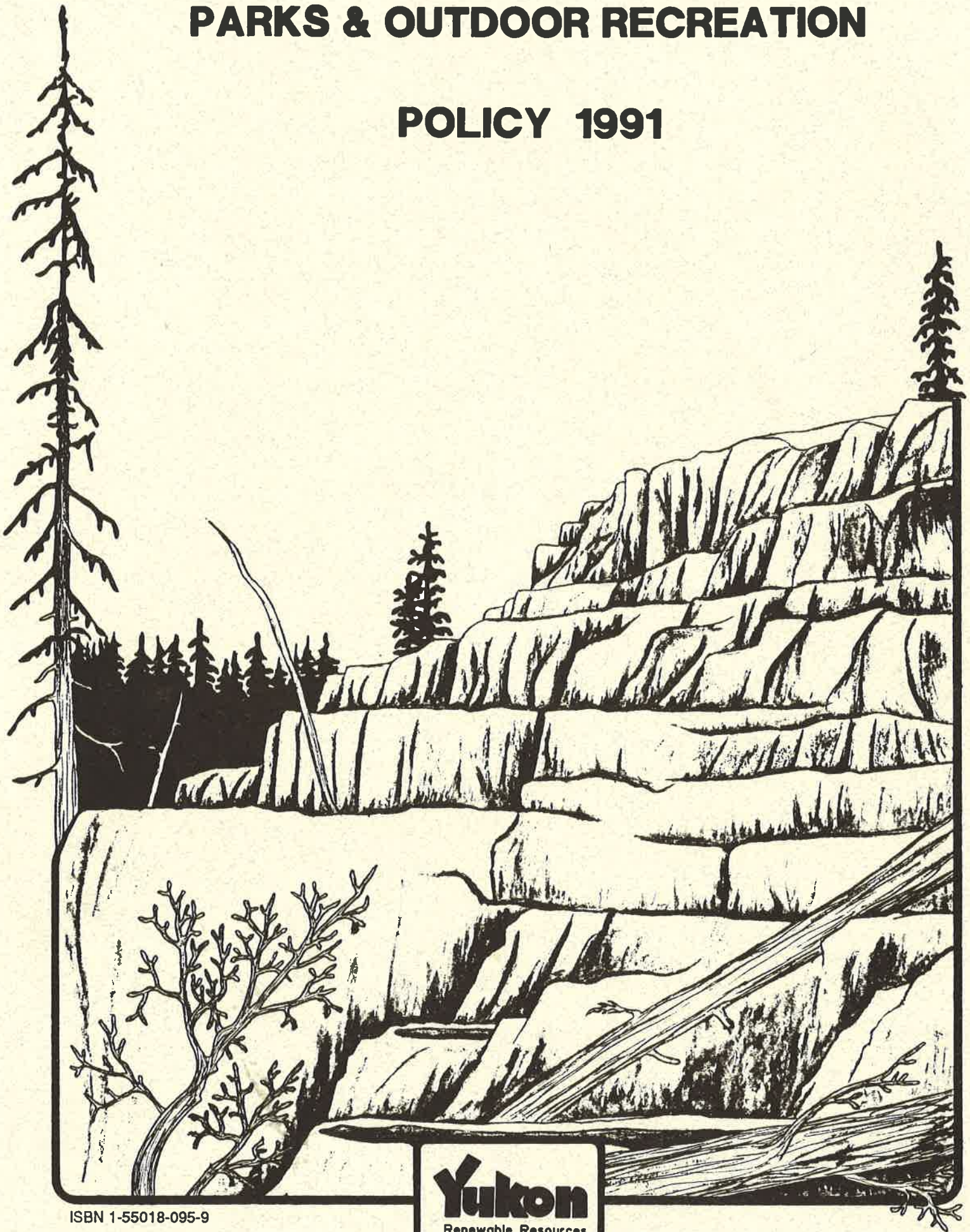


PARKS & OUTDOOR RECREATION

POLICY 1991



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Yukon
Renewable Resources

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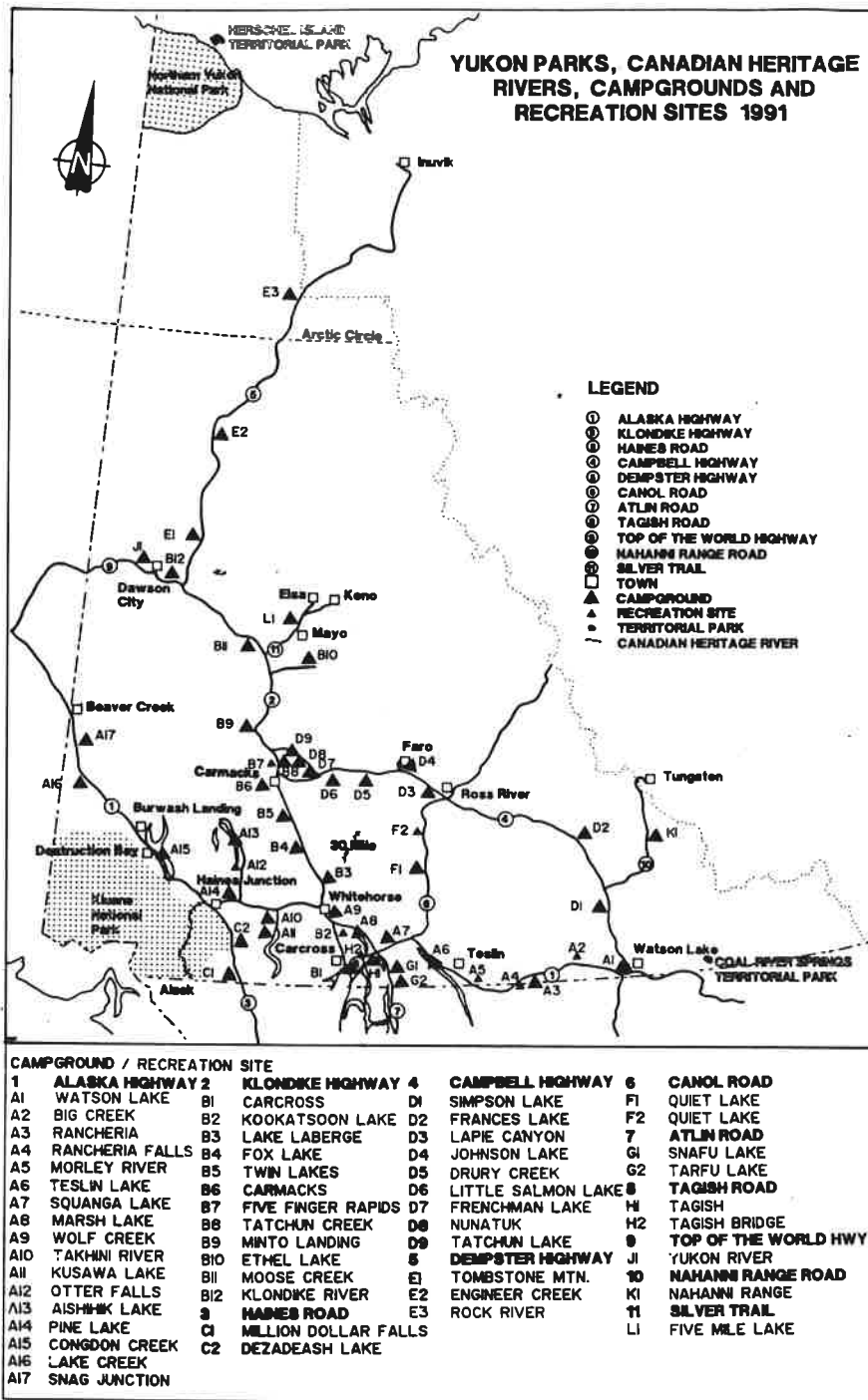
1. SUMMARY

The *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Policy* provides guidelines to establish Yukon parklands. The process for selecting, establishing and managing the various parklands is outlined in this Policy. Three categories of parks are proposed: Ecological Reserves, Natural Environment Parks, and Historic Parks. The Policy identifies four zones that determine how areas within the three types of parks are to be used and managed. The policy will ensure that certain unique and significant features are protected and/or managed in the most appropriate ways. Finally, the Policy sets out the procedures for establishing parks, including the ways in which the public can participate.

This document contains six sections of information about the development of the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Policy (Parks Policy)*.

- Section 1 Introduction, including information about the need for and purpose of the Policy.
- Section 2 Background, with information about the development of the *Parks Policy*.
- Section 3 Goal and Objectives, including an explanation of the specific objectives.
- Section 4 Classification, with a detailed explanation of the park classification system.
- Section 5 Zoning, with a description and explanation of park zoning, and information about how zoning will be applied.
- Section 6 The Process of Classification and Zoning, with information about how the classification and zoning guidelines will be applied.





2. INTRODUCTION

The Yukon is an exceptional land with abundant, diverse natural and historic resources. These resources could easily be misused or destroyed: careful and active management is essential to protect this legacy.

To achieve an adequate level of protection, the Yukon Government needs to identify, select, officially designate and manage areas that are representative of the best examples of the Yukon's natural and historic resources. The Yukon Government will use legislative authority, the Yukon Parks Act, to create this diversified, Yukon-wide system of parklands.

PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

This Parks and Outdoor Recreation Policy provides the guidelines needed to establish various categories of parklands, including parks and outdoor recreation areas. The policy also explains what management practices will be applied within each type of parkland.

BACKGROUND

Over the last 10 years, numerous reports have identified the need to establish a Yukon park system. In each of the reports, there are recommendations for the establishment, development and maintenance of various types of parkland. In 1984, the *Task Force on Northern Conservation* recommended the development of a conservation strategy for northern Canada, including a system of protected areas:

certain limited areas... set aside as part of a comprehensive network of land and water areas subject to special protection.

BACKGROUND REPORTS

- 1984** *Task Force on Northern Conservation*
- 1986** *Select Committee Report on Renewable Resources*
- 1988** *Yukon Economic Strategy*
- 1990** *Yukon Conservation Strategy*
- 1990** *Green Plan and Arctic Environmental Strategy*
- 1991** *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Policy*

The Task Force also outlined specific criteria that the Yukon Government could use in the selection of protected areas. These criteria have been incorporated into the *Parks Policy*.

The Select Committee Report on Renewable Resources (1986) recommended that the Yukon Government develop a policy for parklands and establish a territorial parks system. The committee concluded that:

a policy to establish a territorial parks system would formulate site selection criteria for

parks designation and a range of protection measures appropriate for each. Ideally, a broad range of features, such as unique landscapes, historical and cultural sites, recreation opportunities, etc., should be included in this parks system.

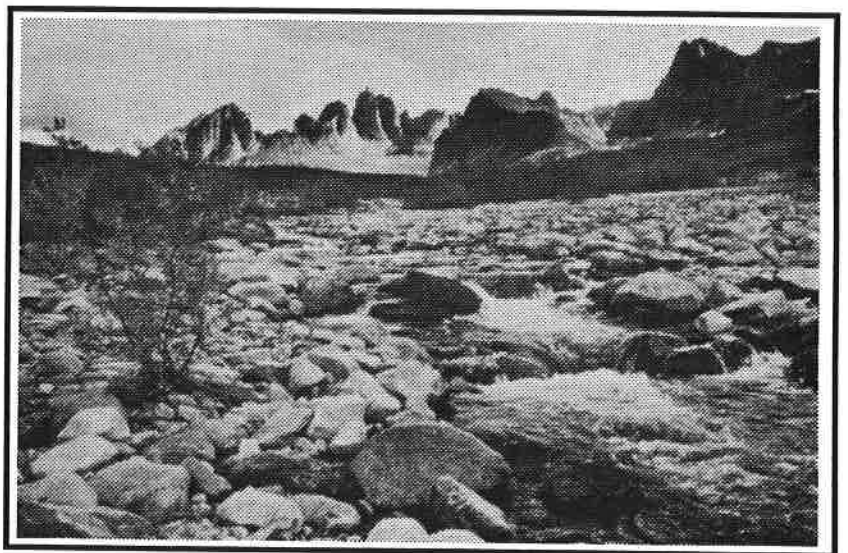
This recommendation provided the impetus to develop the Parks Policy.

More recently, in the *Yukon Conservation Strategy* (1990), the Yukon Government made a commitment to implement a parks and outdoor recreation policy and develop a Yukon parklands system. (With the Strategy, the Yukon Government adopted in principle the *Select Committee Report on Renewable Resources* and the *Task Force on Northern Conservation*.) In addition, as a component of the *Yukon Economic Strategy*, the *Yukon Conservation Strategy* recognizes the economic importance of retaining parkland qualities for their tourism values. The Strategy also complements the federal government's *Green Plan* and companion *Arctic Environmental Strategy*, both of which recommend the delineation of a system of protected areas in northern Canada.

Public support for a territorial parks system is reflected in these and other reports and strategies. The *Parks Policy* is the government's response to that public support.

MANDATE OF THE POLICY

The Department of Renewable Resources, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Section, is responsible for development and management of the Parks Policy. This responsibility is in keeping with the mandate of the Section to plan, develop and operate a system of parklands.



3. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the *Yukon Parks and Outdoor Recreation Policy* is:

To preserve and manage the Yukon's natural, recreational and heritage resources.

In keeping with this goal, the policy has the following objectives:

preservation of representative examples of unique and significant ecosystems and natural features;

conservation of parklands, to provide Yukoners and tourists with a wide range of wilderness and recreational opportunities, by developing parks, campgrounds, heritage rivers, recreation corridors, and outdoor recreation sites; and

management of visitor use in all classes of parkland, to ensure that parklands are well cared for and that visitors have interpretive and educational opportunities related to the natural and /or historic features of the parklands.

PRESERVATION

The objective of preservation has three important components:

- to preserve representative examples of unique and significant Yukon ecosystems and natural features, including special landscape features, rare, endangered or distinctive plants and animals;
- to preserve important and spectacular wilderness areas of the Yukon; and

- to preserve special heritage sites in the Yukon.

LAND CLAIMS

The goals and objectives of the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Policy* will not prejudice the Yukon land claims agreements of the Yukon First Nations, the Inuvialuit or other overlapping claims. The establishment and management of protected areas, along with recreational and educational opportunities, is consistent with the *Yukon Umbrella Final Agreement* and complements several subagreements. In all cases, Yukon First Nations will be consulted about candidate parklands. In some cases, where there is First Nation agreement, parkland selection will precede land claims settlements. The Yukon Government will respect all land claims agreements and the interests of beneficiaries under those agreements.

The Yukon recognizes the need for natural features and biological communities to exist and continue to evolve; the need to maintain essential ecological processes and life support systems; the need to preserve genetic diversity upon which the evolution of our living world depends; and the need to preserve wilderness areas for their inherent values. To meet this commitment, the Yukon will establish a comprehensive resource data base to measure representative ecosystems.

Active monitoring programs will be developed to ensure program success, and that replication is maintained.

The Department of Renewable Resources is required to protect and preserve representative examples of the Yukon's biological, geological, hydrological, and physiological resources. This obligation must, by necessity, include the protection not only of natural landscapes which represent the environmental, biological and physiographic diversity of the territory, but also endangered, unique, rare or distinctive plant or animal resources.

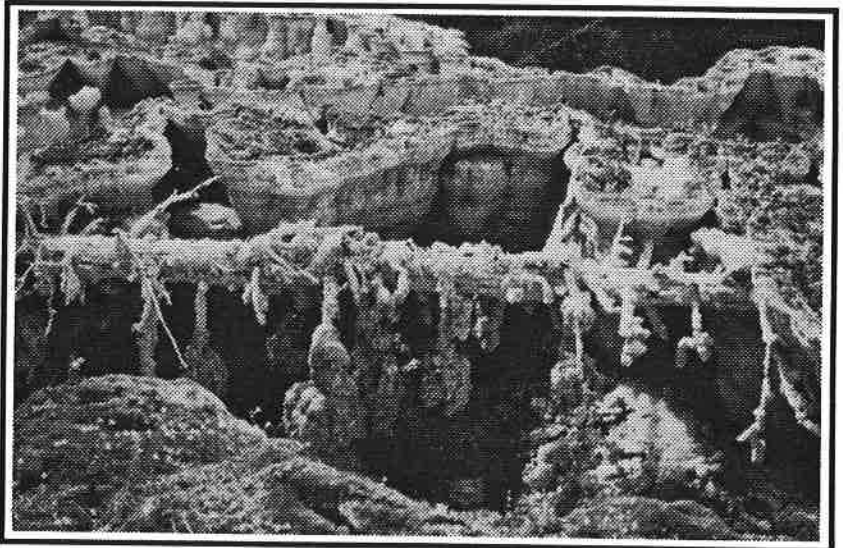
Parks staff will rely on the Fish and Wildlife Branch for their expertise in managing fish and wildlife populations.

In addition, a representative sample of the Yukon's historic resources will be managed within parklands in order to ensure their protection. This will complement initiatives by the private sector, non-profit agencies, and the Heritage Branch of the Department of Tourism. The Heritage Branch will play a lead role in identifying historic sites and serve as an equal partner for heritage resource management and protection within parklands under the authority of the *Yukon Historic Resources Act*.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The success of the government's efforts to undertake the preservation of special heritage sites and representative examples of unique and significant ecosystems and natural features, will be measured by:

- evidence that there has been no further net loss of unique landscapes containing rare or endangered plants and animals, or significant heritage resources;
- the establishment of a system of protected areas in each of the Yukon's natural regions;
- the development of protected heritage resources, in conjunction with the Heritage Branch of the Department of Tourism;
- designation of wildland zones within each natural environment park; and
- achievement of an equitable distribution of program resources between native and non-native heritage resources within the spirit of the Umbrella Final Agreement.



CONSERVATION

The second objective of the Policy, conservation, involves conserving and managing natural and historic resources and features of the Yukon.

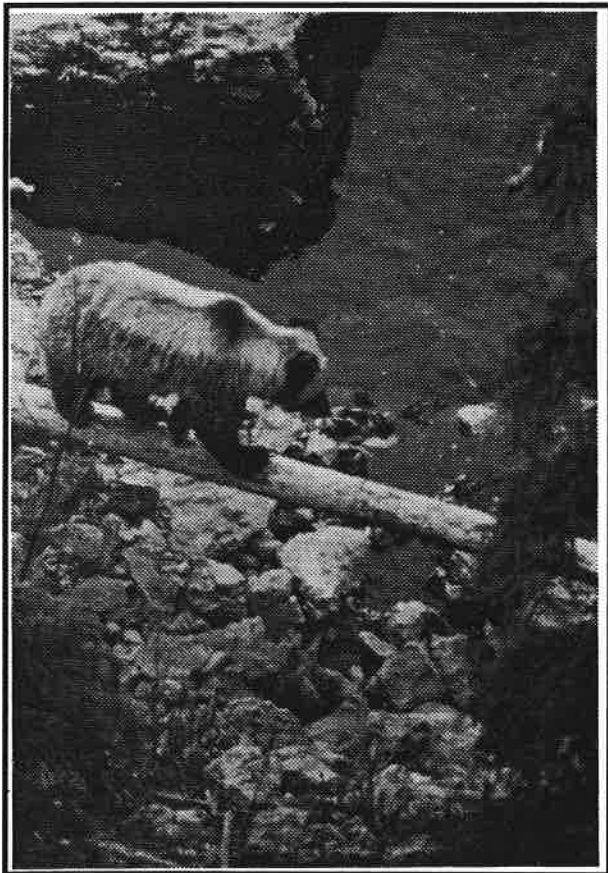
The Yukon Government recognizes the need for various natural and historic resources to be conserved in order to make them available for the use, enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

The Parks and Outdoor Recreation Section of Renewable Resources is committed not only to the total preservation and protection of certain natural and heritage resources, but also to conservation and use of some of those resources. This commitment involves both wise management of the resources and assurances that parkland visitors have safe, enjoyable recreational and educational experiences.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The success of the government's efforts to practice conservation of natural and historic resources will be measured by:

- the development of a comprehensive system of parklands that encourages and accommodates diversified visitor use;
- adequate protection of natural and heritage resources in parklands; and
- the establishment of a monitoring program to ensure visitor use does not affect the resources being protected.



MANAGEMENT

Management of visitor use, the final objective of the policy, has five components:

- to manage visitor use, by identifying, planning, developing and managing a variety of outdoor recreational, educational and scientific opportunities;
- to manage visitor use in a manner that ensures the protection of natural and historic resources;
- to improve opportunities and attractions for tourism;
- to complement private sector business initiatives and ensure that non-government agencies and businesses have a role in parklands;
- to ensure that Yukon parklands contribute to regional economic diversification and development; and
- to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation in Yukon parklands for visitors of all ages and abilities.

The Yukon Government recognizes the diverse leisure needs and expectations of Yukoners and visitors. Outdoor recreational and educational opportunities should be designed to highlight the Yukon's natural and historical values. In addition, recreational opportunities developed in parklands must have very little impact on natural and heritage features. For example, access to trails, waterways, beaches, viewpoints and natural features should be designed so that they cause as little disruption and damage as possible to the surrounding landscape. In other words, recreational and educational facilities and sites will be managed on a sustainable basis.

To complement the objectives of preserving and conserving natural features and historic resources throughout the Yukon, Parks staff will develop and provide on-site and extensive interpretive programs for the various resources in each parkland. The programs will be aimed at improving public understanding of natural and historic values; they may include interpretive talks, audio-visual displays, and guided or self-guided tours. The Parks and Outdoor Recreation Section will work with the Department of Tourism and the Department of Community and Transportation Services on the development of highway rest stops, points-of-interest, and interpretive sites. Interpretive programs will be designed to ensure the adequate protection of the sites involved, and the safety and enjoyment of visitors.



Parklands play a pivotal role in the territorial economy, providing special wilderness experiences and unique heritage opportunities for residents and tourists to enjoy within spectacular landscapes. Effective management of parklands will improve and increase recreational opportunities, thus contributing to tourism in the territory. The Yukon Government recognizes that the Department of Tourism and the private sector can be partners in the promotion and management of parklands. Where appropriate and feasible, the government will involve private and non-profit organizations in the planning and operation of facilities or activities in parklands. In addition, the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Section may contract out certain services related to interpretation, planning, construction, maintenance, and fee collection within parklands.

Non-government organizations and the private sector have an important role to play in a progressive parks system. There will be opportunities for business, for public relations, for environmental monitoring, for fund-raising, and for measuring the success of integrated land management strategies applied outside of parklands. Public commitment to parklands will also contribute to education, science and tourism.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The success of the government's efforts to effectively manage visitor use of parklands will be measured by:

- visitor use satisfaction surveys conducted at regular intervals;
- evidence that parkland resources can be sustained while visitor use is occurring;
- evidence that parkland attractions have adequate protection and that, at the same time, visitors have reasonable access to those attractions;
- an increased number of visitors to Yukon parklands; and a commensurate increase in revenue generation;
- prolonged stays by visitors to Yukon parklands; increased number of vacations in Yukon parklands by Yukoners, and more vacation dollars spent at home by Yukoners;
- evidence that the characteristics and values of the various parklands are retained even with increased use/development;



- an increased number of opportunities for non-government agencies and businesses to provide services and participate in joint ventures within or near Yukon parklands;
- an increase in regional economic development opportunities associated with parklands;
- a decline in visitor complaints and incidents of vandalism;
- an increase in public support for new park creation and an increase in public donations and volunteers; and
- facility design that accommodates the special needs of the aged and physically challenged, and minimizes impediments to their use where appropriate.



4. CLASSIFICATION

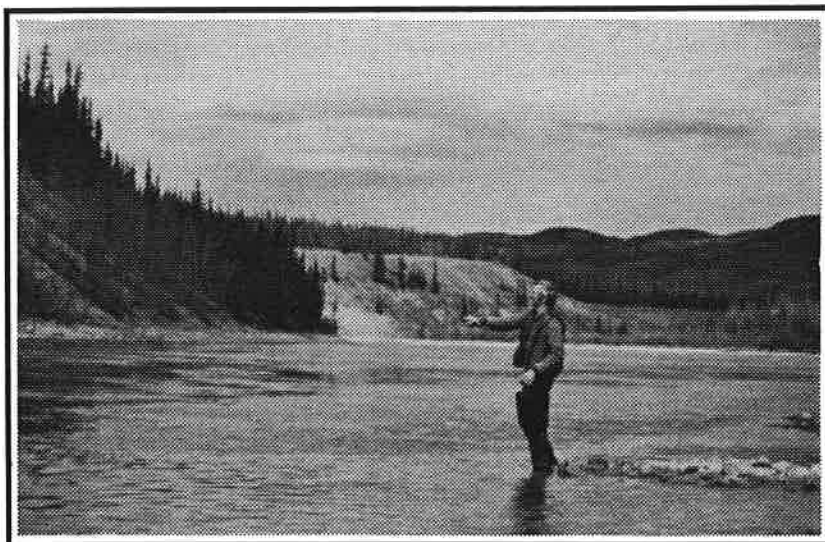
The parkland classification system organizes parklands into broad categories that reflect the goals and objectives of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Policy. The categories also define the role of individual parklands in achieving the goals and objectives. Parklands with similar, recognizable characteristics are grouped within a single category. Thus, the classification system will help the public to understand parklands, and help visitors to know what facilities and resources to expect in a given parkland.

The classification of each parkland is determined by:

- a) the extent to which each parkland meets the various objectives of the Parks Policy;
- b) the extent to which the natural and historic resources of that parkland will be developed for public appreciation; and
- c) the recreational and educational opportunities that will be provided for the public.

The identification and explanation of what uses are permitted or excluded is dealt with in the zoning section (Section 5).

The Yukon's parkland classification system is intended to provide a diverse selection of protected areas and user experiences, over a wide variety of natural landscapes. The parklands spectrum ranges from strictly protected ecological reserves to sites with developed outdoor recreational facilities.



THE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The parkland classifications are based on the type of resources and facilities that the public can expect. They provide guidelines for parkland development and management. The classification system organizes parklands into four broad categories and nine sub-categories.

TERRITORIAL PARKS

- Ecological Reserves
- Natural Environment Parks
- Historic Parks

CAMPGROUNDS

- Destination Campgrounds
- Highway Campgrounds
- Backcountry Campgrounds

CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVERS & RECREATION CORRIDORS

- Canadian Heritage Rivers
- Recreation Corridors

OUTDOOR RECREATION SITES

- Recreation Sites

Each parkland shares with others in the same sub-category certain characteristics which are immediately recognizable. For example, Ecological Reserves are created to preserve unique and possibly fragile features; consequently, in all such parks, facilities will be limited or non-existent, to allow special features to be preserved in their original state. In addition, all sub-categories will have certain characteristics that are common to the broad category to which they belong. For example, all territorial parks, whether they are Ecological Reserves, Natural Environment Parks or Historic Parks, will be developed with the objective of protecting areas of Yukon significance. Figure one shows the relationship between the objectives of the policy and the various parkland categories and sub-categories.

Selection criteria for each parkland category and sub-category will be detailed in four official system plans. The objectives outlined in the Parks Policy will be reflected in the criteria set for each sub-category. Each of the sub-categories will address one or more of the policy's objectives.

In some sub-categories, preservation will be the only objective; in others, there will be some preservation, along with some recreation and/or education; and still others will feature only recreation.

In principle, the Yukon Government will not develop or operate parklands within community boundaries. Existing facilities will be transferred to municipal jurisdictions on request. Parks staff may provide technical assistance to municipal parkland projects and joint ventures will be considered where projects are of territorial interest.

FIGURE 1 Parkland Classification & Objectives

OBJECTIVES				
Recreation	Recreation & Conservation	Conservation	Conservation & Preservation	Preservation
ALL CAMPGROUNDS				
RECREATION SITES				
	RECREATION CORRIDORS			
		CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVERS		
	NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS			
			HISTORIC PARKS	
				ECOLOGICAL RESERVE

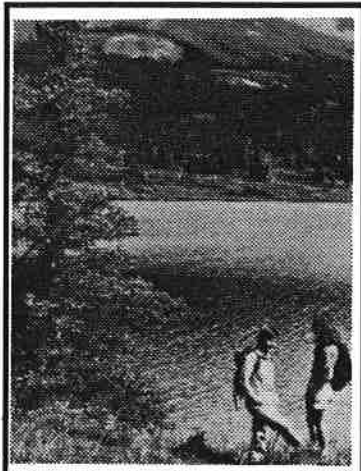
Territorial Parks

Three sub-categories of Yukon parks have been created to preserve natural and heritage areas which have the greatest significance for the territory.



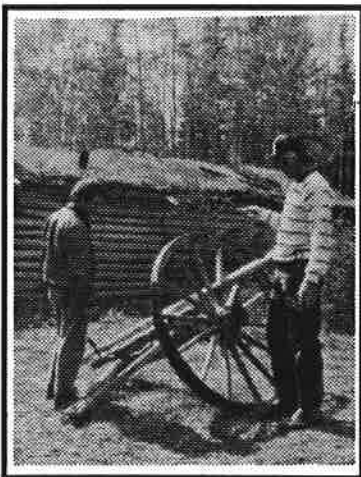
ECOLOGICAL RESERVES

Ecological reserves will be established to preserve examples of rare or endangered species, representative examples of natural phenomena, and unique natural features. These reserves will ensure the preservation of genetic diversity.



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PARKS

These parks will protect representative and unique landscapes which display the variety of ecological characteristics and features found in the Yukon's various distinct natural regions. These parks will provide backcountry recreational opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.



HISTORIC PARKS

Historic parks will be designated to protect historic or archaeological resources which have contributed to the Yukon's history.

Campgrounds

Territorial campgrounds provide overnight camping facilities in a variety of natural settings. There are three campground sub-categories.

DESTINATION CAMPGROUNDS

Campgrounds that are:

- a) situated near significant recreational, natural or historical features, and
- b) suitable for extended stays,

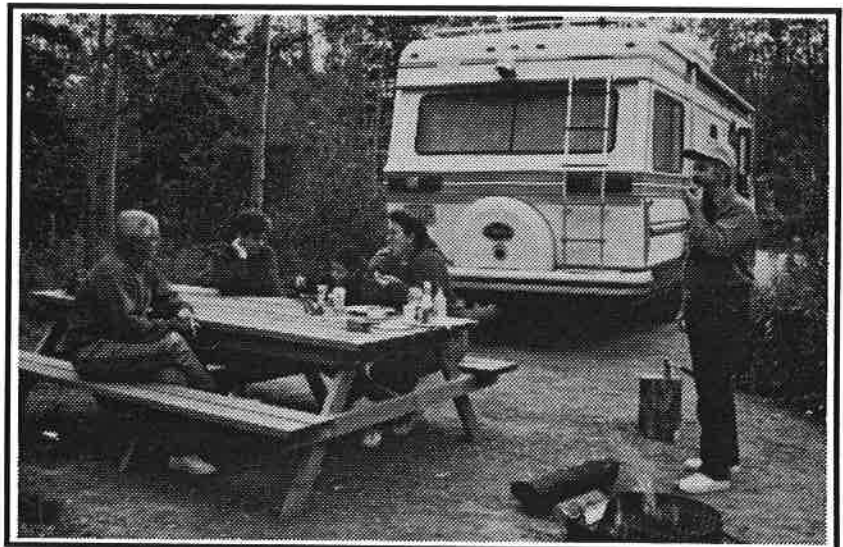
will be designated as Destination Campgrounds. These campgrounds are intended to ensure that visitors have public access to special attractions.

HIGHWAY CAMPGROUNDS

This sub-category includes most campgrounds located along major highways. These campgrounds are designed for the convenience of highway travellers en route to other destinations.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPGROUNDS

Off-highway campgrounds will be developed for the convenience of backcountry travellers. These sites will be suitable for short and long term stays. They will have limited facilities e.g. boat docks, backcountry shelters, but will not be accessible by motor vehicle.

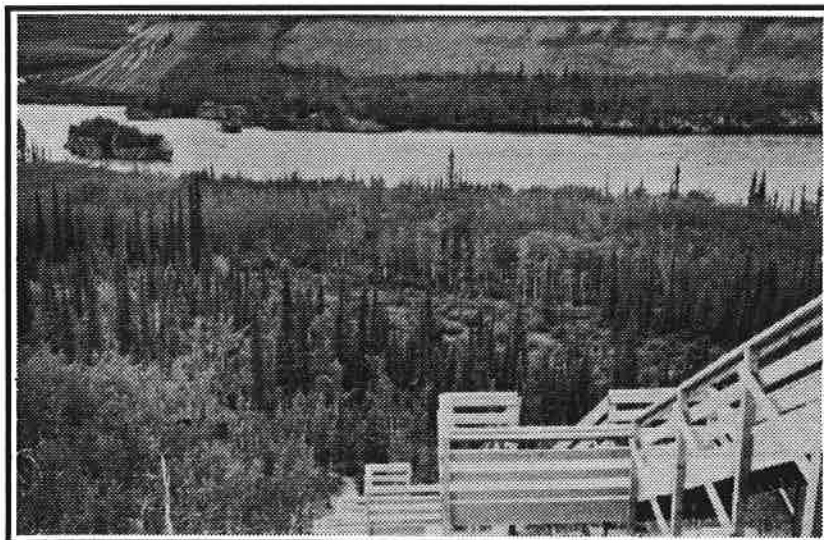


Outdoor Recreation Sites

Outdoor recreation sites are intended to provide a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities in natural settings. These sites will be developed for day-use activities, and overnight accommodation will not be provided.

RECREATION SITES

Recreation sites provide public access to a variety of readily accessible outdoor recreation opportunities at locally and regionally significant sites, including waterfront access points, wildlife interpretive and viewing sites, scenic areas, and other specific outdoor recreational areas. Facilities will be limited to those required to enable visitors to use the site e.g. trails, viewpoints. Recreation sites will have a key role to play in promoting regional tourism plans by adding diversity and recreational opportunities for travellers.



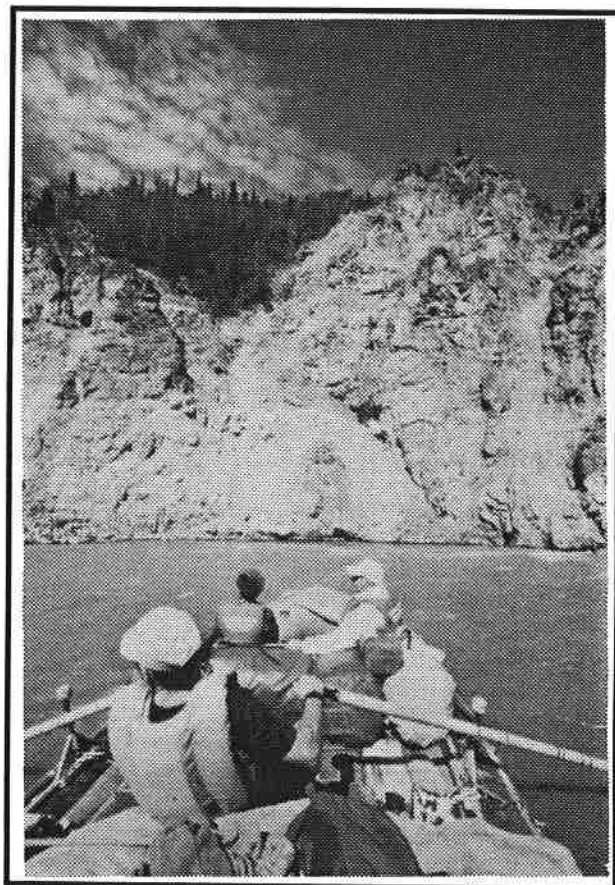
Canadian Heritage Rivers and Recreation Corridors

This category of linear parkland is dedicated to the conservation of the natural heritage, human value and/or recreational values of Yukon rivers and recreation corridors.

The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) is a joint federal-provincial/territorial program to recognize nationally significant rivers. The Thirty-Mile Section of the Yukon River is already designated under this program, for its outstanding human heritage values. For such rivers, the federal government will monitor the water quality. If there are special features along a CHRS river, such as heritage sites, the Yukon Government and/or First Nations would be responsible for those sites. In addition, if a CHRS river fulfils the criteria for one of the Yukon park categories, it may also be officially designated as a park.

Recreation Corridors provide access to outdoor recreational opportunities along roads, rivers and historic or scenic trails that have local, regional or Yukon-wide significance. These corridors will provide a linkage to parklands, recreation attractions, and long distance trails. They will also protect public access to recreational opportunities and features.

Canadian Heritage Rivers and Recreation Corridors will be managed in accordance with plans devised by all affected interests with lands along the corridor. These parties may include federal, territorial or municipal governments, Yukon First Nations or private landowners. All parties will be responsible for managing their portions of the river in the manner agreed to in the corridor management plan.



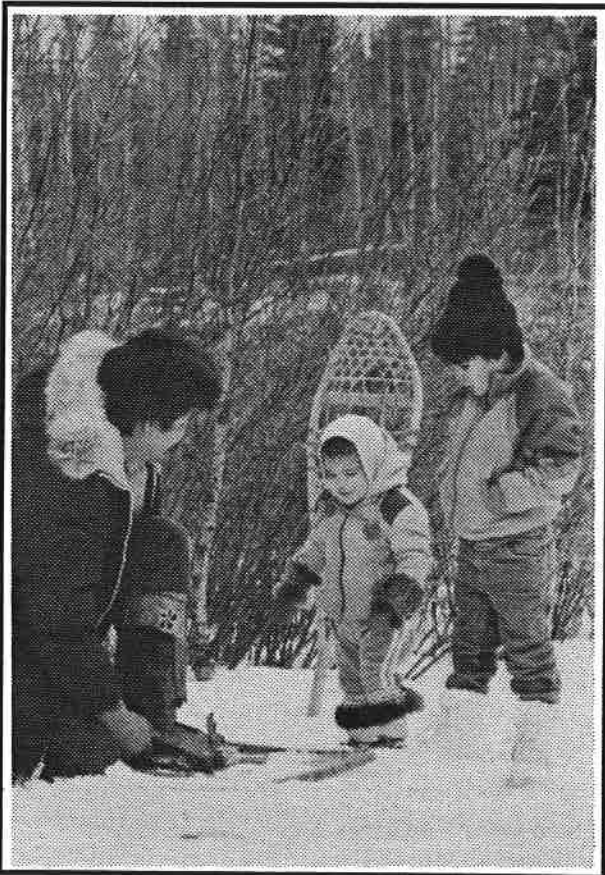
5. THE ZONING OF PARKS

While classification of parklands is based on the essential characteristics of the areas involved, zoning is based on potential uses of the land. Zoning is the simplest and most commonly used method to manage land use within parks. Zoning decisions are based on the significance and vulnerability of the natural, historic and recreational features in the area, and the capability of the land to accommodate use. The primary consideration for zoning will be protection of natural or historic resources. Visitor activities will be a secondary consideration.

Zoning will apply only to the parks category. Campgrounds and recreation sites will, in effect, be managed entirely as multiple use recreation zones. Recreation corridors and heritage rivers will be managed under a variety of land tenures and zoning may not be applicable unless the heritage river is also designated as a park under the *Parks Act*.

Zoning can be used to:

- designate the types of use, access, level of facility development, and level of recreational and educational activity;
- define the extent of management required to protect the resources for which the parkland was created; and
- provide for separation between various recreational activities.



Zoning can also be used to differentiate between categories of parks. For example, most of a Natural Environment Park would be zoned Natural, while most of a Historic Park would be zoned Special Feature. The number and size of zones will be determined during the park management planning process. The park management plan will also identify what monitoring is needed to protect park resources.

The policy on non-recreational use of territorial parks is based on public comments and a review of resource extraction and land use policies in Canada's park systems. The majority of public responses to previous drafts of this policy recommended that parks be dedicated to protection of the natural and historical resources and the provision of recreational opportunities, but not to resource extraction. Commercial resource extraction e.g. forestry, fisheries and mining is prohibited in the majority of Canadian park systems.

The reports cited in Section 2 (Background) variously recommend that Yukoners want to preserve key natural and historical features as Yukon parklands. In addition, the *Yukon*

Conservation Strategy recommends the completion of the Yukon parks system to protect the most important and spectacular wilderness areas of the Yukon.

The objective for territorial parks is to preserve natural and heritage areas which have the greatest significance for the Yukon. Most commercial resource extractive activities are incompatible with this objective for territorial parks.

The following activities are considered to be incompatible with the objective of natural and historic resource protection: quartz and placer mining, oil and gas exploration and development, logging, commercial fishing (including fish farming), water control structures, agriculture, cottaging and commercial fuelwood cutting.

The degree to which recreational and non-recreational multiple use activities and developments can be accommodated in parklands (parks, campgrounds and recreation sites) is determined by the impact that the activity or development will have upon the environment, and legal commitments.

The extent to which other non-recreational activities e.g. trapping, outfitting and associated grazing, guided fishing, resident hunting and fishing and domestic fuelwood cutting can be accommodated in parklands will be determined in the park management plan.

Non-recreational uses and recreational activities for which facilities and infrastructure are required will be limited and restricted to multiple recreation use zones.

Traditional native subsistence rights to harvest for food will continue to be permitted throughout parklands in accordance with the provisions of the land claim settlement unless otherwise limited for conservation or health and safety reasons. Other legal requirements, such as water surveys, will be honoured.

Where proposed public utility corridors traverse territorial parks, their impact on scenic and other park resources will be assessed prior to any development.

Commercial outdoor recreation services and supply operations may be developed in multiple recreation use zones by the Yukon Government and operated on a concession basis. For example, a boat rental service could be developed in a park and then leased to an operator as a concession.

Recreational uses of territorial parks are guided by the following zoning system, and subject to the park management plan, which will determine the number, location and land uses within each zone.

Park management cannot be done in isolation and must consider land uses on adjacent lands. Conversely, parklands must be buffered from the physical, visual and environmental impacts of resource extraction activities located immediately outside parkland boundaries.

THE ZONING SYSTEM

The zoning system will include four zones: Special Feature, Wildland, Natural and Multiple Recreation Use. All zones may not be represented in each park. The type of zones will be determined by the objectives of the parkland classification. For example, in ecological reserves, the number of zones will be limited; while in a natural environment park, all zones may be found (figure 2).

Special Feature

MANAGEMENT FOCUS

To preserve and protect significant natural or historic resources, features or processes, and where appropriate, interpret these features to the public.

ACTIVITIES PERMITTED

Natural and historic appreciation, interpretation, educational services and scientific research.

DEVELOPMENTS PERMITTED

Interpretive and educational facilities and exhibits, including but not limited to trails and displays.

Wildland

MANAGEMENT FOCUS

To preserve an undisturbed natural landscape, and to offer backcountry experiences in a pristine environment.

ACTIVITIES PERMITTED

Wilderness recreation involving non-motorized activities, with controlled access — including hiking, non-mechanized boating, camping, horseback riding, hunting and fishing. Special restrictions may apply to specific sites or during particular periods (a breeding season, for example), to protect habitat and user experience.

FIGURE 2 Parkland Classification & Zoning Example

CLASSIFICATION	PARK ZONES			
	Special Feature	Wildland	Natural	Multiple Rec. Use
Ecological Reserves	✓	✓		
Historic Parks	✓		✓	✓
Natural Environment Parks	✓	✓	✓	✓

DEVELOPMENTS PERMITTED Minimal improvements at designated access points on the periphery, for information, safety and/or interpretation purposes only. No facility development in the interior of the zone; users must be self-sufficient. Aircraft access points and specific restrictions may be identified in the management plan.

Natural

MANAGEMENT FOCUS To conserve a representative regional landscape and to provide for a variety of off-road outdoor recreational and educational activities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

ACTIVITIES PERMITTED Non-motorized land-based activities, including walk-in camping, cross-country skiing, hunting, fishing and horseback riding. Motorized land-based activities will be limited to oversnow vehicles, provided they do not threaten special park resources as identified in the park management plans (e.g. critical winter sheep range, unusual plant associations, etc.). Motorized water-based recreational activities will be permitted.

DEVELOPMENTS PERMITTED Moderately developed facilities, such as foot trails, boat-in campsites, and backcountry shelters.

Multiple Recreation Use

MANAGEMENT FOCUS To provide for a variety of readily-accessible outdoor recreation opportunities that may involve special facilities, such as ski trails, picnic sites, boat ramps, etc.

ACTIVITIES PERMITTED All motorized and/or non-motorized activities, including but not limited to overnight camping, day-use activities, beach activities, nature appreciation, boating, fishing, and oversnow vehicles. Incompatible activities will be spatially separated.

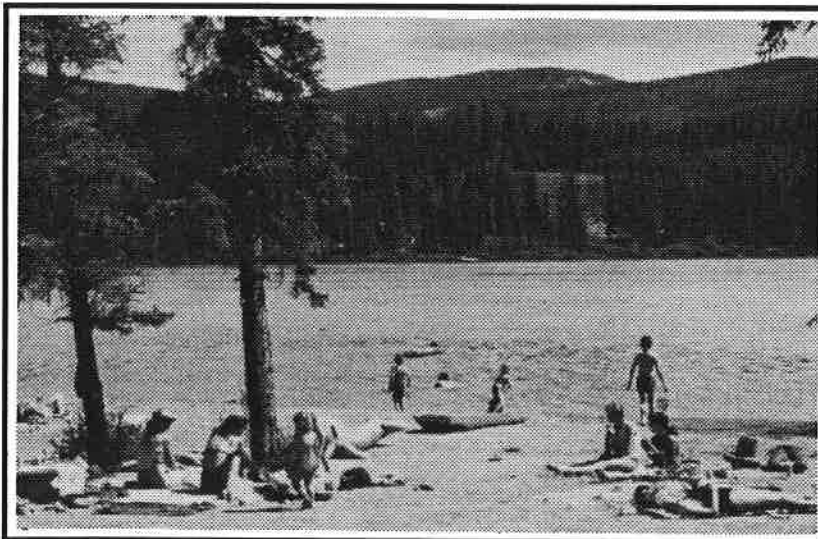
DEVELOPMENTS PERMITTED Facilities will range from intensive day-use facilities, and campground developments at key access points, to less intrusive foot trails and backcountry shelters.

6. PROCESS

The fundamental purpose will be to ensure that the Yukon Government selects parklands most representative of the diverse natural, historic and recreational resources of the territory. To this end, the government will solicit and consider views and opinions from the Yukon public, interest groups, industry and Yukon First Nations, at successive stages in the identification and selection of parklands. The government will provide opportunities to comment on the planning, design, management and operation of the parks and outdoor recreation system. In particular, all draft management plans for parks will receive public review.

The following steps will be followed in the identification, selection, official designation and management of Yukon parklands.

1. Identify potential parklands, using inventories of natural, historic and recreational features, and suggestions from the general public.
2. Evaluate and select parklands on the basis of criteria in the systems plans and inventory information and public input.
3. Conduct an analysis of the renewable and non-renewable resource users that may be affected by the park designation.
4. Prepare park, heritage river and recreation corridor management plans (but not plans for each individual campground or recreation site). These plans will be developed in consultation with user groups and Yukon First Nations.
5. Through public notice, invite public comment on park, Canadian Heritage River and recreation corridor management plans and other parkland proposals (campgrounds, recreation sites).
6. When the management plan is accepted by the appropriate bodies (Y.T.G., First Nation, Inuvialuit, and/or the federal government) the parklands will be officially designated.



Yukon First Nation input will be sought on an ongoing basis:

- a) during individual First Nation final agreement negotiations on land selections;
- b) when planning special management areas under the Umbrella Final Agreement;
- c) where proposed parklands are planned in conjunction with individual First Nations; and
- d) following First Nation final agreements on land within each First Nation traditional area. Input from the Yukon's aboriginal people will be obtained by active First Nation consultation, and by input from local Renewable Resources Councils.

During the initial identification of potential parklands, industry and others with vested interest will be consulted regarding the potential for development of non-parkland related resources (e.g., mineral and forest resources). Other public participation and input will be obtained through public meetings, open houses, literature distribution, questionnaires and any other appropriate means.

Finally, this policy is subject to departmental review within five years after its release.

Further Information

This *Policy* has been developed with the assistance of Yukoners, for the benefit of Yukoners and for the benefit of the natural and historic resources of the territory. The continued participation of Yukoners is essential if the *Policy* is to work.

For further information about the *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Policy*, or the process of parkland classification and zoning, please contact:

Parks and Outdoor Recreation
Department of Renewable Resources
Government of the Yukon
Box 2703,
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6
Phone: (403)667-5648
Fax: (403)668-7823