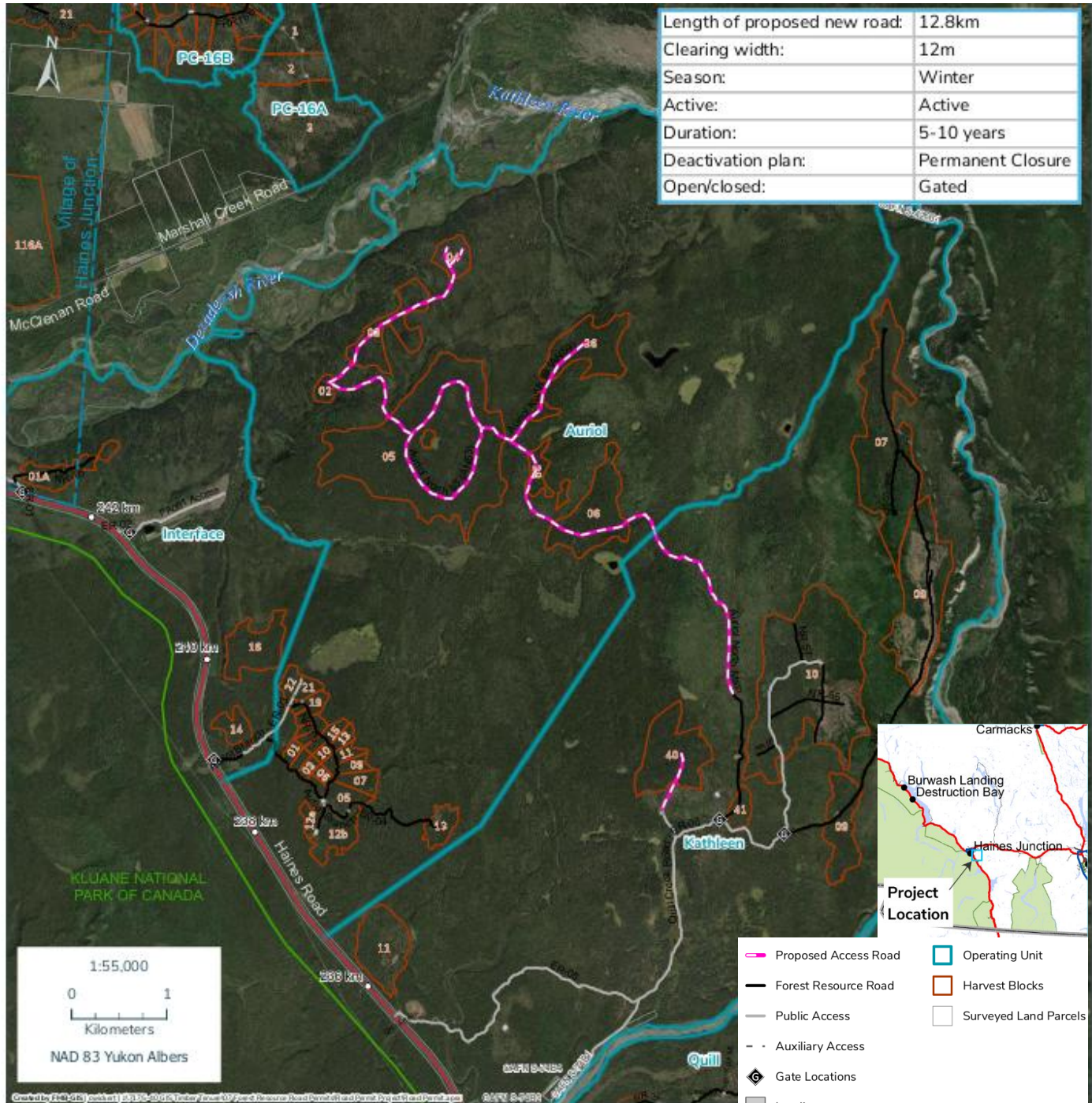


Access Management Plan



Quill Creek Timber Harvest Plan

Auriol Operating Unit (DRAFT)



OVERVIEW

What is an access management plan?

An Access Management Plan (AMP) outlines the location and timeframes for new forest resources roads. They also detail how a road will be constructed and managed over its lifespan. Each plan provides an opportunity for public feedback.

What feedback are we looking for?

We are looking for feedback on your use and interest in these areas. Your feedback could include what happens to the road after timber harvesting is complete and it is time to decommission the road. We are also interested in hearing about ways to accommodate your use on public access roads in the plan. See map.

What new road development is happening here?

There are approximately 12.8 kilometres of new winter forest resources roads to be constructed in the summer of 2026. Most of these are within timber harvest permit areas. See map for details.

What is the purpose of these roads?

The primary use of these roads is to provide access for fuelwood harvesting in the Auriol operating unit of the Quill Creek Timber Harvest Plan (THP). Harvest activities will involve the cutting and removal of dead trees. While the roads are not being developed for other uses such as recreation, a road use permit could be obtained at the Forest Management Branch (FMB) to allow access for other resources users.

How long will these roads be there?

Once harvest operations are complete, new forestry roads will be decommissioned and existing roads will be left in a similar state. It is anticipated that this will take 5-10 years.

Will this change the access I currently have to this area?

No, the public access that exists along this road system will not change or be impeded. See map for details.

Who can use these roads?

The new roads being constructed are forest resources roads that are managed under the Forest Resources Act and not meant for public use. A gate will be installed to limit access to only those who have a forest resources road use permit. Public access exists for portions of the Quill Creek road. See map for details.

What values have been considered?

- a) *Wildfire*: This area is within the Landscape zone of the 2007 Integrated Landscape Plan (ILP). Hazard reduction through fuels reduction is the priority within this zone. Enhancing fuel discontinuity through size shape and location of timber harvest projects is the main strategy. YESAB assessment 2020-0051 (Appendix A) specifies several conditions.
- b) *Wildlife*: According to the ILP, this area has high wildlife values and is key late-winter habitat for moose. The ILP requires retention of 25 percent of the forest within harvest areas, and following road construction, access to this area is to be restricted to limit disturbance to moose and other wildlife. The YESAB assessment (2020-0051) (Appendix A) specifies that gaps are created in any snowplough berms, to create easy passage for moose. A grizzly bear habitat assessment was conducted in 2024 for this area as outlined by term 23 in the decision document 2020-0051. These roads and blocks are consistent with the findings in this assessment.
- c) *Multi-use area*: There is minimal sign of current recreational use in the Auriol operating unit. An old mining road system was found. Some of this has had ATV use and other sections had windthrown timber across it for many kilometres showing it had not been used for many years. There are reports of hiking, ATV use, and berry picking along this trail system. This existing trail will be retained and protected for future use.

What will happen when the road is no longer in use?

The forest resources roads and associated spur roads will be decommissioned to restrict vehicle use. Options for road closure and decommissioning will range from simply blocking access, to retaining them only for ATV or for non-motorized access, to full rehabilitation. Your input now will help us determine the best way to deactivate this road, when the time comes. Existing trails will not be impacted.

What planning work has taken place up to this point?

The Strategic Forest Resource Management Plan (SFMP) is the highest-level forest management plan for the area. It is a joint plan and represents nearly 10 years of community input. The Quill Creek area is a high priority for planning and development under the SFMP.

The ilp was developed as a supplement to the SFMP, and provides a technical assessment of resources, management priorities and guidelines for timber harvest project planning. The Quill Creek THP area is within the forest resource management zone which means harvesting can occur here with a primary focus on forest stands where over 30 percent of the trees are dead from the spruce bark beetle.

The Quill Creek THP is nested under these higher-level plans and is the result of many years of planning and collaboration. This timber harvest plan was submitted to YESAB in 2020 (project 2020-0051) for an Executive Committee-level screening, which included further opportunities for public input.

How can I provide input?

We are seeking your input. Please submit your comments or questions to Mark.Pedersen@yukon.ca, or 867-335-9068.

A full version of all access management plans with more details can be found at:

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