

TRAPPING

Concern 1

There is no detailed explanation of how bylaws for the management of furbearers are to be developed by the RRC and how they are to be enforced.

This concern was originally raised in the 1997-2001 plan requesting YTG to work with trappers, the RRCs, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and First Nations to develop an explanation addressing how RRC bylaws would be developed and enforced. The explanation is still needed.

Solution Complete revisions of the Yukon *Wildlife Act* and NND legislation to enact and enforce RRC bylaws, and provide a simple explanation of how traplines are regulated in accordance with the UFA.

Currently, the Yukon *Wildlife Act* is under review, and “phase 3” will address proposed changes to the act to make it consistent with the Umbrella Final Agreement. Following completion of these amendments, a RRC trapping bylaw would be enforceable on non-settlement land. NND is currently developing wildlife regulations which would enable enforcement of RRC trapline bylaws on settlement land.

Commitment

By who? By when?

RRC/NND/YTG
2004 - 2005

Finish amendments to Yukon *Wildlife Act*, and develop NND legislation so that RRC can develop and enforce bylaws. [85]

The RRC may need to have discussions with government (YTG and NND) to determine the status of bylaw enforcement.

YTG
2005 - 2007

Develop a simple explanation to explain to RRCs how development of a bylaw can happen, and how it would be enforced. [86]

The explanation would be made available to trappers and interested people.

Concern 2

Trappers are not sure about laws regarding wilderness tourism on traplines.

Trappers may wish to take paying clients out on lines so these individuals can experience trapping lifestyles and winter activities. Local trappers expressed an interest in offering these types of wilderness tours on their traplines in the 1997-2001 plan. As a result, a recommendation was made that YTG work with DIAND, trappers, RRCs, First Nations and Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board to prepare an explanation about how the trappers could do this (see recommendation RRC-8, Appendix B). Given the continued interest in tourist-trapping operations, this is still needed.

The Yukon *Wildlife Act* has been changed to allow trappers to take clients for a trapping wilderness experience, but there are currently no regulations in place to manage these activities. The use of trapper cabins for other wilderness activities besides trapping is a federal issue. There are concerns with some tourism operators that trappers would have an unfair advantage over them because the trapline concession allows only trappers in the area.

Solution Provide a clear and detailed explanation of the status of allowable tourism-trapping activities to trappers and interested people.

A simple explanation must be provided so trappers understand what they can and can not do on their traplines with regard to tourism. The first step would be to identify the sources of confusion and areas of concern so clear answers can be provided.

Commitment

By who? By when?

RRC
2002 - 2003

In collaboration with the Yukon Trapper's Association, request that regulations be developed under the Yukon *Wildlife Act* to enable trappers to begin tourism-trapping activities. [87]

RRC/YTG/NND
2003 - 2007

Develop a joint explanation to explain government's legislation policies on tourism-trapping activities. [88]

Concern 3

Trapline assessments are too high for purchase by NND.

NND currently owns 53 percent of traplines in traditional territory and as outlined in their Final Agreement, NND is working towards 70 percent ownership. In seeking to increase the number of lines held by NND beneficiaries, NND has found that trapline prices are increasing. Outfitters and others are buying traplines for other purposes, and NND has concerns this will raise the price out of reach of some local people.

In the 1997-2001 plan, the RRC recommended YTG review the evaluation process for trapline sales and revise the appropriate policies to enable First Nation purchase of traplines. YTG responded that sales were a private matter — for NND to address.

Solution NND to review assets on traplines when considering purchase of traplines.

NND will help potential citizens interested in purchasing traplines by assisting in the review of assets.

Commitment

By who? By when?

NND
2002 - 2007

NND to review assets on traplines for sale. [89].

Concern 4

Some traplines are not utilized and people want to trap but do not have the opportunity.

In the 1997-2001 plan, the idea of establishing an NND group trapline was raised. While one is not yet established, the NND has the authority to do so with Category A traplines. The plan partners agreed this should happen, but it was not a high priority.

Solution Make it possible for more people to get involved in trapping.

The NND has been working to get people out on the land through a support program. Also, the trapline allocation guidelines under development by the RRC will provide ways for more people to get involved with trapping.

Commitment

By who? By when?

NND/RRC
2002-2005

Continue to investigate and implement ways to enable people to get out trapping in the NND traditional territory. [90]

Some progress has been made since the 1997-2001 plan, with the “Outpost Program” — an initiative to support people to get out on the land.

RRC/YTG
2002-2005

Complete trapline allocation guidelines, and send to YTG for approval. [91]

These guidelines will provide direction on recommending active trappers for concession, and reallocation practices, and will include RRC recommendations on an incentive program.

RRC
2002-2007

Develop and maintain an updated list of interested trappers’ assistants. [92]

Doing so will help to identify people who are interested in trapping. These lists will be maintained as part of the trapline allocation guidelines.

Concern 5

Overlapping federal and territorial government policies about trapline compensation levels are not clear, and are considered unfair by trappers.

In cases where a trapline is withdrawn by YTG for reasons other than mismanagement by the trapper, compensation is paid to the trapper based on the average net profit from the trapline over the preceding three years. Under present compensation policies, no consideration is given to loss of lifestyle and no payment is made if the line is destroyed by a wildfire.

Further, while some licensing for developments require project proponents to negotiate compensation with trappers (for instance that involve the Yukon Territory Water Board), there are cases where trappers have to pursue compensation by taking the case to court. This is costly for trappers to undertake.

This concern was raised in the 1997-2001 plan as a recommendation from the RRC to YTG to review the trapline compensation policy and relevant legislation to consider additional factors in the determination of compensation (see recommendation RRC-12, Appendix B). It was recognized this was a territory-wide issue that had many aspects to be considered. Work to coordinate policies is beginning now.

Solution **Overlapping compensation policies between the federal and territorial governments need to be coordinated and methods for determining trapline value need to be reviewed.**

YTG has a trapline compensation policy for all trappers. The federal government has conducted consultations and has a draft policy for First Nation trappers as well. At the planning workshop, proposed amendments (phase 3) to the Yukon *Wildlife Act* were identified as a possible forum to address these concerns. Coordination of these policies is needed and concerns about unfair compensation levels must be addressed.

Commitment

By who? By when?

YTG
2002-2005

YTG will review the existing trapline compensation policy or work to address concerns under the federal policy, and if necessary follow-up under phase 3 amendments to the Yukon *Wildlife Act*. [93]

YTG/RRC/NND
2002-2005

The outcome of this work will be communicated to the RRC and NND. [94]