

FOR RELEASE
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Principles developed to complete Peel Plan

WHITEHORSE—The Government of Yukon has developed eight core principles that will be used to guide modifications and completion of the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan, Premier Darrell Pasloski announced today.

“The Yukon government continues to support an approach that balances access for industry and other users while establishing protection in key habitat areas in the Peel region,” Pasloski said. “The principles will provide guidance for the timely completion of the remaining steps in this important land use planning process.”

Working in collaboration with the Peel Plan parties, Yukon government will use the principles to guide strategic modifications to the draft Peel Plan. Details on the proposed modifications will be included in the next round of public consultation on the plan, scheduled for this spring.

“Yukon government’s guiding principles support special protection for key areas and active management of the landscape rather than prohibitions to use and access,” Environment Minister Currie Dixon said.

The Government of Yukon principles are:

1. Special Protection for Key Areas
2. Manage Intensity of Use
3. Respect the First Nation Final Agreements
4. Respect the Importance of all Sectors of the Economy
5. Respect Private Interests
6. Active Management
7. Future Looking
8. Practical and Affordable

Details of the principles were recently shared with representatives of the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun, Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Government, and the Gwich’in Tribal Council, the other parties responsible for regional land use planning in the Peel region.

“The North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan was completed in 2009 by applying approaches very similar to these guiding principles,” Energy, Mines & Resources Minister Brad Cathers said. “We are building on that model of success to develop an effective plan for the Peel region.”

For additional details, explanation of the principles, and more information on the Peel regional land use planning process, visit www.emr.gov.yk.ca.

-30-

See backgrounder attached.

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Government of Yukon Guiding Principles for the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan

1. Special Protection for Key Areas

We recognize that specific areas in the Peel watershed region contain significant ecological, biological, and cultural values that deserve the highest level of protection available.

2. Manage Intensity of Use

There should be a focus on managing the intensity of use rather than prescribing the type of use. This may include options such as:

- requiring best practices in specific areas;
- applying mitigation that will prioritize some values ahead of others;
- managing the cumulative disturbance within an area; and
- managing activity in river corridors.

3. Respect the First Nation Final Agreements

A number of management and protection tools already exist for conserving wilderness characteristics and other ecosystem components under the various chapters of the final agreement. These include special management area planning, wildlife management, water resources, development assessment, access, and surface rights.

4. Respect the Importance of all Sectors of the Economy

The final plan must recognize the value of all sectors of the economy, and focus on managing any conflicting land uses in a manner that is fair, balanced and equitable.

5. Respect Private Interests

There will be no expropriation of existing claims, and provisions will be made for reasonable surface access.

6. Active Management

We support active management of the landscape rather than prohibitions to use and access.

7. Future Looking

Government should have the ability to retain options into the future for additional conservation or development.

8. Practical and Affordable

Ultimately the plan must be one that can be implemented within fiscally-responsible means and human resources capacity. There will be up to eight regional land use plans in the territory, so plan implementation requirements should reflect that government resources must be balanced among existing and future projects.