

# ***Dome Road Timber Harvest Plan***

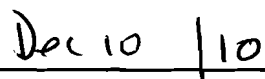
***within***

## ***Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory***


**FOREST MANAGEMENT BRANCH  
ENERGY MINES AND RESOURCES  
YUKON GOVERNMENT**

***Prepared: August 2010***

  
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Approved by  
Acting Director Forest Management Branch  
Pat MacDonell

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Submitted by  
Greg Thompson, Forest Practices Forester

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Executive Summary**

The Dome Road Timber Harvest Plan (THP) is designed to meet the needs of the Dawson forest industry. Under the Forest Resources Act, all harvesting over 25 m<sup>3</sup> must be conducted under an approved THP. The Dome road is a traditional harvest area for Dawson's fuel wood and thus, was selected for the creation of a THP. The block has potential for harvesting of building logs as well as fuel wood. This THP proposes the harvesting of one block for a total of 48 hectares and an estimated 4800 m<sup>3</sup> of timber. This THP is consistent with both the Draft Dawson Forest Resource Management Plan<sup>1</sup> (October, 2009) and direction provided in the Planning Regulation of the Forest Resources Act (FRA).

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

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## **1.0 Introduction**

### **1.1 Background**

Dome Road is located approximately 8km east of Dawson City. It is accessed by a rough road that heads east, from the fire tower towards the block. The area has a history of commercial harvesting where white birch and white spruce logging took place. This area's timber is suitable for fuel wood and contains some white spruce that may be viable as commercial lumber or building logs. The selection of Dome Road as a possible harvest area used the following approach:

- Stage 1 Investigate current harvest sites and identification of potential fuel wood harvest blocks through aerial photo interpretation.
- Stage 2 Conduct field reconnaissance and verification of potential fuel wood harvest areas. This project component also included identification of non-timber values and preliminary road locations.
- Stage 3 Finalize proposed fuel wood harvest blocks and preliminary access strategies.

Dome Road 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 2009).

### **1.2 Eco-region and Drainages**

The THP is located within the Boreal Cordillera Eco-zone, the Klondike Plateau Eco-region and the 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 harvest block is generally southeast facing, with grades averaging 20%. The area is dominated by white birch with some larger white spruce dispersed within.

### **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 3500m<sup>3</sup> for sawlog and 1500m<sup>3</sup> for fuel wood. The industry consists primarily of one sawmill and several 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 area is 48ha with a total estimated volume of 4800m<sup>3</sup> (see table below)

**TABLE 1: Area and Volume Summary**

Proposed Block	Volume/ Hectare (m <sup>3</sup> /ha)	Slope (%)	Aspect	Block Size (ha)	Total Estimated Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )	Species Composition	Average Stem Height (m)
Dome	100	20	South East	48	4800	90% White Birch 10% White Spruce	18

### 2.1 Wildlife

All site plans and operational development must be consistent with the most current wildlife standards<sup>2</sup> 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. 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 standards<sup>2</sup>. No riparian features were noted within the harvest area, one small drainage exists approximately 75m to the east of the block.

### 2.3 Heritage and Archaeological Sites

The Yukon Archaeological Sites Inventory and the Yukon Historic Sites Inventory did not identify any known historic or archaeological sites in the Dome Road THP area. The Dome Road THP was delineated as low heritage potential and no further work is required. If a heritage or archaeological site is discovered the operator must cease work and contact the local Client Service and Inspections office in Dawson.

*(Historic Resources Overview Assessment: Six Proposed Harvest Area in the Dawson Region, February, 2010).*

### 2.4 Soils Conservation

All harvesting operations must follow current FMB soil conservation standards<sup>2</sup>. 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

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<sup>2</sup> The FMB standards are located in the Timber Harvesting Planning and Operating Guidebook 1999 while new standards are currently under construction and expected to be completed by the winter of 2010.

in the harvest areas. All new roads and landings should be situated to minimize the risk of compaction, erosion, and rutting.

## **2.5 Traditional Land Users**

The Dome road THP is located close to Dawson and is used for some recreation activities and berry picking. These activities have been considered throughout the planning process and are considered compatible with the THP.

## **3.0 Silviculture System**

### **3.1 Harvesting**

25% in-block retention is required; made up of mature trees and snags. All large dead white birch with conks will also be retained. The retained white birch will provide available conks and bark for local First Nation use. The retention will also provide structure now and provide coarse woody debris in the future. Harvesting operations shall minimize unnecessary damage to any regeneration. Harvesting the majority of the mature stems is necessary to increase the economic viability of the harvesting and decrease the number of areas needed to be accessed.

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.

### **3.2 Reforestation**

Natural regeneration is the preferred option with artificial regeneration being used to supplement natural regeneration when necessary. The schedule for a post-harvest establishment survey(s) will be outlined as part of the site plan. The results of this survey(s), the Silviculture Regulation and the silviculture standards will guide the decision-making towards regenerating the harvest area.

## **4.0 Access Management Considerations**

The primary objective of access management for the area is to minimize the creation of long-term access. Where possible, existing access will be utilized and integrated with other land users. Appendix 1 illustrates the access into the block. No new roads are proposed for the area.

## **5.0 References**

Environmental Dynamics Inc. Report “*Phase 1 Reconnaissance of Fuelwood Areas the Dawson City/Klondike Region*”. December, 2009.

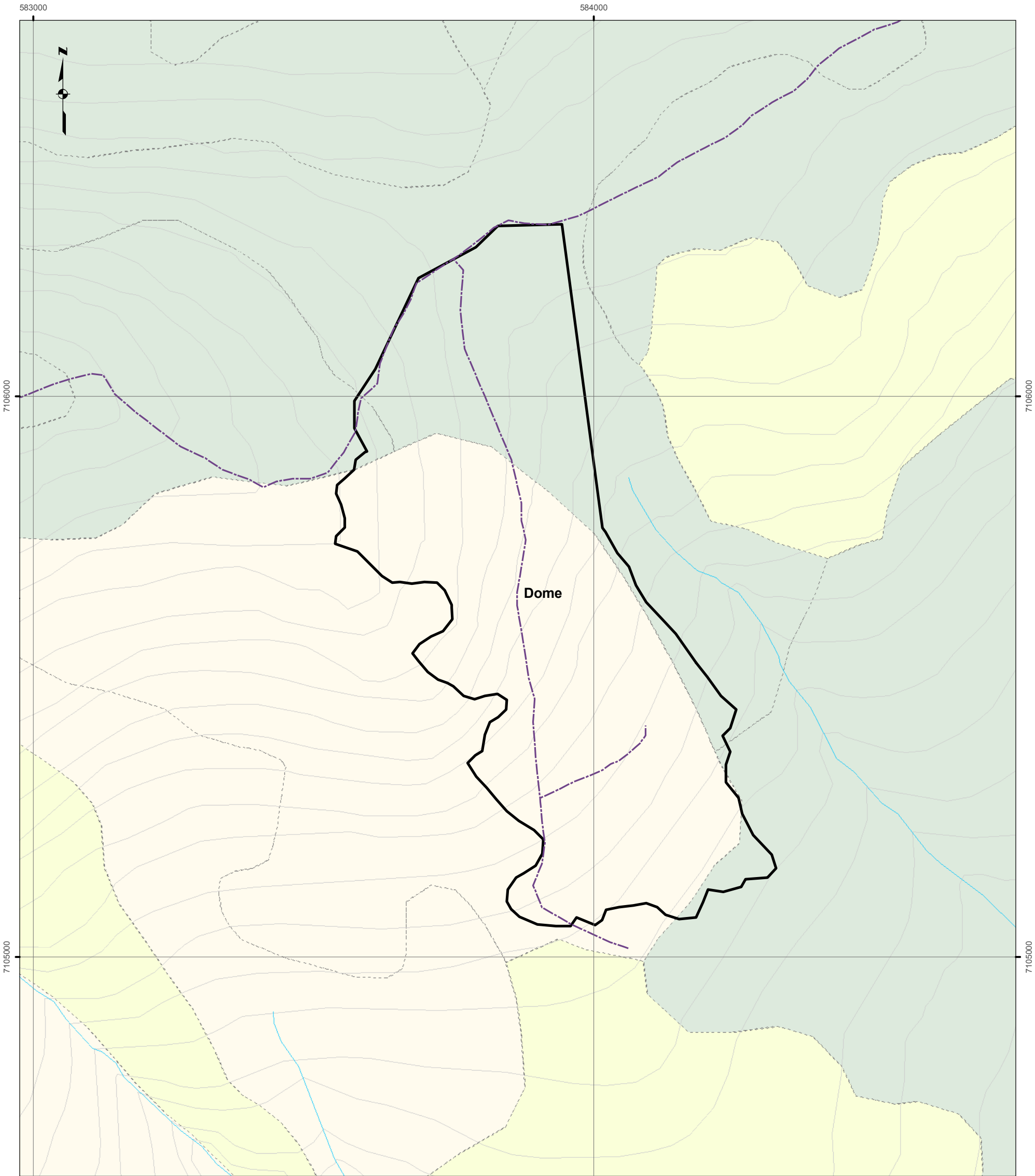
Dawson Forest Management Planning Team “*Dawson Forest Resources Draft Management Plan*”. October, 2009.

## **6.0 Appendices**

Appendix 1: Dome Road THP Map

Appendix 2: Overview Map

Appendix 3: Dome Road Representation Summary



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**Project Specific Features**

Existing Access Route      Harvest Blocks

Proposed Access Route

**Administrative Features**

Surveyed Parcel      First Nation Settlement Lands

Agriculture Tenure      Category A

Land Disposition      Category B

Fee Simple

**Forest Cover**

Non Forested Polygons      Alpine Fir      Trembling Aspen

White Spruce      Black Spruce      White Birch

Lodgepole Pine      Balsam Poplar      Larch

Date: September 01, 2010

Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 7

Digital Data Sources

1:50,000 Canvec features downloaded from spatial data warehouse - [www.geogratis.gc.ca](http://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) and land disposition data provided by Yukon Government Geomatics spatial data warehouse - [www.geomaticsyukon.ca](http://www.geomaticsyukon.ca).

Map scale 1:7,000 when printing on 11"x17" paper.

**Appendix 1**

**Timber Harvest Plan Area**

**Dawson City / Klondike Region**

**Dome Fuelwood Area**

**Yukon**

Energy, Mines and Resources

**Forest Management Branch**

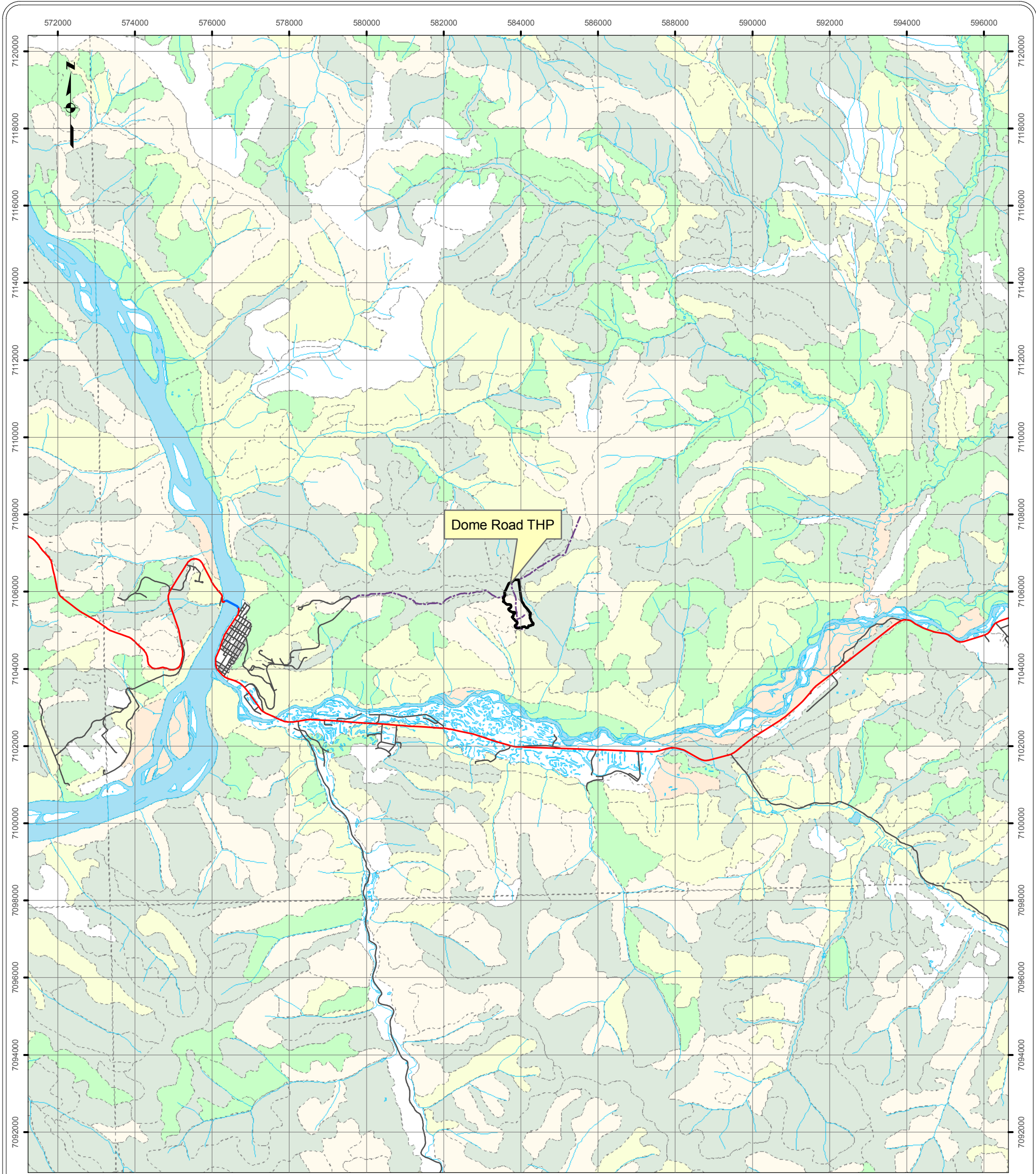
**Yukon Territory**

1:7,000

0 100 200 300 400

Metres





**Project Specific Features**

- Existing Access Route
- Proposed Access Route
- Harvest Block

**Administrative Features**

**Forest Cover**

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

Date: September 01, 2010  
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 7

**Digital Data Sources**

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

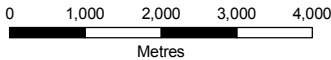
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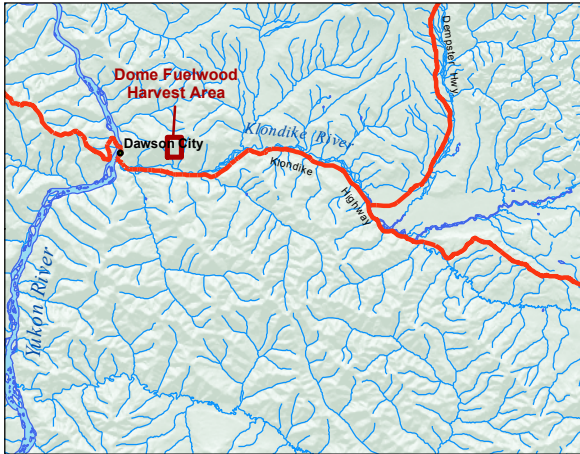


1:100,000



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

**Dome Fuelwood Area**



**Appendix 3: Representation Summary**

***Draft Dome Highway Timber Harvest Plan***

***Prepared: August 2010***

***Prepared by: Greg Thompson***

A total of 4 comments were received during the notification period on the Draft Dome Highway Timber Harvest Plan within the Tr'ondek Hwech'in Traditional Territory held from September 08 2010 to October 21 2010.

Comments were received from:

- Trondek Hwech'in (confirming no comment)
- Government of Yukon – Environment
- Yukon Conservation Society
- Wayne Gaven

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

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Topic <List Table of Content Sections>	Name/ Organiz ation	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 the fall of 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,</p>	

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			<p>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;</p> <p>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 Conservation Society	Some comments indicated concern about that size of the THP's and the amount of volume within them.	<p>The THP's are larger than the current demand for fuel wood because these plans cover areas that local operators have been traditionally harvesting in. While the THPs are for a large volume, the actual harvest per year currently is bound by the applicable annual limit. In the past because of the amount of burned area around Dawson many operators have had quite large areas assigned to them. During the planning phase it was decided that since these areas have been accessed by the wood cutters</p>	

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			for several years, the planning would accommodate that harvesting. Some new areas have been added to ensure that new operators would have opportunity in the area as well.	
	Yukon Conservation Society	More information has been requested to be included in the THP	Information in the Act/Regulations and Standards is applicable to the THP whether it is stated in it or not. Mitigation: Additions were made to add more site information such as the proposed LU from the DFRMP and topography of the site.	Additional wording to address comment was developed.
Executive Summary				
1.0 Introduction	Yukon Conservation Society	Clarify whether sawlog harvesting will occur	Sawlog harvesting is an approved product in this THP.	Clarified in Executive summary
1.1 Background				
1.2 Eco-region and Drainages				
1.3 Socio-Economic Values				
2.0 Planning Area Identification	Yukon Conservation Society	Clarify what is meant by species composition in table 1	Species composition refers to the proportion of each tree species in a stand expressed as a percentage of the total number of, crown closure, basal area or volume. Note this is an estimate.	
2.1 Wildlife				
2.2 Riparian and	Yukon			

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Water Resources	Conservation Society			
2.3 Heritage and Archaeological Sites				
2.4 Soils Conservation	Yukon ENV	Section 2.4 of the THP's references that the operations will follow soil conservation standards. The comment was that the plan should also reference that plans will follow road construction, maintenance, and deactivation standards	<p>Although not referenced it is an obligation of the Forest Resource Regulation. Thus, whether a particular standard is mentioned or not it must be followed. Applicable section of Forest Resources Regulation provided below.</p> <p>69(1) The Director must establish guidelines or standards for the construction, maintenance, modification and decommissioning of forest resources roads, including the design and installation of bridges, culverts and other structures.</p> <p>(2) Construction, maintenance, modification and decommissioning of a forest resources road <b>must</b> be conducted in accordance with guidelines or standards established by the Director under subsection (1).</p>	
	Yukon Conservation Society	Indicate where the soil conservation standards will be applied in the THP	Soil conservation standards will be applied across the entire THP.	
2.5 Traditional Land Users				

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3.0 Silviculture System	Yukon Conservation Society	How will this silviculture system differ from those used in the other Dawson region THP? The appear very similar in planning and in wording, but they are for different species	25% in block retention is prescribed as opposed to 10% in the fire killed blocks.  Birch is a very good regenerator in open forest and thrives under natural and man made disturbance. Birch has higher success rates for regeneration the higher the percentage cut. However at 25% retention it is expected to regenerate very well and balances other values in the area.	
3.1 Harvesting				
	Wayne Gaven	Harvesting should be allowed later than April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Harvest permits in Dawson are currently till April 30 <sup>th</sup> and the THP is based on if its frozen so the season may be extended with the weather permitting	
3.2 Reforestation				
4.0 Access Management Considerations				
Other	Yukon Conservation Society	Comments were directed at the colour scheme on the map.	Comment noted.	

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