

Concern**Hunters from other parts of the Yukon take more game than locals**

Due to ease of access, many hunters come to the Teslin area to hunt each fall, creating the general impression that the majority of animals (especially moose) are taken by visitors rather than locals. When the First Nation moose harvest is added to the local resident harvest, however, the total is greater than the moose taken by other Yukoners and outfitters. This concern is better appreciated when hunting is limited and a permit system is invoked. In such cases, locals must compete on an equal basis with other Yukoners. They can become swamped in the lottery with the result that few locals are able to hunt in their own area.

Solution Look into ways to enhance local opportunities

This has been exhaustively examined elsewhere in the Yukon and a few possibilities have emerged. There could be an extended season for the permits so that a winter hunt becomes possible. This usually appeals more to locals so fewer other Yukoners apply. A registration hunt could be conducted to authorize individual hunters to hunt for a limited period and report their success. This would make it somewhat easier for locals to participate. Amendments in 2002 to the *Wildlife Act* will provide for the implementation of registration hunts.

Concern**Hunters from elsewhere may not fully “respect” our land and wildlife**

Some areas in the Teslin Tlingit traditional territory are known by locals to be preferred by elders, but others do not know this. The possibility of signs for elders’ areas was discussed. Much of this concern focussed on how people from elsewhere treat the land when they are travelling on it as tourists or hunters.

Solution Initiate projects to increase respect by visiting hunters

The community recognizes the need for greater coordination between the First Nation and tourism enterprises. People who come to the Teslin Tlingit traditional territory to hunt must understand, for example, where it is respectful to go and where to camp. The challenge is to get the right information to the right people.

Actions

Responsible parties, Time line

TTC
2001/02

Review tourism guidebooks to ensure respectful activities

There is one principal guidebook for the Nisutlin River. Its author and publisher should be advised of the location of acceptable campsites so that people don’t just camp anywhere. Other guidebooks (at the Yukon Department of Tourism, the Yukon Visitor Reception Centre and local bookstores) should be reviewed for the same purpose. Generally this action should consider all the ways tourists and hunters get information about the Teslin Tlingit traditional territory and how these can be used to make sure that people understand what to do when they are there. [2001-Tes-AI-29]

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| TTC 2001/02 2002/03 2003/04 2004/05 | Advise hunters via access permits about respectful activities Hunters from other First Nations need access permits from TTC. TTC beneficiaries are expected to have permits to hunt on settlement lands and resident hunters also need permits to hunt on Category A settlement lands. General information could be attached to the permits advising people of special areas for hunting and camping, for instance, and that other respectful activities should be observed while in Teslin Tlingit traditional territory. Another idea is to have a highway sign advising all hunters to drop by the TTC building and to get a brochure about hunting in the traditional territory. This could include a map identifying settlement lands (both Category A and B) and any other information that hunters should know. [2001-Tes-AI-30] |
| RRC 2002/03 2003/04 2004/05 | Work on local stewardship program The action here is to get people from Teslin together to work out a stewardship message about where not to hunt, where to camp, how to clean-up after camping, etc. These stewardship messages would educate the locals, but more importantly they could pass the messages along when they encounter visitors. This concept might be expanded to a more formal program but the community also noted that locals cannot carry the full responsibility and that governments have responsibilities here as well. [2001-Tes-AI-31] |
| RRC, TTC, YG 2002/03 | Look into preparing designated campsites on the Nisutlin River This is a companion action to others in this series which address better respect by tourists and visiting hunters. Designated sites could be indicated in tourism information and hunting brochures so that more people know how to comply with local customs of respect. [2001-Tes-AI-32] |