

ML LAP Land Designation Descriptions (as per 2016 draft LAP)

8.1 Environmental Open Space 1

The purpose of the Environmental Open Space 1 designation is to protect and preserve areas of environmental, recreational and cultural significance from incompatible development. Values that are focused on here are derived from the Guiding Principles and Plan Objectives, in particular, Principle, 1, and Objective 1, which states: Manage environmentally sensitive areas in a manner that protects significant values. These values are defined as wetlands, salmon, caribou and old-growth forest. Implementing the Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee's recommendations is highlighted in area-wide policies, 6.13. The key recommendation listed is the protection of Carcross Caribou herd winter and movement corridor habitats. These values are aggregated in four areas within the planning area. From south to north they are: Judas Creek; Caribou Lakes and wetlands to the north; a small wetland north of Army Beach; and the M'Clintock River.

Additionally, the area-wide policies direct the designation of areas of environmental significance or hazard-prone areas as Environmental Open Space 1. In the planning area, this is understood to be areas adjacent to water that have high environmental value and are prone to flooding.

Areas designated as Environmental Open Space 1 include wetlands, areas prone to flooding and natural hazards, and areas having sensitive or specific habitat requirements. Lands used for recreational or cultural purposes within the Environmental Open Space 1 designation shall be kept primarily in their natural state except where modifications are necessary to facilitate recreational or cultural development, environmental conservation and public safety. Wildlife corridors will be maintained to allow for the movement of wildlife through the planning area.

1. Development in Environmental Open Space 1 is not permitted unless otherwise provided for in the Plan policies or by other Acts and regulations¹.
2. **Personal fuelwood harvesting** and fuel abatement activities may be permitted subject to:
 - a. the requirements of the *Forest Resources Act* and *Regulations*;
 - b. the mitigation of any impacts on wildlife values;
 - c. consideration of **preferred caribou winter habitat**, wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity, as outlined in Area Wide Policy 18; and
 - d. non-designated personal fuelwood harvesting is not allowed.
3. Personal fuelwood harvesting activities should be integrated with fuel abatement objectives and programs (e.g. FireSmart).

¹ If there is a claim in good standing granted through the Yukon Quartz Act and regulations or Yukon Placer Mining Act and regulations, that right has to be respected but the right also has to respect the planning regimes that have been put in place.

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4. **Commercial timber harvesting** and a large scale personal use fuelwood harvesting² is not permitted, except in response to natural large scale habitat alteration (e.g. forest fire, epidemic insect outbreak, etc.) and subject to:
 - a. the requirements of the *Forest Resources Act* and *Regulations*³;
 - b. the mitigation of any impacts on wildlife values; and
 - c. consideration of preferred caribou winter range shown on Map 4, wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity, as outline in Area Wide Policy.
5. Limited development to support cultural or public recreational use, education, habitat rehabilitation or enhancement such as establishment of **new trails** may be permitted as a discretionary use. Development is subject to public consultation and the protection or mitigation of any impacts on wildlife values, including, but not limited to, impacts on preferred caribou winter habitat shown on Map 4.
6. Hunting and trapping may continue and new trapping areas are permitted, in accordance with s.13 (1) of the *Wildlife Act*⁴.
7. Motorized recreational activity is discouraged in Environmental Open Space 1.

² If harvesting over 25 m³ (11 cords) for personal use, harvesting must happen within a timber harvesting plan area. Additional permit and fees will be required.

³ Completion of a Timber Harvesting Plan (THP) is required. The THP preparation process includes community notification.

⁴ Hunting and trapping is not permitted within one kilometre of a residential area unless the landowner(s) give permission.