

Scenarios #3: Open Access Mixed-Use Strategy

Scenario #3 is a new scenario now being considered by the PWPC in response to public and stakeholder consultations. It aims to minimize the potential compensation for effected quartz claims, allow orderly access to highly mineralized areas for mineral development. It also attempts to protect some key areas of high ecological significance and of high importance for culture, guide-outfitting, and wilderness tourism.

Benefits

- Fairly high protection of the Hart River caribou herd and some sheep populations
- Least potential compensation for affected quartz claims
- All-season access permitted to the Wind River valley and mid-Bonnet Plume River valley for potential quartz mineral development subject to stringent environmental and socioeconomic assessments
- Oil/gas basins are available for exploration and orderly development
- Proposed Teet'it Gwich'in Historic Sites protected

Risks

- Less certainty for renewable industries may result in loss of client interest in wilderness experience (e.g. wilderness tourism and guide-outfitting)
- Difficulty managing secondary-use impacts (e.g. uncontrolled access by motorized recreational users) on all-season road(s)
- Less protection of wide-ranging species like Grizzly Bears, caribou (especially the Bonnet Plume herd), and wolves

