

# Land Use Scenarios for the Peel Watershed Planning Region

We want *your* opinion on what should happen in the Peel watershed. Have a look at the two scenarios in this brochure, and let us know!



The Peel watershed is a vast unpopulated area in northeastern Yukon highly valued for wilderness recreation, big game outfitting, mineral and oil and gas potential, tourism, and ecological integrity. It also has significant cultural, heritage, and economic value for the four First Nations whose traditional territories overlap here – the Na-cho Nyak Dun, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Vuntut Gwitchin, and Teet'it Gwich'in. Despite all these values, there are very few roads and other developments, making this area unique at territorial, national, and even global level.

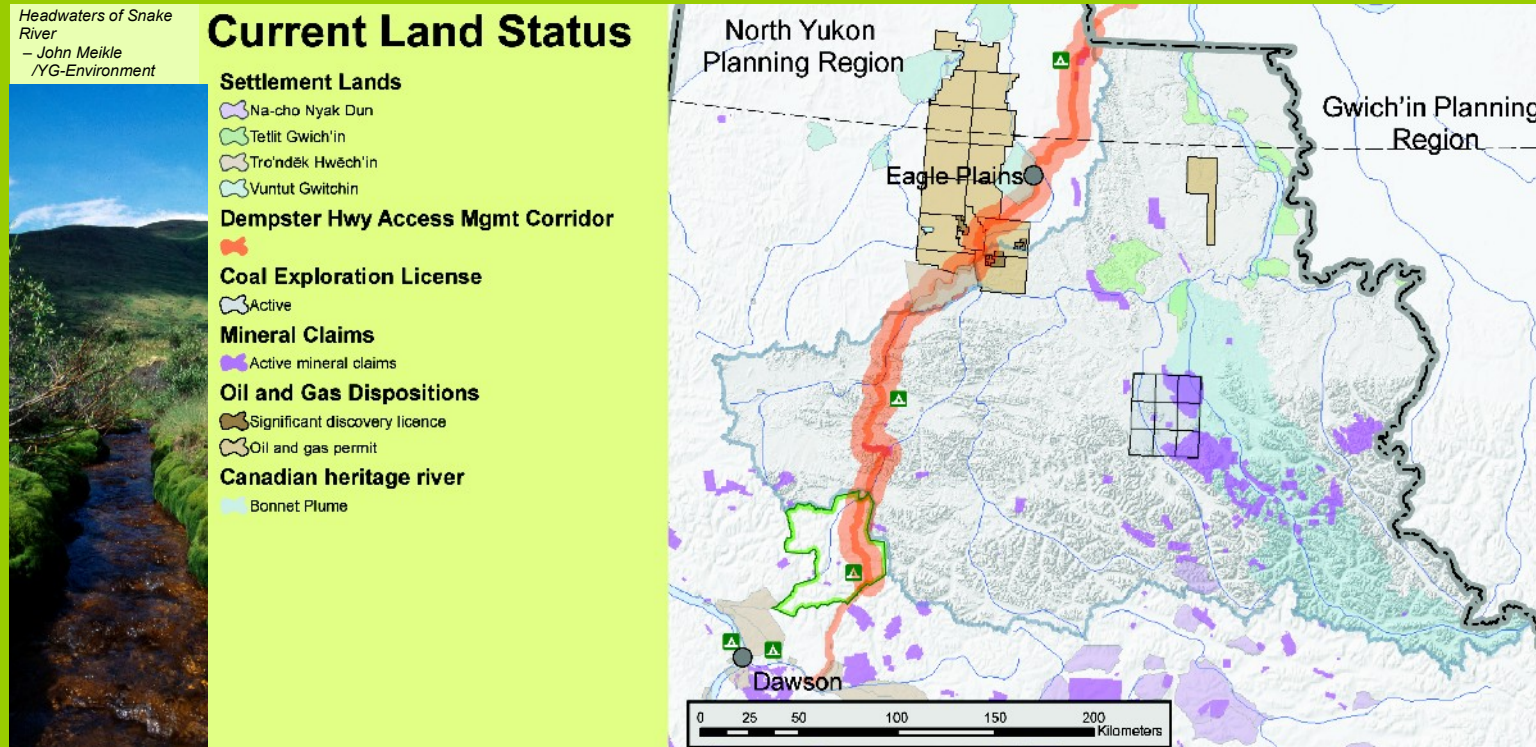
conflicts and manage for sustainable resource use.

In 2004, the four First Nations in the region and the Yukon Government created the Peel Watershed Planning Commission (PWPC) to develop a plan for the Peel. So far, we (the PWPC) have collected information, opinions, and scientific and traditional knowledge about the Peel watershed, and have used this information to create two possible scenarios. This brochure describes these scenarios. We would like to hear your thoughts about them before we develop a draft land use plan for this area. This plan will likely resemble one of the scenarios, but will be shaped by your input.

With increasing activity in the Peel, some activities already have started to have effects on others. Now is the time to plan how the land is used to minimize potential land-use

Top: Caribou near Turner Mountain – John Meikle/YG-Environment  
Bottom: Werneke Mountains, Snake River, Reptile Ck – John Meikle/YG-Environment

## Current Land Status



## Who are we?

The Peel Watershed Planning Commission (PWPC) is an arms length commission with members that are jointly nominated by the Yukon, Na-Cho Nyak Dun, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Gwich'in and Vuntut Gwitchin governments. The PWPC is responsible for developing and recommending a regional land use plan for the Peel Watershed Planning Region (see map above).



Peel Watershed Planning Commission  
(L-R) Marvin Frost, Steve Taylor, Dave Loeks, Peter Kaye, Albert Genier (Chair), and Ray Hayes

## What's Next?

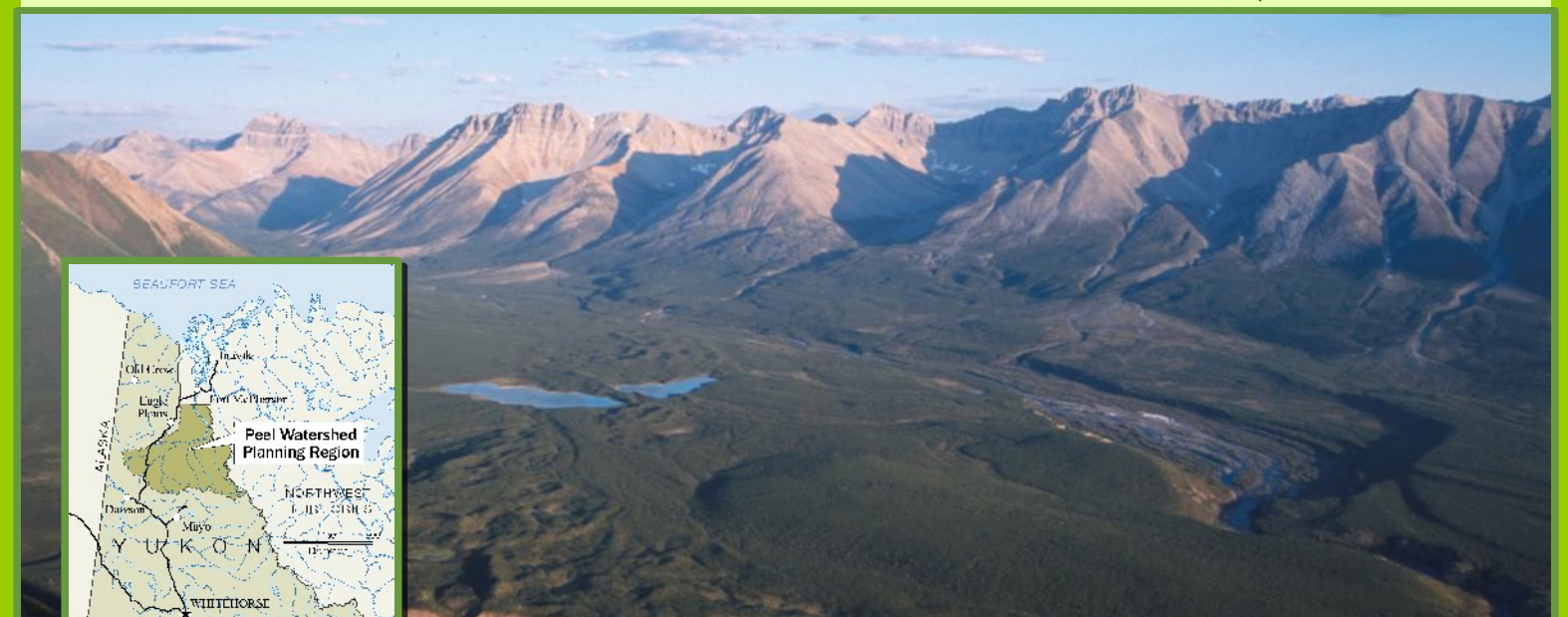
Following a public comment period (until February 28<sup>th</sup>) and public consultations in Mayo, Dawson, Ft McPherson and Whitehorse (early February), the Commission will prepare a *Draft Plan* that balances the variety of opinions and needs of the public, stakeholders and affected governments. This *Draft Plan*, targeted for March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009 will be reviewed by the public, the affected First Nations and Yukon governments and the PWPC prior to the release of the *Recommended Plan* by the PWPC.

**Public comment is always welcome.**

## Questions? Comments?

**Please direct your valued questions and opinions to the senior planner, Reg Whiten P.Ag., MCIP at:**  
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Toll free: 1-866-353-2374  
Email: [info@planyukon.ca](mailto:info@planyukon.ca)

**For further information, see the *Peel Land-Use Scenarios Report* and other documents at:**  
<http://www.peel.planyukon.ca/downloads/downpldo.html>



*Who might be interested in this brochure? Are you someone who.....*

- ✓ Operates or is directly or indirectly employed by a business with commercial interest in the Peel region, including:
  - ✓ wilderness tourism operations
  - ✓ mineral exploration and mine development
  - ✓ guide & outfitting companies
  - ✓ oil & gas sector
- ✓ Practices cultural activities like hunting and camping in one of the affected First Nation Traditional Territories?
- ✓ Enjoys outdoor recreation such as hunting, fishing, canoeing/kayaking, or hiking?
- ✓ Travels or works along the Dempster Highway?
- ✓ Is involved in the resource planning and management sector?
- ✓ Is a local community resident or in the general public with an interest in the Peel region?

# Scenarios #1: Mixed-Use Strategy

Scenario #1 aims to balance natural resources with industrial resources by restricting access to only winter roads in large areas, applying strict regulations to roads along river corridors, and creating SMAs and historic sites. Natural resources are further conserved by a large protected area around the Bonnet Plume River watershed – a Canadian Heritage River. The pace and scale of development will also be limited by thresholds on water quality and quantity, and on disturbance (footprint and "linear density" – flatter terrain only).

## Benefits

- Much of region is open to resource exploration and development
- Winter access to Wernecke Mtns permitted
- Fewer quartz claims affected with lower potential for compensation
- Oil/gas basins are available for exploration and orderly development
- Development in core waterbird and caribou winter habitat strictly managed
- Proposed Teet'it Gwich'in Historic Sites protected

## Risks

- Loss of economic benefits from some types of development requiring all-season access (e.g. medium-large volume mines)
- Potential for conflict between extractive industries and cultural, wilderness tourism, and outfitting values outside of Bonnet Plume watershed
- Limited protection of wide-ranging species like Grizzly Bears, caribou, and wolves

## Zone Descriptions:

Zone Type	Allowable uses						
	All-season Roads	Winter Roads	Oil & Gas Dev't	Mineral Dev't	Trapping/Outfitting	Recreation/Tourism	Cultural/Traditional
First Nation Lands	?	?	?	?	✓	?	✓
Protection	x	x	x	x	✓	✓	✓
Cultural Resources	x	~	~	~	✓	~	✓
Wildlife & Habitat	x	~	~	~	~	✓	✓
River Corridor Mgmt	x	~	x	x	✓	✓	✓
Tourism Access	x	x	x	x	✓	~	✓
IMA II	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
IMA III – IV	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
River corridor							

x = not permitted, ✓ = permitted, ~ = subject to subregional planning

# Scenario #2: Protection Strategy

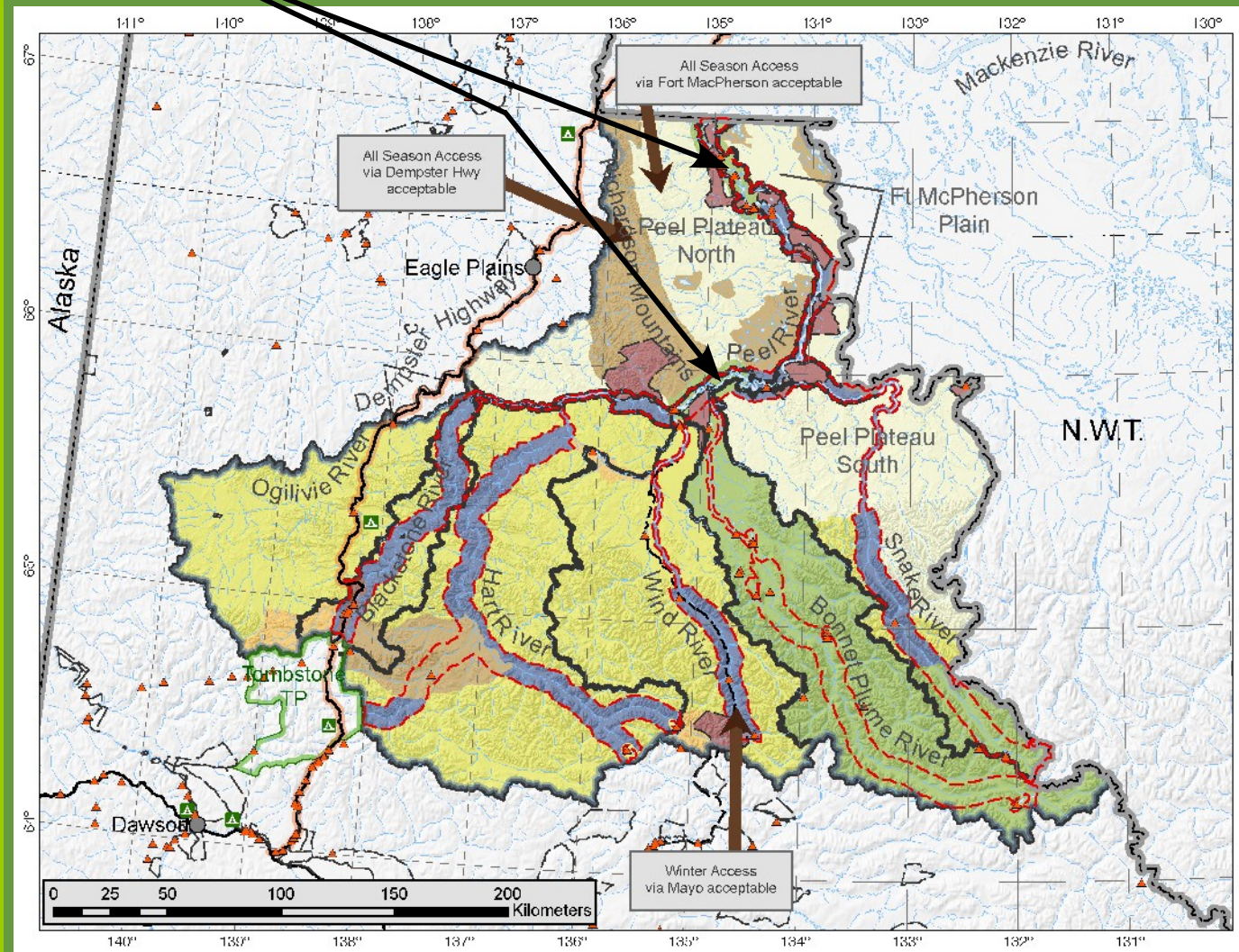
Scenario #2 A large multi-watershed protected area and a suite of smaller protected SMAs and Historic Sites help maintain natural and cultural resources. Beyond these designated lands – the Integrated Management Areas (IMAs) – industrial activities may occur. Permitted road types (e.g. all-season and winter-only), allowable development intensity, and impacts on water all vary, depending on the IMA.

## Benefits

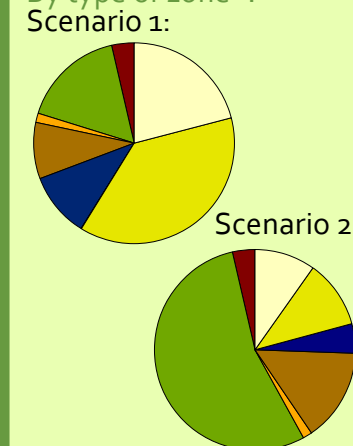
- Better protection of wide-ranging species and herds, including Grizzly Bear, Dall's Sheep, and three herds of Caribou
- Preserves wilderness values and experiences
- Oil/gas basins are available for exploration and orderly development
- Sustained economic benefits from existing tourism/wilderness-based industries
- Potential candidate for UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designation

## Risks

- More quartz claims and coal licenses affected with higher potential for compensation
- Reduced investments and economic activity for mineral exploration and development related sectors
- Increased administration and enforcement of new protected areas
- Potentially higher restrictions on establishment of wilderness lodges
- Access to Crest iron-ore impeded



## Breakdowns: By type of zone\*



\*Tourism Access not depicted because of limited extent

## Conformity of Active Quartz Claims:



## Conformity of Existing Oil/Gas Dispositions†:

