



Plan Principles That Underlie the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan

The Land Use Plan for the Peel Watershed region is intended to be implemented using guiding principles that follow the planning direction given in the Umbrella Final Agreement, the Plan General Terms of Reference and the Plan Statement of Intent documents. There are five guiding principles that underlie development and recommendation of the Peel Watershed Land Use Plan.

1. Independence and Impartiality

As an independent, public agency appointed to represent the best interests of Yukon people, the Planning Commission will carefully consider any and all information, advice or recommendations provided to it by any government, agency or the public in a balanced and neutral manner for preparation and recommendation of this Land Use Plan consistent with its Terms of Reference and expectations of the UFA (11.4.0 to 11.7.0 incl).

2. Sustainable Development

The core principle that guides the Plan is sustainable development, as defined in the UFA

“Beneficial socio-economic change that does not undermine the ecological and social systems upon which communities and societies are dependent.” (UFA, p.7, 11.4.5.9). This includes a commitment to the practice of integrated resource management (UFA, 11.4.5.8, 11.2.1.2), so that the Plan:

“..Ensures that social, cultural, economic and environmental policies are applied to the management, protection and use of land, water and resources in an integrated and coordinated manner so as to ensure sustainable development” (UFA, 11.1.1.6.)



Sustainable development is the guiding principle for the Plan.

3. First Nations Traditional and Community Resource Use

The plan will promote the interests, rights and responsibilities of The Tettit Gwich'in, Nacho Nyak Dun, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Vuntut Gwitchin with respect to the conservation and use of their traditional territories for both country food harvest, promotion of a renewable resource economy or other purpose as they may decide for Settlement lands. (UFA, 16.1.1.1, 5.4.9, 12.1.1.1)

4. Conservation

The plan proposes to manage fish and wildlife habitats and water resources using the conservation principle as defined and specified in the Umbrella Final Agreement (p.2 Definitions, 16.1..1.1, *"The management of Fish and Wildlife populations and habitats and the regulation of users to ensure the quality, diversity and Long Term Optimum Productivity of Fish and Wildlife populations, with the primary goal of ensuring a sustainable harvest and its proper utilization."* (UFA, p.1)

5. Adaptive Management

The Plan is a living document. In accordance with the intent of UFA 11,2.1.3 – 11.2.1.5, the Plan will be reviewed, monitored and updated in response to changing land use and/or environmental conditions, or as better information becomes available. Adaptive Management means we must: "Look, learn and adjust as required." It requires that those implementing the plan learn and adapt as their information improves.

6. Precautionary Principle

The Plan shall recognize that the Peel Watershed is an intact ecosystem, and the need to consider potential impacts before making resource decisions, and in particular, the need to recognize and enhance, to the extent practicable, the livelihood and First Nation's relationship to the wilderness environment (12.1.1.1). A lack of conclusive scientific evidence does not justify inaction on managing the environment, particularly when the consequences of inaction may be undesirable, or when the costs of action are negligible" (International Institute for Sustainable Development).