



Conservation of the Bonnet Plume caribou herd is an important planning objective. [JP]

a conservation vision for the peel

Recommendations by CPAWS-Yukon

After 5 years of research and several community trips in the Wind, Snake and Bonnet Plume tributaries of the Peel watershed, CPAWS-Yukon produced a report and recommendations on land use planning and conservation in the Peel River watershed. This draft conservation values atlas for the watershed, which shows the areas of high conservation value and the potential impacts of proposed resource developments, complements the previous report.

In order to conserve and protect the wilderness, wildlife, fish, free flowing clear waters, natural ecosystems and cultural values of the Peel Watershed for all time and all people, we recommend that:

Land Use Planning

A regional land use and conservation plan be prepared for the entire Peel River watershed, with a conservation focus on the main river tributaries, woodland caribou herds and key wetlands.

As part of the regional plan, the Land Use Planning Commission and First Nations prepare a specific conservation strategy for the Wind, Snake, Bonnet Plume and other identified watersheds, incorporating a core protected area in the Snake River watershed and respecting the management plan for the Bonnet Plume Canadian Heritage River.

The Land Use Planning Commission prepare river corridor conservation and land management plans for Peel River tributaries such as the Ogilvie, Blackstone and Hart Rivers.

To avoid unnecessary and avoidable negative impacts on the integrity of the Peel watershed ecosystem, all industrial development proposals and projects, including new roads, be deferred until the regional land use and conservation plan is completed and approved.

Protected Areas

The Yukon Government, in cooperation with First Nations and Renewable Resource Councils, immediately assess all candidate areas of interest for protection and wildlife conservation in the greater Peel River watershed;

The Yukon Government, in cooperation with First Nations and Renewable Resource Councils, move forward with a study of the Snake River

watershed as a leading candidate for full protection;

Economic Development

The Yukon government in co-operation with First Nations, mandated boards and councils, and other organizations, assess the economic and community development opportunities that could be based on conservation and tourism in the Peel River watershed;

The Yukon government defer all oil and gas nominations, other industrial development schemes, and new road proposals from high value conservation areas until land use and protected areas planning are complete.

Moose hide laid out to dry at the Gwich'in gathering, 2003. [FM]

