



Scoby Creek Small Volume Timber Harvest Plan

January 2024



Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Sicotte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a distinct dot over the "i" in "Sicotte".

Michelle Sicotte
Director, Forest Management
Government of Yukon

Scoby Creek Small Volume Timber Harvest Plan

1 Table of Contents

2	Executive Summary	2
3	Introduction	3
3.1	Background and Purpose	3
3.2	Location and Setting.....	3
3.3	Ecoregion	3
3.4	Forest Stand Composition.....	3
3.5	Forest Health	4
3.6	Objectives and Location of Timber Harvesting	4
3.7	Personal Use Harvesting	5
4	Forest Resources Management Planning Considerations	5
4.1	Sustainability and Integrated Resource Management.....	5
4.2	Collaboration with First Nations.....	6
4.3	Economics of Timber Supply	7
4.4	Soil Conservation and Hydrology	8
5	Wildlife and Biodiversity	8
5.1	Valued Wildlife Components	8
5.2	Wildlife Habitat and Mitigations	8
5.3	Riparian Management and Fish Habitat	10
5.4	Heritage Resources.....	10
5.5	Trapping.....	11
6	Timber Harvesting Overview and Methodology.....	12
6.1	Licencing Process for Timber Harvesting.....	12
6.2	Estimated Timber Volume	12
6.3	Timber Harvesting Methods.....	13
7	Schedule for Timber Harvesting.....	13
8	Access Management.....	14
9	THP Map	15
10	Representation Table	16

2 Executive Summary

The Scoby Creek Small Volume Timber Harvest Plan (THP) is approximately 41.8 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 a minor component of 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.

The Forest Management Branch (FMB) and Liard First Nation (LFN) are collaborating on timber harvest planning in the Scoby Creek burn. In 2023, the Draft Scoby Creek Timber Harvest Plan underwent a legislated review. During the review, there was an interest in submitting the larger plan as a draft to the Yukon Environmental and Economic Assessment Board (YESAB). Approving this small volume THP allows a minimal amount of harvesting to take place while the larger project is being assessed. This step was taken in discussions with Liard First Nation and to support the immediate need for wood supply in the Watson Lake area.

The collaboration between FMB and LFN 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. 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 to consult with LFN deeply, meaningfully, in good faith and with the goal of reconciliation.

This 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)(ii)). Comments received during the review of the Draft Scoby Creek Timber Harvest Plan were considered in the development of this THP.

3 Introduction

3.1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

This THP is developed to increase the supply of fuel wood and timber in the southeast Yukon by creating a short term, small volume 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 41.8 hectares. There are five harvest blocks with an estimated harvestable volume of 2,735 m³ proposed within this small volume THP. A 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.

Scoby Creek Small Volume Timber Harvest Plan

There are scattered areas of lodgepole pine and white spruce that survived the fire, especially in the damp hollows. The THP boundary has been designed to exclude 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 border 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 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 directed to the harvest of dead standing and downed trees. There will likely be some green tree harvesting that occurs incidentally but there will be no targeted harvesting of green timber. The objective will be to use merchantable, standing dead and downed stems within this burn.

Scoby Creek Small Volume Timber Harvest Plan

Areas within this THP that have significant ecological value such as riparian areas or areas containing important wildlife features, or high heritage potential are 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.

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

In consideration of safety issues with increased access, while commercial harvesting operations are active, personal use fuel wood harvesting will be encouraged in other areas. Designated personal use fuelwood areas will be considered further when commercial harvesting operations are not active. There are several designated personal use fuelwood harvesting locations are currently identified near Watson Lake and are available at yukon.ca/en/personal-firewood.

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.

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

Scoby Creek Small Volume Timber Harvest Plan

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 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](https://www.yukon.ca/forestry-policies-standards).

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 a THP for the Scoby Creek burn was initiated by the Yukon Wood Products Association (YWPA). FMB notified all impacted Kaska First Nations of the intent to develop a THP. 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.

Through the planning process for the larger Scoby Creek burn, 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 and FMB collaborate and decide on.

LFN priorities include 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

Scoby Creek Small Volume Timber Harvest Plan

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 sawlogs or building logs. The intent of the harvesting in the THP area is to satisfy, where possible, the demand for both through the issuance of small licences and permits.

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 sawlogs 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 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 available 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 provides an initial harvest area for fuel wood and saw log harvesting, while assessment occurs throughout the rest of the Scoby Creek burn. 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
- 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 Small Volume Timber Harvest Plan

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 east side of the lakes. 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. 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 adjacent to 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 north of the THP area along a lake shore. Other lakes, ponds, and non-forested wetlands in the vicinity of 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.

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 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 north of the THP area. Other wetlands and wet forested areas adjacent to 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 harvest blocks 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. 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 all riparian features from the harvest blocks and provide buffers that meet or exceed the FMB operational standards and guidelines. 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.

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.

Scoby Creek Small Volume Timber Harvest Plan

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 First Nations 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. A heritage resource overview assessment was completed in March 2023 for the entire Scoby Creek burn that identified several areas of potential, and a subsequent field heritage resources impact assessment was completed in September 2023. While no surface or sub-surface heritage resources were encountered, several areas were identified as either requiring additional shovel testing or recommended for avoidance. All of these areas are outside of this THP. There are no heritage areas of high potential or identified heritage resources located within or in close proximity to the identified harvest blocks in this THP.

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 Small Volume THP area is overlapped by trapping concessions 371, which currently has no registered trapping concession holder. 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.

Effects on trapping-related values will be partially mitigated by the partial cut or patch cut harvesting system. 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 Timber Harvesting Overview and Methodology

6.1 LICENCING PROCESS FOR TIMBER HARVESTING

Prior to commencing commercial fuel wood or sawlog harvesting activities, operators must obtain a fuelwood 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.

6.2 ESTIMATED TIMBER VOLUME

During the process of developing this THP, the Yukon Wood Products Association and Forest Management Branch conducted a low intensity timber cruise to determine the approximate amount of dead and downed timber available for harvest within this area. Volumes provided

Scoby Creek Small Volume Timber Harvest Plan

here may vary from actual volumes found within this THP. Per hectare merchantable volume varies widely throughout the blocks and some of the identified volume may not be merchantable. Table 1 provides volume estimates for the proposed harvest blocks in the THP area and may be adjusted as new information is available.

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

Block	Net Area (ha)	Net Volume (m ³)
SCSV-01	9.2	414
SCSV-02	4.4	345
SCSV-03	13.6	992
SCSV-04	4.2	235
SCSV-05	10.4	749
THP Total	41.8	2,735

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 range of timber harvesting methods may be used within this THP. This includes specialized mechanized harvesting equipment, hand-felling 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.

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. Economic conditions are always changing, and will be the determinant when these harvest blocks will be harvested, however given the

Scoby Creek Small Volume Timber Harvest Plan

current level of interest it is expected that harvesting will commence in January 2024. It is expected that most harvest blocks will be harvested in a short amount of time and others may be harvested over a two to three year period. Detailed schedules for timber harvesting will be provided in the site plan of each cutting permit issued within this THP.

The timing of harvesting operations may be restricted by factors related to soil conservation, wildlife 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

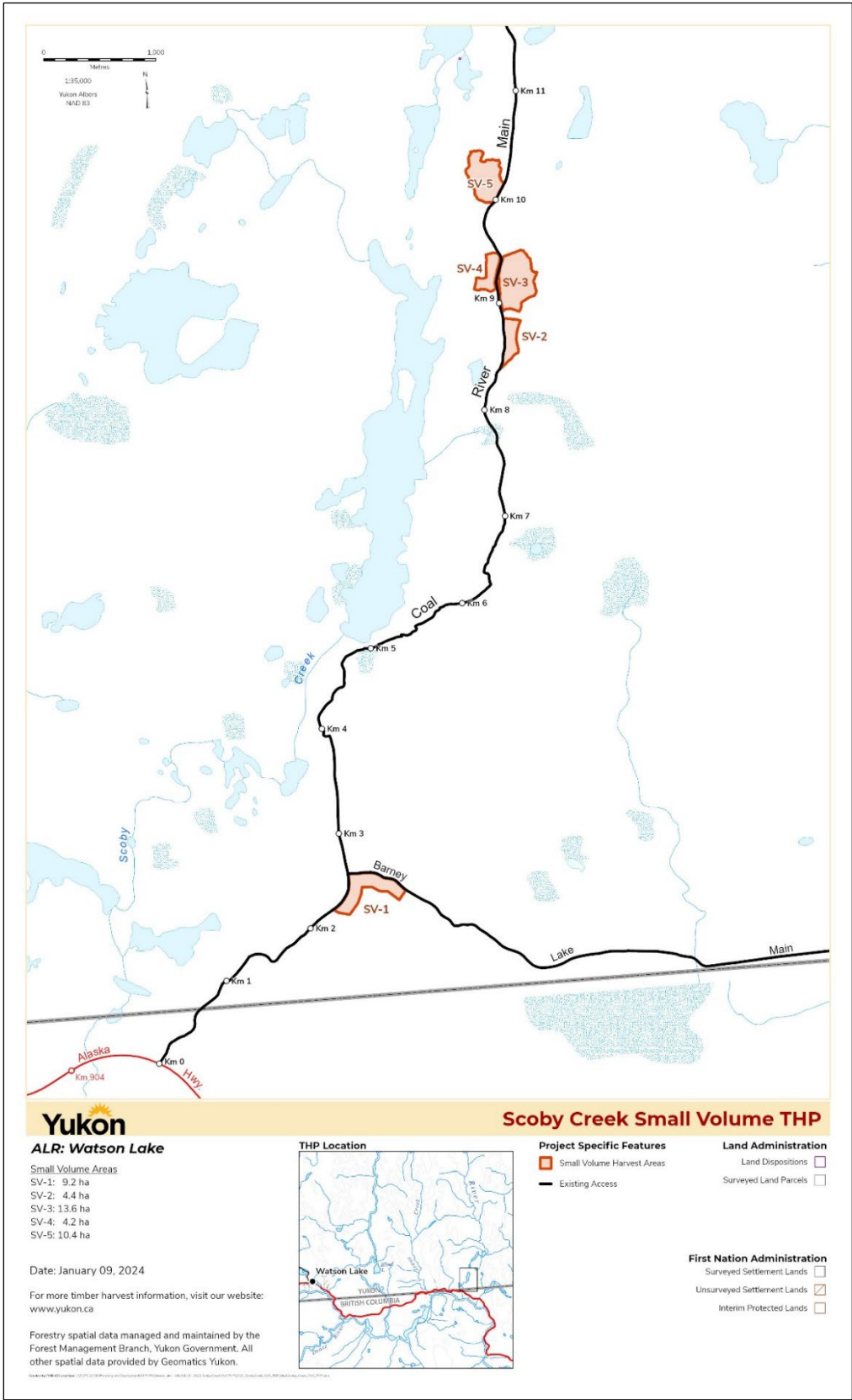
There are no new roads proposed within this THP.

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 where the road passes through the burned area.

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

Scoby Creek Small Volume Timber Harvest Plan

9 THP Map



Scoby Creek Small Volume Timber Harvest Plan

10 Representation Table

Scoby Creek Small Volume THP Representations Table				
Draft THP public and First Nation review conducted: September 20 to November 3, 2023.				
Comments received directly				
#	Date	Comment	Organisation	Consideration in Final THP
1	October 6, 2023	My opinion on this matter is that YTG should leave these decisions to the people whose land it is. It's not up to you to decide.	Public	Review period extended to allow additional time for community members to provide comment. Small Volume THP developed to allow for minimal harvesting in accessible areas. Draft Scoby Creek Timber Harvest Plan to be submitted to YESAB as a joint submission between Forest Management Branch and Liard First Nation.
2	October 10, 2023	How can this go ahead when there was no LFN membership consultation? There was no meeting with LFN members. What will the timber be used for? Who is going to benefit from the timber proceeds? There is zero contact or information shared with LFN members. Has there been an environmental assessment done in the area? How will it affect the wildlife in the area? How will it affect the local trapline holder? These are just some of the questions that need to be answered and addressed.	Public	Review period extended to allow additional time for community members to provide comment. Small Volume THP developed to allow for minimal harvesting in accessible areas. Draft Scoby Creek Timber Harvest Plan to be submitted to YESAB as a joint submission between Forest Management Branch and Liard First Nation.
3	Oct 20, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like to be notified directly • Indicated that the area is out the back door of their traditional territory, and heavily used by Kaska members in Lower Post • Asked to have archeological assessments done 	Daylu Dene Council	Replied to Daylu Dene Council providing information regarding YG's consultation process. The notifications on the draft plan were sent according to the YG consultation policy. A heritage overview assessment has been completed, a heritage impact assessment has been conducted, and an interim impact assessment report has been completed. Heritage information updated in the plan.
YG Comments				
#	Date	Comment	Organisation	Consideration in Final THP
1	October 12, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The THP looks really great and incorporated previous comments and have excluded the area around Scoby Creek/McKenna Lake that is important Arctic Grayling spawning habitat from the harvest blocks. • One comment for the furbearers/trapping section 5.5 on Page 12: In Operating Units 1,2,3 for the proposed harvest blocks between KM 7 and KM 11, a retention patch for wildlife habitat should be incorporated. This is to preserve some connectivity between harvested and non-harvested areas within the THP area and retain appropriate cover/shelter and habitat for 	YG- Env	Retention Patch incorporated between SV-2 and SV-3

Scoby Creek Small Volume Timber Harvest Plan

		<p>furbearing species. Where applicable, retention areas should be chosen to minimize line-of sight distances and minimize distance to cover to reduce disturbance to furbearers, moose and other wildlife.</p>		
2	November 1, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 5.4 looks fine from the perspective of the Archaeology Program. 	YG Heritage	No changes required.
3	October 26, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HPW have no concerns about this plan. Coal River Road comes off the Alaska Highway which at this location is in BC, southeast of the first Yukon Border, and HPW do not maintain it. Coal River road is mostly but not entirely within Yukon, the first ~500m are in BC. Traffic is expected to be at most ten vehicles a day 	YG HPW	No changes required.
Social Media Comments				
#	Date	Comment	Organisation	Consideration in Final THP
1	Summary of comments	<p>Approximately 5 comments in support of the project focusing on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefit of local employment Benefit of fire hazard reduction Benefit of logs for local business and housing Benefit of use of fuelwood as green energy 	Social Media	No changes required.
2	Summary of comments	<p>Approximately 3 comments on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of LFN citizen engagement Lack of Kaska involvement in the project Lack of Trapline consultation 	Social Media	<p>Review period extended to allow additional time for community members to provide comment.</p> <p>Small Volume THP developed to allow for minimal harvesting in accessible areas.</p> <p>Draft Scoby Creek Timber Harvest Plan to be submitted to YESAB as a joint submission between Forest Management Branch and Liard First Nation.</p>