



Draft Scoby Creek Timber Harvest Plan

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2 Executive Summary

The Forest Management Branch (FMB) and Liard First Nation (LFN) have collaborated on the development of this timber harvest plan (THP). This collaboration is undertaken with a view to ensuring that the harvest of timber in the Scoby Creek burn minimizes, and where possible avoids, harms to the exercise and enjoyment of Kaska Aboriginal rights and title (Kaska rights). Further, FMB is committed to working with LFN through the permitting and authorization process to identify and address potential impacts to Kaska rights. LFN will undertake their own process of independent assurance to determine whether the exercise of Kaska rights remains meaningful. Post harvest, LFN and FMB may collaborate on research or other processes to help to determine effective ways of accommodating Kaska rights impacts and those that are not effective. FMB recognizes that it must fulfill its constitutional duties consult with LFN deeply, meaningfully, in good faith and with the goal of reconciliation.

The Scoby Creek burn area is approximately 7,878 hectares and located 78 kilometres east of the highway 4 junction in Watson Lake, via the Alaska Highway (the THP area). The THP area is accessed from the Coal River Road, has existing access, and a moderate volume of merchantable timber suitable for use as fuel wood with larger diameter timber that has potential to be used as saw or building logs. The activities proposed in this THP include the harvest of dead and downed timber for use as fuel wood, saw logs and building logs, with some incidental harvest of green trees.

This draft THP has been prepared to meet the requirements of the *Forest Resources Act* (FRA) and *Forest Resources Regulations* (FRR). Under the legislation, a THP is required prior to the issuance of any timber harvesting licence or forest resources permit that authorizes harvesting greater than 25 cubic metres (FRA Section 29(4)(d)(i)). Comments received during the review of this plan will be considered prior to developing the final THP.

In addition to meeting statutory obligations, an objective of this draft THP is to advance the planning process for commercial timber harvesting activities in a larger area by providing a short-term, interim wood supply while FMB and LFN continue to pursue comprehensive intergovernmental agreements that better enable forestry, forest management and forest stewardship consistent with their respective responsibilities.

This THP is intended to provide opportunities for FMB and LFN to explore ways in which they can act together to fulfill their respective responsibilities associated with sustainable forest management, forest planning, forestry and other public government interests.

3 Introduction

3.1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

This THP is being developed to increase the supply of fuel wood and timber in the southeast Yukon by creating a short term interim wood supply while other forest management planning and forestry is underway. The limited supply of larger diameter logs in the THP area will be directed to the local log home manufacturing facility. The balance of the available timber will go toward increasing the availability of fuel wood for Watson Lake and other Yukon communities.

3.2 LOCATION AND SETTING

The THP area is within Kaska traditional territory approximately 78 kilometres east of Watson Lake along the Alaska Highway located immediately north of the Yukon and British Columbia border. The THP area covers approximately 7,878 hectares, including large areas of inoperable ground and containing non-merchantable timber. There are six operating units with 28 blocks totaling 643 hectares of harvestable area proposed within this THP. Approximately eight percent of the total THP area is identified for harvesting. An overview map of the THP is provided in Section 9.

3.3 ECOREGION

The THP area lies within the Liard Basin Ecoregion within the Boreal Cordillera Ecozone. This area is dominated by extensive boreal forest and characterized by moderate precipitation and relatively long, warm summers, which have resulted in productive forest growth (Yukon Ecoregions Working Group, 2004).

The climate in this region is generally cool with moderate amounts of precipitation. Mean annual temperatures are close to -4°C. There is a large variation between winter and summer temperatures with cold winter temperatures averaging -25°C and summer highs getting close to 30°C (Yukon Ecoregions Working Group, 2004).

3.4 FOREST STAND COMPOSITION

The THP area is dominated by white spruce (*Picea glauca*), black spruce (*Picea mariana*) and lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*). White birch (*Betula papyrifera*) and poplar (*Populus* sp.) are also present and especially noticeable as regeneration because many dead mature stems have fallen.

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There are scattered areas of lodgepole pine and white spruce that survived the fire, especially in the damp hollows and along the boundary of the THP. The THP boundary has been designed to exclude most adjacent live forest stands outside the fire boundary. Further stand information is provided in Section 6 and detailed stand information will be provided in the site plan of any commercial cutting permit authorized under this THP.

3.5 FOREST HEALTH

FMB monitors forest health in the Yukon annually and releases a report summarizing the current state of forest health. The mountain pine beetle is one of the 10 major concerns outlined in the report. A special management zone just south of the Yukon boarder near Watson Lake is monitored annually to detect any changes in the mountain pine beetle population. This species is expected to continue to migrate northward into the Yukon. This THP is in a burn and will not be affected, however the surrounding area of live trees may be susceptible to pockets of beetle infestation. The FMB will follow a risk-based approach to manage this and other forest health concerns that might arise. The most recent forest health report can be found at yukon.ca/en/science-and-natural-resources/forests/learn-about-forest-health.

3.6 OBJECTIVES AND LOCATION OF TIMBER HARVESTING

There is a strong demand for fuel wood in the Yukon including Watson Lake and other Yukon communities as many residents use fuel wood to heat their homes. In recent years, there has been a shortage of fuel wood reaching the Yukon market. A significant volume of fuel wood for Yukon communities could be harvested near Watson Lake.

There is also an interest in directing larger diameter logs for local manufacturing. First Kaska Limited Partnership has recently made significant investments in a newly refurbished and constructed log home manufacturing plant, creating a demand for larger diameter logs that can be custom milled. While the majority of the timber harvested in this THP is unlikely to meet the specifications required for log home building, harvesting allocations will take into account the importance of directing this limited supply to local manufacturing.

Timber harvesting under this plan will be primarily directed to the harvest of dead standing and downed trees. Targeted green tree harvesting will be incidental to any harvest under this THP. There will likely be some green tree harvesting that occurs incidentally to the development of roads, trails and landings. The objective will be to use merchantable, standing dead and downed stems within this burn as a priority.

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Areas within this THP that have significant ecological value such as riparian areas or areas containing important wildlife features will be protected from harvesting disturbance in accordance with FMB operational standards and guidelines. FMB will protect areas where LFN determines that harvesting activities have potential to seriously impact the meaningful exercise and enjoyment of Kaska rights. These reserve areas and other mitigations will be included in the site plan of any commercial cutting permit. These accommodations will also be taken into consideration when deciding on the issuance of forest resources permits (FRPs) for personal use. The process for issuing licences and permits, and the factors influencing the decision to authorize activities within this THP are discussed in Section 6.

3.7 PERSONAL USE HARVESTING

Several designated personal use fuelwood harvesting locations are currently identified near Watson Lake and are available at yukon.ca/en/personal-firewood. In consideration of safety issues with increased access while commercial harvesting operations are active, PUFW will be discouraged. Depending upon local need and exercises of Kaska rights, PUFW areas may be established in this area in the future.

4 Forest Resources Management Planning Considerations

While significant work has been completed, a forest resources management plan (FRMP) has not yet been established in the Watson Lake Annual Limit Area. FMB and LFN are prioritizing completing a FRMP for the area to direct forest resource management strategies and responsible forestry. In the absence of a completed FRMP, a THP must take into account various sustainable forest management principles as required by the FRA and FRR. This THP also takes into account management for the continued meaningful exercise and enjoyment of Kaska rights.

4.1 SUSTAINABILITY AND INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Sustainable forest management has been defined by the Canadian Forest Service (2001) as:

management that maintains and enhances the long-term health of forest ecosystems for the benefit of all living things while providing environmental, economic, social and cultural opportunities for present and future generations.”

In this THP sustainable forest management also requires that forestry be done in ways that allow for the continued meaningful exercise of Kaska rights. LFN and FMB are considering how to

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determine this through a process that gives both governments independent assurance that that is the case.

This THP provides economic opportunities for timber harvesting while affecting a small portion of a burned area within the boreal forest of the southeast Yukon. Licenced timber harvesting activities permitted within this THP are limited to the removal of dead and downed timber and incidental harvest of green trees. Harvest activities will be limited to those that are likely to have minimal long-term impact on the quality and function of the ecosystems in this area and are least likely to impact the exercise and enjoyment of Kaska rights.

It is often not possible to identify all the values within a given area during the THP planning process. Many values such as wildlife features are dynamic or difficult to identify during the planning stages of a timber harvest plan. FMB has standards and guidelines to direct the actions of operators when additional values are identified such as during site planning, harvest block and road layout, and harvesting operations. All the standards and guidelines that apply to forest operations in the Yukon and within this THP can be found at Yukon.ca/forestry-policies-standards. FMB and LFN may, in collaboration, consider the effectiveness of existing standards and guidelines at ensuring forestry is done in ways that enable Kaska rights to remain meaningful.

4.2 COLLABORATION WITH FIRST NATIONS

This THP is situated within the traditional territory of the Kaska - Liard First Nation including Daylu Dena Council, the Ross River Dena Council, Dease River First Nation and the Kwadacha Nation. The development of this THP was initiated by the Yukon Wood Products Association (YWPA). FMB notified all impacted Kaska First Nations of the intent to develop a timber harvest plan. FMB and LFN reviewed the draft plan submitted by the YWPA and identified the need for additional information, particularly with respect to ensuring Kaska rights are adequately accommodated in the decision-making processes flowing from this THP and will remain meaningful during plan implementation. FMB and LFN also recognized that co-development of THP's offers both governments ways to ensure the Yukon and LFN public government responsibilities are enabled by the joint development, assessment, approval, and implementation of THP's.

Liard First Nation has identified the need to achieve independent assurance that Kaska rights will remain meaningful throughout the planning, harvesting and regeneration periods, or to identify where decisions or activities have failed to do so. Independent assurance could include, for example, LFN's partnership in the development of a forest resources management plan, or research and monitoring to better understand how forestry operations may affect Kaska rights. Such research could involve a variety of methods that LFN chooses.

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Through ongoing reconciliation efforts with LFN and other Kaska First Nations, FMB aims to develop a deeper understanding, appreciation and respect for Kaska rights, laws and values. This partnership between LFN and YG sets the stage for the work required to revise forest management and planning at multiple levels. While we continue work on improved THP development and implementation processes for southeast Yukon, including a FRMP, this THP aims to ensure impacts to Kaska rights are minimized, avoided or mitigated, while achieving the plan objectives and working towards reconciliation.

LFN priorities including maintaining, managing and harvesting moose and caribou populations, as well as trapping opportunities and other traditional pursuits, including a complex bundle of Kaska rights that are entwined with those activities. Additional mitigations that would help to maintain Kaska rights will also be identified through the site planning for specific sites and LFN's public government involvement in forest resource management, planning and tenure processes.

Kaska hunting and trapping rights are supported by an abundance of historic, ethnographic and anthropological documentary evidence, going back at least as far as the journals and writing of Robert Campbell and other early explorers in the mid 1800's. The significance of this understanding is to illustrate that accommodating Kaska trapping and hunting rights involves understanding and commitments that go beyond standard operating procedures and Yukon laws of general application. FMB and LFN are already involved in pursuing mutually satisfactory solutions to these challenges, which begins with achieving a better understanding of the complex bundle of rights and notions of Kaska lands management and jurisdiction as they apply to forest resource management.

As resources are available, both governments look forward to co-developing studies and other research that independently give all parties assurance that the sustainability principles and meaningful Kaska rights assurances successfully achieve their objectives.

4.3 ECONOMICS OF TIMBER SUPPLY

There are two main commercial interests in the timber supply in this THP area: fuel wood and saw or building logs. The intent of the harvesting in the THP area is to satisfy, where possible, the demand for both.

The supply of fuel wood remains a priority for Yukoners. Commercial fuel wood harvesting is an important source of income in Watson Lake thanks to a consistent demand for fuel wood in Watson Lake and across the Yukon.

In addition, there is also a demand for saw or building logs in the Watson Lake area. First Kaska Limited Partnership has made significant investments in a modern, value-added wood product manufacturing facility in Watson Lake. The facility requires larger diameter timber to use as saw

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or building logs. The extent of the availability of the timber that fits this profile has not been determined.

This THP will provide a wood supply comprised mostly of fuel wood, while at the same time clarifying the extent of availability of larger diameter saw logs that are required for local manufacturing.

Harvesters have depleted fuel wood in previously established THP areas near Watson Lake, reducing opportunities to harvest, or leaving those that are less viable. Economic viability of harvest may be due to access constraints, or increasing levels of windthrow and rot. Commercial operators in Watson Lake have begun to look for alternative areas for harvesting. This THP is proposed to provide an additional harvest area for fuel wood and saw log harvesting. This in turn supports associated economic activity within the region.

4.4 SOIL CONSERVATION AND HYDROLOGY

Protecting the integrity of soils and their hydrological function is essential to maintaining a healthy and productive forest ecosystem. The FMB Soil Conservation Standards and Guidelines have been established to conserve soil productivity and hydrological function during harvesting operations. All activities carried out under this THP must adhere to these standards. These standards can be found at Yukon.ca/forestry-policies-standards.

Site specific soils information and protection measures will be outlined in the site plan of any commercial cutting permits issued within this THP. The Soil Conservation Standards and Guidelines will determine the season of harvest based on the hazard ratings of the soil type within this area. The site plan will clearly state mitigation strategies for the protection of soil properties.

5 Wildlife and Biodiversity

5.1 VALUED WILDLIFE COMPONENTS

The southeast Yukon is home to a vast array of diverse wildlife. The following valued wildlife components have been identified for this area:

- Moose
- Fur bearers
- Woodland caribou
- Wolves

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- Beaver
- Birds
- Several species of conservation concern including the western toad, five dragonfly species and two vascular plant species
- Arctic grayling

5.2 WILDLIFE HABITAT AND MITIGATIONS

The large wildlife species found in the vicinity of this THP include moose, woodland caribou, wolves, marten, beaver, muskrat, and bald eagles. Three moose wildlife key areas are adjacent to, but outside of, the THP area. Moose are expected to be common within the THP area. The Scoby Creek area does not overlap any core woodland caribou herd range, and the 2015 burn is not considered high quality caribou habitat.

Scoby Creek and McKenna Lake are excellent habitat for beaver and muskrat, with multiple beaver lodges observed along the bank of the southern part of the lake that corresponded to whitish areas in the satellite imagery. Similar whitish areas are present throughout the lakes along the west side of the THP area. These areas are likely also beaver lodges but were not directly observed. Deciduous shrubs (especially willow) and deciduous trees near the stream and lake are the food supply of beavers.

In the Yukon, western toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*) is ranked as a species sufficiently uncommon to be of conservation concern. Western toad is listed as special concern under the federal Species at Risk Act. This species occurs in several locations north of the THP boundary, including two areas immediately adjacent to the north boundary. They breed in open-water wetlands, ponds and shallow lakes. Adults forage in both wetland and upland forest areas, and spend the winter buried in the forest floor including under debris piles of fallen dead trees. They are likely to breed in at least some of the open water wetlands within the THP area. All forest activities are concentrated in dry forest set back from riparian areas.

The dragonfly's mountain emerald (*Somatochlora semicircularis*) and Kennedy's emerald (*S. kennedyi*), and the damselfly emerald spreadwing (*Lestes dryas*) are listed as special concern under the federal Species at Risk Act. These species are ranked as species sufficiently uncommon to be of conservation concern. The rare dragonfly western snaketail (*Ophiogomphus colubris*) is ranked as somewhere between sufficiently uncommon to be of conservation concern and threatened in Yukon and occurs about one kilometre north of the THP area along a lake shore. Other lakes, ponds, and non-forested wetlands in the THP area may also support these species; most of these species have not been inventoried. These species occur in a wetland at the south end of McKenna Lake; road improvements in this area will minimize impact by not widening these sections and directing runoff away from the riparian area.

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The great northern aster (*Canadanthus modestus*) is listed as somewhere between sufficiently uncommon to be of conservation concern and threatened in Yukon. The species occurs in two locations about one kilometre north of the THP area and inhabits wetlands and wet forested areas. The rare plant, inland sedge (*Carex interior*) has the same ranking in the Yukon. The species occurs in forested and open wetlands within the northern edge of the THP area. Other wetlands and wet forested areas within the THP area may also support these plants; not all have been inventoried. Species in wet forest areas will be within riparian management zones or harvested in the winter. Harvest activities are not expected to impact these species.

There will be a minimum of 10 percent overall retention of standing dead trees and coarse woody debris throughout the operating units identified in this THP. This retention is designed to maintain wildlife habitat features for cavity nesters and other species.


All activities within this THP will also follow the FMB Wildlife Features Standards and Guidelines designed to protect wildlife species. These standards provide direction in the event of a significant wildlife feature being encountered during harvest operations. These standards can be found at Yukon.ca/forestry-policies-standards.

5.3 RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT AND FISH HABITAT

A joint research program involving Daylu Dena Council (a branch of LFN Government) and the Yukon government is being conducted on Scoby Creek and McKenna Lake, west of the THP area, to address issues and concerns about Arctic grayling (Figure 1). The grayling population is of concern for the Daylu Dena Council and other LFN members. The fish are especially sensitive during spring spawning and early summer egg and juvenile development periods. Sediment moving into the creek, lake, and their tributaries is the highest potential risk associated with timber harvesting and must be prevented.

The THP boundary has been designed to exclude many riparian features from the operating area and provide external buffers that meet or exceed the FMB operational standards and guidelines. Within the THP area, riparian features (mapped streams and drainages, and open water ponds and wetlands) have buffer zones mapped around them. The boundaries of the proposed harvest blocks have been modified to exclude riparian reserve zones and riparian management areas to protect both the riparian features and toads that may be hibernating in the forest floor nearby. The entire 200 metre riparian management zone associated with Scoby Creek, McKenna Lake, and the other unnamed lakes and ponds have been reserved from harvest because of the sensitive population of Arctic grayling inhabiting the creeks and lakes.

The Riparian and Wetland Standards and Guidelines can be found at yukon.ca/forestry-policies-standards.



Arctic Grayling

Scoby Creek and McKenna Lake

Arctic grayling in Scoby Creek and McKenna Lake are a population of concern for the Daylu Dena Council. The spring season is a vulnerable time of year for grayling, which gather here to spawn. While it may seem that there are many grayling here, populations in Yukon are smaller than they appear. Often the same grayling seen and captured many times.

What research is being conducted?

The Daylu Dena Council and the Department of Environment are studying grayling migration between Scoby Creek and McKenna Lake, as well as determining the current status of this population. This research will provide insight into the health of this population to ensure it stays sustainable for future generations.

How can you help?

- Stay out of the water to avoid damaging their fragile eggs, which are incubating in the gravel.
- Choose to fish in other locations during this vulnerable time, while we work to determine this population's health.
- If angling, please:
 - Reduce handling time;
 - Use barbless hooks to decrease injury; and
 - If releasing fish, keep fish wet at all times and limit exposure to air.
- Be respectful of these fish during this vulnerable time.

For more information, please contact: fisheries@yukon.ca



5.4 HERITAGE RESOURCES

The definition of heritage resources in the FRA adopts that found in the Yukon First Nation Final Agreements. In the THP context, heritage resources could include:

moveable non-documentary works or assemblies of works of people or of nature that are of scientific or cultural value for their archaeological, palaeontological, ethnological, prehistoric, historic or aesthetic features, including moveable structures and objects ("moveable heritage resource"), and

an area of land which contains Moveable Heritage Resources, or which is of value for aesthetic or cultural reasons ("heritage site").

LFN identifies heritage resources as a subset of evidence of Kaska rights. Timber harvesting activities have the potential to cause harm to heritage resources, including where the presence of heritage resources is yet to be identified. Identifying the location and nature of heritage resources, the potential for activities to cause harm and finding ways to mitigate that harm takes time, significant financial support, technical skills, cross cultural understanding, specific intergovernmental protocols and commitment.

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For the purposes of this THP and recognizing the evolving nature and importance of this work, an adaptive management approach will be implemented where new information about heritage resources in the THP area will be shared between LFN and FMB and, where appropriate, will be incorporated into decision making processes, which may result in conditions on authorizations or amendments to existing plans.

Heritage resources, and historic resources, as defined by the *Historic Resources Act*, are important to Kaska people and other Yukoners. Their discovery, conservation and preservation are considered when planning any type of development or resource management activity. There is little current data on existing heritage and historic resources and archaeological potential within this area. A heritage resource overview assessment was completed in March 2023 that identified several areas of potential (see overview map in Section 9). The issuance of cutting permits within these areas will be subject to the findings of a heritage resource impact assessment.

If any heritage or historic resources are encountered during harvesting operations, the FMB Historic and Archaeological Resources Standards and Guidelines will provide direction to protect these resources. A copy of these standards and guidelines which will apply to this THP area can be found at yukon.ca/forestry-policies-standards.

5.5 TRAPPING

The Scoby Creek THP area is overlapped by trapping concessions 373 and 371. A notification of intent to develop a timber harvest plan was sent to the registered trapping concession holders in April 2023. Harvesting will include consideration for the maintenance of the quality of trapping opportunities within the timber harvest planning area. The primary considerations for maintaining the quality of trapping opportunities are:

1. Where appropriate, maintain routes for snowmobile access throughout the timber harvest planning area;
2. To the extent feasible within the context of harvesting, maintain an abundance of standing dead and old live trees, as denning habitat for marten and other furbearers;
3. To the extent feasible, maintain an abundance of coarse woody debris on the ground and elevated above the ground, as habitat for rodents, and to provide winter shelter and hunting opportunities under the snow for furbearers; and
4. To the extent feasible, maintain an abundance of live spruce and pine trees, to provide cones for food for squirrels, as furbearer prey.

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Effects on trapping-related values will be partially mitigated by the partial cut or patch cut harvesting system. Most of the THP area will remain unharvested under this plan, which is anticipated to provide continued trapping opportunities.

FMB and LFN will continue to discuss mitigations to be implemented that will ensure Kaska rights can continue to be exercised and enjoyed within the THP area.

6 Fuel wood Harvesting Overview and Methodology

6.1 LICENCING PROCESS FOR FUEL WOOD HARVESTING

Prior to commencing commercial fuel wood harvesting activities, operators must obtain a fuel wood licence (FWL) or a timber resource license (TRL), and cutting permit, from the FMB (FRA, Section 24(e)) that meets the requirements of the FRA and the objectives of this THP.

The licence and permit will have terms, conditions and a site plan which must be followed during harvesting operations. The site plan will outline detailed information on the timber resources in the area and the harvesting methods to be applied. Site plan requirements are defined in the FRR (Section 22). Conditions that larger diameter saw logs be set aside for the log home manufacturing facility will be incorporated into authorizations where appropriate.

Areas and features, including those with significant ecological or heritage values, areas where LFN identifies harvesting activities will have the potential to seriously impact the meaningful exercise and enjoyment of Kaska rights in their preferred manner, as well as associated mitigations and reserve areas, will be considered in the site plan. These factors will be adequately accommodated when deciding on the issuance of forest resources permits (FRPs) for personal use.

The FRA requires that affected First Nations and the public are notified of licence applications and provided no less than a 30-day period to make representations to the Director of the Forest Management Branch on each application (FRA Section 18). FMB and LFN are working to exceed this requirement by developing an updated process that better fulfills Yukon government's constitutional consultation obligation, avoids conflicts and achieves the objective of reconciliation, while respecting existing statutory and regulatory requirements and constraints as modified by the Constitution of Canada.

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6.2 ESTIMATED FUEL WOOD AND TIMBER VOLUME

During the process of developing this THP, the Yukon Wood Products Association conducted a low intensity timber cruise to determine the approximate amount of dead and downed fuel wood available for harvest within this area. Volumes provided here may vary significantly from actual volumes found within this THP. Per hectare merchantable volume varies widely throughout the blocks and a significant amount of the volume may not be merchantable. Table 1 provides volume estimates for the proposed blocks in the THP area and may be adjusted as new information is available.

6.3 TIMBER HARVESTING METHODS

Harvesting operations will focus on salvaging merchantable standing dead and downed stems to be utilized as fuel wood, saw logs and building logs. A wide range of timber harvesting methods may be used within this THP. This includes specialized mechanized harvesting equipment, hand-falling with a chainsaw, and skidding log lengths to the edge of the block with an ATV, snow machine or skidder for processing and removal from site. Other harvesting methods may be proposed in the site plan and will be considered on an individual basis.

Considerations of other harvesting methodologies will be based on how the proposed activities meet the following:

- The requirements and intent of this THP.
- The requirements of the FRA and FRA.
- The requirements of the FMB operational standards and guidelines.
- Timber harvest methods will be used that are least likely to impact the exercise and enjoyment of Kaska rights.

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Table 1. Volume estimates for the proposed blocks in the draft Scoby Creek Timber Harvest Plan.

| Operating Unit | Block | Net Area (ha) | Net Volume (m ³) |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Scoby Creek 1 (SC1) | SC1-01 | 22.5 | 1179 |
| | SC1-02 | 3.5 | 183.7 |
| | Total | 26.0 | 1362.7 |
| Scoby Creek 2 (SC2) | SC2-01 | 11.9 | 617.2 |
| | SC2-02 | 4.8 | 249.8 |
| | SC2-03 | 8.4 | 434.7 |
| | SC2-04 | 36.2 | 2025.4 |
| | SC2-05 | 21.2 | 1584.7 |
| | SC2-06 | 22.2 | 1366.2 |
| | Total | 104.7 | 6278.0 |
| Scoby Creek 3 (SC3) | SC3-01 | 23.4 | 2280.6 |
| | SC3-02 | 22.5 | 2193.0 |
| | SC3-03 | 35.7 | 3484.0 |
| | SC3-04 | 37.8 | 3972.8 |
| | Total | 119.5 | 11930.2 |
| Scoby Creek 4 (SC4) | SC4-01 | 25.3 | 2165.0 |
| | SC4-02 | 33.5 | 2869.0 |
| | SC4-03 | 40.5 | 3889.9 |
| | SC4-04 | 37.4 | 3589.2 |
| | SC4-05 | 21.9 | 1097.8 |
| | SC4-06 | 3.8 | 187.7 |
| | SC4-07 | 11.4 | 976.6 |
| | SC4-08 | 9.6 | 820.4 |
| | SC4-09 | 29.8 | 2390.2 |
| | Total | 213.2 | 17985.8 |
| Scoby Creek 5 (SC5) | SC5-01 | 37.6 | 2467.9 |
| | SC5-02 | 23.0 | 1505.7 |
| | SC5-03 | 42.9 | 2811.0 |
| | SC5-04 | 21.9 | 1433.7 |
| | Total | 125.3 | 8218.3 |
| Scoby Creek 6 (SC6) | SC6-01 | 15.6 | 1022.1 |
| | SC6-02 | 23.9 | 1569.5 |
| | SC6-03 | 14.7 | 966.7 |
| | Total | 54.2 | 3558.3 |
| THP Total | | 642.8 | 49333.2 |

7 Schedule for Timber Harvesting

The timing of timber harvesting in the Yukon can be difficult to predict because it is driven by private industry and market of fuel wood and timber. Operating units one, two and three have a higher harvest priority due to accessibility and timber profile. Operating units four, five and six have a lower harvest priority because they are not as economically feasible. Economic conditions are always changing, and will be the determinant if, or when, these operating units will be harvested. Detailed schedules for timber harvesting will be provided in the site plan of each cutting permit issued within this THP. Based on current demand it is expected that most of the timber harvest will occur within the first five years of this THP being approved. Based on this demand, and the objective of supplying larger diameter saw logs for the log home manufacturing facility, it is likely to have one licensee operating in this area during this time. The traffic associated with this activity would be less than 10 vehicles a day.

The timing of harvesting operations may be restricted by factors related to soil conservation, wildlife values, heritage values and impacts on the exercise of Kaska rights. All harvesting is subject to FMB's operational standards and guidelines and may be further informed by LFN policies associated with ensuring Kaska rights remain meaningful.

8 Access Management

This THP area is accessed by the existing Coal River Road, on the north side of the Alaska Highway in British Columbia. About 500 metres north of the Alaska Highway, the Coal River Road passes into the Yukon. The roads are narrow but generally made of solid gravels, with some soft spots. Windthrow of dead trees across the roads is abundant. These roads will require minor upgrading (such as brushing, grading, filling in soft spots, and minor recontouring), and may only be used during dry and/or frozen conditions.

Proposed new roads will be constructed and managed as forest resources roads under the FRA. Road development will follow the applicable operational standards and guidelines of the FMB and will be considered and reviewed with LFN.

FMB are able to control access to forest resources roads which can minimize environmental impacts and damage to the roads by unauthorized vehicles. It can also increase safety to the public and the licensee. Safe access will be available to Kaska citizens engaged in rights exercises.

Gates will be installed at the access points for all new roads to enforce restrictions. Gates will remain locked and only accessible by license holders and permitted personnel. Gates will remain in place until access roads are impassable to vehicles, including off-road vehicles. Roads may require routine maintenance and snowplowing to maintain access and ensure road integrity.

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Snowplowing may include periodic gaps in snow berms which allow for wildlife movement, particularly in areas with high snow.

Signs will be posted at entrance points to the planning area and will include:

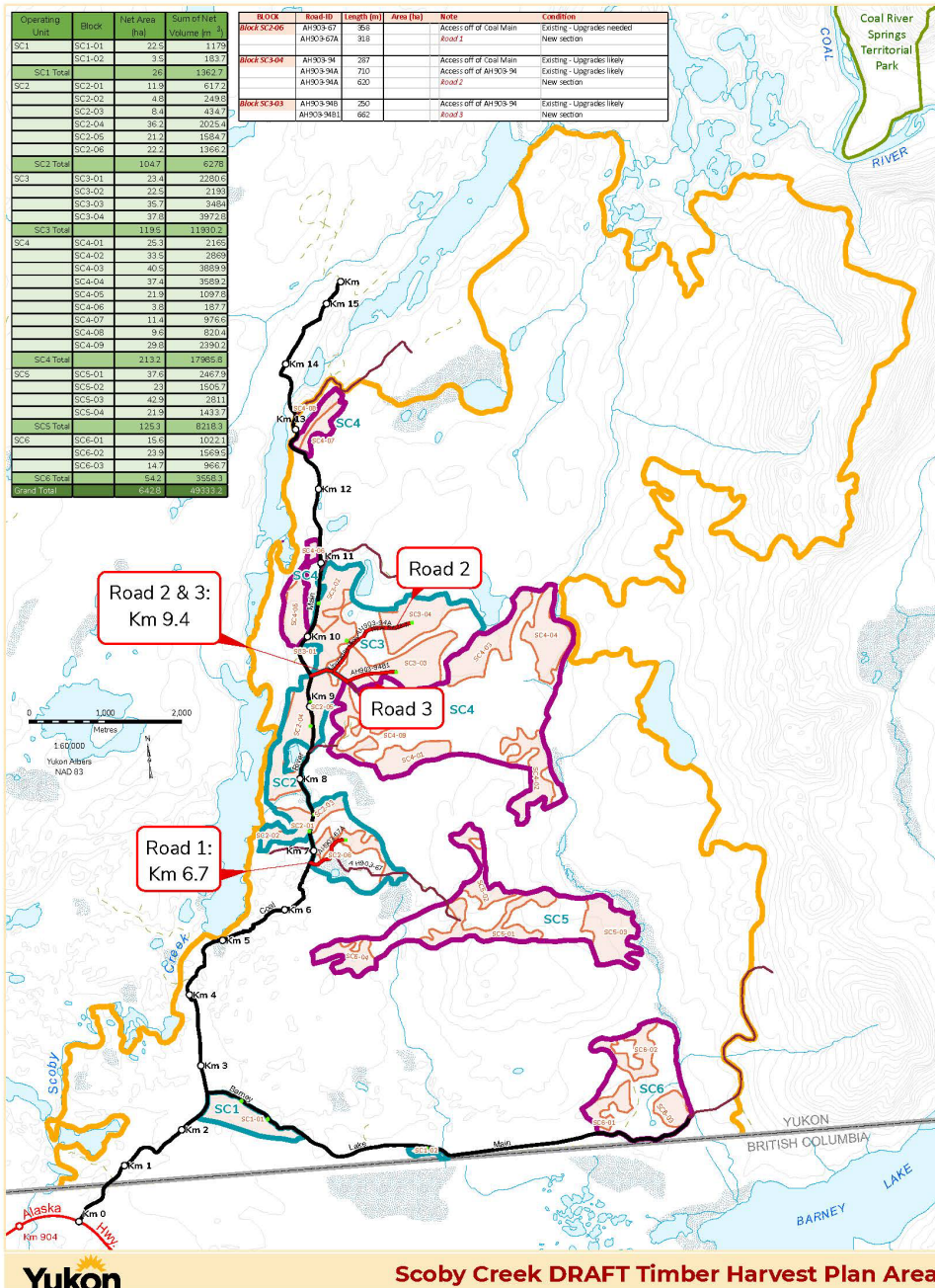
- Speed limits
- Sites of potential wildlife crossing or seasonal use
- Indicating a multi-use road and the potential of multiple vehicles/users
- Fire safety information and fire danger rating class, contact information to report wildfires
- Access restrictions
- Contact information for users to register concerns
- Periods of active timber harvest and indicating large trucks turning

Road decommissioning may include deactivation (restoration of natural drainage; access blocked; road able to be used again through reactivation) or rehabilitation (possibly ripping road surface; rollback of organic materials and coarse woody debris; access blocked). Deactivation will generally occur within two years of harvesting. Sometimes road decommissioning is delayed to allow for reforestation activities.

Where existing roads require upgrading a land use permit or a work within the right-of-way permit may be required. Highways and Public Works will determine if a work within the right-of-way permit is necessary. FMB and LFN may recommend terms and conditions for permits issued by HPW related to upgrades, maintenance, temporary closures and deactivation.

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9 THP Map



Yukon
ALR: Watson Lake

Scoby Creek DRAFT Timber Harvest Plan Area

Date: June 29, 2023
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

- Draft Scoby Creek THP Boundary
- Operating Units 1, 2 & 3
- Operating Units 4, 5 & 6
- Proposed Harvest Blocks
- Proposed Landings
- Phase 1 Road Network
- Existing Access
- Forest Resource Roads - Historic

Land Administration

- Land Dispositions
- Surveyed Land Parcels

First Nation Administration

- Surveyed Settlement Lands
- Old Access
- Unsurveyed Settlement Lands
- Interim Protected Lands

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