

FORTY MILE, FORT CUDAHY

AND

FORT CONSTANTINE HISTORIC SITE



MANAGEMENT PLAN

2006

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FORTY MILE, FORT CUDAHY and FORT CONSTANTINE HISTORIC SITE



MANAGEMENT PLAN

We, the undersigned , accept this Plan as a framework for cooperative management of Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site.

Chief
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Hän Nation

Date

Minister of Tourism and Culture
Yukon Government

Date

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FOREWORD

This Management Plan represents the best efforts of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon Governments to meet the requirements, intent and spirit of the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement* and the *Umbrella Final Agreement*. It is meant to provide sound guidance for the cooperative management of the cultural and natural resources at Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site.

This is a comprehensive document but not without limitations and is not written in stone. Though it sets us on course it must be treated as a dynamic work in progress, open to improvement as we discover new opportunities and gain greater experience along the path of its implementation.

The plan respects the principles described in the Final Agreement:

- protection, conservation and interpretation of Heritage Resources at the site.
- recognition and protection of the traditional and current use by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in.
- encouragement of and public awareness of and appreciation for the natural and cultural resources at the site.
and
- provision of reasonable opportunity to the public to visit and appreciate the site

Nothing in this Management Plan will, or is intended to abrogate the rights guaranteed under the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement (Self Government Agreement) or impair the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in inherent right to practice traditional pursuits.

As long as the intent and good will of both governments that went into the development of this plan remains in mind during its implementation, Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site will survive and flourish to exemplify and honour our precious heritage. A heritage to be shared, respected and cared for by all Yukoners.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site Steering Committee would like to thank the many people who have taken time to read and comment on the work while in progress or to attend public forums and provide their feedback. The Management Plan reflects the care and understanding that Yukon residents have for their special places.

Steering Committee Members

A six member Steering Committee consisting of 3 members from the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and 3 members from the Government of Yukon guided the planning process:

Doug Olynyk, Heritage Resources Unit,
Tourism & Culture

Peggy Kormendy, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

Ruth Gotthardt, Heritage Resources Unit,
Tourism & Culture

Georgette McLeod, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

Irene Nagano, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

Afan Jones, Parks Branch, Environment

Jody Beaumont, Heritage Officer, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Bruce Barrett, Heritage Resources Unit, Government of Yukon, have also provided support to the Committee and the consultants.

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This Management Plan was commissioned by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation in partnership with the Yukon Government on behalf of the Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site Steering Committee. The Steering Committee consists of three members of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and three members of the Yukon Government. **The plan is a requirement under Section 3 of Schedule A of Chapter 13 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement.** It is also the first step in the conservation of the heritage resources at Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine.

In this document the shortened term 'Forty Mile' or 'Forty Mile Historic Site' will be used to refer to the entire Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site. When referring to the townsite of Forty Mile itself 'Forty Mile townsite' will be used. Similarly when referring to Fort Cudahy or Fort Constantine they will be named as such. Also the spelling Fortymile is commonly used when referring to the Fortymile River and that usage will be continued in this report.

1.1.1 Statement of Significance

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement, Chapter 13, Section 2.3 of Schedule A requires that Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine be designated as a historic site under the Historic Resources Act, S.Y. 1991, c.8, because of its cultural significance to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and to all people of the Yukon. As part of that process, and as part of registering the site with the Canadian Register of Historic Places, a Statement of Significance has been prepared which describes the core heritage values at the site.

1.1.1.1 Description of Historic Place

The Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site, or simply Forty Mile, is situated on islands and river bank terraces comprising approximately 50 ha at the mouth of the Fortymile River where it enters the Yukon River, near the Alaska border. The site includes a significant material record of late prehistoric use and occupation, overlain by archaeological evidence and collapsed and standing structures from the historic period dating as far back as 1886. Included is evidence of two American trading posts, the Yukon's first North-West Mounted Police post, an Anglican mission and church and a dynamic, mixed community predating the Klondike Gold Rush.

BACKGROUND

1.1.1.2 Heritage Value

The heritage value of Forty Mile is three fold. From antiquity to contact times, native people utilized the site as a caribou interception point and a spring grayling fish camp. The site was also the location where the Hän culture was first exposed to and changed by the full spectrum of European influences. Finally, it was the first substantive non aboriginal settlement in the Yukon, associated with a shift in commercial interests from furs to gold, as well as the establishment of the visible authority of the Canadian government. Canadian sovereignty in the Yukon enabled regulatory control over the Klondike Gold Rush and paved the way for the creation of the Yukon as a distinct territory of Canada.

1.1.1.3 Character Defining Elements

- substantial archaeological evidence of use and occupation of the site going back at least 2300 years
- extensive archaeological remains, standing and collapsed structures and artifacts related to the bustling town site of Forty Mile and the period of first contact between two cultures
- standing remains and archaeological resources related to the operations of the Alaska Commercial Company at Forty Mile
- standing remains and archaeological resources related to the Buxton Mission's ministry to the Hän and the Anglican Church's mission to the miners at Forty Mile
- archaeological resources related to the first North West Mounted Police post in the Yukon at Fort Constantine
- archaeological resources related to the North American Transportation and Trading Company post at Fort Cudahy.
- the position and characteristics of the site on the migratory route of the Fortymile caribou herd permitting it to serve as a base for interception by hunters
- remains of some of the most northernmost agricultural activities
- the healthy riparian ecology of the site which supports rich vegetation and habitat for birds, land animals and fish

1.1.2 The Planning and Public Consultation Process

The Steering Committee was officially formed in January 2000 and first met in July 2000. The Committee's first task was to develop the terms of reference for the Management Plan and to choose the consulting team that would develop it.

The Committee was active in the development of the plan, meeting three times to provide feedback to the consultants. In June 2002, the Committee had an initial meeting with the consulting team, and some Committee members accompanied the team on a site visit. A conference call was held October 11, 2002 to review the contents of the Draft Options Report. On November 14th, the Committee met with the consultants in Dawson City to review updates to the Draft Options Report and discuss potential directions for the Management Plan. In February, they met again in Dawson City to review the Draft Management Plan.

Section 3.4 of Schedule A of Chapter 13 of the Final Agreement requires that the management planning process should include public consultation. In order to facilitate

public input, public meetings were held at two stages in the process. Meetings were held in both Whitehorse and Dawson City. Special presentations were also made to the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in elders in November of 2002 and to the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Council in March, 2003. In addition, newsletters which summarized progress to date were sent to organizations, government departments and residents.

Table 1.1 Summary of Public Consultation Process

Late October, 2002	Newsletter sent to organizations, government department and Dawson City residents
November 13, 2002	Public Meeting and presentations in Whitehorse to review Draft Options report and receive feedback. Meetings advertised by radio, newspaper and newsletter.
November 14, 2002	Public Meeting and presentations in Dawson City to review Draft Options report and receive feedback. Meetings advertised by radio, newspaper and newsletter.
November 15, 2002	Meeting with Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in elders
February, 2003	newsletter sent to mailing list
February 19, 2003	Public Meeting and presentations in Dawson City to review Draft Management Plan and receive feedback. Meetings advertised by radio, newspaper and newsletter.
February 20, 2003	Public Meeting and presentations in Whitehorse to review Draft Management Plan and receive feedback. Meetings advertised by radio, newspaper and newsletter.
March 20, 2003	Teleconference between consultants, Steering Committee and Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Councillors

1.2 THE PLANNING CONTEXT

1.2.1 Location

Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site is located at the confluence of the Fortymile¹ and Yukon Rivers, about forty-five miles downstream from Dawson City. The original town site of Forty Mile lies on a bench on the upstream side of the Fortymile River and the west side of the Yukon River. The site of Fort Constantine is directly across the Fortymile River and Fort Cudahy is approximately two hundred metres downstream on the Yukon from Fort Constantine.

Figure 1.1 on page 4 shows the location of the historic site in its broader geographical context. The site lies near the centre of Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in traditional territory that straddles the Yukon-Alaska border. There are traditional Hän village sites upstream and

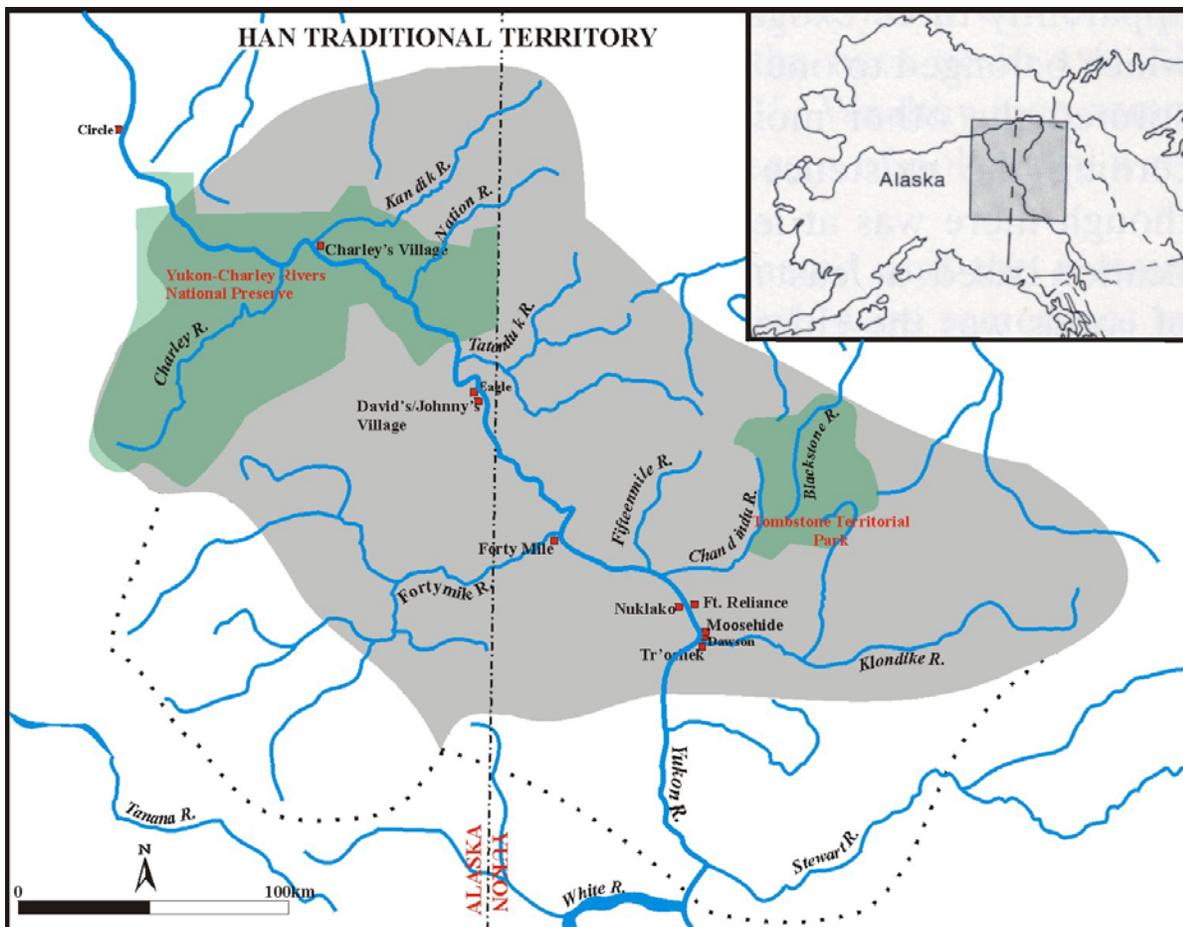
¹ The Fortymile River was named because of its distance from Fort Reliance, an early trading post just downstream from Dawson City.

BACKGROUND

downstream on the Yukon River. Tombstone Park lies to the northeast and Yukon-Charlie Rivers National Preserve lies to the northwest in Alaska.

Figure 1.2 on page 5 shows the traditional site access routes from Dawson City. The site can be accessed by boat from Eagle, Alaska or Dawson City. By vehicle, visitors must travel the Top of the World Highway to the Clinton Creek Road approximately sixty-five kilometres west of Dawson City. The Top of the World highway travels along alpine ‘domes’ that typify the ridge tops in the area and provides spectacular views of the surrounding country. The Clinton Creek Road, after initially climbing around a long ridge, drops down into the valley of the Fortymile River. Shortly before the bridge crossing the Fortymile River, the visitor turns right on a gravel access road that leads to a boat landing on the Yukon River, known locally as the ‘Fish Camp’. The total distance by road from Dawson City is approximately 100 kilometres. From the Fish Camp, it is approximately 1.5 kilometres along a walking trail to the historic site. This walking trail can be blocked seasonally by high water.

Figure 1.1 Location of Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site



After Osgood (1971) and Crow and Obley (1981)

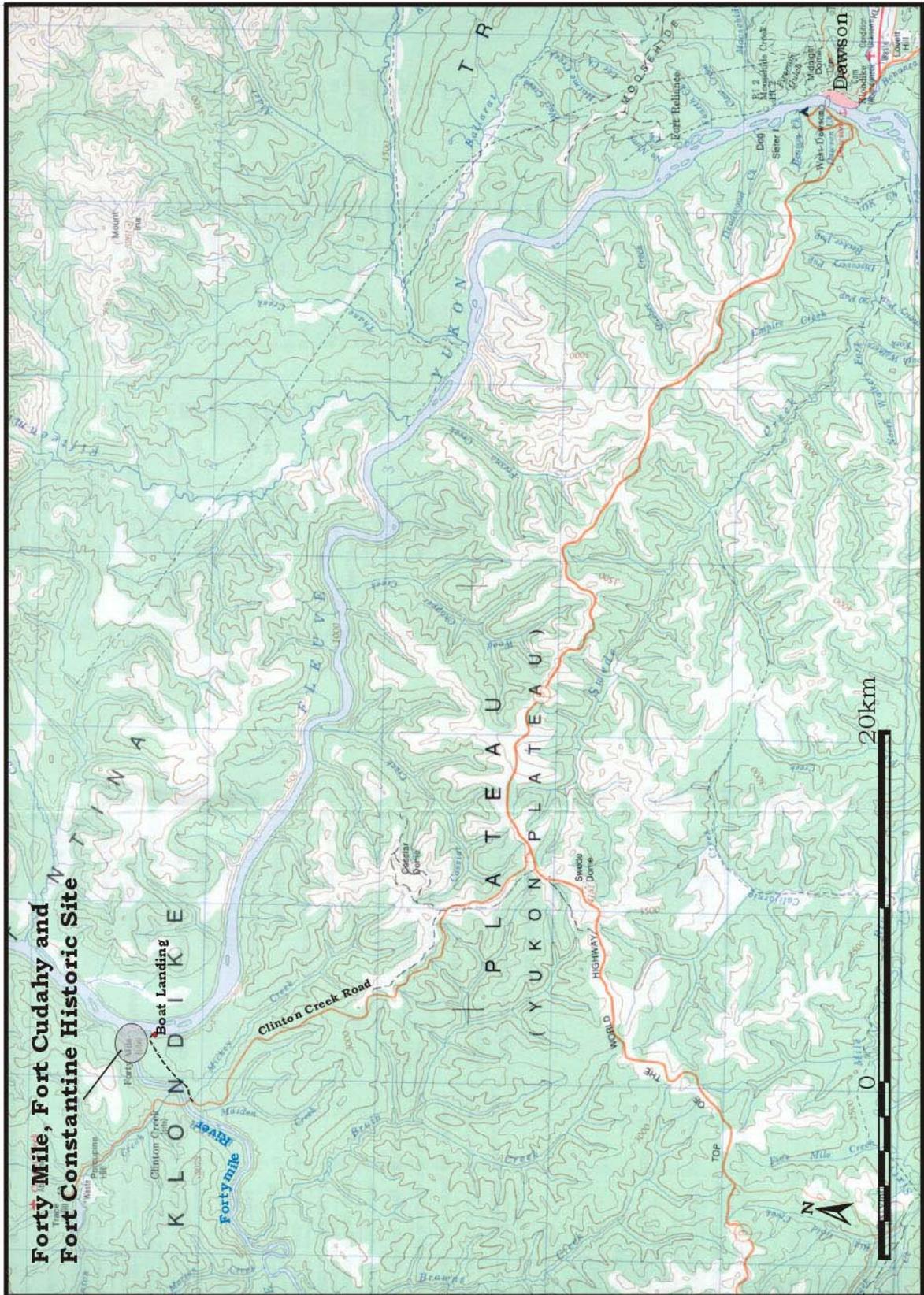


Figure 1.2: Location of Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site.

BACKGROUND

1.2.2 Ecological Setting

The Forty Mile town site falls within the Klondike Ecoregion as defined by Oswald and Senyk (1977) and lies within the Klondike Plateau physiographic subdivision (Bostock 1966). It is within the unglaciated portion of the plateau and the region is characterized by low plateaus (<1220m) dissected by deep, narrow, V-shaped valleys. Vegetation on better drained areas, which lack permafrost, consists of white spruce, aspen, and paper birch. On wetter sites black spruce predominates. Ericaceous shrubs, willow and shrub birch characterize the understory. The mean annual precipitation is approximately 325mm in low level terrain. The mean annual temperature is -5 degrees Centigrade bracketed by extreme winter means in January at -30 degrees Centigrade and summer July means close to 16 degrees Centigrade.

1.2.3 Site Description

Forty Mile, Fort Constantine and Fort Cudahy Historic Site is composed of several distinct physical parts:

- Forty Mile Island, the location of a native encampment dating back at least 2300 years and of the original town site of Forty Mile,
- the area on the west side of the slough which includes more of the surveyed town site, a farm and field and the cemetery,
- Mission Island, the location of the Anglican Church's Buxton Mission and a contact period Hän settlement,
- Fort Constantine, the first NWMP post in the Yukon, located on the north shore of the Fortymile River at its junction with the Yukon River,
- Forty Cudahy located on the west bank of the Yukon River about 200 metres downstream from Fort Constantine.

Figure 1.3 on page 8 is an aerial view of the historic site which shows the gravel access road leading to the Fish Camp on the Yukon River. The locations of Mission Island, the original Forty Mile townsite, the slough which intersects the townsite, the cemetery, and the locations of Forty Cudahy and Fort Constantine are clearly labelled.

Figures 1.4 and 1.5 on page 9 provide a bird's eye view from the ridge to the north of the site showing the location of Fort Cudahy, Fort Constantine and Forty Mile townsite.

1.2.3.1 Forty Mile Island

The Forty Mile townsite is a fairly densely vegetated site, with small swampy areas. At the time of the consultants' site visit remnants of 57 buildings had been found and more were subsequently located. Some are standing; others are in the process of collapsing, or fully collapsed. Most of the standing structures are aligned along the bank of the Yukon River. Building materials and other artifacts are scattered across the site obscured by plant cover such that they could be easily damaged by human activity.

There appears to be five layers of material heritage resources at the site:

- 1) standing structures from the historic townsite and more recent times, including buildings, graves, artifacts, signs, temporary shelters, and a newly installed outhouse,
- 2) building materials visible on the surface of ground, largely consisting of decomposing wood members and sheet metal from the historic townsite,
- 3) building materials and artifacts from the historic townsite just below the surface of the ground or a layer of vegetation, that are not visible and are only noticed once they have been stepped on,
- 4) landforms caused by resources below the surface of the ground, such as fence lines, and building outlines which may include resources from the historic townsite or earlier First Nation occupation,
- 5) archaeological resources at varying depths below the surface representing two distinct cultural groups, First Nation and European, and two distinct time periods, contact and pre-contact.

The Forty Mile townsite is situated on a recent, flat river terrace built up over time from flooding episodes of the Yukon and Fortymile rivers. The site is dissected by an active slough creating a 48-acre island. The major portion of the town site is located on this island and on the western portion of the mainland. Overall, site vegetation is quite dense as well as quite diverse including swampy regions and grassy meadows. Aspen and poplar dominate in the recently cleared areas. Mature white spruce and paper birch occur in locations where historic occupation has not significantly impacted the original vegetation. Stands of black spruce and sedge tussocks occur in wetter portions of the site located along its western margins. Dense thickets of small birch occur at the south end of the townsite. The understory consists of various grasses, willow, rose and high-bush cranberries. The mainland side of the site rises to a higher bench as one moves to the west.

The Forty Mile town site is characterized by several natural processes:

- vegetated areas undisturbed by the historic townsite towards the higher bench,
- vegetated areas that were cleared and have regrown since the decline and abandonment of the townsite,
- areas where vegetation has been removed to support surveying the site and current archaeological investigations,
- lines of trees and brush along the banks of the Yukon River that have been crushed by ice flows,
- soil and silt layers and high water lines set down by repeated flooding of the site.

BACKGROUND

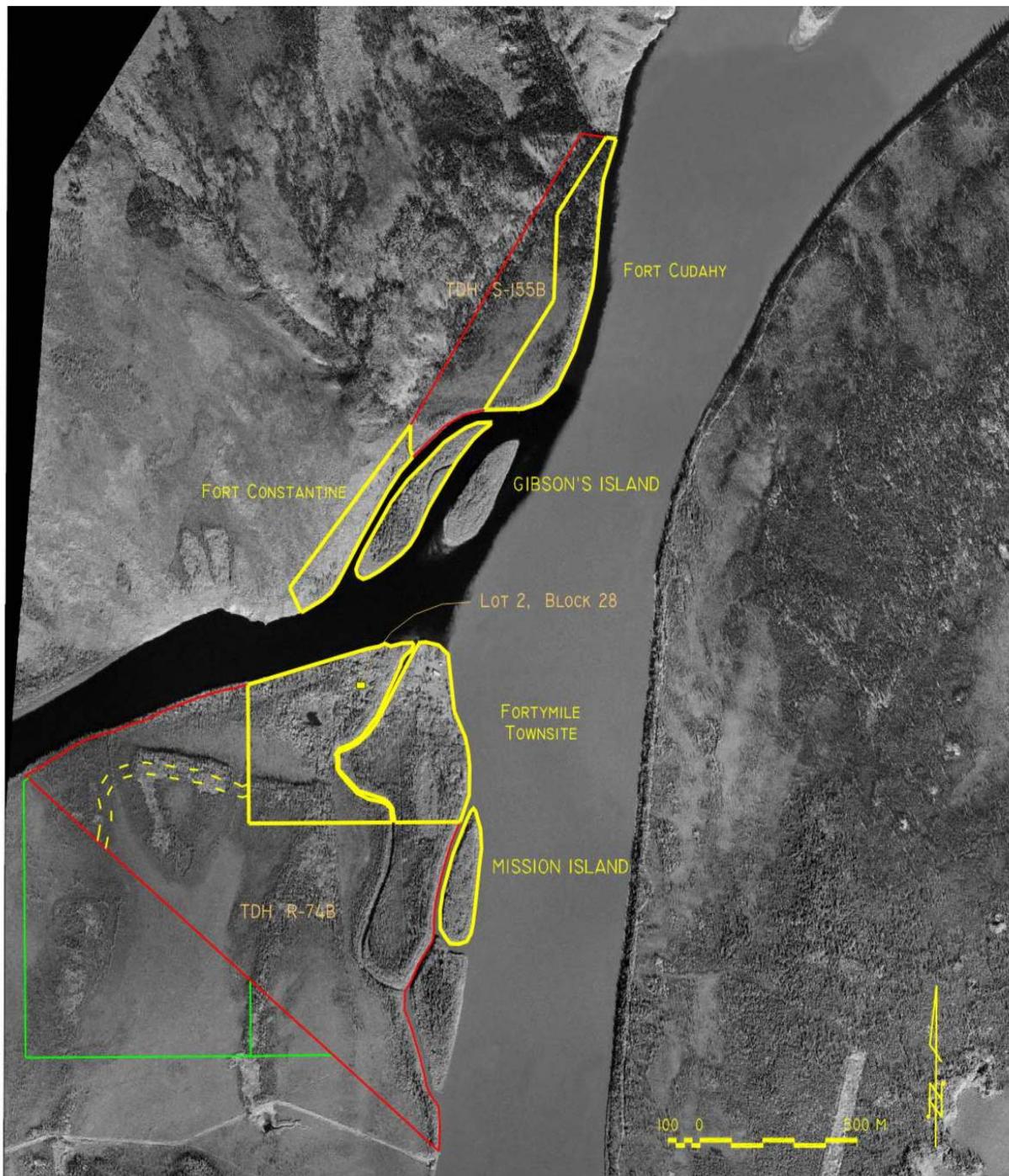


Figure 1.3: Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site

Yellow – Historic Site boundaries, including access easement through Settlement Land

Lot 2, Block 28 indicates one privately owned lot within Forty Mile townsite

Red – Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Settlement Lands

Green – surveyed Canada Lands (now Territorial Lands)

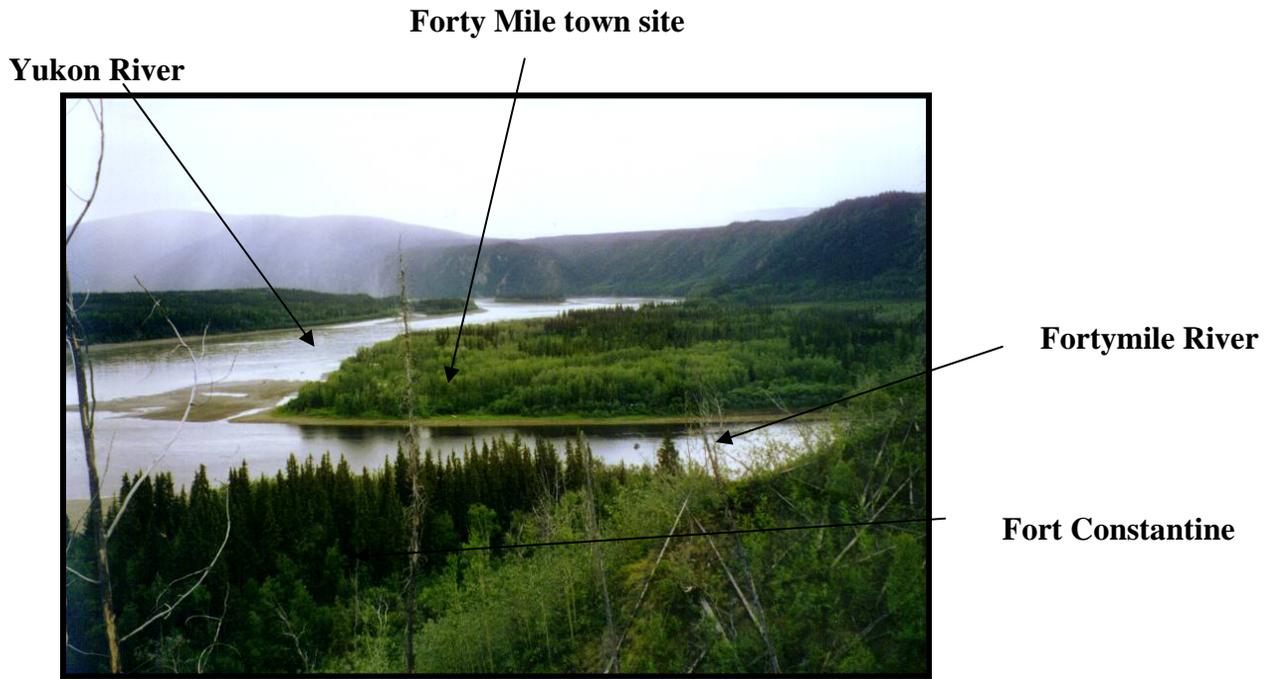


Figure 1.4: Bird's Eye View of Forty Mile Townsite and Fort Constantine, Looking South up the Yukon River



Figure 1.5: Bird's Eye View of Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine, Looking North down the Yukon River

BACKGROUND

1.2.3.2 Area West of the Slough, Farm Area and Cemetery

The vegetation in this area is similar to Forty Mile Island as are the layers of material historic resources that are found there. The area which was used as a field is very wet; historically it was drained by a series of ditches that were revealed during the site survey. The cemetery is located further south on a well drained bench.

1.2.3.3 Mission Island

Mission Island is a more densely vegetated site than the Forty Mile townsite, although the density of vegetation was typical across the site prior to 1998. Mission Island is long and narrow, separated from the townsite by a narrow water channel. At low water, the island can be accessed by foot. No building remnants have been found on the island, although there was evidence of former building locations. Any substantive above-ground evidence has disappeared and natural processes have reclaimed the island.

1.2.3.4 Fort Cudahy

The site is well drained and characterized by spruce with an understory of moss, willow and various shrubs. Its deposits are the result of river deposition of silt likely due to flooding. The site is generally flat, sloping slightly to the Yukon River edge. It is bordered to the north by a creek and then rock bluffs and to the west by a rock ridge.

1.2.3.5 Fort Constantine

This site is poorly drained and grades from dense willow and shrub birch along the river's edge into a swampy area dominated by grass tussocks and willow. The bank of the site is currently undergoing extensive erosion that is responsible for the loss of portions of the site. At the time of the consultants' site visit, a portion of the original palisade that surrounded the Fort was found exposed in the eroding river bank.

1.2.3.6 Contemporary 'Fish Camp'

Although on Canada Lands and not within the historic site boundary, the Fish Camp and boat landing, located where the gravel access road meets the Yukon River, is the primary access to Forty Mile for those arriving by vehicle. At the Fish Camp are various pieces of equipment, oil drums, wood poles and other fishing supplies. Temporary shelters, tents, vehicles and supplies for cooking and accommodation for the archaeological team have also been located at the Fish Camp.

Access to the Forty Mile site is along a foot path leading from the Fish. The trail is approximately 1.5 kilometres long (to the mouth of the Fortymile River) and takes twenty minutes to walk. Supplies and equipment are currently carried into the site along this trail.

1.2.4 Traditional and Historical Use

The human use of the Forty Mile townsite is described fully in *Appendix 1* of the Management Plan. Below is a brief outline sketch of the history of the Forty Mile townsite.

The archaeological evidence to date indicates that the site was in use some 300-500 years ago. It is apparent from the material remains recovered and from traditional land use data that the site functioned as a camp for the local First Nations for:

- spring grayling fishing, and
- interception of caribou as the animals made their way across the Yukon River during their fall migration.

The site of Forty Mile was just one of the many important sites within the Hän traditional territory that enabled the Hän to establish an effective seasonal round.

The site appears to have remained an important spot for First Nations well into the contact period. European goods started to enter the Forty Mile area with the arrival of the Russians along the Alaskan Coast. The extensive trade network established in antiquity provided access to such goods by the Hän. Evidence of the early fur trade is present at Forty Mile in the form of reworked metal items, possibly copper, and trade beads. Dentalium shells attest to the Hän link with the Coastal Tlingit – avid fur traders from the northwest coast.

The establishment of Fort Yukon and Fort Selkirk in the 1840s firmly entrenched the fur trade as a way of life within the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in seasonal round. It was not until the purchase of Alaska by the United States in 1867 that the first trading posts (Alaska Commercial Company) were established within the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional territory. Fort Reliance, which is located approximately 7 kilometres down the Yukon River from Dawson, was the first of these posts, established by Jack McQueston, Arthur Harper and Alfred Mayo. The Forty Mile area remained a gathering spot for the Hän and other neighbouring First Nations where the fur trade as well as other more traditional pursuits ensued.

The purchase of Alaska also signaled the first appearance of the prospector. There were only small numbers at first but as the region became known for its gold this population increased from year to year and exploded during the onset of the Klondike Gold Rush. The first major strike was on the Stewart River in 1885/86. This strike marks a significant event in the economic focus of the territory in that the Alaska Commercial Company (A. C. Co.) moved its post up the Yukon River to the mouth of the Stewart River marking a shift from an emphasis on the fur trade to that of the prospecting trade – trade that would see McQueston's grubstaking policy slowly enable miners to open up the mineral resources of the territory.

In 1886, Harry Madison and Howard Franklin led a party from the Stewart River to prospect the Fortymile River. Twenty-three miles up river they were rewarded with the discovery of the first coarse gold found in the Yukon. On news of this find, the Forty Mile gold rush began.

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McQuesten, Mayo and Harper quickly moved their post to the confluence of the Fortymile and Yukon rivers where a small tent community was growing. The successful miners soon built cabins and established services for the developing gold fields. At its height in 1893/94, the town had a population of approximately 600 people with 80 to 90 log and frame buildings and services that included a barbershop, a theatre and opera house, numerous saloons, a post office (1889) and a telegraph office (1900).

The Anglican Church Missionary Society established itself on a large island to the south of the town site with the construction of Buxton Mission. The Mission was first started in 1887 and completed by Bishop Bompas in 1892. A small group of Hän helped build the Mission and apparently resided on the island during part of the year. This use continued into the early 20th Century. The main focus of the mission in the early years was to minister to the First Nations. The Anglican Church sent RJ Bowen in 1895 to minister to the miners. The mission was closed in 1901 when Bompas moved his base of operations to Caribou Crossing (Carcross), moving the Mission school with him.

The establishment of Fort Cudahy by the North American Trading and Transportation Company across the Fortymile River from the main townsite in 1893 marked the first major competition for the A. C. Co. The so-called Fort consisted of warehouses, stores and a sawmill. It remained in operation until the Klondike Gold Rush began in 1896.

After their initial reconnaissance of the area in 1894, the North West Mounted Police (NWMP) arrived at Forty Mile on July 24th, 1895. Shortly after this and under the supervision of Inspector Constantine, the small group began to erect Fort Constantine approximately 200m south of Fort Cudahy. They shared the same wooden boardwalk with Fort Cudahy. The NWMP Fort consisted of eight structures placed to form a courtyard where regimental exercises would be carried out. The establishment of the Fort was a clear demonstration of Canada's sovereignty over the area and the principal function of the NWMP in the first years was to police the mainly American population.

It was at Forty Mile that many First Nations people were first exposed to the full spectrum of European culture. While this relationship provided some economic opportunities to provide food and services to the miners and the NWMP, it also exposed First Nations peoples to some of the negative influences of European culture.

The town site of Forty Mile survived the 1894 rush to Circle City, Alaska, albeit in a reduced state. It was with the discovery of gold in the Klondike region and the ensuing rush that the town site of Forty Mile was all but abandoned. It experienced a brief revival after the initial excitement of the Klondike Gold Rush but never fully recovered and proceeded into a 50 year decline. During the Klondike Gold Rush, the NWMP Northern Headquarters was moved from Forty Mile to Dawson. The slow erosion of the once robust police presence at Forty Mile demonstrates Forty Mile's decline. In 1901, the Forty Mile detachment was moved from Fort Constantine to a new building next to the St. James' church. In 1910, this building was abandoned and the smaller RNWMP detachment at Forty Mile rented a few cabins. In 1932, the even smaller contingent moved into a single building known as the Roadhouse. In 1938, the then one-man permanent detachment was finally transferred.

Although in decline, the gold diggings did carry on and Forty Mile was a staging point for this activity. The Swanson store provided some services for a number of families that remained to live and work at Forty Mile. Small-scale farming occurred, as did trapping, salmon fishing and wood cutting for the steamers. Forty Mile was also a base of operations for the industrious duo of Pete Anderson and Percy DeWolfe, who in winter hauled freight up to the gold fields. Percy later began to deliver mail between Eagle, Alaska and Dawson City. The Anglican presence at Forty Mile remained until the 1930s.

Settlement Survey Ltd. (1980) provides census information demonstrating the decline of the former town site:

- 1911-population 38;
- 1921-population 23; and in
- 1958-Forty Mile saw its last permanent resident Mr. Bill Couture die.

1.2.5 Current Use

Although accurate figures are not available for site visitation, the guest book in the Caretaker's cabin suggests that approximately 450 to 480 people visit the site during the summer months. The Caretaker also reports that an additional 100 people visit the site during the winter. It is likely that these figures underestimate the site visitation, because the Caretaker reports that when he is on-site and requests visitors to sign the book, numbers are increased. Most visitors arrive by boat.

Most people who visit the site are sightseeing, however, the site is also used by fishers, hunters and American river rafting parties who navigate the Fortymile River in spring. Although it is not an official stop, many participants in the Yukon Quest dog sled race stop at the site. It has also been the site of Canadian Rangers operations and training camps.

1.2.6 Other Planning Processes

A number of other planning initiatives are underway in the region at the same time as the Management Plan for Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site. Two other planning processes currently underway involve heritage sites of importance to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Ultimately, it is the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in who will make decisions about the relationship between these sites.

1.2.6.1 Tr'ochëk

A Management Plan has recently been completed for Tr'ochëk, an important Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in heritage site that has been designated a National Historic Site of Canada. Tr'ochëk was an important encampment for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, especially for salmon fishing, as well as the location of Klondike City during the Klondike Gold Rush.

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1.2.6.2 Tombstone Territorial Park

Tombstone Park is east of Forty Mile and is accessed from the Dempster Highway which runs from Dawson City to Inuvik. A Management Plan for this park has been prepared and is being reviewed by the Government of Yukon and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. The park contains traditional heritage sites of interest to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in as well as historic sites related to servicing the mining history in the Klondike.

1.2.6.3 Fortymile River Watershed Assessment

A watershed assessment is being completed by Environmental Dynamics Inc. of Whitehorse that is assessing the health of the Fortymile River.

1.2.7 Ownership

According to Schedule A, section 2.0, Chapter 13 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site will have fee simple title issued jointly to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Yukon Government as tenants in common. It will be co-owned – neither Settlement Land nor Yukon Land.

Following this spirit and intent the moveable and non-moveable heritage resources at the site will also be co-owned.

According to Schedule A, section 7.0 of Chapter 13 of the Final Agreement the land will be withdrawn from exploration and extraction of minerals and petroleum.

2.0 HERITAGE RESOURCES

Conservation at Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site will include natural and cultural heritage resources. The cultural heritage resources that remain include a collection of building remains, objects, archaeological resources, and landscape modifications.

During June of 2002, the planning team visited the Forty Mile site to assess the condition and significance of the extant resources.

The purpose of assessment was:

- to find and identify natural and cultural heritage resources,
- to determine their relative meaningfulness, significance, and potential role in future site development,
- to identify people and communities with an attachment or interest in the resources,
- to determine priorities for preservation that can be used in making decisions about interpretation, use, and expenditure.

A variety of information sources have been used to identify the heritage resources at Forty Mile, assess the scope of the extant remains, and their condition. Physical resources that are visible above the ground have been investigated through archaeological investigations, on-site visits, photographic records, written records, and local knowledge. Several sources of information were already available for Forty Mile prior to this project, some more detailed than others.

Archaeological investigations at Forty Mile have identified a complex layering of material heritage resources. These resources provide information about First Nation and European use of the site. For the purposes of managing the cultural values at Forty Mile, it is useful to distinguish resources that are evidence of First Nation use of the site prior to European contact from those that are evidence of occupation of the site after European contact.

The natural heritage resources of the site include lush riverine plant communities, fish habitat of the Forty Mile and Yukon Rivers, wildlife, especially caribou, and vistas of the mountains. Evidence of forest succession caused by the intervention of humans, and examples of changes wrought by erosion, flooding and river ice also form part of the resources that could be interpreted.

The following sections describe and assess the cultural and natural heritage resources at Forty Mile and related oral and archival resources. Approaches and priorities for conservation and preservation are discussed in *Sections 3 and 4*.

2.1 IDENTIFICATION OF RISKS

The conservation of natural and cultural heritage resources requires an understanding of the factors that could negatively affect the long-term survival of the resources. Following is a summary of the processes and activities contributing to the degradation of the heritage resources at the site.

2.1.1 Climate

The severity of the climate, particularly in winter, is contributing to the deterioration of the built heritage resources at Forty Mile. Both the weight of the snow that accumulates each year, and the length of time it remains on the structures are major factors contributing to structural collapse. The warmth and humidity of summer is also a contributing factor to organic deterioration.

2.1.2 Fire

Fires, whether caused by humans or lightning storms, are a major threat to the Forty Mile site. Forest fires are virtually an annual occurrence throughout the Yukon River watershed. Very large fires are relatively common. There is also evidence at the site of buildings destroyed by grass fires and campfires. Brush piles from the annual clearing that remain unburned also present a threat.

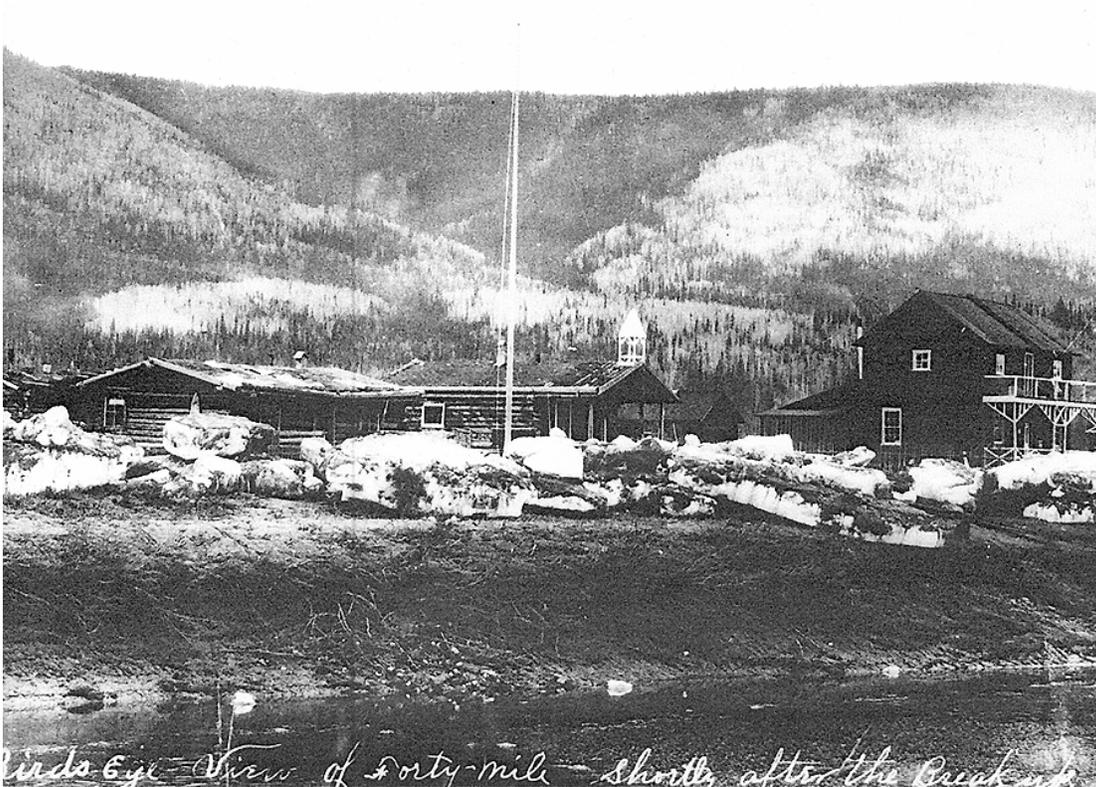
2.1.3 Flooding and Ice Flows

Water levels in the Yukon River fluctuate substantially through the year. In the spring, usually May and June, water levels may rise sufficiently to flood all or part of the Forty Mile townsite. There is photographic evidence that large blocks of ice from the spring break-up may also be carried into the site. Ice jams contribute to flooding all or part of the Forty Mile townsite. Vegetation may be crushed, buildings and structures damaged or floated to new locations. (see *Figure 2.1*, page 17)

2.1.4 Land

Ground moisture levels are an important factor at Forty Mile. The proximity of the Yukon River, and depressions in the ground surface, contribute to a relatively moist ground environment. The conditions are ideal around many building foundations for wood rot. Numerous root cellars have collapsed, destabilizing interior walls of the buildings above. The existence of discontinuous permafrost and the removal of tree cover by human occupation have both contributed to changes in the water table and ground moisture at the site.

**Figure 2.1: Flooding and Ice Flows:
Buildings 12 and 13: N.W.M.P. and St. James Anglican Church**



**View of Forty Mile shortly after breakup showing blocks of ice, circa 1904
S.T. Wood Collection, PAC #C6268**



**Banks of the Yukon River
at Forty Mile showing
vegetation crushed by
blocks of ice, June 2002**

2.1.5 Erosion and Abrasion

The banks of the Yukon River are subject to erosion from high water and abrasion from ice build up, particularly during the spring freshet. There is evidence that the riverbank has moved a substantial distance into the historic townsite at some locations. Similarly, the palisade of Fort Constantine is slowly eroding into the river. (see *Figure 2.2*, page 20)

2.1.6 Human and Animal Interaction

There is some concern about interactions between animals and humans at the site, particularly bears. Although the bear population in the larger area enjoys largely undisturbed habitat, poorly managed garbage may become an attractant. Some game hunting occurs. There may also be potential for Caribou viewing.

2.1.7 Abandoned Mining Facilities

The Clinton Creek Mine, upstream from the Forty Mile site poses a potentially serious threat to water quality on the Fortymile River. Now abandoned, the mine includes a tailings pond containing high levels of contaminants, particularly asbestos. The long term stability of the dam holding back the pond is in doubt. In the event of a cataclysmic release, the damage to water quality and fish habitat in the Fortymile River could be extensive.²

2.1.8 Fragility

Virtually all of the standing buildings at Forty Mile are in the process of collapse, which will accelerate with time. Many of the historic structures are already collapsed, and lying on or below the ground. The townsite as a whole is therefore a cultural heritage resource in fragile condition.

2.1.9 Use by Local Residents

The site is visited or used by regional residents. It is important that they are informed about the requirements for protection of the site. Knowledgeable visitors who are at the site regularly can play an important role in monitoring changes in the condition of the natural and cultural heritage resources.

2.1.10 Visitor Use

The site is also visited by travellers, who arrive by boat or by vehicle at the nearby Fish Camp. For the time being, use by outsiders should not be encouraged until site recording and protection measures are completed. Nonetheless, visitation should be expected to increase as more people become aware of the site.

Trails used by visitors are currently impacting former building outlines and artifact clusters. More visitors means greater risks to the resources and increased conservation and maintenance costs. River travellers are passing the site frequently in June and July. Operators of motorized boats, like the Yukon Queen, need to adjust their speed to prevent increased erosion from their wake. Large groups of rafters visiting the site under uncontrolled circumstances can also pose a threat.

² Rick Janowicz, DIAND, personal communication, August, 2002.

2.1.11 Displacement of Artifacts

Visitors also displace artifacts from their contexts and move them to what they believe to be a safer habitat (i.e., the accumulation of artifacts within the Warehouse/Machine shop forming a cluster not necessarily representative of function). Accidental and/or deliberate movement of *in situ* artifacts is a danger in two respects:

- 1) the slow dispersal of meaningful clusters,
- 2) the formation of new groups of artifacts out of their context.

2.1.12 Scavenging and Vandalism

Since its inception, materials from Forty Mile have been removed for reuse elsewhere, or for firewood. This practice has continued up to quite recently. Wanton damage of the sites or graffiti can greatly reduce the meaningfulness of the resources.

2.1.13 Unauthorized Removals

Pieces of the site that are removed by amateur collectors or unauthorized removal of archaeological artifacts is an irretrievable loss to the integrity of the site. Anything removed from the site should be properly documented and stored in a location where it can be easily retrieved.

During the survey of the site it was apparent that subsurface probes have been made by avocational and professional collectors. The most disturbing example of looting is evidenced by the attrition of FMRD-22 which was once a bottle cache, containing some 600-700 bottles, but now consists of numerous broken bottle fragments and a gaping hole in the ground.

2.1.14 Earthquake

The location of the historic site in the Tintina Trench, an active fault area, makes large earthquakes a reality. Although log buildings in good condition are relatively earthquake resistant, buildings of two or more stories are at risk, as are frame structures.

2.1.15 Animals

In November of 2002, the Fortymile Caribou Herd resumed a historic migration pattern down the Fortymile and across the Yukon. It is not known if any animals passed through the historic site. It is possible that these animals may return via this route in April. The risk of damage to the site by caribou migration is low, as it occurs at times when there is snow cover and the ground is frozen.

Other animals such as moose, bear or porcupine may from time to time damage resources, however, it is likely that damage would be minimal.

Figure 2.2: Erosion and Abrasion



**Fort Constantine: Remains of Palisade
exposed due to erosion of the river bank,
June 2002**



**Forty Mile Townsite: Eroding shoreline along Yukon River,
June 2002**

2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Archaeological resources may include:

- the material remains left behind by previous inhabitants from which behaviour of such groups may be inferred,
- archaeological resources that may be thousands of years old, hundreds of years old or relatively recent
- resources that are portable items manufactured by humans or artifacts like stone scrapers, bone points, trade beads, steel axe heads, even a prospectors steel drill bit,
- artifacts in groups that form clusters and/or features which include buildings, middens containing bones and refuse, fire pits, or caches,
- other types of features including human altered landscapes such as farmers fields, drainage ditches or excavated cache pits,
- evidence of natural events such as changes in soil composition or layering due to floods, change in environmental regimes or volcanic eruptions, that help us understand human behaviour and provide useful archaeological timelines.

Archaeological investigations sponsored by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon Government have occurred at Forty Mile over five field seasons up to 2002. The purpose and objectives of the investigations were threefold:

- 1) to conduct a systematic archaeological survey of the site to locate, identify and map structural remains, building outlines, artifacts and other heritage resources related to the historic period occupations at Forty Mile, Mission Island, Fort Constantine and Fort Cudahy (the Historic Site of Forty Mile);
- 2) to conduct a systematic archaeological testing program to locate, assess and determine the extent of the First Nation occupation of the site;
- 3) to create a heritage inventory map for the historic site of Forty Mile.

The excavations carried out at Forty Mile to date demonstrate that the First Nation occupation of the site spans a period of time dwarfing that associated with the non-First Nation settlement of the Forty Mile. The preliminary excavations carried out so far reveal the high potential for the recovery of significant material remains associated not only with the post-contact Han occupation but also with the pre-contact use of the site.

The mapping activities carried out at the site to date conclude the survey and mapping of the Forty Mile townsite and Mission Island. Fort Constantine and Fort Cudahy, due to logistical complexities were only preliminarily mapped by a hand held GPS during the 1999 field season. A total of 17 features were mapped on Mission Island including two former building locations and seven possible former Han dwellings. A total of 357 features and/or artifacts were mapped on the Forty Mile town site during the 2000 and 2001 seasons (see *Table 2.1*, page 22 for features and counts as of 2002).

In the summer of 2002, an archaeological survey identified and mapped heritage resources in the areas of the townsite west of the slough. This survey, along with a further survey of Mission Island in 2002, significantly added to the feature count and mapping. It is estimated

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that an additional 150 features and/or artifacts will be added to the Forty Mile site map. Included in this data is one extant building identified as a farmhouse, a collapsed structure identified as a barn, the grave yard, a number of building depressions and the remains of what has been preliminarily identified as a barge or dredge.

Table 2.1: Designation key and counts of feature types identified and mapped at Forty Mile during the 2000 and 2001 investigations representing the completion of Forty Mile Island and a preliminary assessment of Mission Island (Hammer 2001, 2002: 21).

FORTY MILE HERITAGE SITE MAPPED FEATURES					
Feature Type	Description	2000 Count	2001 Count	2002 Count	Total Count
Forty Mile Mapped Features					
FMA	Forty Mile Artifact (single artifact)	84	41	66	191
FMAC	Forty Mile Artifact Cluster (more than one artifact)	28	24	22	74
FMB	Forty Mile Berm Line (not associated with a former structure)	11	5	0	16
FMBCD	Forty Mile Building Cellar Depression (no associated berm)	3	8	3	14
FMBO	Forty Mile Building Outline (with or without a cellar depression)	16	14	13	43
FMCB	Forty Mile Collapsed Building	1	3	2	6
FMCD	Forty Mile Circular Depression	28	22	3	53
FMEB	Forty Mile Extant Building	6	6	1	13
FMLD	Forty Mile Linear Depression	3	4	17	24
FMLR	Forty Mile Linear Rise	1	0	0	1
FMRD	Forty Mile Rectangular Depression	20	26	18	64
FMRECR	Forty Mile Rectangular Rise	1	0	0	1
FMCM	Forty Mile Circular Mound	0	1	0	1
FMGR	Forty Mile Grave	0	1	50	51
TOTAL		202	155	195	552
Mission Island Mapped Features					
MIA	Mission Island Artifact	0	1	0	1
MIAC	Mission Island Artifact Cluster	0	1	0	1
MIBO	Mission Island Building Outline	0	2	0	2
MIBCD	Mission Island Building Cellar Depression	0	1	0	1
MIRD	Mission Island Rectangular Depression	0	6	4	10
MICD	Mission Island Circular Depression	0	4	0	4
TOTAL		0	15	4	19

Table 2.1: continued

Fort Constantine Mapped Features					
FCA	Fort Constantine Artifact	5			5
FCAC	Fort Constantine Artifact Cluster	1			1
FCBO	Fort Constantine Building Outline	3			3
FCRD	Fort Constantine Rectangular Depression	1			1
Total		10			10
Fort Cudahy Mapped Features					
FCDAC	Fort Cudahy Artifact Cluster	3			3
FCDBO	Fort Cudahy Building Outline	2			2
BCDCD	Forty Cudahy Building Cellar Depression	4			5
FCDRD	Fort Cudahy Rectangular Depression	2			2
Total		12			12
GRAND TOTAL					593

A total of ten features were identified and plotted during the surface survey of the Fort Constantine area and 12 were documented at the site of Fort Cudahy (Hammer 2000). It was difficult to differentiate the natural depressions (swamp sink holes) from anthropogenic depressions at Fort Constantine. The depressions positively identified as historic in origin were extensively disturbed due to freeze/thaw activity. Fort Cudahy, however, although located on the same river terrace but further north, is better drained. As a result, the features identified are much more intact and the potential for undisturbed archaeological deposits is much higher than that of Fort Constantine and can be considered comparable to that of the townsite of Forty Mile (Hammer 2000: 9). As noted by Hammer (2000) a more intensive survey of these two sites would likely result in the documentation of more heritage resources.

During the summer of 2001 seven former building locations, represented by berm outlines, cellar depression and/or raised areas were subjected to archaeological testing. The results of this testing indicate that in most cases, especially those with berm outlines, foundation information remains in the form of sill logs and floor joists in a subsurface context (Hammer 2002).

Over the course of the five field seasons, the townsite of Forty Mile was subjected to subsurface testing in search of the physical traces of First Nation occupation of the site. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in elders identified this spot as a grayling fishing spot and caribou interception point. The Fortymile and Yukon River shorelines were shovel tested in two lines every 20-30m. As a result of this testing, a substantial occupation was identified at the tip of Forty Mile Island or that portion of the site where the Yukon and Fortymile Rivers meet. Testing and previous work indicate that scattered evidence in the form of lithic material is present along the Yukon River shoreline from the tip to the Royal North-West Mounted Police building. More intensive testing of these areas will likely identify further substantive First Nation occupations.

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Formal excavations were carried out in 1999 and 2001 (see Hammer 2000 and 2002 for a detailed account of the material culture and stratigraphic analysis). Results from these excavations indicate at least two occupational periods spanning the last 500 years. In pre-contact times (pre-1840s) three large fire pits (two of which have been radio-carbon dated at 300-500 years ago) associated with a bone point, stone end scrapers, and stone flakes as well as faunal remains including caribou and fish have been recovered.

The post-contact Hän occupation appears to be present not only at the tip of Forty Mile Island but also on Mission Island. However, further work is required to determine the nature and extent of the latter locality. The post-contact Hän occupation pre-dates and is contemporaneous with the non First Nation occupation of the site. A variety of material culture and features have been documented associated with this span of time, including two pit features that appear to have first been used as caches and later as refuse areas. Although these features have an extremely complex life history, the wealth of material culture contained within them make them a valuable resource. Artifacts recovered from these pits include axe and pick heads, a steel drill bit, trade beads, several bone tools, stone flakes, birch bark containers and modified smelted copper and ferrous objects. A large faunal collection currently under analysis is also associated with the post-contact Hän occupation of the site.

Overall, the archaeological resources present at the townsite of Forty Mile are a significant resource that when coupled with the oral and archival data will provide much information regarding both the non First Nation and First Nation use of the site.

2.3 BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Built heritage resources may include:

- buildings and remains of buildings, including ruins and foundations,
- monuments and markers, including gravesites,
- landscape modified for human use like boat landings, trails, and pastures,
- structures like fences, and whip saw horses,
- above ground, surface, or buried resources,
- post contact (150 years old or less) or relatively recent resources.

The Forty Mile townsite includes a collection of standing, partially collapsed and collapsed buildings and structures that require particular consideration in terms of future use and development of the site.

Table 2.2: Inventory of Standing, Partially Collapsed and Collapsed Buildings at Forty Mile, June 2002 provides a list of buildings for which conservation and development decisions must be made. Archaeological reference numbers from archaeological mapping by T. J. Hammer in 2000 – 1 are shown (Hammer, 2001). Building names are based on the ‘Forty Mile Concept Plan’ by the YTG Heritage Branch in 1986 (Barrett, 1986). Building numbers are based on the 1972 Yukon Waterway Sites survey done by DIAND (DIAND, 1972). It was decided during the course of this project that these nomenclature systems would be reconciled into one system using the archaeological numbers as the prime identifiers. However, it is important for future research that these numbers are easily correlated to previous systems.

2.3.1 Alaska Commercial Company Warehouse

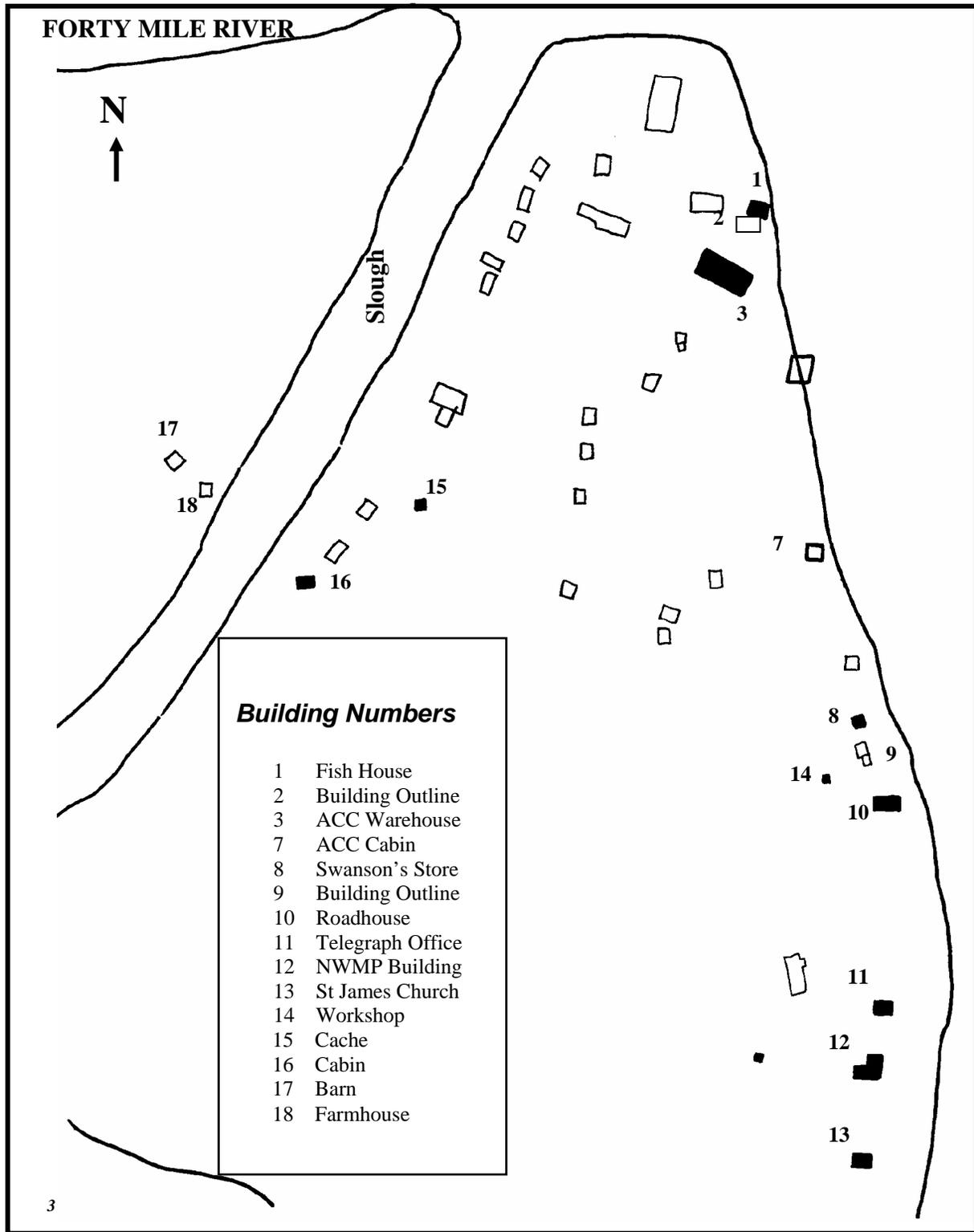
The Alaska Commercial Company Warehouse is the largest standing structure on the site. It is also one of two frame buildings still standing. The structural stability of the building is severely impaired. Exterior and interior sheathing and finishes have been removed from substantial areas of the walls; framing members, particularly collar ties in the roof structure have been removed; there is evidence that the lower portion of the building have been water saturated on several occasions; and there is evidence of wood rot. The floor structure of the building is in direct contact with the ground: this is thought to be because the building floated to its current location during a major flood event. In addition to the structural concerns with the building, there is evidence that it is regularly used as a shelter by visitors to the site and that fires for cooking or warming are common. It is remarkable that this building continues to stand, since the roof sheathing is the only intact structural component.

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Table 2.2: Inventory of Standing, Partially Collapsed and Collapsed Buildings at Forty Mile, June, 2002

Archaeological Reference No.	Building Name	Building Number (Yukon Waterways Survey)	Condition June 2002	Date of Construction
FMEB - 1	Fish House	Building #1	Standing	c.1895-1901
FMBO - 3		Building #2	Building Outline	After 1932
FMEB - 2	A.C.Co. Warehouse	Building #3	Standing	c. 1895-1901
		Building #4		
	N. C. Co. Cabin	Building #5		
FMCB - 1			Collapsed/burned	Burned 1977
	Cabin over A.C.Co. Store	Building #6		After 1932 c.1900 Burned 1977
FMEB - 3	A.C.Co. Cabin	Building #7	Partly Collapsed	Harper's Cabin?? 1895
FMEB - 4	Swanson's Store	Building #8	Standing	Caretaker's Res. c.1930
FMBO - 14	Cabin	Building #9	Building Outline	Bill Couture's?? Before 1938
FMEB - 6	Roadhouse	Building #10	Standing	Before 1906
FMEB - 7	Telegraph Office	Building #11	Standing	Before 1902
FMEB - 10, 11	N.W.M.P. Building and Outhouse	Building #12	Standing	c.1901
FMEB - 12	St. James Anglican Church	Building #13	Standing	1895
FMEB - 5	Workshop	Building #14	Standing	Before 1906
FMEB - 7	Cache	Building #15	Standing	1890s
FMEB - 8	Cabin	Building #16	Standing	Contemporary?
FMCB-5	Barn	Building #17	Collapsed	
FMEB-13	Farmhouse	Building #18	Partly Collapsed	1890s
FMEB - 11	Outhouse		Standing	

Figure 2.3: Forty Mile Town Site, Building Remains



³ Compiled from Barrett (1986) DIAND (1972) and Hammer (2002)

Figure 2.4: Building 3, Alaska Commercial Company Warehouse

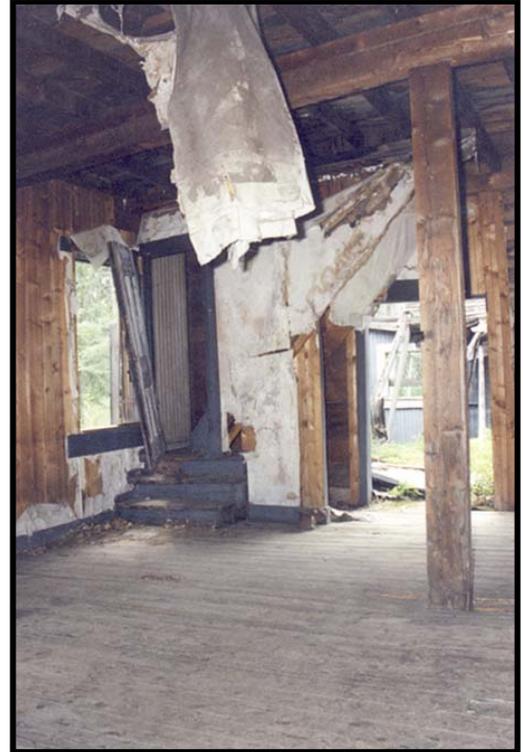


**Northwest Elevation and North Corner,
As Found Condition, June, 2002**



**Appearance from North Side of Building,
As Found Condition, June, 2002**

Figure 2.5: Building 12, North-West Mounted Police Building, Structural Collapse



**Southeast Corner and Building Interior,
As Found Condition, June, 2002**



**West Elevation including Collapsed Addition,
As Found Condition, June 2002**

2.3.2 North-West Mounted Police Building

The North-West Mounted Police Building was constructed in 1901 using a composite of structural systems. The main building is piece-sur-piece, typical of mounted police outposts at the time, as is the one storey shed addition at the rear. Inside, a post and beam system carries the second floor. At the rear of the building is a small frame addition. The structural stability of the components varies. The main building remains standing, although there is evidence of shifting and settlement. The structure supporting the interior is in a progressive state of collapse, with large structural cracks in the timbers and spreading at the joints. The roof of the rear shed has collapsed, as has that of the frame addition. There is evidence of progressive wood rot in the lower timbers of the building and other wood members where regular water entry is occurring.

2.3.3 St. James Anglican Church

Like many of the standing buildings on the site, St. James Anglican Church is a small compact building of log construction. Although there is evidence of considerable water penetration of the building envelope, the exterior walls are relatively stable. Also, like many of the buildings on the site, the roof sheathing is loose in places and vulnerable to wind lift, driven rain, or water leakage below the snow pack. The floor finishes and structure have swelled. There is also evidence of wood rot in the lower wall logs, and other wood members subject to wetting. The building has a sizable roof overhang at the front. Overall the building is undergoing a gradual decline.

2.3.4 Telegraph Building

The Telegraph Building is also a small compact building of log construction. The exterior walls are relatively stable, with some evidence of minor shifting, and progressive wood rot in the lower wall logs. Inside, there is evidence of ongoing water infiltration. The interior finishes are peeling from the logs, and the floor over the cellar has collapsed. The roof sheathing is loose in places and vulnerable to wind lift, driven rain, or water leakage below the snow pack. As with other buildings on the site, the Telegraph Building is undergoing a gradual decline.

2.3.5 Roadhouse (also known as the Customs House)

The Roadhouse is a one storey log building built in two parts: the front is higher and wider than the rear addition. Although still standing, evidence suggests that the Roadhouse has reached a critical stage, and the rate of deterioration may be accelerating. The roof sheathing is loose, lifted or missing in several places; several roof beams are in an advanced state of wood rot due to water penetration and retention below the roof cladding. There is evidence of settlement and shifting of the entire structure, possibly ongoing. Logs in the roof structure, whether beams or purlins, are showing signs of wood rot on the ends. The lower log rounds of the exterior walls are also showing signs of progressive wood rot, as is the floor structure. The building is used to store a variety of materials, which may be contributing to the water retention in the structure, or posing a threat of fire.

2.3.6 Swanson's Store

A small compact log building, Swanson's Store is relatively stable, although there is evidence of deterioration. The building benefits from being occupied, ongoing maintenance, and the fact that it is heated through the winter. The sill logs show evidence of ongoing rot, as does the floor system. The roof system shows evidence of rot in the projecting ends of beams and purlins.

2.3.7 A. C. Co. Employee Residence

The roof of this building has collapsed, and the walls are progressively collapsing. There is extensive rot in many of the logs. The building is in the final stages of complete collapse.

2.3.8 Farmhouse and Barn

The farmhouse is a log structure in the final stages of collapse. There is substantial wood rot and decay of the remaining wood members. The Barn was a frame structure and is fully collapsed.

2.4 Artifacts and Artifact Clusters

Artifacts are usually objects rather than structures. Examples include articles such as wagons, pots, dredge buckets, saw mill equipment, boilers or harrows.

There are about 175 artifacts or artifact clusters on or near the surface that have been located through archaeological survey work. For a complete list see Hammer (2002). These range from wagon remains, portions of pumps and other industrial equipment, water tanks and what appears to be the remains of a barge. These artifacts are exposed to the weather, to the threat of ice damage and vandalism. Some have been obscured by vegetation. Others, in more advanced states of decay, are lying just below the surface.

Figure 2.6: Building 11, Roadhouse Building



Appearance in 1938, C. Tidd Collection #7308



South Elevation, June 2002

2.5 Natural Resources

The location of Forty Mile historic site at the confluence of two major rivers is a spectacular natural location. The site sits on a series of natural terraces that reflect the changing course of the rivers over time. There is considerable evidence of erosion, flooding and the abrasive action of ice. The natural setting of the site has also been altered by human activity, in particularly the removal of vegetation during the gold rushes.

2.5.1 Fortymile Caribou Herd

The Fortymile Caribou Herd once numbered half a million animals and ranged across the eastern interior of Alaska and the Yukon. By the 1970s, due to periodic cold winters, over harvesting, and high predation rates, the herd had dwindled to 7500 animals. After 1974 the herd was rarely sighted in the Yukon. In 1994 the Fortymile Caribou Herd Management Planning Team was struck, representing a broad cross-section of public and government agencies in both Alaska and the Yukon. Through a program of controlled hunting, non-lethal predator control and habitat protection, the herd has recovered to an estimated 40,000 animals in 2002.⁴ As the herd size increased, so did the amount of their traditional range being used. In the fall of 2002, a portion of the herd crossed the Yukon River at the mouth of the Fortymile River for the first time in fifty years.

2.5.2 Other Wildlife

Other wildlife typically found along the Yukon River will be found at Forty Mile. Black bears are seen in the area, as are moose. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in elders report that moose use the islands in the Yukon River (of which there are several near the mouth of the Fortymile River) for calving.

2.5.3 Fisheries

The fishery at the confluence of the Fortymile and Yukon Rivers was important to early Hän peoples. For hundreds of years before the advent of the gold rush, the Hän fished for grayling in the Forty Mile as part of their seasonal round. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in elders report that Hän also fished for chum salmon to supply NWMP dog teams.⁵

According to Cox (1999), who completed an archival search for historic references to salmon fishing in the Yukon River basin, Inspector C. Constantine of the NWMP reported in his 1894 diary that the principal fish in the area were king and 'dog salmon (chum), but that he was aware of a twelve pound whitefish being sold at the hotel at Fort Cudahy.⁶

Commercial and traditional use fishing still occurs in the area.

⁴ *Facts about the Fortymile Caribou Herd Management Plan: A Consensus Approach to Predator Management in Alaska.* www.state.ak.us/adfg/wildlife/geninfo/game/40-facts and *The Comeback Trail: News of the Fortymile Caribou Herd*, May 2002. www.aurora.ak.blm.gov/40milecaribou/5-2002/052002_main.

⁵ Irene Nagano, Peggy Kormendy and Ray Titus, public consultation, November 2002.

⁶ Cox, Jody, *Salmon in the Yukon River Basin, Canada – A Compilation of Historical Records and Written Narratives*. January 1999 for the Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Fund, pg. 73.

2.5.4 Plant Communities

The Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site is a densely vegetated site, lying within the boreal forest. Before the advent of the Forty Mile gold rush, the site was probably populated by a combination of white and black spruce. However, the miners removed the tree cover from much of the area, drying out the soil and lowering the water table. The north tip of Forty Mile Island is characterized by lush meadows sparsely treed with cottonwood. Other herbaceous species include fireweed, yarrow, asters, with a predominance of rose bushes. Moving further from the river, forests of white spruce predominate. In wetter locations, forests of black spruce and lichen can be found. Several stages of boreal forest succession can be found within the Forty Mile site.

2.5.5 Natural Viewscapes

The Forty Mile site, especially the north tip of Forty Mile Island, is characterized by sweeping vistas of the rock bluffs that line the Yukon River with the Cloudy Range in the distance. The openness of the river at this point and the low hills in the foreground make these vistas some of the most spectacular in the area.

2.5.6 Tintina Trench

Forty Mile lies in the Tintina Trench, a linear valley that traverses the Yukon from southeast to northwest. The Trench is underlain by a huge fault along which bedrock has shifted as much as 450 km.⁷ Created about eight million years ago, the massive upheaval changed the course of the Yukon River from south into the Gulf of Alaska to north into the Bering Sea. The Trench is rich in mineral deposits. It also is an important wildlife migration route and a flyway for species such as sand hill cranes, swans and peregrine falcons.

2.6 Resources on Mission Island

Mission Island was subject to intensive surface survey during the 2001/02 investigations. As a result a total of 19 features were mapped (see *Table 2.1* for summary of features identified). The features occur in a somewhat linear fashion following the eastern edge approximately 5 to 10m west of the east shore of Mission Island and beginning, approximately 26m south of the north tip of the Island. The Mission Island mapping activities have demonstrated that significant heritage resources still remain on Mission Island that relate to the activities of the Buxton Mission albeit in an archaeological context.

2.7 Resources at Fort Constantine

Fort Constantine is located on the north bank of the Fortymile River across from the town site of Forty Mile. The area in and around Fort Constantine is extensively disturbed as a result of natural freeze/thaw activity. Ten historic features were documented during the surface survey of the Fort Constantine area. It is extremely difficult to differentiate natural depressions—swamp sink holes—and anthropogenic depressions in the Fort Constantine area. Other features identified include tongue and groove flooring, barrel boilers and whip saw

⁷ www.yukonheritage.com, Highway Sign Program Km.652.3, North Klondike Hwy.

horses. During the 2002 investigations a section of the Fort's palisade was documented at Fort Constantine suggesting much more of the site is intact than previously thought.

2.8 Resources at Fort Cudahy

Fort Cudahy is located approximately 200m further north of Fort Constantine. A heritage survey in the area documented 12 historic features. The features included small trash middens, well-defined building outlines and potential privy locations. The terrain, which is in stark contrast to Fort Constantine, is relatively dry with little to no freeze thaw activity. The survey carried out was preliminary in nature and it is likely that many more intact archaeological features will be identified.

2.9 The Cemetery

The cemetery is located on a well drained bench southwest of Forty Mile townsite, on the west side of the slough. A preliminary survey of the cemetery was conducted by Barrett in 1986. Approximately thirty-five graves were located. Although about half of the graves had fence and headboard intact, many graves are in poor repair and many headboards are not legible.

2.10 Documentary and Other Resources

Considerable documentary evidence exists for the Forty Mile site in museum and archival locations across North America. Recently, a bibliography has been completed which will assist future researchers in locating information.⁸ This bibliography includes documents, government records, corporate records, manuscripts, maps, newspaper articles, photographs, publications and reports, videos and films and sound recordings.

Oral histories and local knowledge are an important source of information to help understand changes in use and condition over time. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have memories and knowledge that is relevant to the development and interpretation of the site, as do other relatives of people who lived at the site most recently. The local caretaker also has important information useful for site maintenance and management. Members of the original Clinton Creek Historical Society, which operated in the 1960s and 70s, could also supply useful information.

Museums or universities, both in the Yukon and elsewhere have artifacts and documents related to Forty Mile. At this time, no search for these items has been undertaken, other than by Dobrowolsky.

⁸ Dobrowolsky, Helene. Forty Mile Historic Site Bibliography: Sources for Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine, November, 2002. for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon Government, Heritage Resources Unit.

HERITAGE RESOURCES

3.0 CONSERVATION

Forty Mile is an historic site that has been recognized as worthy of preservation. It is also attracting small but steadily growing numbers of visitors. Retaining the meaningfulness of the site for future generations will require a balance of conservation, development and interpretation. Conservation measures will preserve the significant physical features of the site, both natural and cultural. Appropriate development will create an infrastructure to support visitor use and understanding and interpretation will help to protect the valuable heritage resources at Forty Mile.

The following sections outline a range of requirements and options for Forty Mile. Conservation approaches and recommendations for conservation activities are discussed in this section. Complementary levels of development are described in *Section 4*. Whether or not there is development at the site for cultural or economic development purposes, a minimal level of investment for conservation purposes is required by the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement*.

3.1 CONSERVATION APPROACHES

Conservation, as a preservation activity, is a multi-dimensional endeavour. No single approach can address all the problems and opportunities presented by a culture's stock of heritage resources. Accordingly, many different solutions are possible, each tailored to the circumstances of an individual situation.

Following is a summary of conservation approaches that singly or in combination could be considered for Forty Mile. Examples of how each approach has been or might be used are given.

3.1.1 Conservation

Conservation is a generally accepted term that includes the full range of processes and activities used to safeguard natural or cultural heritage for future generations. It is often used interchangeably with 'preservation'.

3.1.2 Survey and Recording

A survey is a superficial exploration to seek out heritage resources deserving conservation. Recording is the process of describing a heritage resource in words and pictures without damaging the resource. It is also called documenting. Records can be used to explain the site to others without bringing them to the site; or to recall details about the resources in the

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future. Records can also be incorporated in interpretive displays at the site or in other locations like Dawson City or Whitehorse.

Forty Mile has been surveyed and recorded several times in the past 30 years. Previous to 1998, the archaeological work done was cursory:

- DIAND Yukon Waterway Sites Survey (1972)
- Archaeological Survey by Synergy West Ltd. (1974)
- Archeological Survey and Assessment Yukon River Historic Attractions; Settlement Surveys Ltd. (1980)
- Yukon Government, Heritage Branch, Recording Project (1986)
- Recording Project Update (1993)
- Forty Mile Inspection (1990)
- Aerial Photography (1999)
- The Forty Mile Archaeology Project (1998 - 2002); T.J. Hammer
- Management Plan for Forty Mile (2002); J. Campbell, E. Fletcher, T.J. Hammer

3.1.3 Inventory

An inventory is an organized process that selects heritage resources from a larger group. It provides information useful to future decisions about the characteristics of the selected resources and the dangers that threaten them. It is an activity that needs to be repeated over time as conditions change.

A basic inventory of known history and as found condition of the buildings at Forty Mile was produced by the Heritage Branch (Barrett) from their 1986 Recording Project.

The recent identification and mapping of material heritage resources carried out by Hammer(2001, 2002, 2003) has been intentionally detailed to provide site managers with base line data from which to measure and monitor artifact movement and cluster attrition over time.

The bibliography compiled by Dobrowolsky in 2002 provides a list of documentary resources available to researchers.

3.1.4 Inspection

An inspection is a detailed examination of a smaller collection of heritage resources to develop a detailed conservation plan.

In August, 2000, Robert M. Patterson, P. Eng., undertook a structural inspection of the NWMP Building and St. James Church, and provided recommendations for stabilization.

3.1.5 Temporary Protection (Mothballing)

Mothballing is done to reduce the rate of decay or deterioration while long term solutions are sought. It should always be reversible without damage to the heritage resource. Mothballing may include placing a temporary roof over a deteriorating resource; diverting water courses that are accelerating decay; or installing fencing to keep out animals.

Temporary patching, especially of roofs, is being done on an ongoing basis.

3.1.6 Structural Stabilization

Structural stabilization is intended to arrest structural deterioration that will eventually lead to building collapse. It may include emergency measures to stabilize failing structural members or decaying materials.

In 1990, the Heritage Branch undertook some stabilization of the A. C. Co. warehouse by replacing studs that had been cut out by people scavenging wood.

In 2003 and 2004 stabilization work was carried out on the NWMP Building and Church by Han Construction.

3.1.7 Retarding Decay and Deterioration of Materials

Rates of deterioration can be reduced through removal of vegetation, sources of moisture, or other agents that are damaging a heritage resource.

Installation of tin roofs over original sod roofs can prevent water saturation of the roof structures of standing buildings and reduce the opportunity for rot. Removal of accumulated vegetation from building foundations can reduce water retention near wood sills.

Regrading the ground surface to slope away from exterior building walls will allow water to run away from buildings.

In 2004 French drains were installed to improve drainage from the foundations of the NWMP Building and the Church.

3.1.8 Restoration

Restoration is the process of returning a structure or artifact to its appearance at some time in the past. It often involves reproduction and replacement of missing elements.

Restoration is generally an expensive conservation solution.

3.1.9 Reconstruction

Reconstruction is the process of rebuilding a vanished building or feature on its original site based on evidence from archaeological investigation, historical documents and photographs. Authentic reconstruction can be an expensive conservation solution if historic materials are not readily available. However, if materials are available, reconstruction can be less expensive than restoration.

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3.1.10 New Construction

On an historic site, new construction should be unobtrusive and sympathetic to the historic character of the site.

3.1.11 Temporary Structures

Like new construction, temporary structures should be visually compatible with the historic character of the site, and should not damage the historic or natural fabric of the site.

Temporary structures have been erected near the tip of Forty Mile Island to provide shelter for the archaeological investigation in progress. Once the investigation is complete, they will be removed.

3.1.12 Maintenance

Regular maintenance of the materials and features of a building or site is the most effective and least damaging of conservation activities. Good property maintenance prevents the need for more radical intervention, and dramatically extends the life of a property.

Swanson's Store has recently been occupied by a part-time caretaker for the Forty Mile site. The building is in better shape than most due to use and occupation and ongoing maintenance.

3.1.13 Monitoring

Monitoring is an ongoing process of assessing the condition of heritage resources, to identify undesirable changes before there are serious problems. Monitoring is part of a good maintenance program.

A site caretaker is able to monitor the condition of the site and report changes.

Formal monitoring can take place at regular intervals using the site mapping as a baseline. It can be structured through the use of checklists.

3.1.14 Ruins

Not every cultural feature can be preserved, either because no good use exists, or because the required investment is too great. Wise conservation often includes permitting some historic structures to remain as a 'ruin'. Some ruins are stabilized in a partially deteriorated state; other ruins are allowed to continue to decay. Attempts may be made to arrest the process of decay or to slow down decay.

Building FMEB-3, thought to be an A.C.Co. residence that may have associations with Harper, has collapsed and is now in a state of ruin. Given the significant role that Harper played in the Yukon gold rush, consideration may be given to maintaining and interpreting the cabin as a 'ruin' or, over the long term, restoring/reconstructing it.

3.1.15 Marking

When a feature has vanished, is deteriorating rapidly, or is not clearly visible, its location can be marked in various ways. Temporary markings, like surveyor's tape, might be used if the feature is to be recorded. More permanent markings, like wooden rails laid in the ground to outline a lost foundation, might be used to permanently locate where the feature existed. Permanent markers can also be used to identify significant plants. Marking is a relatively inexpensive conservation approach.

At Forty Mile many buildings have disappeared and the only remaining evidence is a building outline recognisable to trained archaeologists. Permanently marking the former building outlines would illustrate the size and density of the townsite at its peak as an interpretation method.

Currently, features at Forty Mile are marked by wood stakes (made of natural site materials) and flagging tape. The northwest corner of former building locations have been tagged with metal tags. Important artifact clusters and artifacts have been tagged as well.

3.1.16 Commemorating

Cultural resources can be commemorated in several ways that help us remember past places and events. Monuments with inscribed information can be installed. A legal designation can be applied. The resource can be included in histories and stories. Plaques and displays can interpret the resource.

The Yukon Order of Pioneers installed a plaque at Forty Mile to commemorate the establishment of their organisation. The plaque has since been removed.

A commemorative stone cairn marking Fort Constantine, installed in the late 1960s, has since crumbled and now appears to be washed away.

3.1.17 Rehabilitation

Rehabilitation, while not strictly conservation, involves upgrading a building to a sound condition without necessarily following strict conservation standards. It is often applied when buildings of lesser significance are upgraded for adaptive reuse and is done in sympathy with restoration.

3.2 LEVELS OF INTERVENTION

Forty Mile is a site with pronounced development limitations. Many resources are in an advanced state of decay. Areas of the site are wet, placing limitations on where services can be located. Unlike other Yukon sites such as Fort Selkirk and Rampart House where limitations are not as severe, at Forty Mile decisions need to be made in the short term about the final level of development to be achieved in the long term. Otherwise resources will be lost or decisions made that will make proceeding to a higher level of development difficult if not impossible. Forty Mile is a site that requires careful planning. Development, if left to 'evolve', may be unsatisfactory.

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement requires the “protection, conservation and interpretation of the Heritage Resources at Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine in accordance with national and international standards, as accepted and modified by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Yukon.” It also requires the “provision of reasonable opportunity to the public to visit and appreciate Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine”. To accomplish this, sufficient intervention will be required to ensure public safety and to protect the resources from the impact of visitation and time.

In November 2002, a range of conservation and development options were presented to the Management Plan Steering Committee and to the public for comment through the Draft Options Report, a newsletter and a series of public meetings. These options, or 'levels of development', and the associated conservation priorities are described in *Figure 3.1: Priorities, Levels of Development and Phasing*. The results of this consultation were clear. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, the Yukon Government and the public at large would like to see this site developed to allow some visitation. Because of the fragility of the site, a range of conservation activities will be required. These measures can be phased over a period of time to adjust to local conditions and budgets (see *Figure 3.1*).

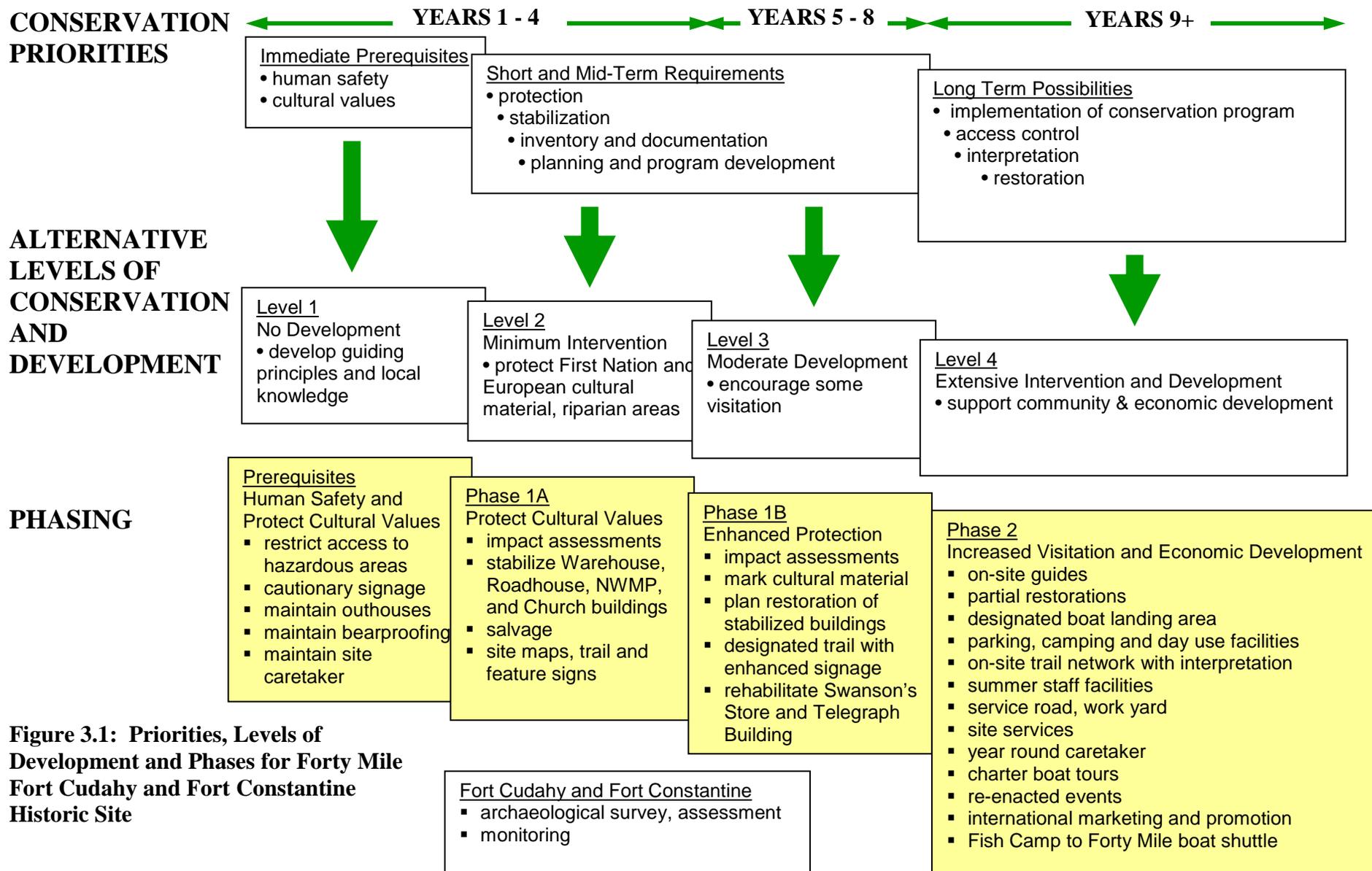


Figure 3.1: Priorities, Levels of Development and Phases for Forty Mile Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site

3.3 PREREQUISITES FOR HUMAN SAFETY AND COMMUNITY INTERESTS

3.3.1 Human Safety

The site is obviously abandoned, and in a state of disrepair. Unsafe situations on the site include but are not limited to:

- collapsed root cellars causing unstable floor systems in partially standing buildings,
- structural failure of supporting posts and beams,
- significant structural movement of floor and wall systems,
- collapsed structures covering unseen holes,
- ground depressions,
- potential for wildfire,
- highly flammable materials and supplies in publicly accessible locations.

Immediate intervention is required to protect human safety and overall community interests. The recommendations described below should be undertaken as soon as possible to deal with existing hazards to visitors and workers. However, these prerequisites on their own will not be sufficient to meet the requirements of *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement* or to conform to national standards of heritage conservation. It is assumed that the site managers will move quickly to *Phase IA: Basic Protection of Cultural Values*.

Key Actions:

- Access should be blocked into buildings with obvious hazards to human safety.
- Visitors should be encouraged through cautionary signage to stay on developed trails.
- Brush and tall grasses must be cut annually and trees thinned to minimize wildfire fuels and a fire management plan and equipment developed
- Trails that currently cross cultural features should be rerouted.
- Current outhouses should be maintained for basic sanitation.
- Current bear proof garbage cans should be maintained.
- The ongoing presence of a site caretaker is critical to a minimal level of human safety on the site.
- Increased visitation to the site should not be actively encouraged until the buildings are fully documented, safe pathways identified and preliminary decisions made about the extent to which the site will be preserved.

3.3.2 Community Interests

Even at the earliest levels of intervention, decisions may need to be made about new development proposals, research requests or other activities proposed for the site that arise spontaneously. Care must be taken at this stage that proposed activities do not interfere with future goals for the site. The site managers should collaboratively develop and approve guidelines for on-site research and development activities.

Section 13.8.3.1 of the *Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement* already requires that the First Nation be consulted before issuing a research permit at the heritage site.

Key Actions:

- Develop guiding principles for conservation, development and independent research activities that protect the site and community interests.
- Ensure local benefit from employment opportunities that may exist on some projects.
- Although work projects at this stage would be limited to the tasks above, any projects that cause ground disturbance would require an archaeological impact assessment.

3.4 PHASE 1A: BASIC PROTECTION OF CULTURAL VALUES

This initial phase would implement conservation measures and make informed decisions about stabilizing and protecting resources to enable future development. Certain conservation activities should be undertaken as soon as possible to preserve the remaining historic fabric of the site. These activities may need to be ongoing for several years while conservation and development decisions are made.

The following summarizes the recommendations for conservation to ensure minimal protection of cultural values.

3.4.1 Archaeological Resources

Minimal conservation measures should be implemented to preserve and protect remaining archaeological evidence of First Nation and immigrant cultural values throughout the site. Many of the archaeological resources are buried and not at risk until the ground is disturbed. To date archaeological investigations have thoroughly mapped and marked resources on, or near, the surface of Forty Mile Island, the Forty Mile mainland and Mission Island. More work is needed to establish the extent of resources on Mission Island, Fort Constantine and Fort Cudahy.

Key Actions:

- Ensure that archaeological impact assessments are undertaken in any locations that will be disturbed by conservation and development activities.
- Continue to survey, test and map resources at Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine.
- Continue to test for possible First Nation features on Mission Island.

3.4.2 Buildings and Structures

Standing and partially standing buildings should be the first priority for stabilization at Forty Mile. These will house important displays for the interpretation of the site. Collapsed structures may be stabilized in their current condition. For all building remains at the site, conservation priorities need to be established based on relative significance, immediate risk and required investment.

3.4.2.1 Research and Analysis for Standing and Partially Standing Structures

Research, documentation and planning must occur prior to stabilization of building remains. *Table 3.1: Conservation Priorities for Standing Building Remains* summarizes the requirements for inspection, documentation and archival research for standing and partially standing structures. Some sampling has been done from the A. C. Co. Warehouse and the A. C. Co. Employee's Residence and samples are housed at the Heritage Resources Unit in Whitehorse.

Key Actions:

- Continue recording and documenting of buildings and visible remains on Mission Island, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine as noted above.
- Review archival photographs for evidence of changes in use and appearance of buildings.
- Identify structural stabilization requirements.
- Identify any building components or finish materials from fallen structures that may be salvaged as templates for future reconstruction or for use in future restoration.
- Identify materials, equipment, human resources, costs and schedule for the stabilization of buildings.

3.4.2.2 Structural Stabilization

Table 3.1: Conservation Priorities for Standing Building Remains identifies buildings where structural stabilization is required. The objective of stabilization should be to maintain the building envelope and protect materials from ground moisture. Stabilization will arrest the process of deterioration and enable further conservation.

Key Actions to Maintain Integrity of Building Envelope:

- Ensure that window and door openings are covered.
- Cover remaining sod roofs with sheet metal; regularly ensure that sheet metal roofing is secure.
- Where there is a possible roof collapse, roofs may require reconstruction at this phase.

Key Actions for Protection from Ground Moisture:

- Remove vegetation around standing structures.
- Grade soil around buildings to drain surface water away from building walls.
- Locate rotted sill beams and implement a program to replace them.
- Where necessary, install French drains to take runoff away from buildings.

Recommendations for Structural Stabilization:

- At a minimum, stabilize the structure of the ACC Warehouse, NWMP building, Roadhouse Building, Telegraph Building, Anglican Church and others from *Table 3.1* as resources permit.

- Consider supporting the A. C. Co. Cabin against further collapse; removal of already collapsed and rotting members and installation of a temporary roof to prevent ongoing snow loading.

3.4.3 Artifacts and Surface Features

Large artifacts need to be left in situ until their location and relevance have been documented. If possible, preserving them in situ is preferable to moving them out of context. Mapping is complete and large artifacts have been documented as to location and preliminary identification. Archival photo research may provide for the replacement of artifacts in their original locations. A list of surface artifacts can be found in Hammer (2002).

Key Actions:

- Continue to remove overgrowth and debris that may damage remains or provide fuel for grass fires.
- Mark remaining evidence of artifacts and collapsed or partially buried buildings to discourage human movement over them.

3.4.4 Natural Resource Protection

It is not anticipated that there will be serious threats to the integrity of the natural resources during this phase.

Key Actions:

- Ensure that activities do not disturb riparian areas or fish habitat.
- Install signage with regard to bear safety.

3.4.5 Overall Site Monitoring

A site caretaker, also acting as a watchman and host, should reside on the site through the summer months and, at other times of the year, be present during the key events, i.e. Yukon Quest and other dog sled races, caribou migration viewing. The caretaker can monitor changes to the site resources over time as well as educate and inform visitors.

Key Action:

- Hire an onsite caretaker/watchman/interpreter for the summer months using Swanson's Store for accommodation.

Table 3.1: Conservation Priorities for Standing Building Remains

PROPOSED CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

<i>Building No.</i>	<i>Building Name</i>	<i>Temporary Protection</i>	<i>Inspection and Documenting</i>	<i>Archival Research</i>	<i>Salvage</i>	<i>Structural Stabilization</i>	<i>Restoration</i>
FMEB-1	A.C.Co. Fish House		Monitor			Rot in foundation	
FMEB-2	A.C.Co. Warehouse	Discourage fires through signage	For stabilization	Location and use	Interior finish samples	Roof, exterior walls, rot in foundation	Adaptation in <i>Phase 2</i>
FMEB-3	A.C.Co. Employee Residence	Temporary roof	Structural remains and finishes	Associations with early traders (i.e. Harper)	Roof, wall, finish samples	Remains of exterior walls	
FMEB-4	Swanson's Store		Monitor			Rot in foundation/ roof/floor	Rehabilitate as Caretakers resident
FMEB-6	Roadhouse	Prevent access	Monitor	Associations with early travellers		Rot in foundation/floor	Ext./Interior; Partial in <i>Phase 2</i>
FMEB-7	Telegraph Building	Prevent access	Monitor			Rot in foundation/roof/floor	Ext. restoration Int. rehab. for storage
FMEB-10	N.W.M.P. Building	Prevent access	For stabilization	Modifications to building	Addition	Posts and beams, Floor, foundation	Ext./Interior; Partial in <i>Phase 2</i>
FMEB-12	St. James Anglican Church		For stabilization			Floor, rot in roof/ foundation	Ext./Interior Partial in <i>Phase 2</i>
FMEB-5, FMEB-7 FMEB-13	Outbuildings Farmhouse	Sign	Monitor Monitor	Time Period		Roof, foundation None	None

3.5 PHASE 1B: ENHANCED PROTECTION OF CULTURAL VALUES

Implementation of recommendations for basic protection of cultural values described in *Phase 1A* above will preserve resources at Forty Mile that are significant to both First Nation and European cultures. Archival research will increase understanding about the physical remains at the site. Investment in stabilization and protection will make the site more attractive to visitors. As interest in the site increases, enhanced protection of the cultural values will become desirable.

The conservation activities begun in *Phase 1A* will continue and be enhanced during *Phase 1B: Enhanced Protection of Cultural Values*. Additional structures would be stabilized, and significant collapsed structures or features would be marked and interpreted. Visitation would be controlled through designated trails, picnic and camping areas. Enhanced conservation activities should be undertaken within a reasonable period of time in the interests of long term preservation of the remaining historic fabric of the site. These activities would be ongoing over several years. The following summarizes the enhanced conservation tasks to be undertaken.

3.5.1 Archaeological Resources

Once Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine have been thoroughly mapped, further archaeological investigation should be ‘mission-oriented’ or driven by specific research questions. Mission-oriented investigations are carried out to answer specific questions such as chronology, spatial dimensions (vertical and horizontal), function or feature attributes such as type of foundation or flooring. It is possible that theoretical social questions will be generated and research instigated by academic institutions and funded by outside agencies. The guiding principles discussed under the *Prerequisites* stage will ensure that research done by outside agencies conforms to the goals and objectives for the site and benefits local communities.

In preparation for *Phase 2*, research on specific buildings may be required to determine their function, dimensions, location of interior rooms and other data for presentation.

Key Actions:

- Ensure that archaeological impact assessments are undertaken in any locations that will be disturbed by conservation and development activities.
- Conduct mission-oriented archaeology as necessary to support conservation activities.
- Conduct additional archaeological work on Mission Island as needed learn more about the Mission and the associated First Nations community.

3.5.2 Buildings and Structures

Phase 1A identifies conservation planning and stabilization priorities for standing structures. However, many buildings and structures have collapsed. A conservation plan needs to be developed for the preservation, commemoration and interpretation of these resources.

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3.5.2.1 Research and Analysis for Collapsed Structures

Table 3.2: Priorities for Research and Presentation of Collapsed Buildings outlines the priorities for collapsed structures. *Section 4 and 5* of this plan provides recommendations for presentation of these resources and the development of walking trails. However, more information should be collected during this phase to identify building outlines, determine previous uses and relative significance.

Key Actions for Research and Documentation:

- Review archival photographs and documents to identify historic use, appearance and significance of collapsed structures.
- Identify any building components or finish materials from fallen structures that may be salvaged as templates for future reconstruction of building parts or for interpretation.
- Conduct mission-oriented archaeological investigation as noted above.

Key Actions for Presentation Planning for Collapsed and Disappeared Buildings:

- Prepare detailed site plan, based on archaeological and archival evidence, for presentation of collapsed and disappeared buildings.
- Identify collapsed buildings and building outlines for presentation of Forty Mile townsite.
- Identify materials, equipment, human resources, costs and schedule for marking and outlining building and street layouts.
- Continue to mark remaining evidence of collapsed or partially buried buildings to discourage human movement over them.
- Research the appearance and appropriate location for reconstructing a typical sod-roofed hut on the west side of the slough.

3.5.2.2 Ongoing Conservation of Standing Buildings

Phase 1A included recommendations for stabilization of significant standing and partially collapsed buildings. Conservation of these buildings should continue through *Phase 1B*. As well, planning should be conducted at this stage for restoration and rehabilitation work to be conducted in this phase and in *Phase 2*.

Key Actions for Monitoring Standing and Partially Collapsed Buildings:

- Monitor significant structures for continuing stability.
- Continue to maintain building envelope integrity.
- Continue to protect standing structures from ground moisture.

Key Actions for Building Restoration Planning:

- At a minimum, plans should be prepared for partial restoration of the A. C. Co. Warehouse, Roadhouse, Telegraph Building (exterior), NWMP. Building and the Anglican Church.
- Identify restoration priorities for each building, including features, materials, building components, and finishes.
- Prepare restoration plans for each building, including scope of work, materials, methods, schedules and costs.

Key Actions for Building Rehabilitation:

- Rehabilitate Swanson's Store as caretaker's residence.
- Rehabilitate Telegraph Building (interior) for caretaker/site storage.

3.5.3 Artifacts and Surface Features

Decisions will need to be made about the conservation of large artifacts. Some artifacts may require temporary roofs or to be placed on raised gravel pads for drainage.

Key Actions:

- Continue to remove overgrowth and debris that may damage remains or provide fuel for grass fires.
- Research the origin of larger artifacts or artifact clusters including dredge buckets, farm equipment, steam driven windlasses and winches, pumps and sawmill equipment.
- Develop a plan for the conservation of large artifacts.

3.5.4 Natural Resource Protection

It is not anticipated that there will be any serious threats to the integrity of the natural resources during this phase.

Key Action:

- Ensure that activities do not disturb riparian areas or fish habitat.

3.5.5 The Cemetery

Oral histories and archival research may reveal more information about burials at the cemetery. In *Phase IA and IB*, it is being recommended that visitation to the cemetery not be encouraged. No signage should indicate the trail to the cemetery. However, the more curious visitors will find it as the trail is well defined. Research should be conducted at this stage to allow for future stabilization, restoration or replacement of some of the fences or grave markers.

Key Action:

- Conduct research on the cemetery to determine who is buried there and year of death.

Table 3.2: Priorities for Research and Presentation of Collapsed Buildings, Forty Mile town site

PROPOSED RESEARCH AND PRESENTATION ACTIVITIES

<i>Building No.</i>	<i>Building Name</i>	<i>Commemoration</i>	<i>Marking</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>	<i>Ruin</i>	<i>Reconstruction</i>
FMBO-3	Unknown FMBO - 3		Building outline	Appearance and use[add theme]		
FMCB - 1	Burned Cabin			Fragility of site; Flooding and Fire	Decaying ruin	
FMBO- 9 ?⁹	N. C. Co Compound		Building outlines	Trade		
FMBO-14	Unknown FMBO - 14		Building outline	Appearance and use		
FMCB-5	Barn			Agriculture	Decaying ruin	

FMBO – 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 Streetscape Presentation showing building and street layout
FMCD – 2,5,35,41, 42

⁹ More research is needed to determine if this building outline was part of the N. C. C. compound.

3.6 PHASE 2: CONSERVATION FOR INCREASED VISITATION

Forty Mile has the potential to be promoted as a tourist attraction. Marketing and promotion of the site will substantially increase the number of visitors. Higher visitation will require higher levels of conservation and development to properly protect the site and support visitor activities. Promotion of the site as a tourism destination offers opportunities for commercial activities and economic development. To reach this level of development a consistent financial investment over a number of years will be required. A long term resource commitment will be necessary to maintain and operate the site.

3.6.1 Archaeological Resources

To support further development and interpretation at the site, archaeological investigations may be necessary to answer specific questions, such as dimensions and functions of former buildings.

Key Actions:

- Undertake ‘mission-oriented’ archaeology as required to support conservation and presentation.
- Ensure that archaeological impact assessments are undertaken in any location that will be disturbed by conservation and development activities.

3.6.2 Buildings and Structures

With more site visitation, significant structures should be partially restored to allow visitors to enter them and understand their historic use.

Key Actions:

- Conduct annual monitoring of stabilized structures.
- Adapt the A. C. Co. Warehouse for a day use and interpretive area (no cooking or fires).
- Restore the exterior of the Telegraph Building.
- Partially restore the NWMP building, Roadhouse and St. James Church.
- Reconstruct a sod-roofed hut representing a typical miner’s abode.

3.6.3 Large Artifacts and Surface Features

The program of conservation of large artifacts should continue.

Key Action:

- Continue to prevent overgrowth and the collection of debris that may damage remains and provide fuel for grass fires.

3.6.4 Natural Resource Protection

With higher visitation levels, hardened trails will ensure that vegetation is not trampled. Sanitation facilities will guard against water pollution. Proper garbage handling will assist in preventing problem bears. These developments are discussed in *Section 4*.

Key Actions:

- Ensure that activities do not disturb riparian areas or fish habitat.
- Maintain bear proof garbage containers at several locations throughout the site.

3.6.5 Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine

Once mapping is completed (*Phase IA*), it is recommended that visitors not be encouraged to visit these sites. Although mapping and further research may reveal resources of some significance, it is likely that only limited conservation activities will be practical. It may be found appropriate to document, mark and/or commemorate resources at these sites.

Key Action:

- Undertake very limited conservation activities at Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine focusing on documenting existing surface and above ground resources before they are obscured by further decay.

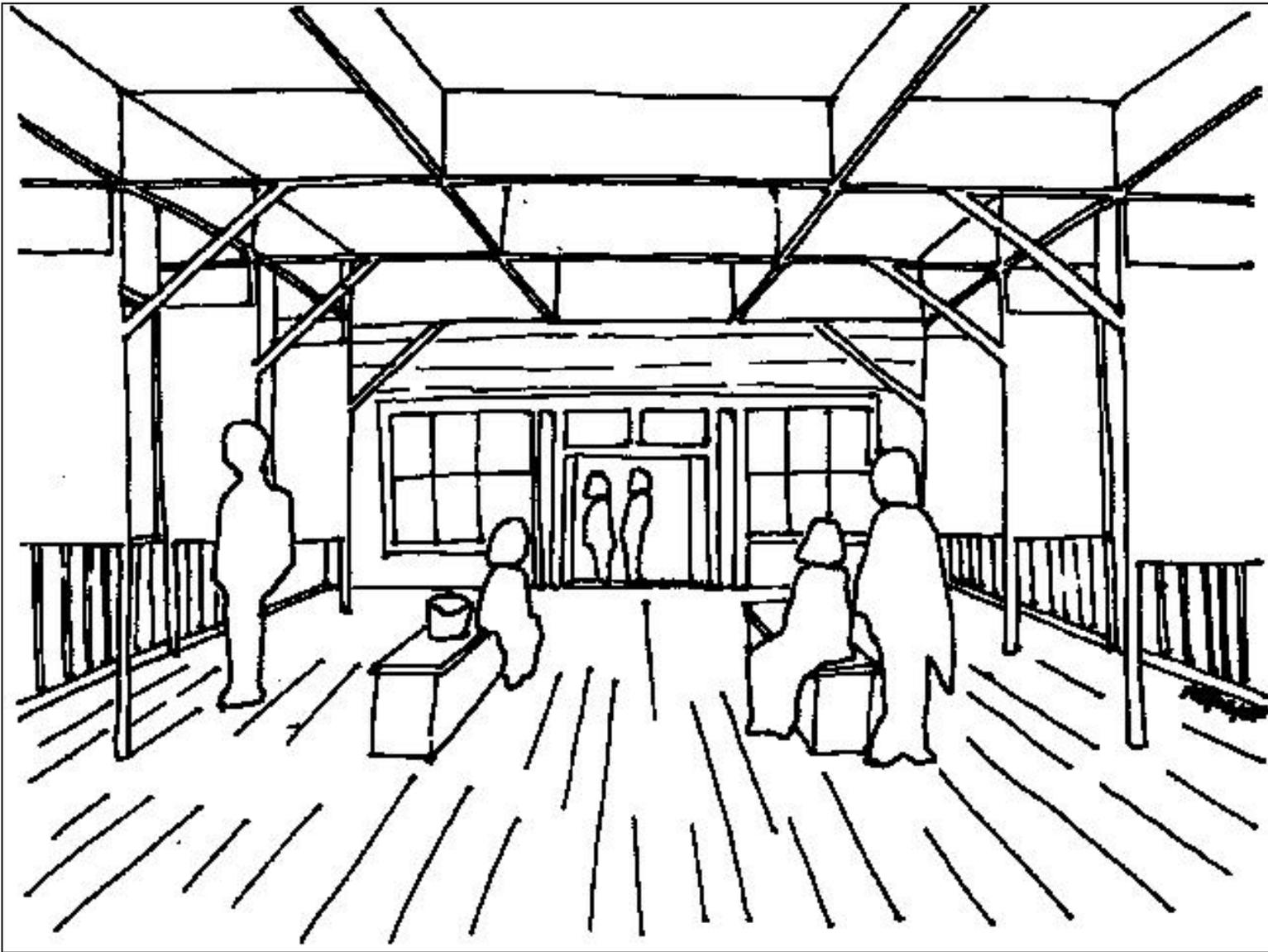
3.6.5 The Cemetery

With increased visitation to the site, visitation to the cemetery will also increase. A higher level of on-site supervision will help to ensure that vandalism and removal of artifacts does not occur. Paths through the cemetery should be defined so that they do not cross gravesites.

Key Actions:

- Stabilize, restore or replace fences and headboards as required.
- Define paths through and around the cemetery that do not damage resources.

Figure 3.2 Conceptual Drawing in Day Use Facility



CONSERVATION

4.0 SITE DEVELOPMENT AND VISITOR USE

The conservation of a special place inevitably attracts use by local residents and visitors who appreciate the character and qualities of that place as well as the work being done. Yet even the most respectful and responsible users leave their mark. Less knowledgeable visitors can cause considerable damage. It is important to plan for the full range of uses that will be permitted or encouraged within the conservation priorities identified for the site.

Section 3.5.2 of Schedule A to Chapter 13 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement requires the "recognition and protection of traditional and current use of Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in".

4.1 RANGE OF POSSIBLE USES

4.1.1 Traditional Use

Traditional use of the site by the Hän is described in *Section 1, BACKGROUND* and in *Appendix 1*. Any contemporary use must be moderated to allow the potential for restoration of traditional uses at Forty Mile.

4.1.2 Contemporary Use

Contemporary uses that impact the site are listed below.

Uses within the boundaries of the Historic Site

- ongoing archaeological investigation
- interpretation (passive)
- sightseeing (commercial tours)
- overnight camping
- weekend camping by local residents
- caretaker's residence.
- equipment and supply storage
- dog kennels
- public snowmobiling
- Canadian Ranger camps
- Yukon Quest unofficial stop
- other dog sled races
- fish drying in the Fish House
- rafting groups coming down the Fortymile River from Alaska

Uses beyond the boundaries of the Historic Site:

- ‘Fish Camp’ also used for archaeology and maintenance crew camp
- boat tours originating in Dawson City and Alaska during the summer
- small cruise ship, the Yukon Queen, passes daily in the summer on the Yukon River
- abandoned mine at Clinton Creek
- placer mining claims throughout area
- hunting
- Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Settlement Lands

A range of possible uses has been identified for Forty Mile. Representatives of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in, the terms of the *Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Final Agreement*, interested community members, and visitors at the site have all contributed to the list of possible uses. Also, representatives of government agencies such as the Heritage Resources Unit and the Department of the Environment, Government of Yukon have participated in the discussion with the consulting team about possible uses at the site. *Table 4.1: Range of Possible Uses* summarizes the range of uses that have been suggested for consideration, but not necessarily accepted. Before being accepted any use must be considered with respect to potential negative impacts on resources, operations, safety and security.

Wise investment in physical infrastructure requires an understanding of the purposes, or uses, for that infrastructure. Before decisions can be made about development at the site, there is a need to consider the different uses that may, or will, occur.

SITE DEVELOPMENT AND VISITOR USE

Table: 4.1: Range of Possible Uses

Location	Ongoing Uses	Activities that may Need New or Improved Facilities	May Need Supporting Infrastructure	Uses that are not recommended
Forty Mile Townsite	Archaeological Investigation Sightseeing Camping Caretaker Residence Snowmobiling Yukon Quest	Site commemoration Preservation and restoration of remaining structures Interpretive signage and pathways Displays and exhibits Permanent work camp Summer campsite Social & cultural gathering place Sanitation facilities Caretaker accommodation Hunting & fishing Winter (survival) shelter Tourist Attraction Boat Landing Fire protection	Campground infrastructure including kitchen shelter Quarters and kitchen facilities for work camp Fire fighting equipment Communications equipment	Permanent settlement
Mission Island	Archaeological Investigation Viewing from River	Site Commemoration Site Recording		Development of infrastructure
Fort Constantine and Fort Cudahy	Archaeological Investigation Viewing from River	Site Commemoration Recording and documentation of remains Viewing from Forty Mile Townsite	Cautionary signage	Development of infrastructure
Fish Camp area	Vehicle parking Camping Temporary Accommodation Boat landing	Cautionary signage Designated boat launch Sanitation facilities	Possible staging place for boat access to Historic Site	
Surround Lands (Canada & Settlement)	Vehicle access	Site maintenance and works yard	Vehicular access to maintenance yard	Public vehicular access

4.2 PREREQUISITES FOR SAFETY AND COMMUNITY INTERESTS

As described in *Section 3.3*, a number of activities should be undertaken immediately to ensure safety of both workers and visitors. Cautionary signage will encourage visitors to stay on trails and respect the fragile nature of the site. Efforts will be made to reduce the risk of fire and provide human safety including enabling outside communications.

4.3 PHASE 1: PROTECTION OF CULTURAL VALUES

Throughout this phase, conservation of heritage resources will be the focus. However, as general awareness of the site increases, visitation will increase. *Figure 4.1 Historic Site and Area Phase 1: Basic Development* indicates where basic visitor services should be maintained or developed during the first phase.

4.3.1 Access

The site is more easily understood when you enter it from the river at the tip of Forty Mile Island. However, during this first phase of development, the site will continue to be accessed both from the Yukon River and along the foot trail from the current Fish Camp requiring informational and cautionary signage at both points of entry as well as foot bridges. Any work projects requiring overnight accommodation will continue to camp informally in the area of the Fish Camp at the end of the gravel access road.

Service and emergency access needs to be developed. There are two alternatives. An historic wagon road enters the site from the west; portions are visible on the aerial photo, (see *Figure 1.3*). An access easement through Settlement Lands was created at the time of the adoption of the *Final Agreement* (see *Figure 4.2*). One possible access route would use the existing cat trails and the wagon road to access the site along the easement. The preferred service access route, further to the east, leaves the gravel access road to the Fish Camp near the existing gravel pit and follows high ground in a shorter and more direct route to the site. Along this second route there appears to be an area suitable for development of a staff compound and work area (see *Figure 4.2*). To develop this route an easement through Canada Lands and permission to cross Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Settlement Lands would have to be obtained. Further on-site investigation and review of land title agreements are necessary to determine the feasibility of the preferred route. Both options will require bridging the slough to Forty Mile Island.

The construction of this road is scheduled to be completed in *Phase 2*; however, it may be needed earlier to transport supplies to the site.

Key Actions:

- Conduct survey and field work to determine the feasibility of the preferred route for the service/emergency access route.
- Review all relevant land title agreements and establish rights of access.

4.3.2 Signage

Because of the fragility of the site, it is important that visitors read the interpretive and cautionary signage before entering the site. Cautionary signage already installed at the tip of Forty Mile Island and at the trailhead near the Fish Camp should be supplemented with interpretive signage that includes a site map and messages about the significance of the site and key features. The signage should continue to emphasize the fragility of the site, the need to stay on existing trails and to discourage user-made trails.

Key Actions:

- Continue to maintain previously installed cautionary signage warning visitors of the fragility of the site and requesting that they stay on marked trails.
- Install basic interpretive signage explaining the significance of the site and key resources.
- Install simple site map locating the designated trail, key features, refuse containers, and outhouses.
- Include bear awareness information in signage.

4.3.3 Boat Landing Area

The best boat landing area faces the Fortymile River, at the tip of Forty Mile Island. Sandbars in the Yukon River can make it difficult to land from the Yukon River except when water is high. The location of the current sign panels (ice damaged and collapsing) encourages river travellers to land near the south end of the site rather than continuing past the site and entering the Fortymile River. It will be difficult to convey the location of the boat landing via signage that would be visible from the river. Over time it will be important to encourage people to use the designated boat landing area at the tip of Forty Mile Island. The location should be included in guidebooks used by river travellers. During this phase a coloured marker facing the Fortymile River would reinforce the location with local people.

Key Actions:

- Install highly visible coloured marker to locate boat landing.
- Remove existing signage visible from the River.

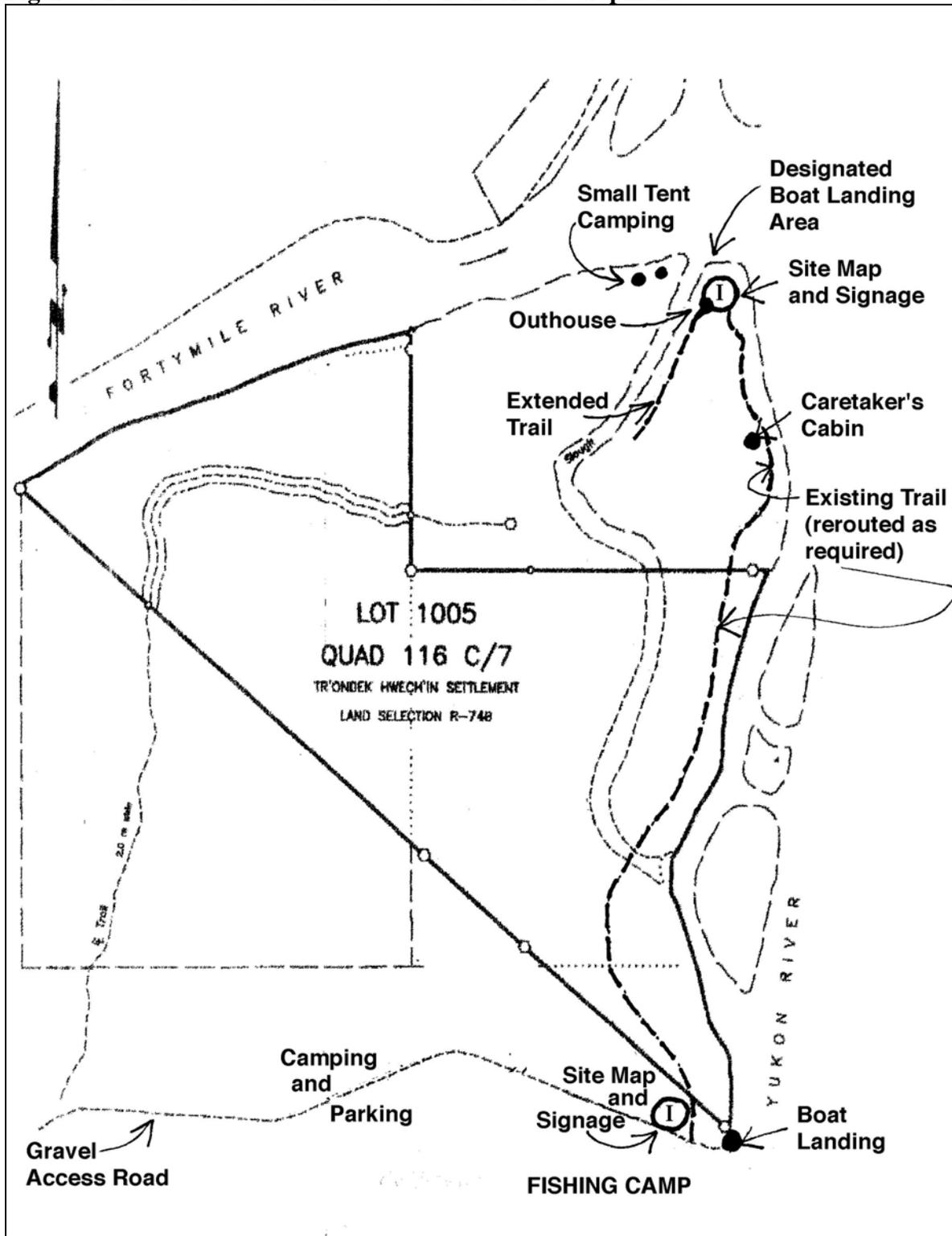
4.3.4. Water and Sanitation Facilities

Existing outhouses and bear proof garbage containers will be sufficient during this phase. However, no potable water is currently available at the historic site or at the Fish Camp. Travellers along the river may be prepared to filter water from the creeks and rivers; however visitors arriving via the gravel access road may not.

Key Action:

- Determine suitable locations at a safe distance from outhouses and other sources of contamination for wells and hand pumps, and install.

Figure 4.1 Historic Site and Area Phase 1: Basic Development



4.3.5 Camping

The tip of Forty Mile Island is currently being used by river travellers and local visitors for camping. The spectacular vistas looking down the Yukon River and the breezes that bring relief from insects make this an ideal camping area. There are suitable spots for a small number of tents. A fire ring has been constructed using artifacts, dredge buckets that were scattered over the surface in the area. This use should be discontinued and fire pits and defined pads for tenting supplied.

Key Action:

- Demarcate camping area and define tent areas; introduce a well and fire pits

4.3.6 Day Use Facilities

Currently visitors use the A. C. Co. Warehouse to provide shelter from the weather. There is a wood stove in this building, but there is also evidence of people building open fires under the high roof. As this building is historically significant and extremely fragile, the use of this building for cooking and shelter should be discouraged through signage. However, this building will be developed in *Phase 2* as an interpretive facility, and picnic tables can provide an area for people to rest.

A kitchen shelter should be built early in *Phase 1* to provide a location for these activities. The structure could be a 16' by 20' log structure with wood stove, cooking and drying out facilities. Bear proof food storage lockers can be provided nearby. It can be located west of the tenting area at the tip of the island, in an area of low archaeological potential and built to avoid ground disturbance.

Key Actions:

- Construct an appropriate kitchen shelter in the camping area.
- Remove existing wood stove and discourage fires and camping in the A. C. Co. building.

4.3.7 Walking Trails

The existing walking trail paralleling the Yukon River will be maintained, once it has been rerouted to avoid any fragile resources. A second trail will be developed beginning at the tip of Forty Mile Island and following the edge of the slough along the 'main street' in the original townsite (see *Fig 5.1: Forty Mile Townsite Interpretive Trails*)

Recommendations

- Maintain designated trail through site and discourage development of user-made trails.
- Develop a trail extension along the east side of the slough.
- Build permanent foot bridges across the slough.

4.3.8 Staff Facilities

It is important to continue to maintain a physical presence on the site to conduct regular maintenance and to monitor condition of the resources and facilities.

Key Actions:

- Maintain access and residence for site caretaker/watchperson/interpreter.
- As discussed in *Section 3.4.5*, rehabilitate Swanson's Store as caretaker's residence, including replacement of rotted sill beams, and possibly rehabilitate Telegraph Building for storage and supplies.

4.4 PHASE 2: DEVELOPMENT FOR INCREASED VISITATION

Figure 4.2 shows the location of the additional facilities to be developed in this phase. During this phase the site will be actively marketed. Day tours from Dawson City or Eagle, Alaska will be encouraged.

4.4.1 Access

The cultural remains at the site can best be protected through supervised access to the site, especially for groups. It is recommended that groups visiting the site be encouraged to use an off-site boat transportation service, which could also provide guided visits to the site.

The site is best understood if entered from the boat landing area, rather than the Fish Camp. Individuals who have arrived at the Fish Camp by vehicle should be encouraged to travel to the boat landing area by boat, and enter the site from there.

There will be an economic opportunity to develop camping facilities and a boat shuttle service on Canada Lands near the Fish Camp for those arriving by vehicle. It is hoped that over time access to the site via the trail from the Fish Camp would be limited, due to the availability of a boat shuttle. The existing trail may remain for local use but would be unobtrusive and not signed.

Once an appropriate location has been determined, a gated service road should be constructed. This road should be posted for service and emergency vehicles only. It is not known at this time whether this road will accommodate two or four wheel drive vehicles or whether it will be ATV traffic only. Supplies can be brought to the site via this route or by boat, or in winter by snowmobile. A location on the site where it is possible to land a helicopter for emergency purposes should be located.

If necessary, bridges built to accommodate the walking trails can accommodate emergency and service vehicle access to the portion of the site on the east side of the slough.

Key Actions:

- Develop a gated service/emergency road. This road may also be maintained for fire protection.
- Provision should be made for an emergency helicopter landing area.
- Remove entrance signage from access trail by Fish Camp.

4.4.2 Signage

A more formal visitor reception area can be developed at the tip of Forty Mile Island consisting of a kiosk with site map and interpretive signage. Three walking trails (described in *Section 5*) will start from here and each trail will have a colour or number coordinated signage system.

Key Actions:

- Develop a reception and information kiosk at the tip of Forty Mile Island.
- Develop a system of interpretive signs for the three themed walking trails.

4.4.3 Boat Landing

Tour boat operators may require minimal docking facilities so clients do not get wet or muddy feet. Removable sections of boardwalk or floating docks held in place by gabions could be built in situ from natural materials to suit conditions as needed. These should be constructed to accommodate changing water levels in the Yukon River and be removed for the winter.

Key Actions:

- If required, a licensed tour operator may design and construct a modular boardwalk and dock system meeting the approval of the Forty Mile management body. The system could be built from local material and should be easily removed for the winter.

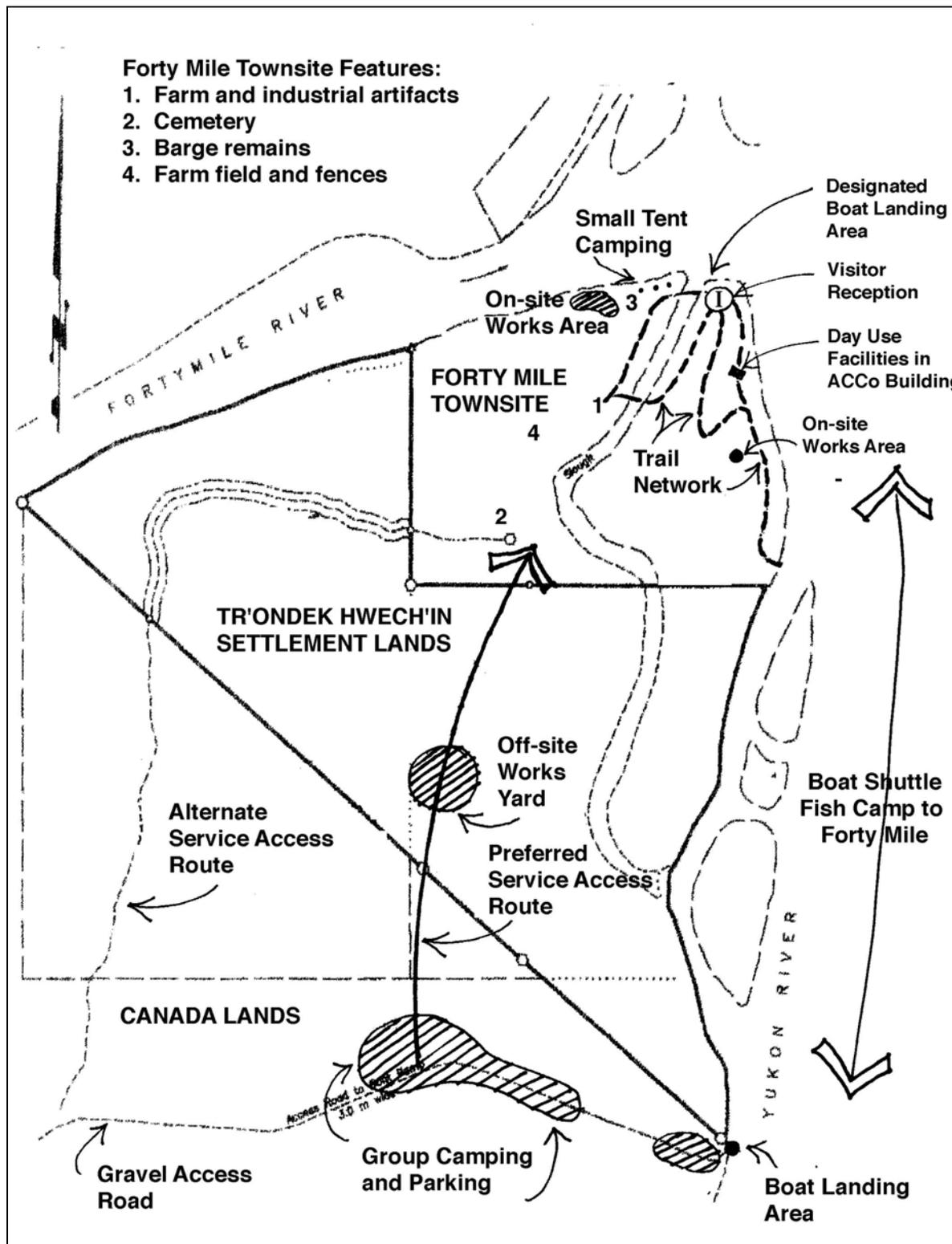
4.4.4 Water and Sanitation Facilities

Additional outhouses at locations throughout the site may have to be supplied as visitation increases. Drinking water should also be supplied at any off-site camping facilities near the fish camp. Ensure that drinking water sources are a safe distance from contamination sources such as outhouses.

Key Action:

- Install additional outhouses and bear-proof refuse containers as necessary

Figure 4.2 Historic Site and Area Phase 2: Maximum Development



4.4.5 Day Use Facilities

The A. C. Co. Warehouse stabilized during *Phase 1* could be adapted as a day use and interpretive facility (see concept drawing *Figure 4.3*). Interpretive panels would be mounted on a secondary structural system installed to stabilize the exterior walls. This area can be supplied with picnic tables. However cooking and fires would be prohibited; visitors will be encouraged to use the kitchen shelter near the camping area for these purposes. In addition, a visitor reception and information kiosk should be located at the tip of Forty Mile Island.

Key Action:

- Adapt the stabilized A. C. Co. Warehouse for use as a day use and interpretive area by installing picnic tables and interpretive panels.

4.4.6 Camping

Individual tent camping would continue at the small number of sites at the tip of Forty Mile Island. As use increases this campsite should be supplied with additional outhouses, refuse containers, rock pits for grey water, and bear proof food lockers. Additional sites could be located directly across the slough. The capacity of this area is limited. There is no suitable location to develop a larger campground on-site. However, there could be an opportunity to develop a larger vehicle-accessible campground on Canada Lands near the Fish Camp. As visitation to the site increases, the appearance of the Fish Camp will need to reflect the standard for care and attention that is expected of visitors to the historic site.

Some provision should be made for overflow camping for canoeists. Even before *Phase 2*, peak periods will be experienced. It is unlikely that canoeists will return upstream to camp in the Fish Camp area. Canoeists could be directed to camp on one of the islands at the mouth of the Forty Mile River on a 'no-trace' basis. Camping areas for boaters should be within a reasonable distance from the rivers' edge to facilitate carrying gear.

Key Actions:

- Maintain small camping area at the tip of Forty Mile Island and develop sites directly across the slough.
- Identify and post instructions for an overflow camping area.

4.4.7 Walking Trails

Because visitors wandering freely through the site may damage the surface resources, walking trails will be constructed to restrict visitors to appropriate areas. The walking trails are linked to three interpretive story lines that are detailed in *Section 5* (see *Figure 5.1*). These walking trails will be cleared of vegetation to a substrate of natural soil. Gravel may be needed in damp areas. Trail edges may be delineated with poles or river rock in places.

Key Action:

- Develop three walking trails, including bridges, as located on *Figure 5.1*. (Note: bridges may be constructed in an earlier phase to facilitate service and maintenance).

4.4.8 Staff Facilities and Service Area

Due to the physical limitations of the site, locating an area for staff accommodation, site maintenance, storing equipment, materials and fuel is problematic. It may be that smaller satellite areas can be located throughout the site screened by vegetation or existing or new sheds could be utilized. For instance, one area might be located near the camping area to store materials and supplies to service that area. The caretaker may have a screened storage area near Swanson's store. Covered storage can be provided in the Telegraph Building. It appears that a larger service area, possibly including semi-permanent tent frames for on-site staff, could be located along the service road on Settlement Land.

Key Actions:

- Develop small on-site service and storage areas as necessary.
- Develop a larger service yard and staff accommodation location along the service road.
- Year round caretaker housing is recommended for a permanent site caretaker and watchperson, including a residence, and equipment facility.
- A survival shelter may be appropriate for use by local residents who travel through the area in the winter.

Key Actions for Economic Development (encourage private enterprise):

- Develop a vehicle-accessible campground in the area of the Fish Camp.
- From Dawson City, provide commercial boat transportation for individuals, small groups and larger groups to the site entrance at the boat landing area.
- From the Fish Camp provide a boat shuttle service to carry visitors to the site entrance at the boat landing area.
- Schedule boat arrivals at the boat landing area to coincide with guided reception and tours of the site.

4.5 FORT CUDAHY AND FORT CONSTANTINE

It is recommended that no development occur at the historic site locations across the Fortymile River. Visitation will not be encouraged.

4.6 LONG TERM POSSIBILITIES

In the long term there are a number of facilities that could be considered if visitation warrants and funds are available.

- Power Generation – solar power generation could be considered
- Solar powered composting toilets
- Reconstruct Northern Commercial Company complex for staff facilities

5.0 INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

While the resources at Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site are compelling on their own, for local residents and visitors to properly understand the site and its context, additional information is necessary. Off-site, this information can be provided through brochures, books, articles, educational programs and displays in museums or cultural centres. On-site, signage, self-guided trails and interpreters can be employed to help the visitor understand the site. For the purposes of this report all of these educational activities will be considered under the heading of ‘interpretation’.

Interpretation is “*an educational activity which aims to reveal meanings and relationships through the use of original objects, by firsthand experience, and by illustrative media, rather than simply to communicate factual information*” (Freeman J. Tilden, the ‘father of modern interpretation’).

This section gives some preliminary directions for interpretation. A more detailed interpretation plan will need to be completed. At that time, based on additional research than currently available, new themes and stories may emerge.

5.1 INTERPRETIVE CONSIDERATIONS

Good interpretation requires careful planning to:

- collect and organize the information that is known about a site from documentation, from research and from oral history and stories,
- determine how that information might be presented to assist visitors and local residents to understand it,
- consider which stories are most appropriately interpreted at Forty Mile.

5.1.1 Context for Interpretation

There are many stories to interpret at the Forty Mile site; more than the average visitor can absorb in a visit of a few hours. While the information presented at the site must stand alone, it should also complement material presented at other related historic sites. Because each visitor will not necessarily visit each site, some overlap is necessary to ensure that the stories at each site are complete.

The Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site will focus on themes and stories specific to Forty Mile that are best interpreted at the site. The exception to this may

be certain First Nation themes that could be interpreted at a variety of locations throughout Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional territory. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in will decide which are the most appropriate locations to interpret the stories of their early life in the Yukon Basin.

5.1.1.1 Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in are developing heritage programs at several locations within their traditional territory with the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre as the hub. The Cultural Centre provides displays and information relevant to the understanding of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional territory and way of life. The interpretation at Forty Mile should complement these messages and those delivered at other locations.

5.1.1.2 Tr'ochëk

Tr'ochëk is an important traditional encampment at the confluence of the Yukon and Klondike Rivers, just south of Dawson City. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have chosen this location to develop displays and visitor services that celebrate their culture. The Management Plan for Tr'ochëk proposes that a pre-contact fish camp be recreated along with an interpretive shelter and self-guided walk. There would also be an area where visitors can camp and take part in cultural programs.

5.1.1.3 Dawson City Museum

The Dawson City Museum interprets early trading history, the Klondike Gold Rush and Dawson community life. There is also information on First Nations history including a language group map. There is very little information that is specific to Forty Mile; however, the material presented is a good overview of the history of the area.

5.1.1.4 Moosehide

Moosehide is a village site upstream from Dawson City that is still used today for traditional ceremonies and the annual Moosehide Gathering. Moosehide has become a centre for spiritual learning, where Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and others can learn about traditions and spiritual practices. Because of the controlled access to the site, it is ideal for these purposes.

5.1.1.5 Ancient Voice Wilderness Camp

Ancient Voices is a privately run camp that provides a First Nations tourism experience. Visitors, who are taken by boat from Dawson City, can participate in drumming and a salmon barbeque and can stay overnight in rustic cabins or wall tents.

5.1.1.6 Tombstone Park

Tombstone Park is located in Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory and contains heritage sites important to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in including trails and migration routes. It is unclear what themes will be chosen for interpretation at Tombstone. Caribou hunting is one First Nation theme that could overlap with interpretation at Forty Mile.

5.1.1.7 McBride Museum, Whitehorse

The McBride Museum in Whitehorse contains considerable information related to Forty Mile including:

- a detailed description of the factors that contributed to the decision to dispatch the NWMP to the Yukon, including Ogilvie's recommendation and the correspondence from Bishop Bompas,
- a description of the NWMP experience in the area, including the Glacier Creek incident,
- a description of the First Nations' role as guides, hunters and dog handlers to the white miners and the NWMP.

There is also a brief description of Forty Mile townsite and very detailed descriptions of early mining techniques.

There will certainly be overlap between Forty Mile and the McBride Museum in the interpretation of the themes mentioned above. However, many visitors to Whitehorse will not visit the Forty Mile site. It is important to present this information at both locations.

5.1.1.8 Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

This 2.5 million acre preserve encompasses the entire Charlie River watershed and most of the Yukon River between Eagle and Circle. It was formed primarily to protect significant geological and paleontological features and other natural values. Some basic information on the early gold rushes to Forty Mile, Circle and Nome are included on websites related to the preserve. It is not known if there is any on-site interpretation.

5.1.1.9 Skagway

Dyea and Skagway was an important gateway to the Yukon even before the Klondike rush. Interpretive information at the Visitor Centre in Skagway focuses almost exclusively on the Klondike Gold Rush.

5.1.1.10 Eagle, Alaska

Eagle, Alaska is located twelve river miles downstream of the Canadian/American border on the Yukon River. The museum in Eagle is housed in six historic buildings dating from 1900/1901, the museum portrays life in early Eagle and the role of Eagle as a commercial and military centre. Eagle was established in 1897 by a group of miners unable to locate claims in the Klondike. There is no interpretation of the Forty Mile gold rush at this site.¹⁰

5.1.1.11 Circle, Alaska

Gold strikes further down the Yukon River lead to the establishment of Circle (historically Circle City), Alaska in 1893, eclipsing Forty Mile as the largest town on the Yukon River. Circle does not have a museum, but has some historical information on their website.¹¹

Forty Mile presents a different mix of opportunities. The site has a mixture of resources belonging to two cultures. There is an archaeological record of a First Nation encampment dating back to at least 500 years before present. It was likely a semi-permanent encampment or occupied seasonally for spring grayling fishing and fall caribou hunting.

¹⁰ <http://www.eagleak.org>

¹¹ http://members.aol.com/pooh0302/circle_body.htm

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There are also visible structural remains of the gold rush town of Forty Mile representing the first rush of white miners into the Yukon basin.

At Forty Mile, there is an opportunity to interpret the impact of the influx of miners into the Yukon Basin from the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in perspective. Although the planning process to date has not revealed oral histories or stories about the Forty Mile site, it is assumed that as research and archaeological investigation continues, stories about the site will be revealed.

5.1.2 Defining the Audience for Interpretation

Interpretive messages are most effective when geared to specific audiences. The interpretive approach used for a group of grade 5 school children will be different from that used with a group of adults.

Currently, the site is visited by boaters some of whom are fishing, some of whom are exploring the river between Dawson City and Eagle, Alaska. Some boaters make Forty Mile a destination. A smaller number of people access the site by land, either on foot via the trail from the Fish Camp or via a 'cat track' that enters the site from the west.

Some of these visitors are local residents; some are visitors from as far away as Japan and Europe. Some are of aboriginal extraction who have an ancestral link to the site, some are of European extraction who also may have had forefathers that lived in the area.

At Forty Mile, interpretation during *Phase 1 and 2* should target a general audience. As *Phase 2* of the development is implemented, the site may become a destination for other groups such as school groups from Dawson City or Eagle or cultural tours led by the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. The Committee may also want to target specific groups off-site to raise awareness about the site and promote visitation.

5.1.3 Interpretive Messages

As with any historic site, the amount of information available about the site is considerably more than visitors may want or need to know. The information can often be overwhelming for those putting together interpretive material. It is important to establish in advance the primary messages to be conveyed at the site.

An overview of the history of the Forty Mile (see *Appendix 1*) provides background research from which several important themes can be extracted. These themes assist in organizing large amounts of information into manageable topics. As archaeology, archival research and oral histories reveal more information about the First Nation component of the site, other themes and stories may emerge. The themes chosen for interpretation at Forty Mile are directly related to why the site is significant and what makes it unique and different from other special places in the Yukon.

As discussed in *Section 1*, Forty Mile is significant because:

- It formed part of the Hän people's seasonal round as a camp for grayling fishing and caribou hunting.
- It was here that the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in had their first contact with the full spectrum of European culture.
- It was the site of the discovery of the first coarse gold in the Yukon.
- It was the first 'real' town in the Yukon.
- It is the site of the first NWMP outpost.
- It was an important location in establishing the sovereignty of the British over a largely American population.

Based on this, the following primary themes for Forty Mile are discussed in detail in *Section 5.2*. Within each general theme certain interpretive messages and storylines will need to be identified. What do visitors need to know to appreciate the site? What interesting stories can be told that will pique visitors' interest? What stories complement information presented at other related historic sites?

- The natural setting in a lush riverine environment with striking vistas of the mountains east of the Yukon River; the boreal forest which at the site has been altered by man; the Fortymile Caribou Herd
- Adapting the Old Ways; Adopting the New – Hän hunting and fishing camp going back at least 500 years
- From Furs to Gold – The traders and trading companies
- The brotherhood of the early miners
- The town of Forty Mile as the first town in the Yukon
- The role of the Churches
- The development of Canadian sovereignty

Ongoing archaeological impact assessment, research driven archaeology and oral history may well demonstrate that Forty Mile Historic Site has significant pre-contact cultural heritage values. In that event, the role of Forty Mile in presenting the pre-contact history of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in should be reviewed and the interpretive plan revisited.

5.1.4 Interpretive Viewpoints

Stories differ depending on who is telling them. Stories about Forty Mile could be told from the point of view of the early traders, the first miners or First Nations. The insurgence of white miners into the Yukon during the Klondike Gold Rush has been portrayed in other locations, however the role of the pre-Klondike prospectors is not well known. At Forty Mile there is an opportunity to tell this story from the point of view of First Nations people and early miners.

The role of women, both white and native, in the development of the pre-Klondike Yukon has not been well presented. Yet Mayo, Harper and McQuesten all married native women

who played a vital role in introducing these men to the ways of the country. Charlotte Bompas, left her upper middle class background in England to spend four years at Forty Mile assisting her husband Bishop Bompas. Emilie Tremblay spent the winter of 1894 with her husband in an isolated cabin on Miller Creek. Ethel Bush Berry, after taking a honeymoon trip over the Chilkoot Pass, spent two months alone in a cabin at Forty Mile while her husband prospected. These viewpoints will add to the richness of our understanding of life in the first town in the Yukon.

5.1.5 Interpretive Resources

The Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site is rich with in situ resources. Buildings, building outlines, large machinery artifacts, structures such as fences or whip saw horses and features such as drainage ditches all present visitors with tangible evidence of the site's history. An inventory of the buildings can be found in *Table 3.1 Conservation Priorities for Standing Building Remains*. Some of these buildings such as the NWMP building, the Anglican Church and the Alaska Commercial Company Warehouse are linked to major themes for the Forty Mile site.

In addition there is archaeological evidence, oral traditions, documentary and archival sources such as photographs and diaries, which, as the site develops, are expected to play an increasing role in interpretation.

5.1.6 Interpretation Media and Locations

5.1.6.1 On-site

In *Phase 1*, signage will be the main vehicle to orient visitors to the site and to convey interpretive messages. There will be information panels at the two site entrances – the trailhead near the Fish Camp and the Visitor Reception Area at the tip of Forty Mile Island. The trail system will move people through the site to view the resources (buildings, artifacts) with interpretive panels that describe their relevance. In *Phase 2*, when the A.C. Co. Warehouse is adapted for a day use and interpretive area, there will be ample space for additional displays. When present, the on-site caretaker or members of maintenance crews can add a personal presence. In later stages of development, increased summer visitation, organized school tours, and organized events such as youth or culture camps may require that interpreters be present at the site.

5.1.6.2 Off-site

Some visitors prefer to learn about a site before experiencing it personally. Others like to experience the site and then find out more about it later. Currently Forty Mile is mentioned in displays in the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre, the Dawson City Museum, and the McBride Museum. Off-site messages should be consistent with the level of development at the site and should support on-site interpretation. Other forms of off-site interpretation could include school curriculum packages, brochures, publications, websites and videos.

5.1.7 The Interpretive Experience

Interpretation differs from other forms of education because it is usually to some degree experiential. The meaningfulness of the experience relies not just on the information conveyed but also on the sights, sounds and smells and sometimes even the tactile experience of the visitor.

To fully understand the meaningfulness of this site in the context of both the First Nation and non-Native occupation it is best to arrive at the site by boat as did its earlier inhabitants. Landing on the point of land that marks the confluence of the Fortymile River affords a view of both rivers and of the mountains to the north-east. Photographic and archaeological evidence suggest that this area was traditionally used as a boat landing. The attractiveness of the location as a fishing or hunting camp or as a trading centre can be appreciated. Approaching from the river the visitor can get a sense of the layout of the site, the location of the slough, and the locations of some of the key buildings.

Moving up onto the bench from the boat landing area, the visitor will encounter the Visitor Reception area. Sign panels or a small kiosk will orient the visitor to the fragility of the site and to the location of trails and facilities.

Leaving the reception area, a self-guided trail system (or at later stages of development an interpreter) will conduct the visitor through the site. The trails will be organized around three umbrella themes, such as:

- From Furs to Gold
- Pre-Contact and Contact First Nations at Forty Mile
- Foundations of the Yukon

The layout of the trails is described more fully in *Section 5.2* and is illustrated in *Figure 5.1*.

5.2 THEMES AND STORIES

The themes that have been identified for Forty Mile are arranged in approximate chronological order rather than in order of priority. The stories and sub-themes listed under each theme are not complete, but give an indication of the type of material that could be presented. More background research is needed, and a comprehensive interpretive plan for the historic site needs to be developed. The historic information in this section relies heavily on the work of Gates (1994) and Barrett (1986).

5.2.1 Theme 1: The Natural Setting

As part of Beringia, the landscape around the confluence of the Yukon and Fortymile Rivers was not glaciated during the last ice age. Beringia extended across Siberia through Alaska and west to the Mackenzie River area. It remained ice-free during two major Pleistocene glacial advances, ca. 120,000 to 65,000 years ago and 38,000 to 12,000 years ago. This unique environment supported many large mammals such as mammoths, mastodons, horses, camels, bison, giant moose and short-faced bear, all now extinct.

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Forty Mile lies along the northern part of the Tintina Trench, a linear valley that runs from southeast to northwest from Watson Lake to Alaska. It was first recorded as a geological feature in the early 1900s by R. G. McConnell, a geologist with the Geological Survey of Canada. The Trench lies above a huge fault along which the bedrock has shifted at least 450 kilometres laterally over the last 65 million years. This shifting caused the trench, and actually switched the flow of the Yukon River from south to north about three million years ago. The Trench is home to rich mineral deposits as well as being an important wildlife corridor. It is a migration corridor for geese, sand hill cranes, tundra swans and peregrine falcons.

Plant communities reflect the interaction between climate, soils and permafrost. Permafrost at Forty Mile is discontinuous and its natural patterns have been disturbed by human occupation. When tree cover is removed the surface soils heat up, the permafrost table, if present, retreats to a deeper level leaving a hospitable surface habitat for trees such as white spruce, paper birch and balsam poplar. As these trees grow big enough to shade the area, the soil cools. It also becomes insulated by detritus such as needles and leaves and moss. The permafrost table rises until the ground is no longer suitable for these species and they are gradually replaced by stunted black spruce and larch. These widely spaced trees promote the growth of blueberries, Labrador tea and cottongrass and often dense carpets of lichen develop. (Pielou, 1994)

Different stages of this process of natural forest succession can be illustrated at different locations in the vicinity of the Forty Mile site. Its location on a river terrace indicates that the permafrost table, if present, would be deeper than the surrounding country. Clearing by early miners would have driven any existing permafrost even deeper, allowing the soils to support willow, alder, poplar and birch. Further back from the river, in areas of less historic clearing, white spruce predominates. In wetter locations, forests of black spruce and lichen can be found.

The site has also been influenced by flooding and the abrasive activity of ice flows. In the spring damaged vegetation can be seen along the banks of the Yukon and Forty Mile Rivers (see *Figures 2.1 and 2.2*).

The Forty Mile Caribou Herd was once larger than the Porcupine Herd, but was hunted to the verge of extinction. It has now recovered to approximately 40,000 animals. In the fall of 2002, for the first time in fifty years, several thousand animals migrated into the Yukon from Alaska. Some animals travelled down the Fortymile River and crossed the Yukon River in the vicinity of the historic site. A picture exists, taken around 1920, of caribou at the townsite of Forty Mile.¹²

Two pairs of peregrine falcons nest within five kilometres of the site and hunt in the surrounding valley. The lucky visitor might sight one of these endangered birds.¹³

¹² Farnell, Rick, Caribou Biologist, Department of Environment, Government of Yukon, personal communication, January, 2003.

¹³ Mossop, Dave, Yukon College, personal communication, April, 2003.

5.2.1.1 Stories and Sub-themes

The natural setting is an important component of the appeal of Forty Mile. However, not all aspects of this theme are best interpreted at this site. Some are best interpreted elsewhere in the Yukon.

Flooding and Ice Flows

Forty Mile townsite has been the site of severe flooding on many occasions. There is good photo documentation of the flood of 1896 which left huge pieces of ice scattered about the town (see *Figure 2.1*). A flood in the early 20th century appears to have spun the A. C. Co. Warehouse 180 degrees and floated it to a new location several hundred feet away. Scouring of the ice flows also causes visible damage to vegetation along the edge of rivers. Visitors, especially from the south, will find the evidence of these natural forces and their past and potential impact on the historic site fascinating.

The action of flooding and ice flows will be interpreted at the A. C. Co. Warehouse in *Phase 2*. The building outline, that marks its original location near the tip of Forty Mile Island, will be exposed and interpreted.

Fauna/Wildlife – Forty Mile Cariboo Herd

The confluence of the Fortymile and Yukon Rivers is an historic crossing in the migration of the Fortymile herd and a place where Hän people intercepted the herd. However, Forty Mile is not the most convenient location for viewing the herd during its migration. When the herd migrates into the Yukon, it travels along the high ridges or domes and is most easily seen along the Top of the World Highway. In 2002, thousands of animals were seen along an eighty kilometre stretch of the highway. However, Forty Mile may present a convenient location to have an interpretive sign about the herd, its importance to the Hän people and its recovery. This sign should be located in the A.C.Co. Warehouse day use facility in *Phase 2*.

Boreal Forest – Forest Succession

Humans removed most of the tree cover on Forty Mile Island, Mission Islands and parts of the nearby mainland. As a result a microcosm of forest succession in the boreal forest has been created. The boreal forest is interpreted in various places throughout the Yukon. However, the particular impacts at Forty Mile will be of interest to visitors and can be interpreted through a panel in the A. C. Co. Warehouse or on interpretive signs along the walking trails.

Tintina Trench

Little information is available to visitors about the Tintina Trench. One Yukon highway sign south of Dawson City overlooks the Trench and provides some basic information. The tip of Forty Mile Island looking towards the mountains east of the Yukon River provides a different perspective on the Trench. This is not a high priority theme for interpretation at the site, however an interpretive panel explaining the local landforms should make reference to the Trench.

Beringia

Beringia is well interpreted at the Beringia Centre in Whitehorse and is not a significant theme for Forty Mile. However, the location of the historic site in Beringia should be mentioned in interpretative material to assist visitors to understand the surrounding landforms.

5.2.1.2 Interpretive Resources

When interpreting the natural history of the site, visitors will be referred to the surrounding landforms and plant communities.

5.2.2 Theme 2: Adapting the Old Ways; Adopting the New

This theme focuses on the life of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in during the pre-contact and early contact periods. Archaeological evidence provides important clues to the lives of the people in pre-contact times. Stone tools and bone fragments tell us where they hunted and camped, as well as which animals they killed for food. At Forty Mile the evidence points to it being a location that was part of the seasonal round of the Hän Hwëch'in or 'river people' and used for caribou hunting and grayling fishing. Archaeological evidence also indicates that the early inhabitants reused and reworked materials obtained through trade to meet their own needs.

Although Forty Mile was not the location of the first encounter between Hän people and non-Native people, it was a location where the Hän first had extended interactions with many of the institutions that represented the encroachment of the whites on their territory – the miners committees, the Church and the NWMP.

There is little visible evidence of the Hän occupation of the Forty Mile area. Interpretation will rely on interpretive panels along the walking trails and in the A. C. Co. Warehouse day use facility.

5.2.2.1 Stories/sub-themes

The traditional life of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people is being interpreted at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre and will also be interpreted at Tr'ochëk and Tombstone. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in will decide what aspects of this theme are best interpreted at each place within their traditional territory. More research will be required to provide the detail needed to develop interpretive material.

The Archaeological Record

Five years of archaeological investigations have been completed at Forty Mile. The results of this investigation and what it contributes to our knowledge of Hän lifeways is of interest to local residents and visitors. Visitors may be lucky enough to see archaeology in progress when they visit the site. An interpretive panel near the tip of the island could explain the archaeology completed to date and the role of archaeological impact assessment in site development.

Traditional Hunting and Fishing Technologies

Visitors will be interested in understanding how a caribou hunt would be conducted or how Hän fished for and processed grayling. What equipment was used? Did methods change over time? An interpretive panel should present descriptions of early hunting and fishing methods and could be located along Trail 2 near the 'Fish House'.

Traditional Travel and Trade

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in travelled extensively throughout their traditional territory and had trade relationships with surrounding peoples. Was Forty Mile a stop en route to communities near Eagle or on their traditional trade routes? Was Forty Mile important to their seasonal round?

Commercial Relationships

The Hän people formed commercial relationships with the Europeans. They sold furs to the early traders. They supplied the miners with fresh meat and fish for their dogs. How did Hän traditional life change in response to these new relationships?

The Lives of Kate McQuesten, Jennie Harper and Margaret Mayo

Three of the Yukon's most famous pioneers had First Nations wives. What role did these women play in the success of their husbands as explorers and traders?

Post-1900 Families at Forty Mile

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in elders remember living at Forty Mile themselves or others that did. These family stories will be revealed through oral history and will be an important link between the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the historic site.

Chief Isaac

The life of Chief Isaac is portrayed at the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre and may be interpreted at Tr'ochëk as well. However, any relationship that Chief Isaac had with Forty Mile, if documented, should be mentioned in interpretive material at Forty Mile.

5.2.2.2 Interpretive Resources

Although there are few physical remains for visitors to see, locations of pre-contact fire pits can be marked. Sign panels can include photographs of artifacts found during the archaeological investigation. With little visible evidence at the site of the time period, story panels can make use of historic photos and photos of the archaeological record. Oral history information may play a part in interpreting this theme.

5.2.3 Theme 3: From Furs to Gold

Arthur Harper arrived in Fort Yukon during the summer of 1873 intent on prospecting the Yukon basin. A veteran of the diggings in California and British Columbia, Irish born Harper spent his first winter on the White River with no results. Leroy Napoleon McQuesten entered the Yukon basin the same year and quickly established himself as a trader for the Alaska Commercial Company, founding a new post on the upper Yukon at

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Fort Reliance in 1874. Both McQuesten and Harper continued to work for the Alaska Commercial Company for several years. During this time Harper frequently took time out for prospecting ventures.

By the summer of 1886, when gold was discovered on the Fortymile River, McQuesten was regularly 'going out' to San Francisco to purchase supplies while Harper wintered at Fort Nelson at the mouth of the Stewart River. When word reached Harper of the Fortymile strike he immediately sent a letter out to McQuesten to increase their order. At first the Alaska Commercial Company would not approve the increased order. They, like the Hudson's Bay Company before them, were not in favour of encouraging an influx of miners and prospectors into the region. When McQuesten threatened to form his own company they relented. When the supplies arrived at Forty Mile the following summer, Harper set up a counter on the deck of the barge and sold the works in forty-eight hours.

When a second steamer arrived in August, Harper built a new trading post, the first commercial building at what would become the townsite of Forty Mile. Prices were three times what they were in Juneau and the quality of goods was very poor.

During the period of 1887 to 1893, the community grew and prospered. The Alaska Commercial Company continued to hold a trading monopoly and prices remained high. In 1893, J. J. Healy arrived on a new steamer, the *Portius B. Weare*, and built a substantial post on the dry level bench on the far side of the Fortymile River. The new post of the North American Transportation and Trading Company was christened Fort Cudahy after one of his Chicago-based backers. The competition immediately drove local prices downwards, and although Healy's store carried a wider selection of goods, many miners remained staunchly loyal to the ACC because of McQuesten's generous grubstake policy. McQuesten understood that his business depended on miners making new strikes and it was in his best interest to offer what assistance he could to this process. J. J. Healy, on the other hand, issued no credit and as a result was unpopular with the miners.

This era marked a dramatic shift in policy by the trading companies. In the past they had located where it was convenient for Native populations to bring furs or followed the semi-nomadic seasonal prospectors. By locating at Forty Mile, with both gold and the miners close at hand, they were able to develop a more stable trade. As a result First Nations people desiring to trade were exposed to the alcohol and coarse behaviour that typified early settlements such as Forty Mile.

With more steamers travelling the Yukon River and more people in the Yukon basin, trade goods become more plentiful and more varied. Traders and miners began planting small vegetable gardens. The first stove came into the country. Lumber, which had been in such short supply that the Bishop Bompas had used his cupboards to make a coffin, became more plentiful. The first horses were brought to Forty Mile via barge after crossing the Chilkat pass in 1893.

With discoveries of gold on Birch Creek in 1893, and then on the Klondike in 1896, Forty Mile and Fort Cudahy were eclipsed by Circle in Alaska and Dawson City. However, the Alaska Commercial Company remained active in Forty Mile until 1915.

5.2.3.1 Stories and Sub-themes

There are many stories that can be told to illustrate development of early trade and how it changed over time. Below are only a few.

McQuesten's grubstake policy

McQuesten understood the realities of life in the north and the pendulum swing of the miners' fortunes. He understood that he stood to gain more than he lost when grubstaking miners. This policy won loyalty for the Alaska Commercial Company's outlets even though prices might be higher than competitors.

Tom Williams's Death March

Tom Williams agreed to carry a letter from Harper to McQuesten over the Chilkoot Pass in December of 1886. The letter announced the gold strike on the Fortymile River and begged McQuesten to bring more supplies in the spring. Williams' heroic trip in the company of a young native is legendary. Although Williams didn't survive the trip, his First Nations companion delivered the letter, and news of the strike made it to Juneau.

Poor Quality of Supplies

Mouldy bacon and flour so hard "we had to split the flour sacks like cordwood" were standard fare at Forty Mile during the early days.

Joe Wilson and the Gumboots

Some items were more important than others to the miners. When the A. C. Co. forgot to include gumboots in the supplies they brought to Forty Mile in the summer of 1887, Joe Wilson and two partners left in September for Juneau via the Chilcoot Pass to get the order. Trapped by weather they did not reach Juneau until February of 1888.

5.2.3.2 Interpretive Resources

It is believed that the first A. C. Co. post was near the tip of Forty Mile Island facing the Fortymile River. It was here that boats landed carrying necessary supplies. The Warehouse (Building FMEB-2) is believed to have been originally located at the tip of the island at FMB0 - 1. The very first commercial buildings at Forty Mile were believed to stretch southward along the slough. The walking trail (see *Figure 5.1*) to be developed in *Phase 1* will allow visitors to view original building outlines while interpretive signage develops the 'Furs to Gold' story. In *Phase 2*, when the A. C. Co. Warehouse is developed as a day use facility there will be the opportunity to interpret that building including the office area with its existing wallpaper from the 1890s.

5.2.4 Theme 4: Brotherhood of Miners

Although one would expect there to be an ‘every man for themselves’ attitude, the pre-Klondike Yukon was surprising in the efforts taken to make a level playing field for all miners and to make concessions for those less fortunate. The miners’ committees were a hold-over from previous American gold rushes. The miners were used to operating where there was no official authority and had developed their own simple form of democracy – decisions by open meeting. The first miners’ committee meeting in the Yukon was in Ft. Reliance during the winter of 1882/83. The miners determined the size of placer claims and regulations regarding water rights. A few years later, a system for registering claims was set up in Forty Mile.

Most of the miners knew each other; some had known each other in previous gold rushes. Word of new strikes was passed along the river. When gold was discovered on the Fortymile, the discoverers sent a message to the miners on the Stewart River to ensure that all miners had a chance to stake claims. During the winter of 1886/87, the men wintering on 16 Liars Island determined that the claim sizes should be reduced from 1500 feet to 300 feet in order to accommodate the influx of miners the following spring. The following August any miners who had not struck it rich were allowed to bring rocker boxes onto paying claims in order to make a paying grubstake.

The miners developed a strict code of ethics and the punishment for violating it was often banishment. If in desperation you broke into a cache, you took only what you absolutely needed and left a note so a settlement could be made later.

However, as more and more miners streamed into the Yukon, this code of behaviour began to be eroded. The miners’ committees began meeting in saloons and alcohol began to cloud some of the decisions. In 1894, some of the original miners came together in Forty Mile to form the Yukon Order of Pioneers (YOOP). Their membership was restricted to those who came into the Yukon prior to 1888. Their motto was simply “Do as you would be done by”. Although the arrival of the NWMP replaced the miners’ committee with formal justice, YOOP still remains a symbol of a time when truth, honour and integrity were considered the measure of a miner.

5.2.4.1 Stories and Sub-themes

Formation of YOOP

The formation of YOOP at Forty Mile in 1894 was a significant piece of Yukon history and will be commemorated at the site. YOOP still exists today and may wish to assist with the preparation of interpretive material for presentation at the site.

Mayo’s cache at Fort Nelson

Miners and traders cached goods to protect them from animals and the weather. When a miner in desperation broke into Mayo’s cache at Fort Nelson, he left a note indicating what he had taken. It was this code of ethics that was later enshrined in the motto of YOOP.

Liars Island

Ogilvie reported that seven or eight miners overwintered on an island a mile upstream from Forty Mile in the winter of 1887-8. Their storytelling abilities were so legendary they became known as the 'Forty Liars' and the island as 'Liars' Island'.¹⁴

5.2.4.2 Interpretive Resources

Several years ago, YOOP placed a commemorative plaque on a large rock within the site. The plaque has since been removed, but should be replaced.

Archival material, especially diaries, will reveal much about the life of the early miners. The Jack London story '*Men of Forty Mile*', although fiction, portrays the lifestyle and the ambiance of the early community of Forty Mile.

5.2.5 Theme 5: Forty Mile: First Town in the Yukon

When gold was discovered on the Fortymile River late in the summer of 1886, it was too late to do any significant mining. Messages were sent to Fort Nelson to announce the discovery. A small group of about 20 men settled in to winter at the mouth of the Fortymile River and on nearby Liar's Island. The following winter, 160 men overwintered at the mouth of the Fortymile and the first town in the Yukon was born.

Between the years of 1887 and 1894 new strikes were made in the Forty Mile district and the town grew into an assemblage of sod-roofed cabins lining the Yukon River, the Fortymile River and the slough that intersected the townsite. Vestiges of a European-style town were seen on the Yukon for the first time. There were the two stores, a lending library and billiard room, restaurants, saloons, two dance halls, a theatre, a barber shop, a watchmaker, a dressmaker, two bakeries, blacksmiths, a tinsmith and a hardware business. There were also 300 dogs. When Ogilvie visited in 1889 he called it the 'worst jumble I ever saw'.

As supplies become more plentiful due to increased steamer traffic on the Yukon, it became possible for more men to overwinter. The use of fire to thaw frozen ground allowed these miners to work their claims during the winter stockpiling the ore until the summer.

Although Forty Mile was eclipsed first by Circle City, Alaska and then by Dawson City, it made the development of these communities easier as business and industries simply moved locations. The commercial and industrial infrastructure was in place for the onslaught of the Klondike rush.

In 1896 the population of Forty Mile was over 700. The next year it was 50. However, there was a resurgence in 1898 as miners found the Klondike area too crowded. By 1921 there were only 23 residents. The last permanent resident of Forty Mile, Bill Couture, died in 1958.

¹⁴ Ogilvie, W. *Early Days in the Yukon*, pg. 291 as cited in Gates, M. *Gold at Fortymile Creek*, Vancouver: UBC Press, 1994.

5.2.5.1 Stories and Sub-themes

Community Life

Visitors will want to know what it was like to live at Forty Mile in the early days. There are numerous accounts of social life in the growing town of Forty Mile including storytelling sessions, the production of 'Forty-Rod' whiskey, the arrival of the first of the 'demimonde', and Bishop Bompas's attempt to foster a more refined atmosphere with weekly church services. This is a broad topic and it is expected that interpretive material at several locations will combine to give visitors a picture of early Forty Mile.

Early agriculture

It may be that the farm and field at Forty Mile represents some of the earliest agriculture in the territory. Sam Patch was successfully growing and selling potatoes by 1895. More research is necessary to determine the scope and extent of the agricultural activities at Forty Mile.

Loneliness and Isolation

The miners over wintering in the Forty Mile area, especially in the early years, were incredibly isolated from the rest of the world. Loneliness, even when living among other miners, would have been a constant companion. The few white women that resided in the area were also removed from family and friends.

5.2.5.2 Interpretive Resources

There are many physical resources that will assist in interpreting this theme. The walking trail to be developed in *Phase 1* will take visitors along the 'main street' of the early townsite. Building outlines with interpretive panels including early photos of the town will be used to let visitors imagine the scene. In *Phase 2*, a reconstructed sod-roofed hut will show visitors a typical miner's abode.

In *Phase 2*, the trail will be extended across the slough to the site of the farm where building remains, original fencing and industrial machinery will be interpreted.

5.2.6 Theme 6: The Churches

Although the first concern of the religious orders was conversion of native peoples to Christianity, the churches soon realized that the miners needed spiritual attendance. There was strong rivalry between the Catholic Church and the Church of England. Forty Mile represented some of the first efforts of the two major churches to establish a permanent presence in the Yukon. In 1886, a young deacon, J. W. Ellington was sent out from England to serve with Bishop William Bompas. After spending time at Rampart House, he was then sent to Forty Mile late in the summer of 1887. Here he began construction of Buxton Mission, named after its British benefactor. Ellington travelled the Yukon River as far as Fort Reliance preaching to the Native population. He apparently had an unstable personality unsuited for the rigours of frontier life. He was never able to adapt to life among the miners and became the butt of many of the miners' practical jokes. Buxton Mission was built, then

moved and the project was not completed when Ellington had to be removed from the country due to his unstable condition.

The Mission was run by a Native catechist from 1890 to 1892 when it was reoccupied by Bishop Bompas and his wife Charlotte. The Mission was situated on an island just upstream from Forty Mile and consisted of two log buildings, the residence and the school. This was the first mission school in the Yukon. The latter also served as a church on Sunday. First Nations workers helped to build the Mission and a small community of First Nations people grew up adjacent to it. Bompas, like his predecessor, did not take well to the miners' society. His main work was his ministry among the First Nations population. In fact, he wrote several letters requesting the government to send in the NWMP to deal with the illegal importation and distillation of alcohol because of its effects on the Native population. Nonetheless, the Bishop and his wife were held in deep respect by the miners and on Christmas Day 1892, they presented Mrs. Bompas with a splendid gold nugget. For the few miners that attended church there was a Sunday afternoon service after which miners could borrow books from the limited supply in the Mission library.

In the summer of 1894 Father William Judge was dispatched to Forty Mile in response to some of the miners' request for a priest. Father Judge left almost immediately to obtain a supply of sacramental wine and did not return until the following year. He spent the winter of 1895-96 and 1896-97 at Forty Mile, and then followed the miners to Dawson City.

The Rev. R. J. Bowen who was sent out from England in 1895 to assist Bishop Bompas at Buxton Mission was accepted and respected by the miners. In addition to administering to the spiritual needs of the miners he filed saws, drew scaled plans, dressed wounds and frozen limbs and pulled teeth for the miners. He used music to attract miners to church and analogies that the miners could understand, such as prize fighting, to explain the gospel. He built the St. James Anglican Church, which still stands today at the south end of Forty Mile. This church was used regularly until the 1930s, and occasionally into the 1960s.

In the spring of 1896, he was transferred to Circle as was the Catholic Priest William Judge in 1897. Bompas and his wife stayed at Forty Mile until 1901 when they moved to Caribou Crossing (Carcross).

5.2.6.1 Stories/sub-themes

Archival research will reveal more information about the role of the church in the community and the lives of the individuals involved. The relationship of First Nations people to the church is a sensitive topic.

Breakdown of J. W. Ellington

Ellington's story is sad but illustrative of the mental toughness that was necessary to survive on the frontier.

The Lives of Bishop and Charlotte Bompas

From London to the Yukon River basin is a long way both physically and spiritually. Yet Bishop and Charlotte Bompas spent many years of devoted service in the remote communities of the Yukon.

Native catechists at Buxton Mission

Little is currently known about the small First Nations community that grew up around Buxton Mission. From 1890 to 1892 however, the Mission was run by native catechists. Archival research and oral history may reveal more information about these individuals. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in will decide if this will be interpreted at the site.

Bowen's and Judge's Ministry to the Miners

R. J. Bowen of the Anglican Church and Father William Judge of the Catholic Church may have been the first clergy to be sent specifically to minister to the European communities in the Yukon. Archival information will likely give more details about their activities.

5.2.6.2 Interpretive Resources

Considerable information is available in the archival record about the activities of the early churches and their employees. The St. James Anglican Church, built by Rev. Bowen remains as tangible evidence of the role of the churches. Very little remains on Mission Island however further archaeological survey work may give a clearer picture of the Buxton Mission and the adjacent First Nations community.

5.2.7 Theme 7: Sovereignty: An American Town on Canadian Soil

When the first steamer arrived at Forty Mile in the summer of 1887, the stars and stripes were raised. The post office in Forty Mile, run by McQuesten, sold American stamps and the address was Mitchell, Alaska. Given that the population was largely American this is not surprising. In fact, prior to the boundary survey it is likely that many miners did not know whether their claims were on Canadian or American soil.

In the spring of 1887 William Ogilvie, Dominion Land Surveyor, arrived in Dyea and entered the Yukon Basin via Chilkoot Pass. At the same time, George M. Dawson of the Geological Survey of Canada entered the Yukon Basin from the east, via the Liard and Pelly Rivers. Both men were to explore and survey the Yukon and establish the position of the Canadian-American border along the 141st meridian. The two men met and conferred at Fort Selkirk and then Ogilvie headed downstream arriving at Forty Mile in early September. His party wintered further down stream near the boundary and spent the winter taking lunar measurements to accurately determine the location of the boundary. In February they travelled up the Forty Mile and marked the location there, determining what claims lay in Canadian territory.

While many of the American population at Forty Mile treated the first official government presence in the area with suspicion, many others approached Ogilvie with questions regarding mining regulations. It would be seven years before another Canadian government official would return, and in the meantime the miners governed themselves according to

custom of the ‘miner’s committees’, a tradition from previous gold rushes. These committees were a very basic form of democracy and they dealt with criminal cases, mining matters such as water rights and claim size, registration of land titles and community matters such as administering estates. However, as alcohol became more and more prevalent at Forty Mile these committees often abused their power. After one incident, the North American Trading and Transport Company manager, C. H. Hamilton, added his voice to that of Bishop Bompas and William Ogilvie in requesting that the Canadian government send the North-West Mounted Police to enforce the law and to put a lid on illegal alcohol.

In the summer of 1894, Inspector Charles Constantine and Staff Sergeant Charles Brown were sent to examine the situation at Forty Mile and exercise what authority they could without antagonizing the largely American population. The Dominion had until now adopted a laissez-faire policy towards the Yukon, hoping the American population would develop the mine workings. Brown stayed over the winter and was the only representative of Canadian justice in the Yukon. The following summer Constantine returned with a detachment of 40 men and built Fort Constantine on a swampy bench on the north side of the Fortymile. The detachment averaged about one case every two months. In the meantime, they attempted to collect mining fees and tariffs on imported goods. Their authority was cemented in 1896 when they overturned the decision of a miners’ committee on Glacier Creek.

The presence of the NWMP detachment in Forty Mile established the precedent of Canadian justice in the Yukon which was extremely important when the great Klondike Rush started.

5.2.7.1 Stories and Sub-themes

The Canadian –Yukon Expedition

Canadian and US visitors will both enjoy the story of the boundary survey and its relationship to Forty Mile.

Glacier Creek Showdown

This showdown marked the end of the era of law by the miners’ committee and was a significant step in establishing sovereignty.

5.2.7.2 Interpretive Resources

Archival records and photos remain of the Dominion government’s involvement in the early Yukon which will be invaluable in developing display materials.

5.3 DEVELOPMENT PHASES

Interpretive programs at Forty Mile will be developed over time and in concert with other site development.

5.3.1 Prerequisites for Human Safety and Community Interests

At this stage, activities that are critical to protect visitors and workers at the site are undertaken.

5.3.1.1 On-site Activities

Cautionary signage indicating the fragility of the site and the risks to visitors will be erected at the two site ‘entrances’ – the beginning of the trail from the Fish Camp and at the boat landing area at the tip of Forty Mile Island.

5.3.2 Phase 1A and 1B: Information and Awareness for Protection of Cultural Values

This phase focuses on the conservation of the remaining heritage resources at Forty Mile. Interpretation will support these activities. The existing walking trail will be maintained and sign boards erected along it as research material becomes available. This should be expanded as specific conservation and development activities are completed. Ultimately these signs will form part of three themed self-guided tours.

5.3.2.1 Planning Activities

The Management Plan provides a framework and concepts for interpretation of the Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site. However, a more detailed interpretive plan will need to be developed to provide the design guidelines for interpretive signage at the site and to develop detailed storylines.

Additional research will also be needed to support the development of some interpretive themes. Oral history will reveal information about families living at Forty Mile during the 20th century.

Key Actions:

- Complete a detailed interpretive plan for the Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site.
- Complete research, including oral histories, necessary for the development of interpretive material.
- If research should reveal that the Forty Mile site has more significant pre-contact heritage cultural values for the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in than previously realized, the role of the Forty Mile in presenting the pre-contact history of the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in should be reviewed and the interpretive plan revisited.

5.3.2.2 Visitor Reception Area

It will be important, especially in the early stages of the project, for visitors to understand the fragility of the site and its resources. The Visitor Reception area will be developed at the tip of Forty Mile Island. This will consist of interpretive sign panels or a small kiosk. In this area introductory material, including a site map, will orient the visitor to the site and the location of key facilities. It will also present general overview material that is necessary to understand the interpretive material found elsewhere on the site. In addition, similar entrance signage should be placed at the beginning of the trail from the Fish Camp for those arriving at the site by vehicle.

Key Action:

- Using designs specified in the Interpretive Plan, install two ‘entrance’ sign panels which orient visitors to the site through a site map, provide information on the significance of the site and its key features and instruct the visitors about the appropriate use of the site including camping, bear safety and protection of resources.

5.3.2.3 Walking Trail 1: From Furs to Gold

The portion of this trail on the east side of the slough will be developed in *Phase 1*. Starting near the Visitor Reception area at what would have been the location of much of the early trading activity, the trail will then proceed along what would have been the first ‘street’ in the original town. Research will indicate the appearance and usages of what are now mere building outlines. These outlines will be cleared of vegetation and in some cases enhanced to show the size and shape of each structure.

Key Action:

- Using designs specified in the Interpretive Plan, install interpretive signs at key features along the existing walking trail and the new portion which will be extended along the east edge of the slough as shown in *Figure 5.1*.

Figure 5.1 – Forty Mile Townsite Interpretive Trails (Preliminary Sketch)

**FORTY MILE TOWNSITE
INTERPRETIVE TRAILS**

Phase 1 - Basic Development

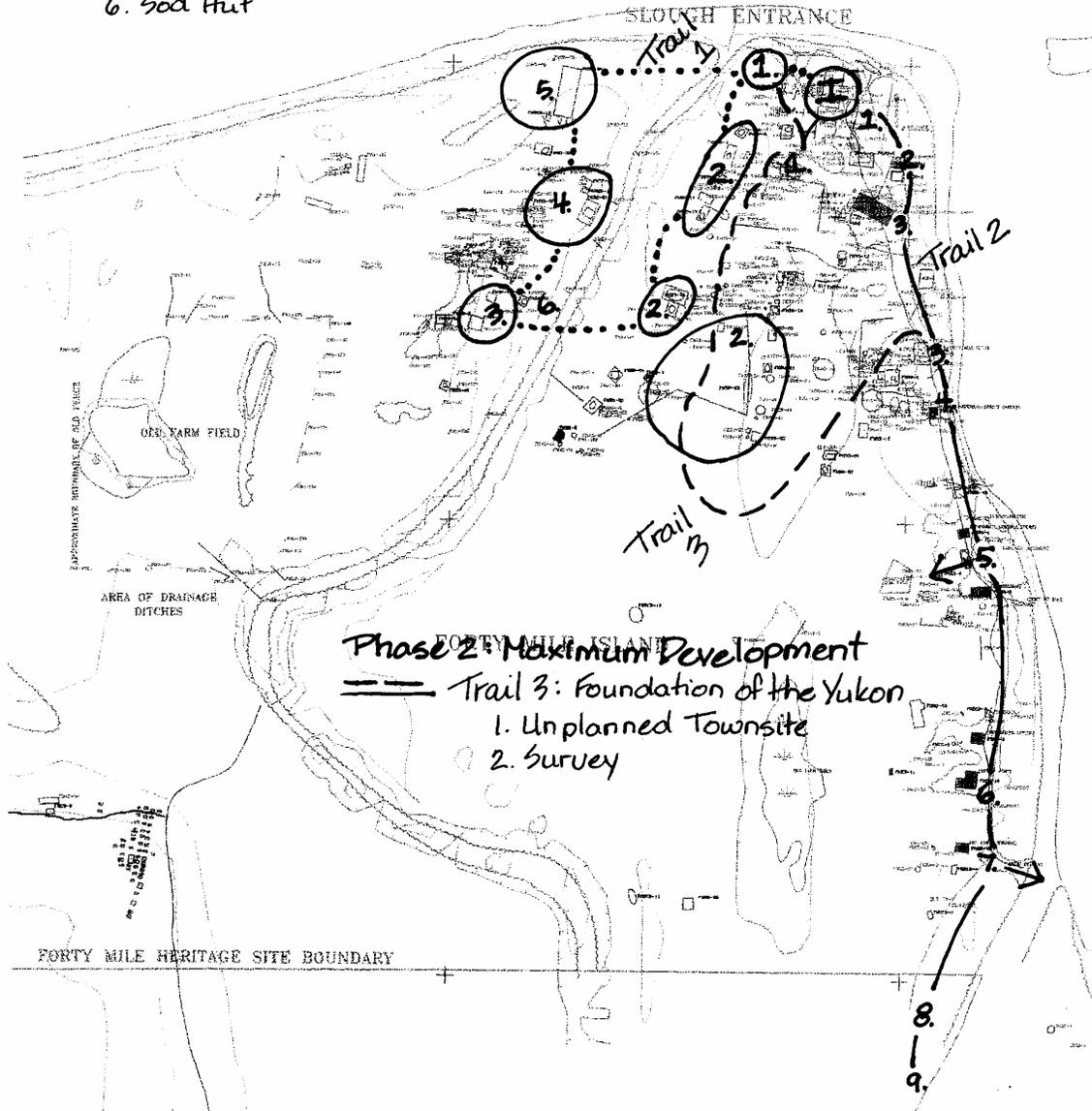
Trail 1: Fursto Gold

1. Trading - Est. of Trading Cos.
2. Early Town - pre-Klondike Commercial
3. Industry - Farm
4. Industry - Machine
5. Supply?
6. Sod Hut

Phase 1 & 2: Basic/Max. Dev't.

Trail 2: Pre Contact/Contact

1. Pre-Con Occup. & Caribou
2. Fishing
3. Role of Yukon R.
4. Rel'tps between Cultures
5. Role of Dogs
6. Supporting NWMP
7. Est. of Anglican Ch.
8. Natural History
9. Settlement Lands



Phase 2: Maximum Development

Trail 3: Foundation of the Yukon

1. Unplanned Townsite
2. Survey

5.3.2.4 Walking Trail 2: Adapting the Old Ways; Adopting the New

This walking trail will focus on First Nations pre-contact history and on the contact period from the First Nations perspective. It utilizes the existing walking trail and can be developed in *Phase 1* as research information becomes available. The trail will begin at the tip of the island, the site of much of the archaeological investigation. Along its length there will be strategic locations to interpret pre-contact occupation and caribou hunting, fishing techniques, the role of the Yukon River, relationships between two cultures, the role of dogs, supporting the NWMP and the establishment of the Anglican Mission. There will also be an opportunity to interpret natural history themes such as forest success and the action of ice and erosion along this trail.

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in will determine the material that will be presented along this route and how it will relate to interpretation occurring at other sites within their territory.

Key Action:

- Using designs specified in the Interpretive Plan, install interpretive signs at key features along the existing walking trail along the Yukon River as shown in *Figure 5.1*.

5.3.2.5 On-site Interpretation

In *Phase 1* there will be no permanent interpretive staff. However, there will be work crews and a caretaker on-site in the summer months. Also, one or more Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in guides should be trained and available as a 'step-on guide' for group tours.

Key Actions:

- Ensure the caretaker and work crews are well versed in the history of the site and can speak knowledgeably to visitors.
- Train Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in guides, possible Cultural Centre staff, in conducting tours of the site for pre-booked groups.

5.3.2.6 Off-site Activities

Knowledge and awareness can be developed among local residents and potential visitors through a variety of off-site programs. Distribution of information on plans and proposed conservation projects, and presentation of results of archaeological and other research are good ways to build understanding in local audiences.

Key Actions:

- Provide presentations detailing results of research projects to local audiences in Dawson City and Whitehorse.
- Distribute oral, visual and written explanations of plans for conservation and development at the site.

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- Use existing community and visitor information outlets to distribute information.
- Endorse the development and use of interpretive and presentation materials by others at off-site locations (e.g. school curriculum material).
- Endorse publication and distribution of written material, such as books, that explain the history of Forty Mile.
- Endorse and support lectures and other events, where experts involved with the site can communicate the ongoing archaeological and conservation work.

5.3.3 Phase 2: Interpretation for Tourism and Economic Development

As site development proceeds and visitation increases, a more complete interpretation program should be developed.

5.3.3.1 Walking Trail 1: From Furs to Gold

During *Phase 2*, this trail will be extended to cross the slough and pass by a reconstructed sod-roofed hut, the farm location and clusters of industrial artifacts before crossing the slough again near the Visitor Reception area. The storyline will show the development of the town from early trading to bustling mining community.

Key Action:

- Using designs specified in the Interpretive Plan, complete the installation of interpretive signs at key features along the walking trail described in *Figure 5.1*.

5.3.3.2 Walking Trail 3: Foundation of the Yukon

This walking trail, to be developed in *Phase 2*, will wind through the original townsite to join with Trail 2. Vegetation will be cut back and building outlines exposed and/or re-established. Signage along the trail will discuss the original unplanned townsite, the importance of the boundary survey and the role of the NWMP, and will link with the Trail 2 which discussed the First Nations contribution to the Yukon.

Key Action:

- Using designs specified in the Interpretive Plan, complete the installation of interpretive signs at key features along the walking trail described in *Figure 5.1*.

5.3.3.3 A. C. Co. Warehouse

With the completion of the adaptation of the A. C. Co. Warehouse as a day use facility, interpretive panels will be developed at this location. This large area provides an opportunity to present material that may not be included on the interpretive trails. Topics such as the Fortymile Caribou Herd which are not attached to a physical location on the site can be interpreted here (see *Figure 3.3*).

Key Actions:

- Using designs specified in the Interpretive Plan develop interpretive panels for the A. C. Co. Warehouse.
- Consider producing a brochure or booklet to enhance the self-guided tours. This brochure could be distributed through weather-proof self-serve boxes at the Entrance Kiosk and at the A. C. Co. Warehouse.

5.3.3.4 Interpretive Staff

As site visitation increases, and as the budget allows, it may be possible to have interpretive staff on site to give tours and interact with visitors.

Key Actions:

- Ensure site caretaker and work crews are versed in site history and can speak knowledgeably to visitors.
- During the peak season, or as visitation demands, consider hiring interpretive staff, who may or may not be costumed.

5.3.3.2 Off-Site Activities

All of the off-site activities undertaken in *Phase 1* should be continued in *Phase 2*. In addition site marketing described in *Section 6* will enhance visitors' knowledge of the site.

5.4 THE CEMETERY

The cemetery is reached by a portion of old road that leads along the west edge of the slough. Many of the gravesites are in poor repair. Vandalism is always a concern in isolated cemeteries.

Key Actions:

- It is recommended that in *Phase 1* visitation to the cemetery not be encouraged. Its location should not be marked on the site maps. In *Phase 2*, when there is a higher level of on-site supervision, access to the cemetery could be considered.
- Additional archival and oral history should be conducted to reveal information about the inhabitants of the cemetery and form the basis of interpretive material.

5.5 MISSION ISLAND

Mission Island is currently very overgrown. In *Phase 1* additional archaeological work is recommended in *Section 3* to establish the locations of the Mission buildings and associated First Nations community. Although Mission Island may be interpreted, visitation to the Island should be discouraged during this phase. The Anglican Mission on Mission Island can be interpreted by a sign panel on Forty Mile Island near the existing Anglican Church.

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During *Phase 2* visitation could be consider and the Walking Trail 2 may be extended to Mission Island to interpret the resources there.

Key Actions:

- Visitation to Mission Island should be discouraged in *Phase 1* by leaving the island in its overgrown state and not creating any visible trails to the island.
- During *Phase 2*, dependent upon the results of further archaeological work, Walking Trail 2 could be extended to the island.

5.6 FORT CUDAHY AND FORT CONSTANTINE

Visitation to Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine should also be discouraged. Both sites are fragile and the Fort Constantine site is wet. Interpretation can occur on sign panels on Forty Mile Island looking across the Fortymile River to the sites. Additional information on the NWMP will be provided at the NWMP building on Trails 2 and 3. Fort Cudahy will be discussed as part of Trail 1 along with the other trading companies.

Key Actions:

- An interpretive panel can be placed near the boat landing area discussing the view from this location including information on Fort Constantine and Fort Cudahy.
- Fort Constantine and Fort Cudahy can be interpreted from the water on the boat shuttle or on guided boat tours originating in Dawson City.

5.7 DIRECTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Further research in needed to support conservation and presentation activities. The Historic Summary found in *Appendix 1* summarizes what is currently known about the site. On the following pages *Table 5.1: Preliminary Gap Analysis of Research Material* summarizes the gaps that exist in our knowledge of the site.

Table 5.1: Preliminary Gap Analysis of Research Material

CULTURE		RESEARCH AREA	SUGGESTED METHODOLOGY
First Nation	Pre-contact Use	Trail networks	Archival research, Oral histories,
		Trading networks	Archival research, Oral histories, Archaeological investigations, Material culture studies
		Presence of Caribou fences up the Fortymile	Archaeological Survey and Oral Histories
		Athapaskan period technology	Archaeological investigations, Material culture studies
		Number and dates of First Nation occupations	Archaeological investigations, Material culture studies
		Use of space	Detailed systematic Archaeological sampling, Archaeological excavations
		Site Context within seasonal round	Archival research, Oral histories,
	Contact and Post Contact Use	Impacts of indirect contact on population (Disease)	Archival research
		Nature of contact - acculturation – technological changes (Forty Mile specific)	Archival research, Oral histories, Archaeological investigations, Material culture studies, Faunal analysis
		Location and nature of First Nation occupation at the site after European Settlement	Archival research, Oral histories, Archaeological investigations at Mission Island, Material culture studies
19 th and 20 th Century traditional sites in the area (Along the Yukon/along the Forty Mile)		Archival research, Oral histories, Archaeological survey and investigations	
	First Nations and Christianity	Archival research, Oral histories	
	20 th Century use of Forty Mile (Salmon Fishery etc.)	Archival research, Oral histories, Historic Archaeological investigations.	
	Families living at Forty Mile	Archival research, Oral histories	
European	Built Environment	Progression of buildings to 1896	Photograph analysis, Archival research, Oral histories, Dendrochronology, Archaeological sampling
		Attrition of buildings to present	Photograph analysis, Archival research, Oral histories, Dendrochronology, Archaeological sampling
		Building Function/Re-use – Building s’ life history	Photograph analysis, Archival research, Oral histories, Dendrochronology, Archaeological sampling,
		Community organization and use of space (historic era) – Land Use	Photograph, map and feature analysis, Archival research, Oral histories, Historic archaeological investigations
	Industry/Economic	Importance of agriculture to the town’s economy	Archival research, Oral histories
	Forty Mile as a staging point for the Gold Fields – Industries present (logging, machining)	Archival research, Oral histories, Archaeological/ historical survey of goldfields, Material culture studies	
	Forty Mile and its economic sphere of influence	Archaeological/historical survey of goldfields, Archival research, Oral	

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CULTURE	RESEARCH AREA	SUGGESTED METHODOLOGY
		histories
Historical/Social	Post Fortymile Gold Rush society of Forty Mile Social History of Forty Mile	Historic Archaeological investigations, Archival research, Oral histories Historic research, Oral histories, Historic archaeological investigations
Fort Constantine	Built Environment (all)	Archival research, detailed archaeological survey and feature identification, Archaeological testing and excavation, Dendrochronology, Oral histories
	Historical/Social (all)	Archival research, Oral histories, Archaeological/ historical investigations, Material culture studies
Forty Cudahy	Built Environment (all)	Archival research, detailed archaeological survey and feature identification, Archaeological testing and excavation, Dendrochronology, Oral histories
	Industry/Economic (all)	Archival research, Oral histories, Archaeological/ historical investigations, Material culture studies
	Historical/Social (all)	Archival research, Oral histories, Archaeological/ historical investigations, Material culture studies

6.0 MARKETING

This section provides very preliminary recommendations for site marketing. A Marketing Plan should be developed in conjunction with Tr'ochëk, Tombstone and other attractions within the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory.

6.1 ESTIMATION OF SHORT AND LONG TERM DEMAND

During *Phase 1*, Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine will not be actively marketed. However, conservation activities at the site will lead to increased awareness and ultimately to increased visitation. It is important to attempt some estimate of visitation through all phases of the project to ensure that actions taken to protect the site will be sufficient.

According to the *1999 Yukon Visitor Exit Survey*, 79,278 people visited the Klondike Region (centred on Dawson City) that year. This was 34% of all visitors to the Yukon. While this number had increased from 67,570 in 1994, the market share of Yukon visitors did not (33% in 1994). Similarly, in 1987 the Klondike attracted 57,400 visitors, or 30% of visitors to the Yukon. While the overall numbers of visitors to the Yukon is increasing, the proportion of Yukon visitors that visit the Klondike Region is not increasing significantly.

A Background Paper: Planning for Tourism Development in the Dawson Region (1994) suggests two possible reasons for the Klondike's inability to secure a larger market share of Yukon visitors:

- poor quality of roads leading to the area, particularly the Taylor Highway in Alaska,
- lack of diversity in the tourism product.

Of the visitors to the Klondike, 23% were from Canada, 60% from the USA and 17% from overseas. This is very similar to 1994 when 23% were from Canada, 58% were from the USA and 19% were from overseas. The market is almost entirely (98%) 'rubber tire', that is visitors arrive by vehicle. Eighteen percent come by bus or motor coach. In 1987 about one third of that rubber tire traffic entered the area via the Top of the World Highway and about one third left via that route.

In 1999, 54% of visitors to the Klondike participated in at least one guided tour and 22% visited museums.

The development of the resources at Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine at first glance appear to be 'more heritage product'. However, the site can be developed and marketed in order to maximize its appeal to growing markets. Guided boat tours to the site

MARKETING

may appeal to the adventure travel sector. The number of visitors seeking First Nations interpretation is increasing.

6.1.1 Short Term Demand

The current visitation to the site is between 450 to 500 people annually. Many of these visitors are boating on the Yukon River between Dawson City and Eagle, Alaska. Some come to the site having rafted down the Fortymile River from Alaska. Others arrive by vehicle to the Fish Camp and walk a short distance to the site.

During *Phase 1*, it is likely that site visitation will remain similar to current numbers. Even if site visitation increases by 100 or 200 percent, the visitor controls to be put in place during *Phase 1* will ensure that the site is protected. Although there will be minimal interpretation, visitors will receive enough information to appreciate the site and may enjoy seeing restoration work in progress.

6.1.2 Longer Term Demand

Visitors to Dawson City will be the main target for marketing Forty Mile. However, the site will need to compete with many other attractions in the area including Tombstone Territorial Park and Tr'ochëk. Visitor studies show that people look for destinations where there are a variety of activities. There is the opportunity to develop local packages that include several attractions.

During *Phase 2*, increases in the visitation to Forty Mile may rely heavily on the development of economic opportunities such as guided tours based from Dawson. Yukon visitors make many of their travel decisions at home. Therefore, information on the potential to visit Forty Mile, either as a stand alone tour or as part of a package of tours, should reach visitors before they leave home.

There is also an opportunity to reach visitors travelling Top of the World Highway by providing information through Visitor Information Centres in Alaska and in Whitehorse and Dawson City.

It is difficult to quantify future demand, however a detailed marketing plan to be completed in *Phase 2*, could make projections based on the most current data.

6.2 MARKETING ACTIVITIES

6.2.1 Phase 1: Building Local Knowledge And Awareness

In *Phase 1*, it is important that visitors understand that the site is in a state of transition. When visiting the site, they may see the site in its 'wild' state or they may see restoration work underway. Introductory signage to be placed at the site entrances has been discussed in *Section 4*. It is important that people in Dawson City, who may recommend a visit to the site, understand the condition of the site and what the visitor should expect. This would

include people working at the Visitor Centres, the museum and the Dänojà Zho Cultural Centre.

Key Actions:

- Ensure that front line workers in Dawson City are updated on the progress of projects at Forty Mile and what services (if any) are available for visitors.
- Prepare a Marketing Plan for the site that is coordinated with Tr'ochëk, Tombstone and other sites within the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory.

6.2.2 Phase 2: Marketing To Attract Visitation

It will be important to link any marketing activities for Forty Mile with other initiatives in the area. The *Klondike Region Tourism Marketing Strategy* (2000) indicates a number of marketing initiatives that ultimately assist in attracting visitors to Forty Mile. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in will have a number of sites and attractions to market, of which Forty Mile will be one. Similarly, the Yukon Government will include Forty Mile in the marketing of their heritage sites. At a minimum a brochure on the Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site should be developed.

Key Actions:

- Participate in appropriate marketing initiatives outlined in the Klondike Region Tourism Marketing Strategy.
- The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and the Yukon Government, Heritage Resources Unit should include Forty Mile in their overall marketing campaigns.
- A brochure for Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site should be developed.

MARKETING

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION

Development of Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site presents opportunities for both cultural and economic development. However for the community to maximize these benefits, the implementation of the plan must fit the aspirations and capacity of the local community. Projects must be affordable. The pace of development must fit within other demands on community resources. Training may be necessary to develop skills in the local work force for the employment opportunities.

The Draft Options Report presented several scenarios for conservation and development. Response to the Draft Options Report indicated that there was broad support for relatively extensive investment over time that would protect cultural values and attract visitation.

To facilitate the implementation, two phases of conservation and development have been identified as discussed in *Sections 3, 4 and 5*.

As an arbitrary yardstick an Implementation Plan has been drawn up that assumes an investment of approximately \$150,000 annually over 12 years. If annual investment is greater this timetable can be shortened. If annual investment is less, then development will need to take place over a longer period of time.

As stated in the foreword, this document is meant to be a dynamic, living document which can be adapted to new opportunities discovered and experience gained during its implementation. The Management Plan should, at minimum, receive a full review and update every ten years.

7.1 MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The development of a suitable management structure will ensure that the sites are cared for over time. This management structure must:

- ensure protection of the resources of the site,
- protect the rights and interests of both governments – the Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in First Nation and the Yukon Government,
- provide clear roles and responsibilities for all players,
- reflect the capacity of the local community, and
- be responsive to changes in local conditions.

Section 5 of the *Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Final Agreement* indicates that the site will be managed by both governments but is silent on the type of management structure to be used.

Key Action:

- A joint staff committee representing both governments should be appointed to implement the management plan and manage the site. Participants should have access to budgets and authority to approve expenditures. The committee would need to meet two or three times a year to plan work and evaluate progress.

7.2 CAPITAL AND OPERATING COSTS

As a co-owned and co-managed site, financial investments are expected to be made by both governments subject to annual budget appropriations. As the majority of heritage resources requiring conservation are not directly related to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in culture and the site will become a Yukon Historic Site designated under the *Historic Resources Act* it is expected that the Yukon Government will provide primary, core funding for its conservation and management. As the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in citizens will be prime beneficiaries of training, employment and economic opportunities (see *Sections 7.3.4 and 7.3.5*), it is expected that the First Nation Government will also invest to realize the success of these opportunities.

Discussions regarding the implementation of the “Catch Up, Keep Up” requirements of Sections 13.4.1 and 13.4.2 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement will have implications for the management of Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site.

The following *Table 7.1* summarizes the key actions in terms of priorities, type of activity and projected costs. A total Capital Cost of \$1,338,000 has been identified to be spent over 12 years. An additional, ongoing annual operations and maintenance and monitoring budget of \$40,000 has been identified.

7.3 IMPACTS, BENEFITS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

7.3.1 Land Use

The development of Forty Mile, Fort Cudahy and Fort Constantine Historic Site will have minimal land use impacts. Traditional activities of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in will not be impacted by site development. The land withdrawn from mineral and placer exploration is minimal and does not impact any current operations.

Increased visitation at the site could potentially have negative impacts on both the cultural and natural resources. However, recommended site development activities will mitigate these impacts.

Key Action:

- Promote increased visitation to the site only when the Management Plan has been implemented to the stage where the site is able to cope.

7.3.2 Access

Sections 13.8.4 and 13.8.5, Chapter 13 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement require that access to the site will be controlled in accordance with the terms of the Management Plan, and that the interests of permitted researchers, the general public and that the requirements of special events and traditional activities be taken into consideration.

Permits will not be required to visit this site on a casual basis. However, permits will be required pursuant to the *Historic Resources Act* for researchers. **Section 18.8.3.1, Chapter 13 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement requires that the Yukon Government consult with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation before issuing research permits.**

This Management Plan makes some specific recommendations for physical access control at the site. Over time visitors will be encouraged to access the site by boat. A new access route will be constructed into the site from the south west using either existing 'cat tracks' or a new road. This road should be gated and posted for service and emergency vehicles only. ATV use within the site will be restricted once the service road is constructed.

Key Actions:

- Develop and control future access to the site as described in the Management Plan,
- The Yukon Government will continue to consult with the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in when issuing permits under the Yukon Archaeological Sites Regulations, the *Historic Resources Act* and the *Scientist's and Explorers Act* for research in their Traditional Territory.

7.3.3 Cultural Development

There may be opportunities for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and other Yukoners to explore and build awareness of their culture and roots through the use and development of the site:

- Projects that record oral histories and stories,
- Visits with Elders to the site,
- Community volunteer work to complete projects at the site,
- School visits to the site,
- Culture camps located at the site,
- Retreats and assemblies.

Key Action:

- Develop community awareness of the site and encourage use for such things as gatherings and meetings.

7.3.4 Education and Training

There is an opportunity for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and other members of the community of Dawson City to be involved in cultural heritage management – archaeology, anthropology, building and artifact conservation, – through the development of technical and professional skills within the community. Training in hospitality skills, entrepreneurialism and small business management would assist community members in developing tourism related businesses.

Key Action:

- Integrate Forty Mile research and conservation opportunities into any training plans developed for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in members and citizens of Dawson City.

7.3.5 Employment and Economic Development

In the past, archaeological projects have provided employment opportunities for Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in students. Caretakers will be required to provide security, monitor the site for maintenance needs and provide information to visitors. During all phases of the project seasonal staff will be required at the site to clear vegetation and to do routine maintenance. Local labourers and tradesmen will need to be contracted to carry out stabilization, restoration and rehabilitation projects on specific buildings as well as any new construction.

Section 13.12, Chapter 13 of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement requires that the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in be included in any tendering process in regard to the management of the site, and be given the first opportunity to accept contracts that are not put to public tender.

It is expected that the Human Resources Department of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation will be responsible for recruiting and hiring any employees required for the site in consultation with the Yukon Government. Local hire will be a priority.

APPENDICES

**APPENDIX 1: HISTORIC SUMMARY (Under
Separate Cover)**

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 2: **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

[Note: The bibliography for the Historic Summary is found with that summary under separate cover]

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