



Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement

Progress report for 2025-26

Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement

Protecting biodiversity and restoring nature in the Yukon

The Government of Canada and the Government of Yukon signed the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement, which took effect in April 2023. This 3-year agreement has brought \$20.6 million for conservation initiatives in the Yukon and supports:

- protection and conservation of new areas of the Yukon;
- support for Indigenous-led conservation efforts through funding and collaboration;
- increased knowledge collection and data sharing; and
- enhanced efforts to monitor and manage species at risk and cumulative effects on the environment.

The Government of Yukon reports annual progress under the agreement. This report highlights progress from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026.

In 2025-26, the Government of Yukon expended approximately \$6.39M to advance work under the agreement. This funding supported reporting an additional 50 square kilometers of interim protected land in the territory. It also supported important conservation initiatives such as, advancing work on an Ecological Cumulative Effects Framework with Indigenous governments and groups, modelling for a Cumulative Effects Decision Support Tool for Northern Mountain Caribou, reviewing surface disturbance data layers and making them publicly accessible and advancing flood hazard maps for Old Crow, Dawson City, Klondike Valley, Upper Liard and Ross River.

In 2025-26, the Government of Yukon had 12 funding agreements in place with Indigenous governments, groups and co-management bodies in the Yukon to advance Indigenous-led conservation initiatives. This included support for protected areas, land and conservation planning, community stewardship projects, land and guardian programs and youth culture camps.

For more information about the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement and its related projects, please visit: yukon.ca/learn-about-canada-yukon-nature-agreement.

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Protecting areas of the Yukon

Yukon has made substantial progress in nature conservation. The Yukon had 19.1 percent of lands and waters protected as of December 2022 and has increased this to 21.1 percent since signing the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement. At the time of reporting, this represents the highest proportion of protected lands and waters among Canada's provinces and territories.

Protected areas in the Yukon encompass a range of designations, including territorial and national parks, habitat protection areas, special management areas, and national wildlife areas. The territory is exploring additional conservation approaches, including Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures or OECMs. These are geographically defined areas outside of formal protected areas that are managed for primary purposes other than conservation but still provide important benefits for biodiversity and ecosystem protection.

Increasing the Yukon's total protected areas

In 2025–26, Yukon reported an additional 50 km² of protected lands and waters which includes the establishment of Chasàn Chùà Territorial Park, and the reporting of Tatchun Lake Territorial Park as an interim OECM and several small parcels in the Peel River region as OECMs.



Tatchun Creek within Tatchun Lake Territorial Park

Developing tools to support conservation

The Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement is supporting the Yukon to develop the tools it needs to protect against biodiversity loss and conserve the natural environment and the species that rely on it. Adequate tools are needed to better understand the impact of development on species and their habitats, identify key areas that should be protected and approaches to protect them.

Legislative tools to govern activities and land use in protected areas

In April 2025, new rules under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act* came into effect. These rules set out what activities are allowed in protected areas such as Wilderness Preserves, Ecological Reserves, and Natural Environment Parks. The new regulation makes management plans legally enforceable and uses land-use zones to clearly show where certain activities and developments are allowed or not allowed, helping to protect environmental and cultural values.

Ecological cumulative effects decision support tool for caribou

Funding from the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement is supporting efforts to protect all caribou populations in the Yukon, including the Porcupine caribou. Of the three types of caribou in the Yukon, the Northern Mountain Population of Woodland Caribou is listed as a species of Special Concern under Canada's *Species at Risk Act*.

In 2025–26, this funding supported the continued development of a decision support tool to better understand and manage the cumulative effects of development and environmental change on Northern Mountain caribou. Working with Biodiversity Pathways, the Government of Yukon created Yukon-wide maps to show predicted caribou habitat quality. These maps help identify high-value habitat and support conservation, land use planning, project assessments and cumulative effects management.

The collaboration resulted in an integrated cumulative effects assessment tool that brings together information on caribou habitat use, movement behaviour, and population dynamics across their range in the Yukon, British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories at both a fine and broad scale. These models are complete and the tool is in the process of being made available so users can explore different development and climate scenarios and understand how these pressures may affect caribou over time.

The tool can also support more informed and transparent decision-making by providing a consistent and repeatable approach to evaluating cumulative effects. A key feature is its flexible design, including the incorporation of Indigenous knowledge alongside scientific data.



This helps strengthen collaborative conservation planning and co-management discussions, including the evaluation of land use options. Public release of the final report on this tool is anticipated in 2026–27.

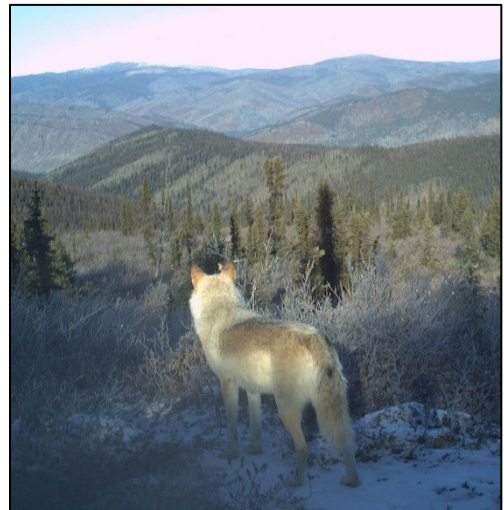
Cumulative effects monitoring in the Central Yukon

Funding from the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement supported ongoing cumulative effects monitoring using trail cameras across central Yukon. In 2025-26, the Government of Yukon collaborated with five First Nation governments in four project areas to understand the impacts of land use change on species such as northern mountain caribou, grizzly bears, moose, wolves and wolverines. Over 350 camera sites across five study areas in central Yukon were used.

The results of these studies will inform regional land use planning and environmental assessments through analyzing the cumulative effects of land use change on species at risk (e.g., northern mountain caribou and grizzly bears) and the development of habitat models to predict the impact of land use change on key species.

The final reporting on a study examining the relationship between moose, wolves and landscape development will be completed in early 2026-27. The camera location and observation data for the Clear Creek Caribou Cumulative Effects study is available online through GeoYukon.

In collaboration with Wildlife Conservation Society of Canada and the University of Victoria, the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement supported research focussed on how disturbance affects black bears and grizzly bears. Grizzly bears are a federally-listed Species of Special Concern under the Species at Risk Act, however their population may be more stable in the Yukon. This research demonstrated that grizzly bears avoid high disturbance areas in disturbed landscapes. This study is the first to demonstrate these results in a northern landscape where the primary disturbance is from mining.



Mapping surface disturbance

In 2025-26, the Government of Yukon completed surface disturbance mapping for central Yukon, including areas of higher disturbance in the Dawson planning region and in the Na-Cho Nyäk Dun planning region. This includes digitization and mapping of visible man-made (anthropogenic) surface disturbance within the Clear Creek caribou herd range, and Ethel Lake, Moose Lake, and Redstone caribou herds.

Additionally in 2025-26, Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement funding supported the development of a public-facing web-based surface disturbance mapping tool. This tool will improve consistency of surface disturbance analysis to inform proposed projects and support the implementation of land use plans.

Once complete, the tool will be available online with regular updates to provide consistency and transparency to support decision-makers through environmental assessment and regional land use planning. Making data publicly available is a commitment in the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement, and all completed surface disturbance data layers are available on GeoYukon.



Ecological Cumulative Effects Framework

The Government of Yukon began developing an Ecological Cumulative Effects Framework in 2024–25. The framework will guide a consistent process to consider cumulative effects from human activities and environmental change in decision-making.

In July 2025, the government held working sessions with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and organizations to identify shared values and perspectives. Government-to-government meetings were hosted to discuss the draft framework in February 2026.

In March 2026, the government held a second workshop to share a draft framework with Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups, boards and councils. The next phase will focus on refining the draft and seeking feedback from stakeholders and the public before finalizing the framework and its implementation.

Ecological landscape classification

In 2025-26, reclaimed placer mining sites were studied to characterize vegetation and soil conditions, following licence expiry and site closure. By understanding the range of vegetation regrowth and habitat communities that result from different reclamation efforts, best management practices and recommendations can be developed for on-the-ground implementation that support viable habitat communities. In addition, publication of the Boreal Low Yukon Central field guide was completed. This guide provides standard ecological information for habitat types of the central Yukon.

Central Yukon supports the most extensive occurrence of boreal grasslands in Canada, which are notable features on many south facing slopes in the area. Grasslands are critical habitat for several rare and endemic species in the Yukon including Yukon draba (*Draba yukonensis*) and Yukon goldenweed (*Nasturtium macleanii*). This information supports land use planning and project reviews through the development assessment process and pre-project planning of activities.

Wildlife Key Areas Redesign Project

The Wildlife Key Areas (WKA) Inventory catalogues important habitats for legally harvested and protected Yukon wildlife species and is widely used for environmental assessments and land use planning. The WKA Redesign Project aims to establish a new/redesigned WKA Inventory system to effectively manage WKA data and streamline the updating process. To support this, an evaluation of WKA Inventory was recently completed to better understand users' needs and how the program could be improved. A [final report](#) of the evaluation included several recommendations for modernizing the WKA program.



This project is intended to improve end-user access and useability of public WKA information through a modernized WKA Inventory system. To date, 468 new WKAs were created, 40 WKAs were updated, and 178 WKAs were replaced or retired. New information includes existing satellite collar location information for the Clear Creek Caribou herd. This is the first use of satellite collar information to create more accurate WKAs around key seasonal habitats based on known animal locations. The Wildlife Key Area 2024 version is available [online](#) through the [GeoYukon](#) platform. The Government of Yukon has reviewed a wide range of issues and challenges in the current WKA Inventory system and will continue to make additional updates and improvements to the dataset in the coming years.

Flood Hazard Mapping for Yukon Communities

The Government of Yukon completed flood hazard mapping for several Yukon communities in 2025-26. This included draft maps for Ross River and final maps for Old Crow, Dawson City, Klondike Valley and Upper Liard. These maps help identify flood hazards and mitigate flood impacts to property, infrastructure and public safety across the territory.

Information from flood mapping can also support conservation by leading to the protection of wetlands and sensitive riparian habitats that offer nature-based solutions for climate and biodiversity resiliency.

Other areas where mapping has been completed include Carcross, Tagish, Marsh Lake, Lake Laberge, Carmacks and Teslin. Of the total 14 community flood hazard maps, work is underway to complete those for Mayo, Pelly Crossing and Whitehorse.



Supporting Indigenous leadership in conservation

Yukon First Nations and transboundary Indigenous governments and groups have relied on the Yukon's lands and waters for generations. They have long been leaders in protecting the Yukon's natural environment and have worked to include protected areas in their land claim agreements. Over the past three years, the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement provided over \$3.1 million to 17 Indigenous governments and groups to support continued Indigenous leadership in conservation.

Indigenous-led Conservation Capacity Fund

The Indigenous-led Conservation Capacity Fund continued to support Indigenous partners to lead or participate in initiatives that support conservation, the protection of biodiversity and species-at-risk, and identifying areas of conservation interest in their traditional or asserted territories in the Yukon. Project summaries provided by Indigenous governments and groups who received funding are available in Appendix I of this report.

Collaboration with Indigenous Guardian Program

Staff of the Department of Environment's park's branch and a Carcross/Tagish First Nation land guardian collaborated on the lands and waters of Agay Mene, strengthening the working relationship between governments while learning together on the landscape of this future territorial park. The field visit highlighted the value of on-the-ground collaboration between parks staff and Indigenous guardians in supporting effective park stewardship.

Indigenous governments are key partners in the governance and management of Yukon's territorial parks. Guardian programs align closely with the park ranger model, offering meaningful opportunities for collaboration. Joint activities such as recreation impact monitoring and water quality sampling contribute valuable knowledge that supports informed park management and positive outcomes on the land. As Yukon's population grows and parks such as Kusawa, Asi Keyi, and Agay Mene continue to be actively managed, these partnerships will become increasingly important.



Measuring in situ parameters of water quality

Species at risk

Climate change and human impacts on the environment modify ecosystems and may put Yukon's species and their habitats at risk. The Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement includes funding to help protect federally-listed species at risk and their critical habitat. The funding supports collaboratively developing a management approach for protecting species at risk in the Yukon with Indigenous governments and groups, as well as increasing assessment, monitoring, planning and conservation of species at risk in the Yukon.

Research and monitoring species at risk

In 2025-2026, the Government of Yukon worked with a variety of partners to conduct research and monitoring projects for several species listed under the federal Species at Risk Act. These partners included First Nations, other governments, academia, and the public. Focal species included Little Brown Myotis, Northern Myotis, Wood Bison, Barrenground Caribou, Northern Mountain Caribou, Collared Pikas, Wolverine, and Grizzly Bear.

Little Brown Myotis (Nationally endangered) work in 2025-2026 included collaborating nationally to publish guidelines for handling bats and participating in several national bat expert working groups. Field work included:

- building on long-term datasets of banding bats at core colonies;
- collecting biological samples to test for exposure to white-nose syndrome and contributing to regional studies of genetic connectivity; and
- trailing continental monitoring protocols (NABat) in the Yukon, including examining bat activity near roads.

Analysis of previous data led to a new manuscript on the impact of climate change on body condition across Canada. In addition, work was done with First Nations and other partners to establish bat houses where necessary to protect maternity colonies at risk. Bat viewing and appreciation events for the public were held in Whitehorse and Watson Lake.

Northern Myotis (Nationally Endangered) work in 2025-2026 focused on developing a photographic guide for timber or fuelwood harvesters to help them identify potential bat roost trees. The goal of this work is to increase awareness of the roosting habitat requirements of Northern Myotis and support harvesters in avoiding the removal of important roost sites. By recognizing and retaining these trees, harvesters can play an active role in conserving bat habitat and acting as stewards of boreal forest ecosystems in southeastern Yukon and northeastern British Columbia.

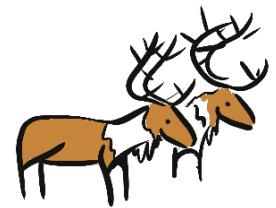


Wood Bison (Nationally Threatened) monitoring in 2025-2026 focused on obtaining revised population estimates for the Aishihik and Nordquist populations, based on mark-resight methodology. A report was produced on the results of Aishihik census. Analysis using available data for the Aishihik population focused on examining factors affecting survival rates and mapping core use areas, whereas that for the Nordquist population was on spatiotemporal patterns in bison-vehicle collisions.

Yukon continued to **co-lead** the National Bison Technical Committee .

Barrenground Caribou (Nationally Threatened) are a focal species at risk for the Government of Yukon and their protection is a priority for the Government of Canada. Yukon's efforts focus on the Porcupine caribou herd, which is the only herd belonging to this Designatable Unit of Barrenground Caribou within the Yukon. Funding was used to develop population models to estimate herd size and annual calf survival, and to develop plain language communications on results of herd monitoring, both of which are critical information for the operation of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) and the Parties to the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement. Funds also supported the initiation of several analyses of fall migration and winter habitat selection that will be integrated into PCMB Conservation Planning and evaluation of community livelihoods and alternate food sources. In addition, funding supported field programs associated with a multi-year summer range ecology project with a host of collaborators. This work is directed by a host of co-management organizations (e.g., PCMB, Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board and community councils) and is feeding directly into management of the herd.

Northern Mountain Caribou (Nationally Special Concern) are a focal species at risk for the Government of Yukon, given both their conservation status and cultural importance. In 2025-2026, Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement funds were used to support the development of updated special products for proposed development reviews and land use planning, and to conduct monitoring work, including fall composition surveys for two herds and the deployment of GPS collars for two herds. This monitoring provides crucial information on the status of Yukon's Northern Mountain caribou herds.



Collared Pika (Nationally Special Concern) work in 2025-2026 focused on ongoing monitoring of over 200 sites in Tombstone and Kusawa territorial parks to track population trends related to climate change. This work is done in conjunction with First Nations and community-based organizations (Friends of Dempster Country).

Analysis completed included (1) a publication of the results of an expert survey on the threats and conservation needs of pikas, and (2) a report on the trends in pika monitoring results across the territory between 2009 and 2025. Public engagement work included (1) a public presentation about pika monitoring trends in Dawson City, and (2) completion of an infographic engaging citizen scientists in reporting pika observations.

Wolverine (Nationally Special Concern) work in 2025-26 focused on two projects: first was continued sampling of carcasses submitted by Yukon trappers which provides information on their health and harvest patterns. This work resulted in further building a dataset on the age-sex composition of harvested animals and papers published on longevity and parasites in Wolverine. The second project was the maintenance of a camera trapping array to monitor occupancy and distribution of Wolverines within lowland river valleys in the Southern Lakes region, where anthropogenic landscape changes (e.g., urbanization, agriculture, forestry) are the greatest in the territory. Data analyses indicated that the sound of mining activity has a larger impact on wolverine distribution than the physical footprint of mining disturbance.



Grizzly Bear (Nationally Special Concern) In 2025–2026, researchers continued long term efforts to assess Grizzly Bear numbers, where they are found, and how they may be affected by human activities.

A new Grizzly Bear density and distribution survey was carried out in the Selwyn Mountains during the summer of 2025. This work builds on similar surveys previously completed in the Klondike Plateau and the Ogilvie Mountains. Images collected during the survey were analyzed in the winter of 2025–2026, and DNA samples collected in the field will be sent for laboratory analysis in 2026. These DNA results will be used in a genetic capture–mark–recapture analysis to estimate population size .

In addition to population surveys, researchers collected soundscape data in the Selwyn Mountains to better understand how industrial activity may affect grizzly bears. Using this information, an artificial intelligence (AI) classifier was developed to automatically detect helicopter overflights in the audio recordings and measure how often they occurred across the study area. This allowed researchers to explore possible relationships between grizzly bear detections and industrial noise. This approach represents a new application of AI technology in Yukon grizzly bear research and provides a tool that can be used for future monitoring of grizzly bears and other wildlife species.

All species at risk research and monitoring conducted in Yukon during 2025-2026, including this work on grizzly bears, was supported through partnerships with First Nations, Renewable Resources Councils, other government agencies, academic researchers, and members of the public.

These collaborations are essential to improving knowledge, supporting responsible land use decisions, and helping ensure the long-term conservation of Yukon's wildlife.

Identifying and protecting species at risk

In 2025-2026, the Government of Yukon and the Government of Canada continued to outline how the respective governments work together to support species at risk conservation under environmental assessment processes as required under Section 79 of the Species at Risk Act. The Government of Yukon also continued to advance development of a streamlined process for species at risk mitigations for project reviews and provided updates to the wildlife key area interim data layer accessible publicly on GeoYukon.

The Government of Yukon continues to actively participate on the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) to provide national status assessments for species of conservation concern and possible listing under the federal Species at Risk Act. In addition, the Yukon Conservation Data Centre continues to provide territorial ranks for hundreds of lesser-known species to the General Status of Wild Species Working Group for inclusion in the next 5-year report by the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council (CESCC).

Government of Yukon staff participated in the development of, or provided jurisdictional reviews for, recovery strategies or management plans for several species listed in the federal Species at Risk Act, as required by the act. In 2025-2026, these included the following species: Wolverine, Grizzly Bear, Canada Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Transverse Lady Beetle, all of which are species of Special Concern, and the endangered Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee. Additionally, the Yukon biologists participated in the development and review of an implementation report for Wood Bison recovery, as required by Section 46 of the federal Species at Risk Act.

Specific to assessing species at risk and their habitats during environmental assessment and review in the Yukon, the top species commented on in 2025-2026 were Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee, Little Brown Bat, Rusty Blackbird, Collared Pika, Spiked Saxifrage and Yukon Podistera. As part of this work, standard mitigation was developed for species at risk in the Yukon. This information provides technical staff guidance for habitat screening of species at risk in the Yukon and highlights the value, threats, mitigations, supporting rationale, additional resources, and cited references for individual species. In addition, technical staff are developing Best Management Practices (BMPs) for five species at risk, including Rusty Blackbird. These will help internal reviewers provide input during pre-project screening for proposed land developments and industrial projects to mitigate potential harm to species and their habitat.

Appendix I: Project Summaries for initiatives funded by the Indigenous-Led Conservation Capacity Fund

White River First Nation (WRFN):

With support from the Yukon government through the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement, the White River First Nation is advancing the establishment of an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) in the ecologically significant Snag/Scottie Creek territory in southwest Yukon. During this reporting period, WRFN completed foundational legal research into Canadian IPCA legislative models and analyzed Scottie Creek's potential designation as a Special Management Area under the Dawson Regional Plan. WRFN also began community engagement preparations and developed initial governance options for the proposed IPCA. This project contributes to shared goals under the Nature Agreement and supports the long-term conservation and Indigenous stewardship within WRFN Traditional Territory, important ecological areas in the Yukon.

Selkirk First Nation (SFN):

A consultant working for Selkirk First Nation attended meetings and workshops to support the co-development of Yukon government's ecological cumulative effects framework. As well, funding was used to conduct a thorough review of cumulative effects literature and assessments, and to initiate development of an SFN cumulative effects strategy, including draft cumulative effects assessment guidelines for resource development proponents operating in SFN Traditional Territory (TT).

The purpose of the wolf monitoring project is to develop a long-term wolf monitoring program within select portions of SFN TT using audio recordings of howls. SFN is concerned about the changes in the abundance and distribution of moose and caribou within their TT. Potential factors causing these changes include habitat changes from wildfires, climate change, licensed hunting, and predation by wolves. This technique, coupled with strategic design of recording sites, can be used to estimate wolf densities and pack sizes, as well as provide coarse measures of home range sizes and movement patterns. SFN is hoping to use this methodology to develop a long-term wolf monitoring program. The first year of field work was completed in March 2026 with 29 audio recording units deployed in the field. Analysis of the recordings preliminary results are expected by fall 2026.

Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN):

The Kwanlin Dün First Nation Community Stewardship Project contributed several conservation and habitat management planning efforts. It supported the approval of the Kusawa Park Management Plan, including the establishment of an implementation committee involving all four Parties to the Plan. The project also contributed to the creation of boundaries for, and designation of, Chasàn Chùà Territorial Park. It allowed KDFN to complete a final Łu Zil Män/Fish Lake Local Area Plan through Yukon wide consultation. Additionally, the project supported critical species at risk work for Northern Mountain Woodland Caribou.

It enabled the first community harvest of a Southern Lakes caribou in three decades, facilitating the reconnection of KDFN people with caribou and their cultural practices of caribou stewardship that have enabled the Recovery of the Southern Lakes Herds. This part of the project connected youth and Elders, and implemented the Caribou Relationship Plan, which has been approved by 9 governments. The project has also supported implementation of the Relationship Plan via the Annual Gathering. Finally, the project allowed the purchase of key capital assets to support KDFN Land Guardianship.

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope):

The Yukon North Slope Conference came on the heels of the creation and signing of the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Traditional Conservation Area Agreement in 2024. Our conference theme (Indigenous Conservation Economies) was chosen in part to support our partners with the Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Working Group and give guidance to the burgeoning Aullaviat/Anguniarvik Guardianship Program through collective learning and networking.

Our goal in seeking funding through the Indigenous-Led Conservation Capacity Fund, and through the above-mentioned work plan activities, was to facilitate representation from every Yukon First Nation. We were fortunate enough to have at least one delegate from 13 of the 14 First Nations. It was important considering our theme to have input from Indigenous groups from across the country, especially those in our back yard, many who have been implementing guardianship programs for many years and had important insights to share with the delegation. Delegates from First Nations were able to bring forward their own lived experiences all while learning from others at more advanced stages of implementation.

First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (FNNND):

Our main goals with this project were: 1) To ensure FNNND has collected, collated, and contributed our knowledge in the most complete and effective format possible for use in the processes leading to protected areas and species at risk conservation; 2) To ensure that the values of NND are clearly identified and reflected; 3) To ensure the processes by which conservation projects proceed are culturally relevant and allow the informed participation by NND citizens; and 4) Ultimately, to ensure that the resulting conservation projects lead to protection of water quality and areas of key ecological importance, and management of human developments throughout the Traditional Territory to levels that do not adversely affect the environment or our relationship with the land.

FNNND used this funding for a number of different specific projects, all aimed at increasing our capacity to participate in conservation planning by increasing our knowledge base and engaging citizens to ensure conservation projects reflect their priorities and cultural values. We conducted intensive interviews and a citizen-wide survey to gather information on where and how people are using the land, and also held focus groups and workshops for citizens. We enlisted the help of technical and legal experts to further prepare us to participate in a regional land use planning process which will lead to the identification of conservation priorities and designation of protected areas. In response to citizens' priorities, we worked with biologists to map wetlands and riparian habitats in the Stewart River watershed planning area and to begin development of a plan for reestablishing access by Chinook salmon (a species at risk of extirpation) to the upper Mayo River watershed. We have established and expanded our monitoring of water quality and acquired support for data management to ensure use of those data for land management decisions. We have also started a process to develop a culturally relevant framework for evaluating cumulative effects of multiple projects on the land and people that we will incorporate into our involvement in environmental assessments and land use planning.

Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (VGFN):

As part of the Indigenous-led Conservation Capacity Fund (ICCF) that VGFN received from the Yukon Government to support our work in creating, expanding, and implementing protected areas, the Natural Resources Department has been working closely with community members to identify ideas to enhance community connections with protected areas and organize programs to bring Citizens into those areas. Through this funding, we were able to create the Lands Technician position to strengthen VGFN's capacity to effectively contribute to processes to accelerate completion of outstanding work on protected areas, review current protected area management priorities, and participate in future protected area planning.

As part of the Lands Technician's professional development, they enrolled in the Vancouver Island University's Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas Planning Advanced Certificate program. Our goal is to encourage our young community members to continue their educational journey and extend our ability to lead management of our land and resources into the future.

Carcross/Tagish First Nation (C/TFN):

How We Walk with the Land and Water is an Indigenous-led land and water relationship planning initiative supporting Carcross/Tagish First Nation, Kwanlin Dün First Nation, and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council in preparing for regional planning. How We Walk is creating a shared First Nations vision for the Southern Lakes, grounded in Indigenous story, law, and knowledge, and supported by western science.

How We Walk is equipping the three Nations with the tools and processes necessary for effective land and water relationship planning. Our focus is on creating practical resources that can be used to ensure planning outcomes align with the needs of the land, water, and all our relations. These tools articulate our values on the land and water (our maps & models; the 'where'), and our ways and laws (our calls-to action; the 'how' and 'why'), forming our shared vision.

Our Calls-to-Action outline our expectations for regional land & water, water relationship planning, and are a translation of the Southern Lakes First Nations traditional ways and laws to a regional planning context explaining 'how' and 'why' we do things in a certain way. They are intended to guide the planning process, direct how the How We Walk maps and modeling tools are used, inform contents of a plan and associated implementation actions, and outline how we work together and share information in a good way.

Liard First Nation (LFN):

Considerable work has been accomplished as LFN moves forward with its IPCA developments. An updated IPCA proposal is being written taking into account the new data and information related to watersheds, caribou herd ranges, past wildfire, other relevant existing or proposed land use planning projects, future wildfire risk, highway and road effect, other human activities, and tenures and authorizations. The above work is continuing through 2026-2028.