



Crooked Creek **Timber Harvest Plan**

August 2026

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Part 1 - Introduction

The *Forest Resources Act* requires the development of a timber harvest plan (THP), before issuing commercial harvest permits. This THP was developed to provide wood in the Pelly annual limit region and complies with the *Forest Resources Act* and *Regulations*.

The THP provides an integrated approach to forest management, by considering a wide spectrum of interests and values. The THP has been prepared to meet local demand for wood, comprised mostly of fuel wood for the purpose of residential and industrial biomass heating, but also includes building logs for cabins, fence posts, and small amounts of saw logs. It is estimated that the current local demand for timber is approximately 1240 m³/year; 906m³/year in Pelly (based on *2018 Biomass Business Development Strategy for SFN*) and 668m³/year in Mayo (based on *2020 Yukon Biomass Lifecycle Analysis*).

The THP will give commercial and non-commercial operators the ability to apply for harvest licenses and permits. All commercial applications will be assessed to ensure compatibility with the THP and will be subject to a minimum 30-day public and First Nation notification period (FRA, Section 18).

The THP includes the western most 1800 hectares of a 2022 burn (2022MA021) that burned a total area of approximately 4545 hectares. The THP is located west of the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area and on Yukon public lands (Part 4 - Map 1 and Map 2).

The THP falls within the Traditional Territories of Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun. There are no Settlement Lands within the THP, although it is adjacent to NND S-6B1 and SFN S-45B1/D (Part 4 - Map 2).

Part 2 - Forest resources and timber harvesting

The following section describes the forest resources, objectives for timber harvesting, the locations that are suitable for harvesting, and the locations and management of proposed roads.

Ecosystem description

This THP is in the Yukon Plateau North ecoregion, within the larger Cordillera Boreal Region (Smith, C.A.S., Meikle, J.C., and Roots, C.F. (editors), 2004)¹. Leading tree species within the ecoregion consist of black spruce, white spruce, lodgepole pine, trembling aspen and white birch. Understory species are generally comprised of suckering species such as willow and aspen regeneration. The most common natural disturbance is fire, with a return interval of approximately 170 years.

Characteristic terrain features include smooth, rolling plateau topography with moderate valleys and large structural basins composed of level to undulating terrain that were not glaciated during the last ice age.

Loamy moraine and sandy fluvial-glacial parent soil materials are dominant in the ecoregion. Much of the ecoregion is underlain by a veneer of volcanic ash between 2 and 15 centimetres thick. Permafrost is discontinuous to sporadic with high ice content associated with fine-textured valley deposits.

The climate and weather vary across the ecoregion with higher levels of precipitation (near 600 mm annually) in the eastern, higher elevation areas, and less annual precipitation (near 300 mm) in lower lying western areas. The ecoregion also experiences one of the largest seasonal temperature ranges in Canada (annual extremes of -62°C to 36°C), with low elevation areas seeing mean January temperatures below -30°C and mean July temperatures of 15°C.

¹ **Ecoregions of the Yukon Territory: Biophysical properties of Yukon landscapes.** Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, PARC Technical Bulletin No. 04-01, Summerland, British Columbia, 313 p.
<https://yukon.ca/sites/default/files/env/env-ecoregions-yukon-territory.pdf>

Wildlife and aquatic species are typical of those found throughout the Yukon, with notably important habitats and species being the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area, extensive wetlands adjacent to many of the large rivers, chinook salmon, sparsely distributed thin-horned sheep, and several relatively small woodland caribou herds.

Economics of timber supply

The nearest communities to the area are the Village of Mayo, Stewart Crossing and Pelly Crossing. The population in and around these communities is approximately 870 (sources: Yukon Bureau of Statistics - Population Report, Third Quarter, 2024; Statistics Canada – 2021 Census of Population). A significant number of homes in these communities use fuel wood as a primary heating source, with a demand in Pelly Crossing of 400 cords (906m³) and in Mayo of 295 cords (668m³) per year. The value of this fuelwood has an economic value of between \$278,000 and \$347,500 (at \$400 - \$500 per delivered cord) and replaces approximately 285,600 litres of heating fuel.

The harvesting of timber resources would ideally be carried out by local and Yukon woodcutters, creating employment or economic opportunities in an area with limited jobs and industries. The scope of economic spin-offs ranges from fuel sales - for chainsaws, vehicles and heavy equipment, to the purchase of equipment and repair/maintenance services and supplies.

Value to first nations

Forest resources and wildlife that depends on the health of forests have, and continue to be, important to the well-being of First Nation people in Yukon. This relationship is comprehensive and integrated into most facets of life; from food gathering (e.g., berries, mushrooms, fish, small game like grouse and snowshoe hares, to large animals like moose), to economics, to cultural and spiritual connections. First Nations have lived in and used the area since time immemorial and are connected to the land by tradition, history and personal/family-related stories.

Forest resources health

The Forest Management Branch takes a risk-based approach to manage forest health concerns that arise, monitors forest health in the Yukon and releases a report

summarizing the current state of forest health. The most recent forest health report can be found at: <https://yukon.ca/en/science-and-natural-resources/forests/learn-about-forest-health> and provides additional information on the regional context of biotic and abiotic stresses. In addition to the aerial monitoring, the Forest Management Branch documents and assesses any public or resource harvester reports of forest health concerns. The Crooked Creek THP falls within the forest health zone 2. This zone was the subject of a 2019 aerial survey and several forest health concerns were identified, including aspen defoliators such as aspen serpentine leaf miner and large aspen tortrix. The area of the THP burned in 2022 which removed the majority of trembling aspen trees from the area.

Locations for timber harvesting

There are two operating units within the THP; the Lowland operating unit and the Upland operating unit (Part 4 – Map 3).

Lowland operating unit

The Lowland operating unit is approximately 363 hectares with 87% burned in the 2022 fire. The burned area is comprised of conifer and mixed wood stands ranging in height from 13 to 20 meters. In the operating unit there is a single harvest block, LOW-01 (Part 4 - Map 3) with an area of 319 hectares and an estimated total resource volume of 26,679 cubic metres of burned timber and 2,605 cubic meters of merchantable live trees. This estimate is based on results and interpretations from a timber cruise carried out in 2024. The Lowland operating unit could be accessed by the development of a forest resources road, originating near kilometer 518 of the North Klondike Highway (Part 4 – Map 3). Harvest blocks may be slightly modified as more detailed field data is collected during the site planning and layout phase, and will not increase the harvest area or volume.

Upland operating unit

The Upland operating unit is approximately 1427 hectares with 25% burned in the 2022 fire. The burned area is comprised of conifer and mixed wood stands ranging in height from 14 to 19 meters based on the 40k forest inventory data. It is estimated that some stands could yield as much as 120 cubic metres per hectare, with identified harvestable volumes of 7,143 cubic meters of burned timber and 688 cubic meters of

green trees in two harvest area (Part 4 - Map 3); a 56 hectare block (UP-East), on the east of the North Klondike Highway and a 92 hectare block (UP-West), to the west of the Highway. The UP-West and UP-East harvest blocks could be accessed via the powerline Right-of-Way near kilometer 517 of the North Klondike Highway. Harvest blocks may be slightly modified as more detailed field data is collected during the site planning and layout phase, and will not increase the harvest area or volume.

The designated personal-use fuelwood (PUFW) cutting areas of Map 4, Stewart Crossing 4, will remain along the North Klondike Highway improving personal-use harvesting opportunities in the region.

Timber harvesting methods and volumes

The proposed harvesting activities in this timber harvest plan will include patch-cutting and selective harvest of fire-killed trees within the harvest blocks. Incidental green-tree harvesting will be primarily associated with road and landing construction. Applicants intending to harvest within this area must propose their harvesting method to the Forest Management Branch.

Historically in the Yukon, fire salvage harvesting has yielded volumes that are substantially lower than the resource estimate at the time of planning. This can be accounted for in loss due to decay, windthrow, excessively burnt stems, and other reasons that may make some timber unsalvageable. The overall potential volume includes all undesirable wood in the resource estimate, therefore applying a high retention value to the volume reflects a responsible and realistic approach to salvage harvesting. This retained timber will serve as habitat, nurse logs, nutrients and support future post-fire ecological processes. A variety of timber harvesting tools and equipment may be used by operators harvesting within the area, from chainsaws and snowmobiles/all-terrain vehicles, to harvesting equipment like skidders and feller bunchers to cut, delimb, skid and process harvested trees. Logs will be loaded onto trucks or trailers for transportation to customers or alternate processing facilities.

Proposed harvesting methods will be assessed based on their alignment with the:

- Requirements and objectives of this timber harvest plan;
- *Forest Resources Act* and *Forest Resources Regulation*; and
- Forest Management Branch's operational standards and guidelines.

Operating Unit	Harvest Block	Harvest Block Area (ha)	Volume of Dead Trees (m ³)	Volume of Green Trees (m ³)	Total Potential Harvestable Volume (m ³)	Target Harvest Volume (m ³)
Lowland	LOW-01	319	26,679	2,605	29,284	14,642
Upland	UP-East	56	4,419	688	5,107	2,554
Upland	UP-West	92	2,724	0	2,724	1,362
Total		467	33,822	3,293	37,115	18,558

Table 1. Estimated harvest volumes from each operating unit and harvest block of the Crooked Creek Timber Harvest Plan.

While total harvestable volumes in the THP area exceed 37,000 cubic meters, a selective salvage harvest focusing on areas with higher densities of suitable-sized trees within the harvest blocks, result in estimated target harvest volumes of approximately 16,911 cubic meters of dead tree/fuelwood and 1,646 cubic meters of green trees.

Schedule for undertaking timber harvesting

This THP will remain in effect until the completion of harvesting operations, recognizing that the duration of harvesting can be challenging to predict as it depends on commercial interest. Detailed schedules for timber harvesting will be outlined in approved cutting permits based on site plans and adherence to this THP and relevant legislation. The seasonal timing of harvest for each harvest block will be determined by access constraints, consideration of wildlife values and other land use activities, and compliance with site-disturbance guidelines provided in the [Forest Resources Act - Soil Conservation Standards and Guidelines](#). In addition, mitigation strategies resulting from the assessment process will be incorporated into the development of site plans and authorizations, as applicable.

A minimum 30-day notification period for Selkirk First Nation, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and the public is required, for all timber harvesting licences in the Pelly Annual Limit Region.

Silviculture and reforestation

Silviculture is the science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health and quality of forests after timber harvesting has been completed or in response to other forest disturbances, such as insect outbreaks or fire.

In the Yukon, natural regeneration is the preferred method of reforestation. However, it may be desirable to enhance natural reforestation processes in some of the harvested areas to encourage forest stand development and meet Yukon silviculture stocking standards. If an area is found to be underperforming and is not likely to reach the identified reforestation goals, a silviculture treatment plan, that requires public engagement and First Nations consultation prior to approval, may be developed.

The development of a treatment plan would be guided by the Silviculture Strategic Plan, 2018 (<https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/emr/emr-silviculture-strategic-plan-yukon-forests.pdf>). Silviculture stocking standards, which were established in 2019, are for the reforestation of harvested sites with a disturbance of three hectares or larger. Field assessments will be used to determine if natural regeneration is sufficient or if additional silviculture treatments like tree planting, scarification, or other site preparation is required. Where tree planting is required, all seedlings are to be grown from locally collected seed stock.

Proposed roads

The harvest blocks in the Upland Operating Unit are accessible via an existing powerline right-of-way which crosses the North Klondike Highway at km 517, and via proposed new class 4 forest resources roads (Part 4 – Map 3 and Table 2). The Lowland Operating Unit would require a new class 4 forest resources road to be constructed (Part 4 - Map 3 and Table 2).

The first 1400m of forest resources road into the Lower Operating Unit would be a downhill grade ranging between seven and nine percent and require approximately 150 meters of geotextile across a section of low slope bog before gaining elevation on the east side of the bog. The forest resources roads would traverse the centre of the blocks and low-stump skid roads would be permitted. The quality of the parent material has low-potential for soil compaction impacts, with the exception the above-noted low slope bog section.

Table 2. Summary proposed forest resources roads required to access the harvest blocks in the Lowland and Upland Operating Units of the Crooked Creek THP area.

Operating Unit	Harvest Area	Road Length (m)	Total Road Area (ha) *	Total Volume (m ³) cleared **
<i>Lowland</i>	LOW-01	8008	9.6	384
<i>Upland</i>	UP-East	1230	1.5	60
<i>Upland</i>	UP-West	2301	2.8	112
Total		11539	13.9	556
* Class 4 forest resource roads have a clearing width of 12m.				
** 40m ³ /ha was estimated to be the average volume over the footprint of the road.				

Forest Resources Roads are not public roads and are managed by the Forest Management Branch, while public roads in the area are managed by the Department of Highways and Public Works. More information on the *Forest Resources Act* Standards and Guidelines on Forest Resources Roads can be found at

<https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/emr/emr-forest-resources-act-standards-guidelines-forest-resources-roads.pdf>

Proposed road locations within the operating units may be adjusted based on the licensee's timber harvesting equipment and the proposed harvesting system (i.e. landings or roadside timber decks). Applicants may need to provide additional application information including proposed maps indicating the location of forest resources roads, landings, and other development specific to their proposed operation.

The Forest Management Branch will minimize environmental impacts of proposed and existing roads in the area by:

- Installing gates on forest resources roads, which will be locked and accessible only to licence holders and permitted personnel, preventing access by unauthorized vehicles;
- Complying with performance of work within highway right-of-way permits from the Department of Highways and Public Works before any upgrade or maintenance work is performed on any public roads. This work could include

brushwork, installation of infrastructure, road surface work, earthwork (beside the roadway), road maintenance, or other work on or beside the road;

- Installing information and warning signs during any road maintenance or forestry operations to ensure all users are aware of activities and can use the roads safely;
- Ensuring upgrades and new roads are temporary in nature by planning and budgeting for decommissioning activities;
- Monitoring temporary site disturbances of forest resources roads and landings to ensure they are less than five percent of the harvest block area, adhering to operational standards and guidelines;
- Performing routine maintenance and snowplowing to ensure access and road integrity, with possible periodic gaps in snow berms to aid in wildlife movement, particularly in high snow areas;
- Assessing conditions and restricting access of commercial traffic during specific times of the year, to protect the access roads during wet or thawing conditions.
- The use of forest resource roads under this plan will be for timber and renewable resource activities only.

Forest resources road decommissioning

Decommissioning of forest resource roads may involve deactivation or rehabilitation. Decommissioning typically occurs within two years of harvesting, although in some cases, it may be delayed to facilitate reforestation activities.

Decommissioning will not always need to occur along the entire length of a forest resources road and will focus on three key areas: water crossings, sensitive sites, and access points. When decommissioning a forest resources road, the main goals are to:

- Stabilize the road prism (area previously disturbed during road construction) and clearing width;
- Restore or maintain natural surface drainage patterns and provide for suitable subsurface drainage (e.g., through aeration/scarification);
- Minimize the impact of silt or sediment transport on other resources;
- Reduce water quality degradation, and;
- Restore general access to the area to pre-harvest conditions/levels.

The following is a list of methods that can be used to decommission roads (note that winter roads usually require less work for decommissioning):

- Remove all stream culverts and restore channel and bank stability. Use cross ditches where necessary;
- Install cross-ditches or water bars where there are steep grades, heavy ground water seepages, switchbacks, ditches prone to plugging, or other potential drainage problem areas;
- Pull back potentially unstable side-cast fill;
- Spread windrow material over the first 50 to 200 metres of the road to eliminate existing accessibility;
- Sow grass-seed in ditch lines, crossings, or steep cut slopes to enhance stability;
- Rollback organic windrow to establish suitable seed bed;
- Plant trees.

Enforcement

Monitoring for compliance and enforcement plays an important role in the management of this timber harvest plan. Natural Resource Officers of the Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch, designated as Forest Officers under the *Forest Resources Act*, oversee compliance and enforcement of forestry activities. These officers employ various measures to ensure compliance, ranging from simple assistance to permittees in achieving compliance, or as necessary, issue notices of non-compliance, impose fines, or suspend permits/licenses. Natural Resource Officers will conduct inspections; the frequency of which would be based on operation scale and operator history.

Some examples of violations of the *Forest Resources Act* or the *Forest Resources Regulation* that may require enforcement actions include: harvesting without proper authorization, non-compliance with permit terms, and unauthorized use of forest resource roads.

The Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections Branch and the Forest Management Branch will work closely with First Nations to conduct joint site visits and inspections. More information can be found in the [Forest Management Branch - Compliance and enforcement in Yukon forests](#) fact sheet.

Timber Allocation

The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Selkirk First Nation identified an interest in accessing timber in accordance with Chapter 17 of their respective Final Agreements within this THP. To support the implementation of these treaty provisions and to provide access to timber resources within the THP area, the Forest Management Branch is allocating up to 2,500 cubic metres per First Nation, for a combined total of up to 5,000 cubic metres. Timber volumes associated with Chapter 17 may be requested annually by each First Nation following approval of the THP and will be administered in accordance with the *Forest Resources Act* and section 17.3 of the Final Agreements.

At the time of THP approval, these allocations will not be spatially defined beyond being located within the plan area. Specific harvest locations and site-level planning will be developed through subsequent field investigations and operational planning. The timing and location of timber sourcing may be influenced by access development requirements, seasonal ground conditions, budget availability, regional timber demand, and harvesting rates. While these factors may affect when and where timber is accessed, the Forest Management Branch will seek to provide reasonable and practical opportunities for access over the five-year period. Applications will be considered following plan approval. At the conclusion of the five-year term, the Forest Management Branch may amend, extend, or discontinue the allocation based on implementation outcomes, utilization of allocated volumes, operational considerations, changes in forest conditions at the plan or regional level, and in consultation with First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun and Selkirk First Nation.

Commercial timber harvesting within the THP area will be administered in accordance with the Commercial Timber Harvesting Allocation Policy, the *Forest Resources Act*, and applicable regulations. Timber allocations issued under this policy are intended to provide fair, orderly, and transparent access to timber resources for commercial clients while supporting sustainable forest management and coordinated development of forest operations.

Part 3 – Values and impacts

The following is Forest Management Branch's understanding of the forest resource values in the area to First Nations and residents of the area. This section also identifies strategies to reduce adverse impacts of timber harvesting activities on the values identified.

Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area

The Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area is an isolated mountain region between the Pelly and Stewart Rivers and holds significant cultural, spiritual, and ecological importance, located to the south-east of this THP. For thousands of years, Northern Tutchone people have used and cared for this area under Doòli, traditional law process, and continue to harvest wildlife and plants as part of their seasonal cycle. The area contains unique natural features, including intact mountain ecosystems and a small, isolated population of dark-coloured Fannin's sheep. Because of its cultural values and ecological sensitivity, operators working in this THP are expected to conduct all activities with care and respect for the area's significance. More information is available at: <https://yukon.ca/en/outdoor-recreation-and-wildlife/parks-and-protected-areas/ddhaw-ghro-habitat-protection-area>.

Regional forest context

This THP is situated in the area of the Yukon with the highest frequency of wildfires and short fire return intervals, as shown in Figure (1). This is due in part to low levels of precipitation throughout the year, and hot summer months with spotty thundershower rain events and frequent lightening storms. Wildlife in the area are well-adapted to making use of the various aged forest habitats, ranging from frequently burned, early successional stands to older-growth forests that are less subjected to fire events because of natural geographic features, such as being located on the north side of lakes or being on north/east slopes of mountains. The THP area was burned in 2022 and is in an early state of succession, with abundant standing dead spruce trees and regenerating vegetation dominated by fireweed, suckering willows, aspen and various herbaceous plants. As a result of the habitat mosaic in the larger region, including a variety of forest ages, habitat availability is not a limiting factor for any of the area's wildlife species.

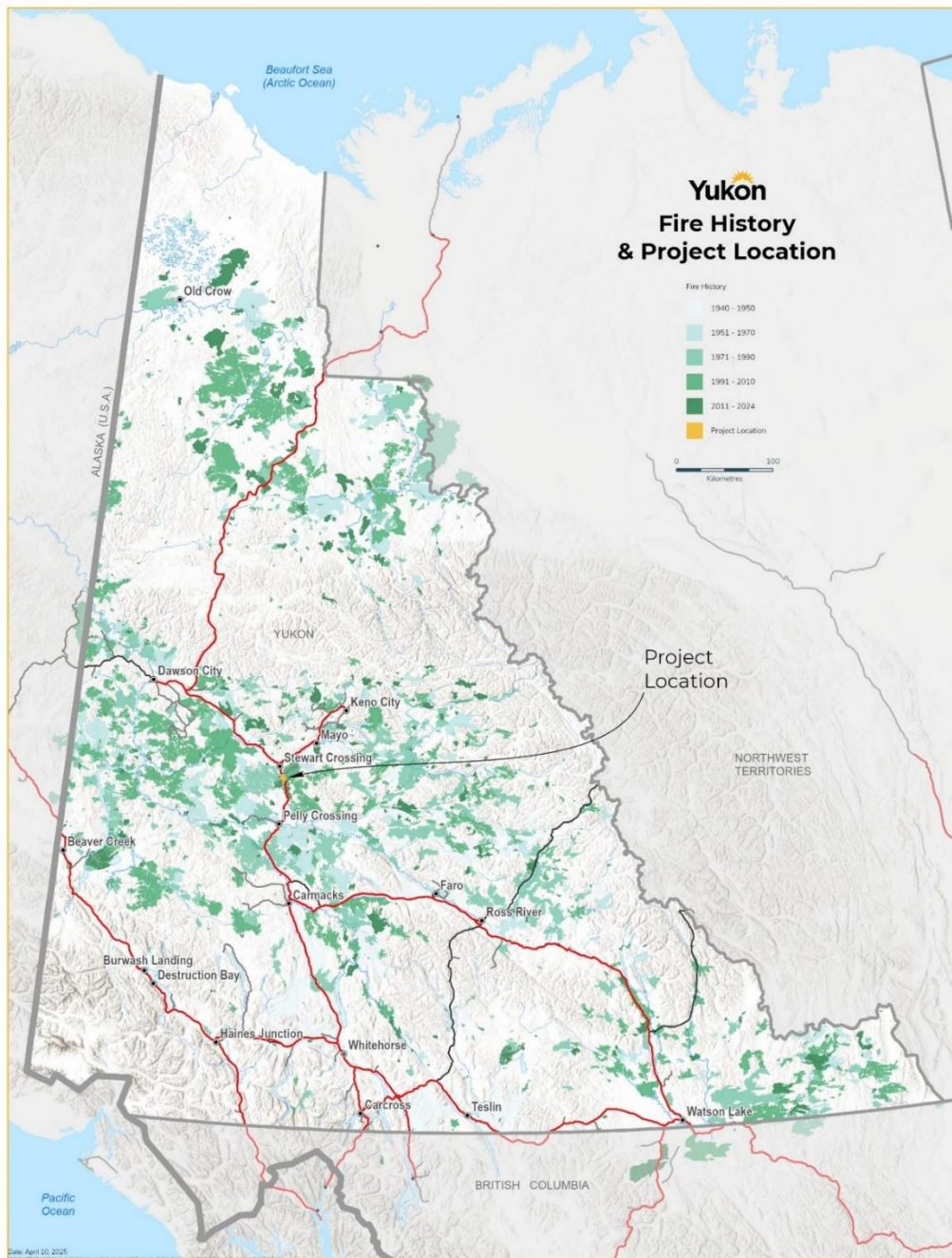


Figure 1. Yukon fire history since the 1940's showing the approximate location of the Crooked Creek THP and the location and size of wildfires.

Wildlife and habitats

Wildlife species that require mature forest habitats, such as marten and goshawks, will largely be absent from the THP area except for foraging efforts or crossing the burn on the way to more desirable habitats. Moose are well-known to occupy burned areas but

maximum use of such habitats typically occurs 20 – 40 years post-disturbance when deciduous vegetation is of suitable ages for forage and cover. Over time, the burned area provides nesting and foraging habitats for a wide range of tree, ground and cavity nests birds, such as warblers, sparrows, flycatchers, a variety of woodpeckers and American kestrels.

Early successional forest that result from wildfires are typically of irregular shapes with large transitional boundaries (i.e., edge habitats) that offer high quality habitats for a wide range of birds and mammals. Snowshoe hares require dense cover for protection from avian and terrestrial predators, and it also can provide essential winter foraging habitat if comprised of deciduous vegetation (i.e., willows and aspen). The transition areas between burned and unburned provides such habitats, and opportunities for hares to bask in sunlight, reducing some of the thermal stress of the cold days of late-winter. When moose return to burns because of the abundance of forage, wolves will follow and take advantage of higher prey densities.

As a burn ages and dead trees start to fall to the forest floor, the downed and suspended trees create more complex, multi-layer habitats. The spaces under deadfall are used as shelter for ground-nesting birds, as well as foraging and travel corridors for a wide range of small mammals ranging from shrews to mice, voles and squirrels. Predators make more use of such areas, when adjacent to suitable cover, with marten and lynx spending more time foraging in the regenerating forests.

Impacts of salvage forestry on wildlife and habitats

The salvage removal of dead trees killed by the 2022 fire would be limited to areas with sufficient density of merchantable-sized trees, efficient accessibility and terrain features, such as slope, that are safe for harvesters and their equipment and also prevents downslope movement of water and soils (i.e., erosion). From a habitat and wildlife perspective, the removal of dead trees from the THP area would represent a small percentage of available similar habitats in the larger area. Regardless of the minimal loss of habitats, timber harvesting practices adhere to a variety of legal and operational considerations and mitigations to reduce or eliminate impacts to wildlife.

An important factor in understanding and managing the impacts of timber harvest operations is related to the presence of people and machinery, and the development of

new access to previously inaccessible areas. Road and trails are used by both human hunters and wildlife predators as they provide relatively easier access to new areas. Further, the presence of working equipment can cause the displacement of wildlife species, with significant differences in this effect related to the relative “tolerance” and/or “awareness” of species to disturbance, the time of year, and the activities of the animals. Small mammals typically have a small zone of awareness and don’t react to machinery unless it is in very close proximity. Wolverines and lynx, while of similar size, have significantly different tolerances to human activities, with wolverines moving away from noise and human activity and lynx showing little impact on their use of habitat and activities. Differences in tolerance exists with birds as well; for example, goshawks are easily impacted by harvesting activities and great grey owls largely ignoring the presence of humans and working equipment. Large animals, like moose, bears and wolves, can have highly variable responses based on a number of factors, such as level of food/environmental stresses (e.g., starvation and extreme cold), breeding season status (e.g., breeding bull moose), and foraging focus (e.g., “ditch bears” and wolves actively pursuing prey).

To reduce these potential impacts the following mitigations and practices (derived from legislation, standards and guidelines, best practices and environmental assessment recommendations) are generally applied to timber harvest operations:

- Harvesting activities will occur over as few years as possible, pending interest and ability of commercial and private woodcutters.
- New forest resources roads will be gated and only accessible to authorized users.
- Forest resources roads will be decommissioned upon the completion of harvesting activities.
- Gaps in snowbanks will be provided when winter access involves winter-road snow plowing to provide escape routes for wildlife.
- Harvesting operations will be suspended when large mammals, such as moose and bears, are present until such time as the animals leave the immediate area on their own accord.

Biodiversity

The THP is in an area with typical Yukon wildlife, fish and plant populations, meaning that the range of species likely to be encountered can be found in much of the territory. There are, however, species of importance in the area as it relates to individual population levels and/or their simple presence on the landscape, such as:

- little brown myotis (*endangered* under Canada's *Species at Risk Act*)
- barn and bank swallows (*threatened* under Canada's *Species at Risk Act*)
- and several species of *special concern* as listed under the *Species at Risk Act*, including: grizzly bear, northern mountain caribou, wolverine, olive-sided flycatcher, rusty blackbird, short-eared owl and common nighthawk.

Forestry operators should particularly be aware of, and looking for the presence of little brown myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*). This is because of their national status and their precipitous decline across their range due to a transmittable fungal infection. Extra care must be taken to detect roosts and hibernaculum, and if such features are identified harvesting activities must be suspended and immediately be reported to the forester and regional biologist.

Soil conservation

The objective of the Yukon [Forest Resources Act - Soil conservation standards and guidelines](#) is: To ensure that there are protective measures used in relation to timber harvesting and road construction to conserve soil productivity and the hydrological function of soils. The Standards and Guidelines direct planners and operators to:

- collect soil data to determine sensitivity to disturbance
- minimize the area of permanent access structures (relative to the total permitted or project area)
- minimize the area of temporary and permanent roads and landings
- avoid permafrost areas whenever possible
- avoid operating on slopes greater than 30%, and
- perform mechanical site preparation only:
 - if compaction hazard is moderate or less
 - when soil conditions and/or the use of specialized equipment will reduce their susceptibility to rutting, compaction and erosion.

Further, the [Forest Resources Act standards and guidelines - forest resources roads](#) directs actions to protect and conserve soils during forestry operations. These actions include, among other things: using appropriated sized/classified access roads, applying surfacing and stabilizing techniques, being aware of drainage issues and use of erosion control measure when appropriate, construction of water-crossings, and implementing effective decommission strategies.

Water quality and fish habitat

The THP is bounded on the east by Crooked Creek which is an S1 stream (greater than 20 meters wide) by the [Forest Resources Regulation - Riparian management on streams and lakes standards and guidelines](#). It is also a stream with high habitat suitability and is a confirmed salmon spawning waterway. Based on the standards and guidelines, a 40 to 80-meter reserve zone width and 60 to 120-meter Management Zone Width will be established. The total Riparian Management Area width of 100 to 200-meters will be established.

The Reserve Zone is an area where no tree harvesting activity can occur and any harvest related activity carried out, such as a stream crossing, must be carried out in a manner that protects the integrity of the stream and streambank. Operations in the management zone must be conducted in a manner that maintains the integrity of the reserve zone; for example, adapted to local aquatic conditions, maintain the riparian function, consider the stream in the context of water bodies on the landscape or to enhance both stand stability and stream bank stability.

The above paragraph protects waterways and aquatic species from timber harvesting related mobilization of soils and introduction of sediments into waterways. Additional protection is provided by the requirement for harvesters to have an approved spill prevention and management plan. This document along with terms and conditions in harvesting authorizations includes, among other requirements:

- regularly inspections of equipment for leak and timely repairs,
- ensuring spill containment equipment and materials are on-site during operations and that all personnel are familiar with its use,
- the reporting large spills to the [Department of Environment spill reporting system](#).

Viewscapes, recreation and harvesting

The Yukon offers striking views of diverse and unique landscapes that locals appreciate and visitors embrace. Most viewing is done from the limited highway network in the territory, with aircraft, boats and by foot. The North Klondike Highway transects this THP and along its course from Whitehorse to Dawson City provides travellers with views of mountains, large and small lakes/rivers, wetlands and wide expanses of forested areas. The THP is in an area of limited relief providing only short sightlines from the highway and views of distance mountains. As timber salvage operations in the THP would:

- occur away from the highway corridor,
- focus on accessible, merchantable-size trees leaving un-cut patches and trees in locations unsafe for harvesting or at risk of erosion/soil mobilization, and,
- largely occur outside of the main tourist season (which is mostly June – August)

it is not anticipated the harvesting operations would impact the viewing experience of highway travellers.

Other activities that occur along the North Klondike and in the area of the THP include: hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing, and berry and mushroom picking. Both First Nation subsistence and resident hunters make use of the area and their opportunities will not be affected by harvesting activities, and may be enhanced over time as some species, particularly moose, may increase in numbers as time passes since the 2022 burn and other forest fires in the larger area over the past few years. Non-resident large mammal hunting in the area is limited to the those hunting under the Yukon special guiding program, and there is no overlap with any hunting outfitting concession.

The THP overlaps with several trapping concessions (#76 and #77). When timber harvesting overlaps with trapping seasons, operators must not damage trapping infrastructure, disturb trap sets and if crossing trapline access ensure obstacles or barriers are immediately removed to maintain unrestricted access to the trails. Further, trappers may be provided access (i.e., permits and/or keys) to forest resources roads gates when required.

Heritage resources and archaeology

Heritage resources and historic features are important to all Yukon people. The preservation of these values was an important consideration for planning this project.

Legislation and policy applying to the management and protection of heritage resources includes Chapter 13 of the Selkirk First Nation and the Na-Cho Nyäk Dun First Nation Final Agreements, as well as the *Yukon Historic Resources Act* and the *Archaeological Sites Regulation*.

The *Historic Resources Act* protects archaeological and palaeontological objects and the sites where they are found. Under this legislation it is prohibited to survey, document, disturb, alter, excavate or remove objects from historic sites without a permit.

The Crooked Creek THP has the potential to impact unknown heritage and archaeological resources. Both a heritage resource overview assessment and heritage resource impact assessment were completed in 2024 and identified overlap of areas for elevated heritage potential within the THP. With one exception, these areas of elevated potential have been eliminated from potential harvesting areas. The heritage resource impact assessment was conducted where the proposed location of a forest resources road crosses a single area of elevated potential, and no surficial heritage resources were found, and no areas suitable for subsurface testing were encountered.

Strategies to reduce adverse impacts on heritage resources due to timber harvesting:

- Activities conducted within the scope of this plan will adhere to the *Historic Resources Act*.
- All operations must follow the [Forest Management Branch - Historic and archaeological resources standards and guidelines](#). If historic features or heritage resources are discovered during operations, the timber operator must immediately suspend operations and inform a Natural Resources Officer and the Yukon Heritage Resources Unit of the location of the site and the nature of any found or unearthed resources.
- Operators must notify the Selkirk First Nation and the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun heritage departments upon the discovery of any historic sites or heritage resources within the area.
- All permittees will be required to familiarize themselves with the [Yukon Tourism and Culture - Handbook for identification of heritage sites and features](#).

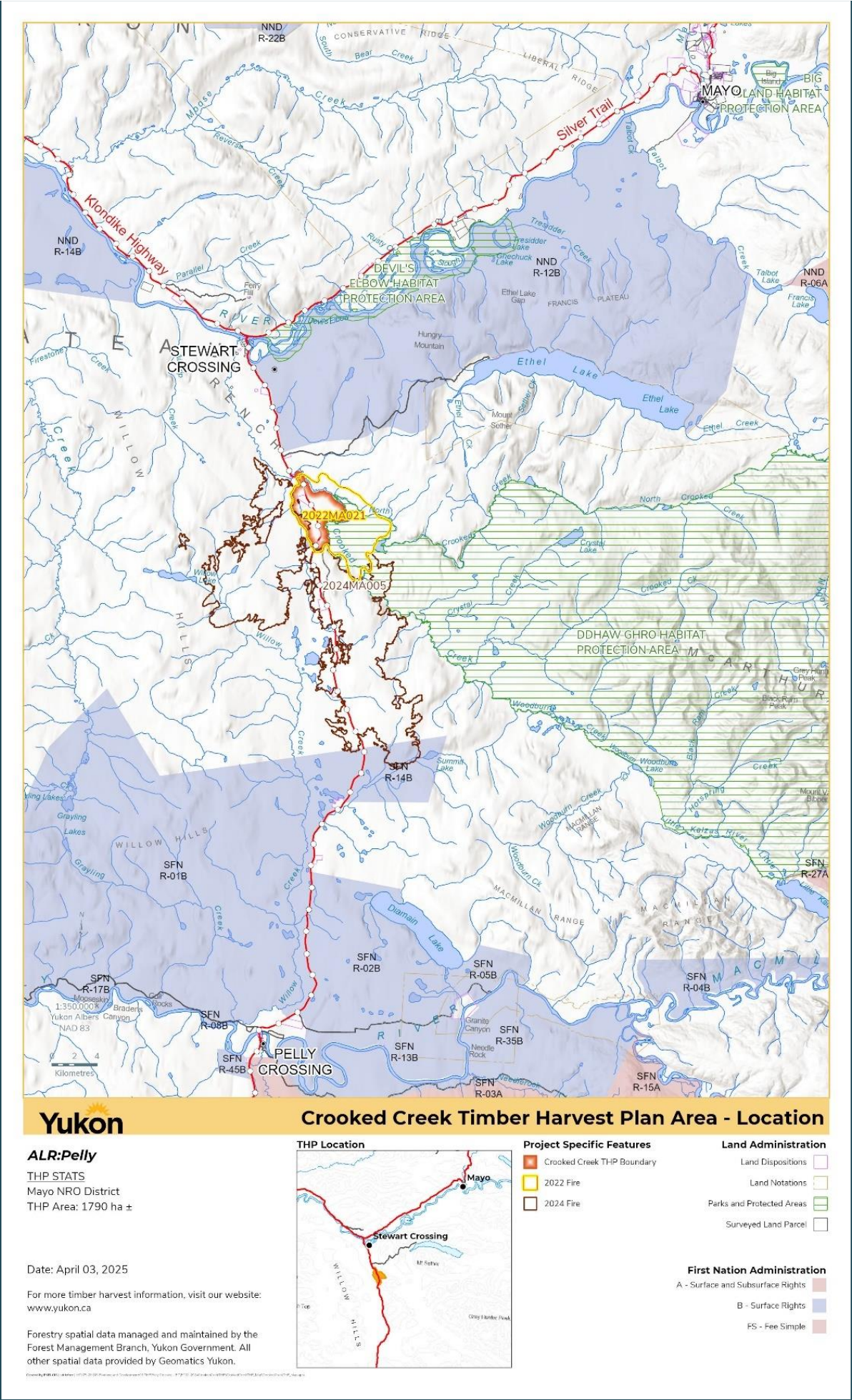
Mining

There are no quartz claims, placer claims or prospecting leases located within the THP area.

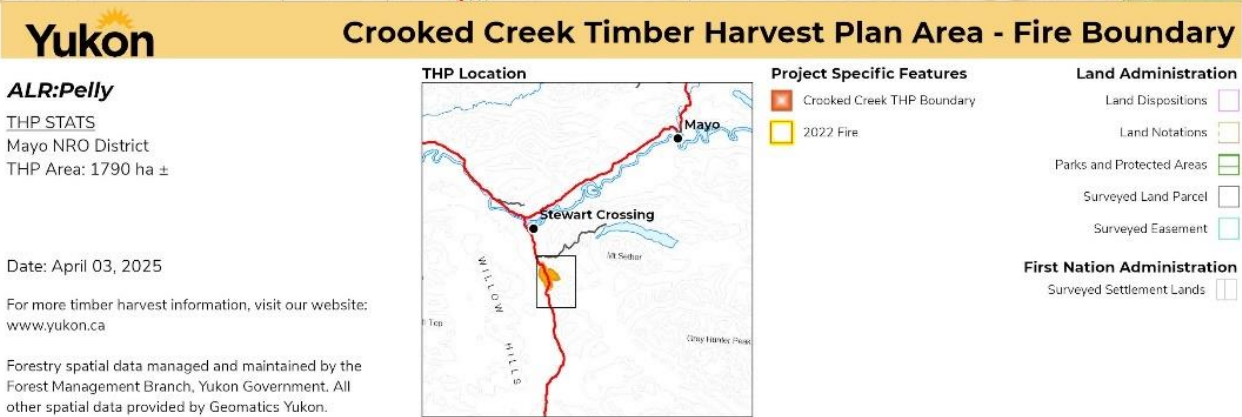
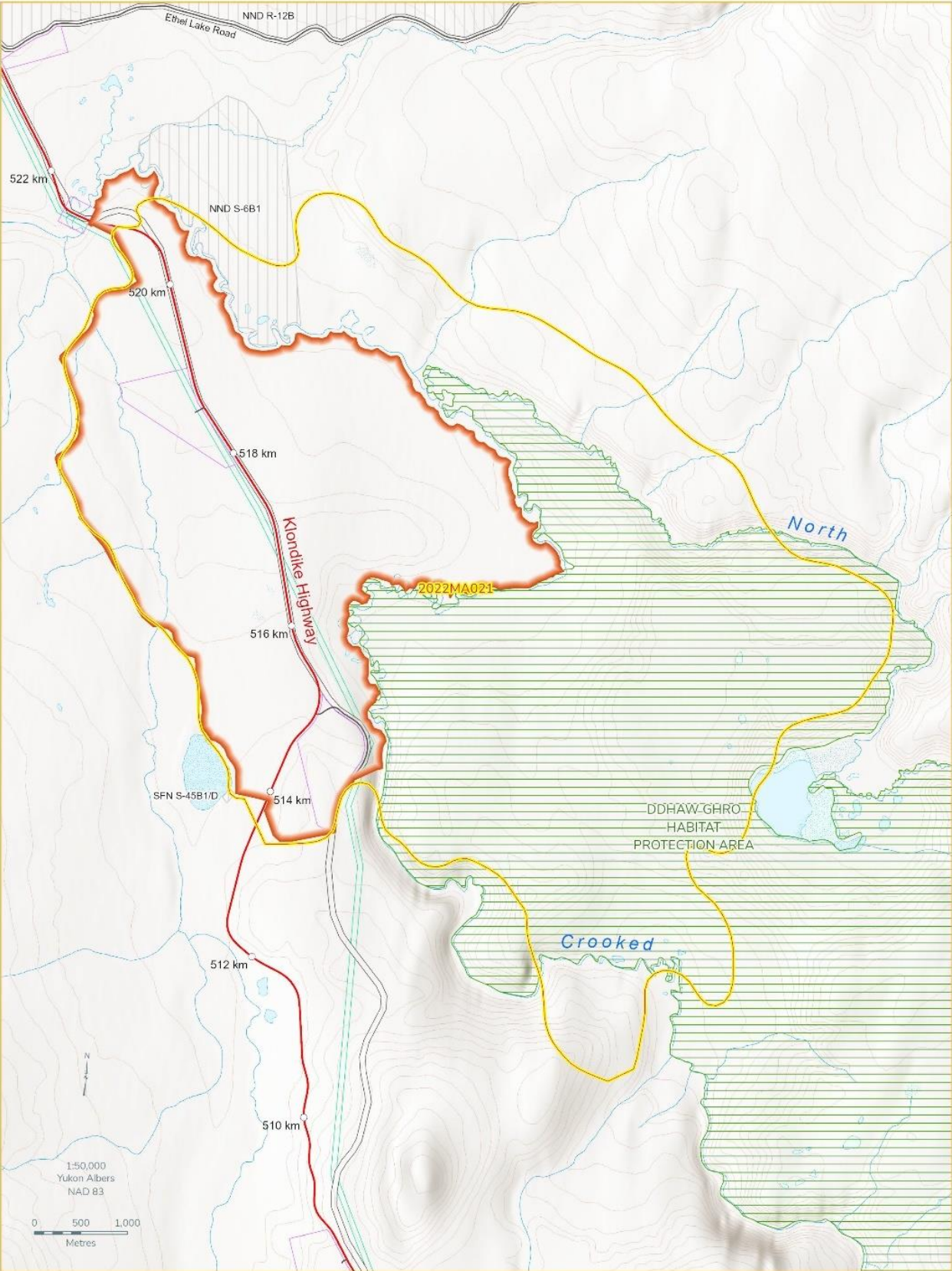
Invasive species

Invasive species have the potential to compete with native plant species. To help prevent introduction of invasive species to the timber harvest plan area, the timber harvesters shall inspect and clean equipment prior to moving to/from the project area to prevent the possible spread of invasive vegetation. All permittees will be required to familiarize themselves with the [Yukon Invasive Species Council - Recommendations for operators, site managers and resource developers](#) for mitigating spread.

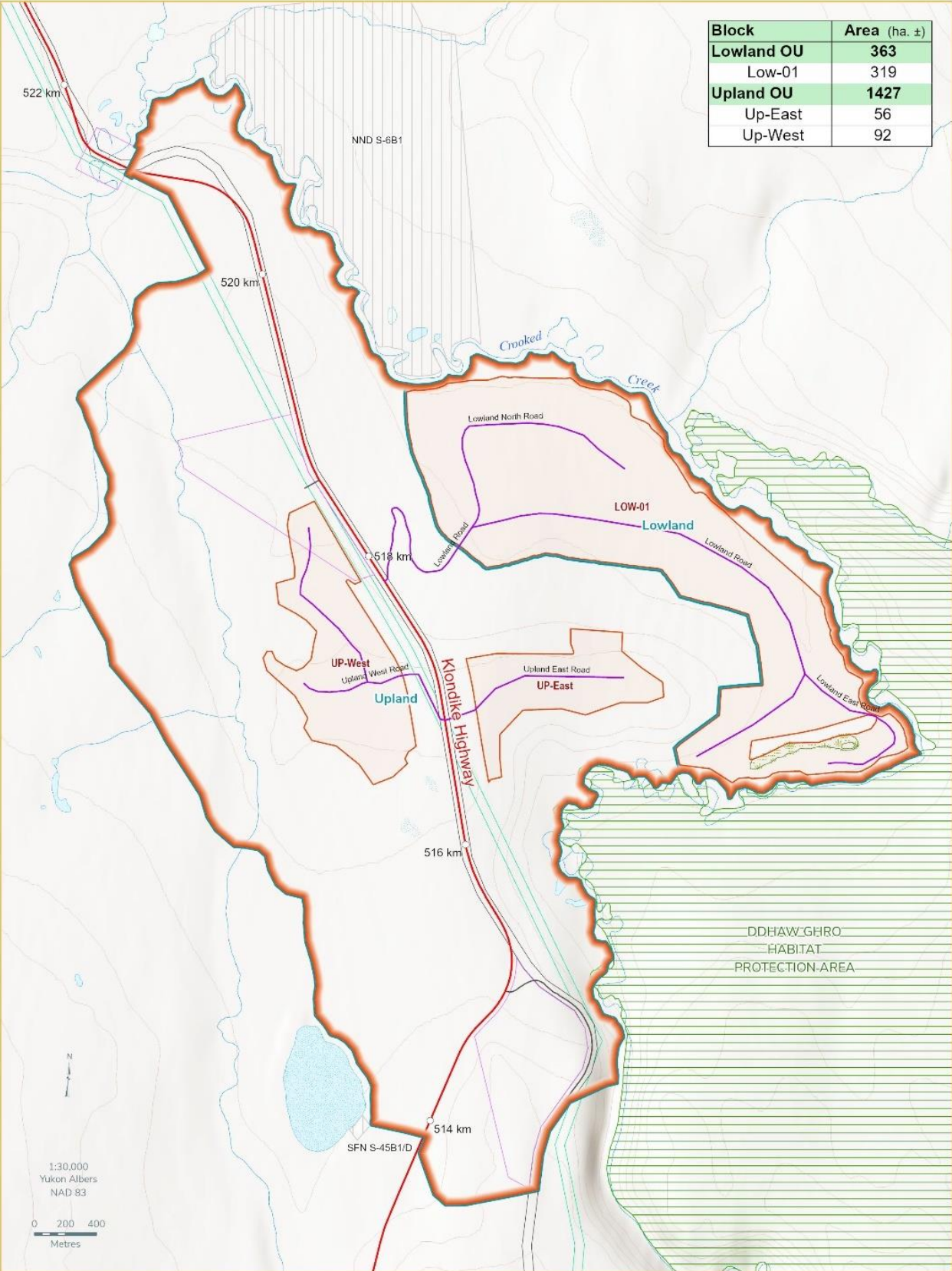
Part 4 – Maps



Map 1. Location of the Crooked Creek THP relative to recent wildfires, Crooked Creek, Settlement Lands and habitat protection areas.



Map 2. Location of the Crooked Creek THP relative to wildfire 2022MA021, Settlement Lands and the Ddhaw Ghro Habitat Protection Area.



Yukon

ALR:Pelly

THP STATS

Mayo NRO District

THP Area: 1790 ha ±

Date: April 03, 2025

For more timber harvest information, visit our website:
www.yukon.ca

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

THP Location

Project Specific Features

- Crooked Creek THP Boundary
- Planned Blocks
- Operating Units
- Wet Area
- Potential Access

Land Administration

- Land Dispositions
- Land Notations
- Parks and Protected Areas
- Surveyed Land Parcel
- Surveyed Easement

First Nation Administration

- Surveyed Settlement Lands

Map 3. The locations of the Lowland and Upland Operating Units, harvest blocks and potential access within the Crooked Creek THP.