands of Dawson City, while ensuring that environmental and other values are protected. The 5 Mile area was chosen as the location for this THP due to its fuel wood suitability, history as a fuel wood area, high priority planning rating and its recommended short term development time frame (Draft FRMP 2009¹). Blocks 2 and 3 were completely burned in a 1991 fire. Block 1 was also partially burned and contains standing dead along with some larger spruce. Block 4 has a mix a dead and live spruce of variable quality.

1.2 Eco-region and Drainages

The THP is located within the Boreal Cordillera Eco-zone and located in the Klondike Plateau Eco-region. 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 ranges from flat to 25% slope at an average grade of 5%. The slope tends to be more variable in Blocks 2 and 3. Leading species within the region consist of black spruce, white spruce, trembling aspen and white birch. Understory species are generally comprised of suckering species such as willow and there is a minor component of deciduous (aspen) regeneration.

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 2009¹). 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 area is 320 hectares with a total estimated volume of 12000m³ (see table below)

TABLE 1: Area and Volume Summary

Harvest Area	Estimated Volume/ Hectare (m ³ /ha)	Slope (%)	Aspect	Block Size (ha)	Total Estimated Volume (m ³)	Species Composition	Average Stem Height (m)
1	45	0-5	Flat	44	2000	Black/White Spruce 95% White Birch/Aspen 5%	15
2	35	5-25	East	98	3000	Black /White Spruce 95% White Birch/Aspen 5%	10
3	50	5-20	South East	71	3350	Black /White Spruce 95% White Birch/Aspen 5%	13
4	70	0-15	Flat	110	3500	Black /White Spruce 90% White Birch/Aspen 10%	13

Refer to Appendix 1 – 5 Mile Fuelwood Area

2.1 Wildlife

All site plans and operational development must be consistent with the most current wildlife standards² available from the Forest Management Branch (FMB). These standards have been developed to ensure well thought out and balanced planning with respect to wildlife and forest resources. Throughout the preliminary reconnaissance and consultation, no significant wildlife concerns were noted. There are no conflicts with wildlife values identified in fish and wildlife planning for this area. No wildlife key areas were identified in the vicinity of the proposed harvest blocks. To help monitor wildlife health, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Fish and Wildlife Department requests that the timber harvester report any unique animal sightings while working in the area.

2.2 Riparian and Water Resources

All riparian management must follow the most current FMB riparian management standards². All streams in the vicinity of Block 2 will be reassessed in the spring of 2011 to ensure the proper buffers have been allocated to them.

2.3 Heritage and Archaeological Sites

Yukon Archaeological Sites Inventory and the Yukon Historic Sites Inventory did not identify any known historic or archaeological sites in the THP. Much of the area has been impacted by forest fires, which suggests a low potential for historic era artifacts and structures. Block 3 has a somewhat higher potential for historic sites and features because of frequent historic use of the area during the creation and maintenance of the Southfork Ditch. Potential is highest adjacent to waterways. If the proponent encounters surface historic features they are asked to leave them in place and report them to Heritage Resources Unit, Department of Tourism and Culture, Government of Yukon. In addition Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in requests that any heritage resources located by the timber harvester while working in the area be reported to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Department.

2.4 Soils Conservation

All harvesting operations must follow the current Forest Management Branch soil conservation standards³. 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.

² The FMB standards are located in the Timber Harvesting Planning and Operating Guidebook 1999 while new standards are currently under development and expected to be completed by the spring of 2011.

³ The current standards are located in the Timber Harvesting Planning and Operating Guidebook 1999 while new standards are currently under development and expected to be completed by the spring of 2011.

2.5 Traditional Land Users

The 5 Mile area is a traditional fuel wood harvest zone. This area is known as a traditional hunting and berry picking area. There is also an active trapline in the region. These activities have been considered throughout the planning process and are considered compatible with the THP. Long term logging camps will not be permitted within the THP in order to address trapper concerns. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have the right to harvest as set out in chapter 17 of the their Final Agreement.

3.0 Harvesting Section

3.1 Harvesting

Blocks 1, 2, and 3 will require 10% dispersed in-block retention; made up of merchantable mature trees and snags. Block 4 will require 30% in-block retention; made up of merchantable trees and snags. A large component of the areas mature stems are unmerchantable and will also be retained. This retention will provide structure as standing snags and in the future as coarse woody debris. Harvesting operations shall minimize unnecessary damage to any regeneration. Harvesting the majority of the merchantable stems is necessary to increase the economic viability of the harvesting and decrease the number of areas needed to be accessed. The harvest area may be split up into several blocks in order to accommodate the forest industry. The past harvesting in the area has been occurring for a number of years with very small volumes being cut each year. The area has very high stocking and the cutting that has taken place in the past has had a very small effect on the sites regeneration capacity.

Harvesting methods include both hand and mechanical falling. Harvesting activities are eligible to begin in dry weather conditions and last until break up in the spring of the following year. Harvesting is expected to continue in the area within the seasonal restrictions until harvesting is completed. The estimated completion date is 2025.

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 Forest Resources Regulation and the silviculture standards will guide the decision-making towards regenerating these harvest blocks. Natural regeneration is the preferred option with artificial regeneration being used to supplement natural regeneration when necessary.

4.0 Access Management Considerations

Existing access will be utilized with no new road development. Appendix 1 shows the existing access into the 5 Mile blocks. The area will continue to utilize dry weather and winter access as it has in the past. Block 2 will only use the one existing crossing of the Ditch.

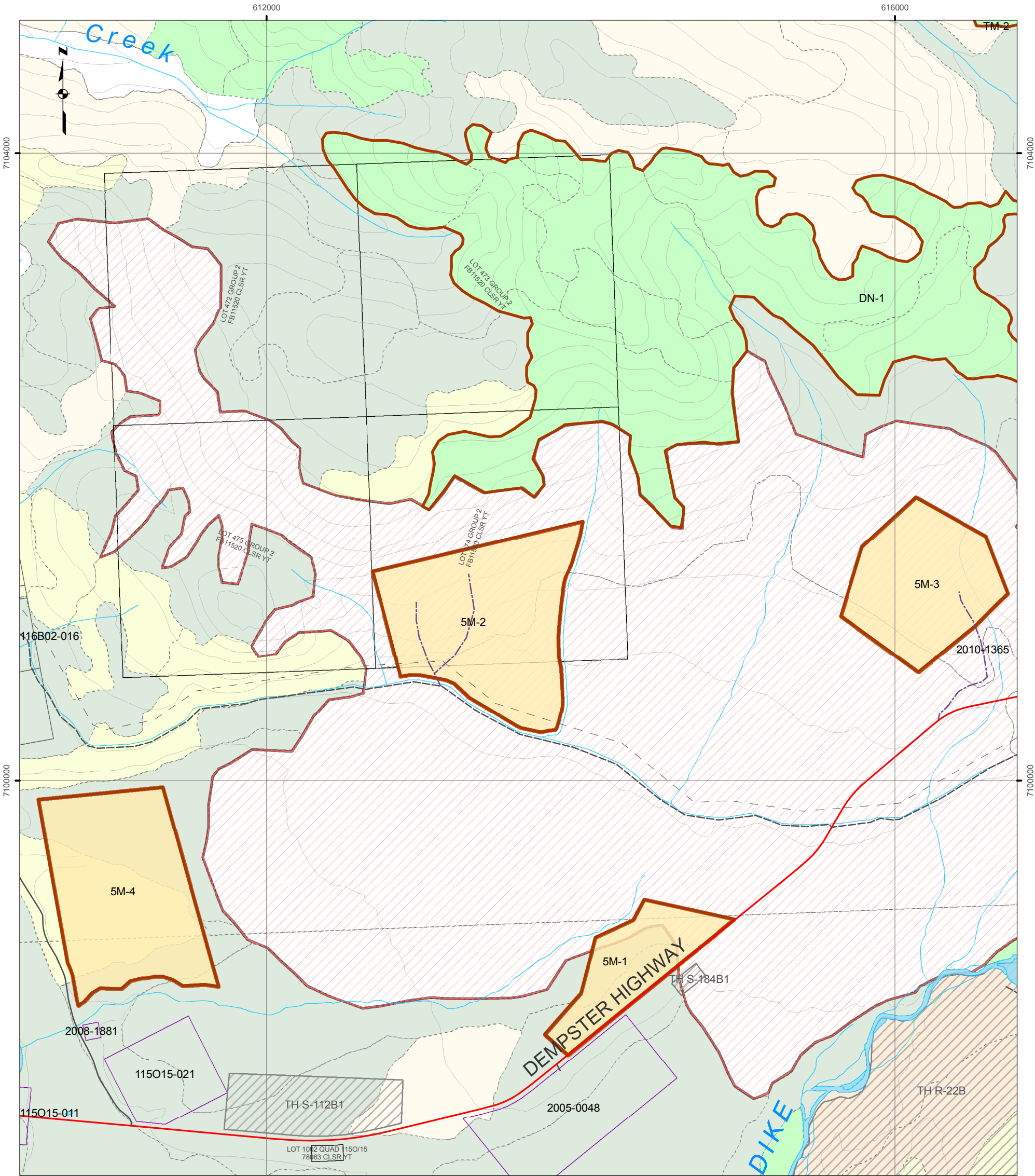
5.0 References

Dawson Forest Management Planning Team "*Dawson Forest Resources Draft Management Plan.*" October, 2009.

6.0 Appendices

Appendix 1: Dempster Highway Fuelwood Area

Appendix 2: Dawson Area Overview Map



Project Specific Features

-Existing Access Route
-Existing Trail
-Ephemeral Drainage
-Harvest Blocks
-Timber Harvest Plan Areas
-1991 Fire

Administrative Features

-Surveyed Parcel
-Category A
-Category B
-Fee Simple
-Agriculture Tenure
-Land Disposition

Forest Cover

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

Date: January 25, 2011
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 7

Digital Data Sources

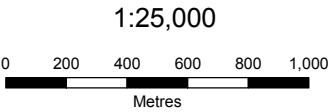
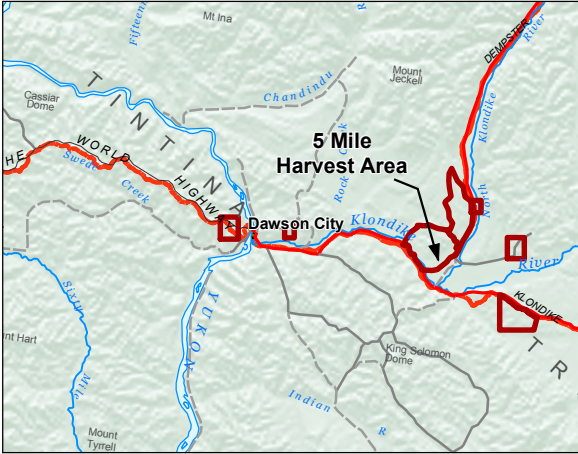
1:50,000 Canvec features downloaded from spatial data warehouse - www.geogratis.gc.ca. Her majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, Department of Natural Resources. All rights reserved.

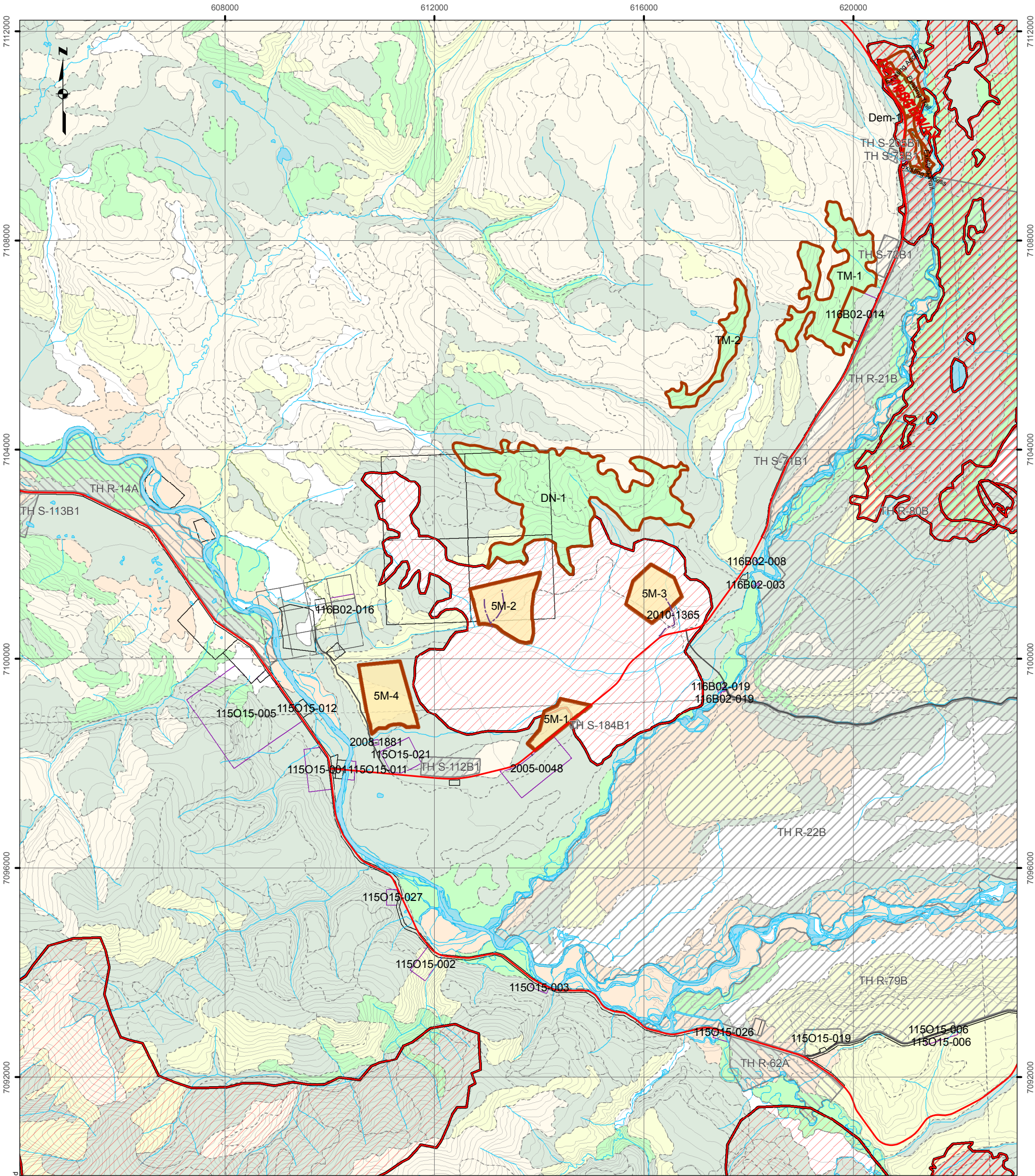
Project specific features such as Existing and Proposed Access Routes and Proposed Harvest Areas were derived/digitized by EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc. Fall 2009.

Digital Elevation Models (30 metre and 90 metre) provided by Yukon Government Geomatics spatial data warehouse - www.geomatics.yukon.ca.

**Appendix 1
Timber Harvest Plan Area
Dawson City / Klondike Region**

5 Mile Dempster Highway





- Project Specific Features**
-Existing Access Route
 -Existing Trail
 - Ephemeral Drainage
- Administrative Features**
- First Nation Settlement Lands
-Category A
 -Category B
 -Fee Simple
 -Surveyed Parcel
 -Agriculture Tenure
 -Land Disposition
- Forest Cover**
- Non Forested Polygons
 - Alpine Fir
 - Trembling Aspen
 - White Spruce
 - Black Spruce
 - White Birch
 - Lodgepole Pine
 - Balsam Poplar
 - Larch

Date: January 25, 2011
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 7

Digital Data Sources

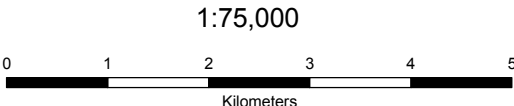
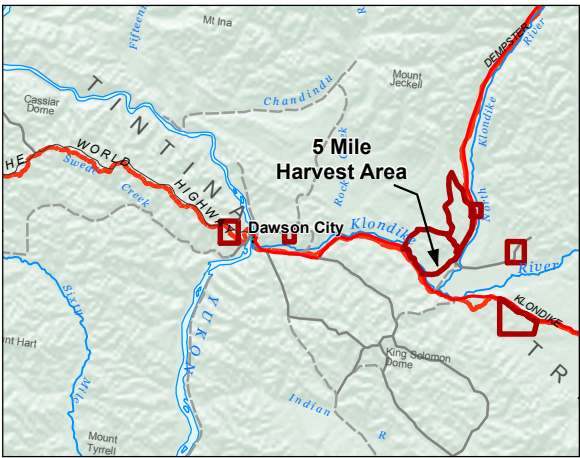
1:50,000 Canvec features downloaded from spatial data warehouse - www.geogratis.gc.ca. Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, Department of Natural Resources. All rights reserved.

Project specific features such as Existing and Proposed Access Routes and Proposed Harvest Areas were derived/digitized by EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc. Fall 2009.

Digital Elevation Models (30 metre and 90 metre) provided by Yukon Government Geomatics spatial data warehouse - www.geomatics.yukon.ca.

**Appendix 2
Timber Harvest Plan Area
Dawson City / Klondike Region**

5 Mile Dempster Highway Overview



Appendix 3: Representation Summary

A total of 4 comments were received during the notification period on the Draft Dempster Highway Timber Harvest Plan

Comments were received from:

- Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
- Government of Yukon – Environment
- Steven Rudninski
- Trevor Rudninski
- Government of Yukon – Historic Sites

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

Topic <List Table of Content Sections>	Name/ Organization	Comment	Consultation Comment Response	How comment/s have been addressed.
General	Yukon ENV	Consistency with Draft FRMP and ensuring that everyone realizes that the FRMP is not finalized.	Mitigation: The wording in footer of the Executive summary was changed to ensure it was clear that although the plan is consistent with the Draft FRMP that it is a draft and subject final review and approval. No final date is set for the approval but the earliest expected date would be late 2011.	Additional wording to address comment was developed.
	Yukon ENV	The THP references site plans and operational development some questions asked when this will be publicly available.	<p>The Forestry regime was developed with the principle of First Nations and public input during the strategic level that is at the FRMP level. There are also notification/input provisions at the THP level, with additional provisions for First Nations if there is no FRMP. As well the site plan has to be consistent with the THP and the THP with the FRMP (if there is one). The site plan will also have to be consistent with the operational standards and guidelines as outlined in the Forest Resource Regulations.</p> <p>That being said, just because there are no specific obligations established within the Act or regulation to notify at the site plan level, there may be other obligations:</p> <p>a) Common Law: There may be an obligation to consult with a First Nation as a result of proposed harvesting; b) YESAA: There may be an obligation to enter the YESAA process on an individual cutting permit/site plan; or</p>	

			<p>c) In some cases it may make sense to combine the Harvesting License/Cutting Permit/Site Plan all in one and provide this document for information at the Harvest License application notification stage.</p> <p>Also, there is an obligation to notify First Nations and the public on any Harvesting Licence application under the THP.</p>	
	Yukon ENV	Maps showing the general areas of interest for proposed harvest blocks are provided, but these don't show specific features within blocks – where the features have been identified through ground reconnaissance	Areas that were identified such as streams were removed from the blocks. This is not always possible but these blocks were designed to avoid sensitive areas. If a sensitive area is found within a Block or an area becomes sensitive (ie Bear Den) the area would be mapped and dealt with according to the Forest Management Branch Standards concerning for example Riparian Habitat or Wildlife	
	Tourism	Wants to ensure only one crossing of ditch to block 5M-2		Added
Executive Summary				
1.0 Introduction				
1.1 Background				
1.2 Eco-region and Drainages				
1.3 Socio-Economic Values				
2.0 Planning Area Identification				
2.1 Wildlife	Trondek	Please add to Wildlife Section "To help monitor wildlife health, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Fish and Wildlife Department requests that the timber harvester report any unique animal sightings while working in the area."		Added

2.2 Riparian and Water Resources				
2.3 Heritage and Archaeological Sites	Trondek	Please Add "Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in requests that any heritage resources located by the timber harvester while working in the area be reported to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Heritage Department."		Added
2.4 Soils Conservation				
2.5 Traditional Land Users	Yukon ENV	Section 2.5 of THPs indicates that traditional land use activities have been considered throughout the planning process. Might consider expanding this description to clarify how other land users activities and interests were considered and incorporated into the THP planning (e.g. who was consulted, etc.)	<p>People consulted:</p> <p>Several Government Departments Trondek FN Trapper Wood Cutters Local RRC Public Notification in Paper as well as on internet</p> <p>Also any other interested party that comes to light throughout the planning process</p>	An example of incorporating other land users is that during the review period we made some changes to block 5m-4 boundaries based on feedback from the trapper
	Trondek	Please add, "The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have the right to harvest for subsistence purposes in all seasons, throughout their Traditional Territory."	Reworded it to refer to Chapter 17 and not paraphrase it, and it discussed with Tr'ondëk.	
3.0 Harvesting Section				
3.1 Harvesting	Yukon ENV	<p>Section 3.1 indicates that 10% in block retention is required. Section should clarify how this % was reached, and what re-gen (e.g. willow growth) is expected post harvest</p> <p>As historical harvesting has occurred in both areas, a bit of description regarding historical retention and post-harvest re-generation (e.g. have willows/deciduous trees come back) might be useful.</p>		Wording added to Harvesting Section as a brief description of the harvesting that has already occurred on the blocks

	Rudninski's	Through discussion realized that it would be of benefit to adjust harvest block 5M-4 from 10% retention to 30% and increase the buffer along the road to the West of the block and on the south side where they have a cabin lease.		Done
3.2 Reforestation				
4.0 Access Management Considerations				
Other	Rudninski's	Camps were a major concern for the trapper with dogs around and people the Lynx are less likely to be in the area	No long term occupancy will be permitted in the THP.	