

Àn kaxh xhât kha at guti.atx' ye jine at ku.akhw Déslin Khwân has du tlagu tl'átgi ká 2025-2029

A Community-Based Fish and Wildlife Work Plan
for the Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory 2025-2029



For additional copies of this report contact:

Fish and Wildlife Branch

Department of Environment (V-5)
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6
Email: fish.wildlife@yukon.ca

Teslin Tlingit Council

Address: PO Box 133
Email: lands.reception@ttc.ytl

Teslin Renewable Resources Council

P.O. Box 186
Teslin, YT Y0A 1B0
Email: teslin@rrc-yukon.com

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Ya dutin à | Acknowledgements

This community-based fish and wildlife work plan was developed by a working group consisting of members representing Teslin Tlingit Council, Teslin Renewable Resources Council, and the Government of Yukon's Department of Environment.

The working group would like to thank all people of Teslin and community members for their thoughtful and passionate contributions to the plan's content.

The fish and wildlife drawings are from the students at Khàtinas.àxh Community School.

Tlingit translation provided by Bessie Cooley.

Design: Jolie Fawn Design And Illustration

COVER PHOTO: MINNIE CLARK

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PHOTO: Gillian Rourke

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Dàt dāt sayá ya yâ'tát?

What is this plan about?

The community-based fish and wildlife work plan provides a way for a Yukon community to come together, share knowledge, and develop a collaborative path forward on fish and wildlife issues. It is one of the ways that the Government of Yukon (YG), Teslin Tlingit Council (TTC), and the Teslin Renewable Resources Council (TRRC) work together to identify priorities and decide how—and by whom—fish and wildlife issues will be addressed within the Yukon portion of the Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory.

While this plan is focused on the Yukon, the Parties recognize that fish and wildlife move across borders into British Columbia, and that TTC and YG work with neighbouring governments and partners to manage shared, transboundary wildlife populations.

This plan will be implemented between 2025 and 2029, subject to each Party's management priorities and available resources. The Parties will meet regularly throughout this period to track progress, review completed actions, and assess outcomes. A mid-term review will take place in 2027, and the Parties will provide annual updates to Teslin community members on the status of implementation.

If new concerns or priorities arise during the life of the plan period, the Parties can work together to identify and carry out any additional management actions as needed.

Du tin át. Yandé ya ndus ne atx' | Vision

The Parties to this plan wish to conserve and enhance natural habitats, species, and ecosystems within the Teslin Tlingit Council's Traditional Territory to ensure their sustainability and biodiversity. The Parties will achieve this through protection for endangered species, monitoring and restoring habitats, promoting sustainable hunting and fishing practices, and fostering public awareness and involvement in conservation efforts. The Parties aim to maintain healthy ecosystems that support diverse fish and wildlife populations for present and future generations.

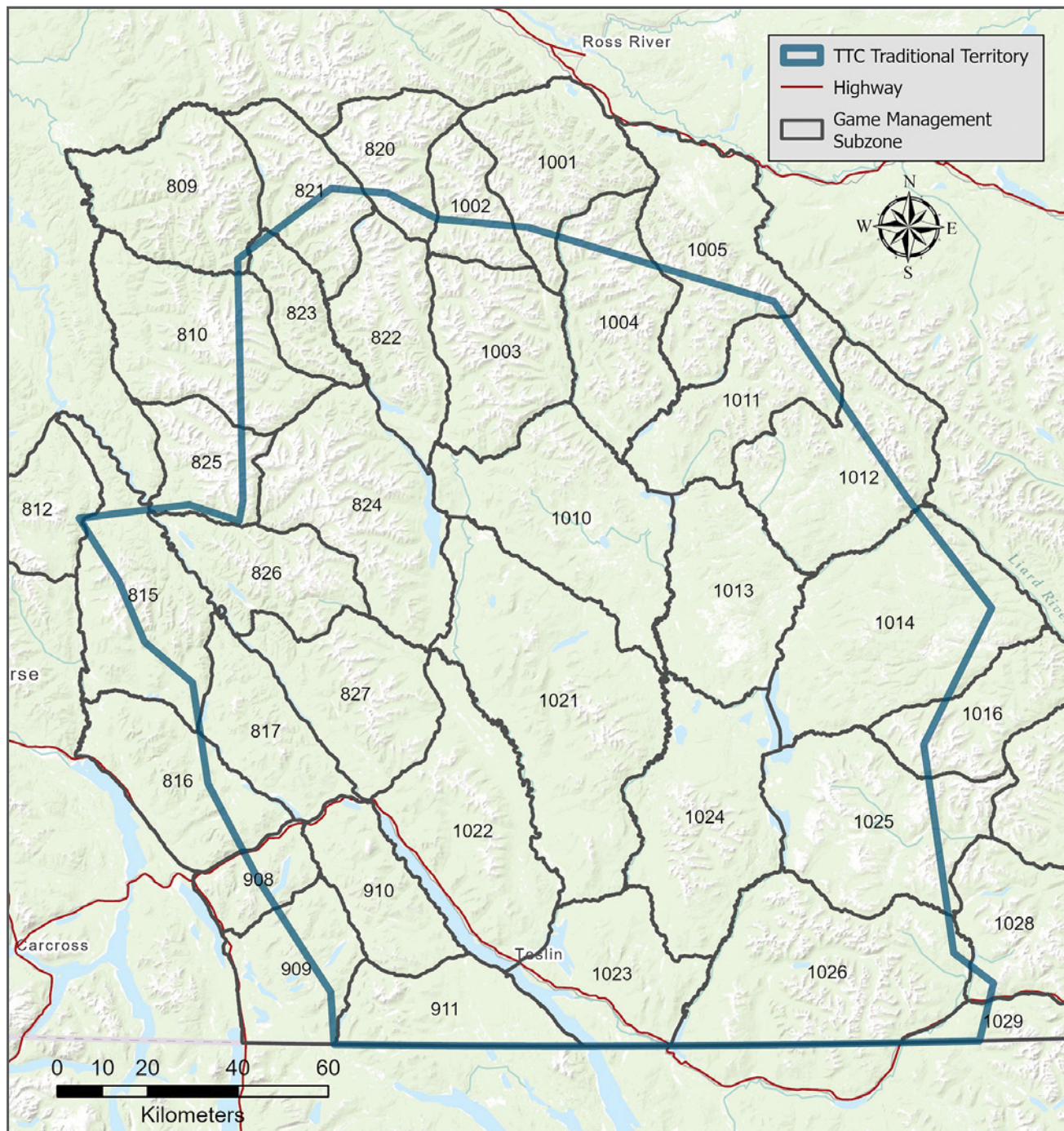


Figure 1: Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory in Yukon and overlapping Game Management Subzones



PHOTO: Minnie Clark

Ya adâtxh satîyi à. Yánde ya ndusné át The concept for the plan – getting things done

This plan's concept is '*Getting Things Done*'. It is a call to action for wildlife stewardship, recognizing that the Parties to this plan have long been grappling with the same information gaps and wildlife concerns. The plan aims to direct meaningful and coordinated action, ensuring that fish and wildlife priorities are addressed efficiently and systematically.



PHOTO: Minnie Clark

Wush tin kasixadi at ya tlágu tl'agi ka Connections within the Traditional Territory

There are many different plans and processes that cover various aspects of fish, wildlife, and habitat management in the Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory. This plan is not meant to duplicate these efforts, rather, it is intended to complement and support the following initiatives:

- DRAFT Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory Research and Monitoring Plan
- Southern Lakes Caribou Relationship Plan (2025)
- [Teslin Strategic Forest Management Plan](#)
- [Sawmill and Demonstration Forest Timber Harvest Plan \(2011\)](#)
- [Teslin North and Strawberry Creek Timber Harvest Plan \(2019\)](#)
- [Teslin Community Wildfire Protection Plan \(2022\)](#)
- [Nisutlin River Delta National Wildlife Area Management Plan \(2014\)](#)
- Teslin Tlingit Council Salmon Plan 2018-2025
- [Yukon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan \(2012\)](#)
- [2012 Yukon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Implementation Review Summary \(2022\)](#)
- [A conservation plan for grizzly bears \(Ursus arctos\) in Yukon \(2019\)](#)
- [Teslin Community Development Plan 2015-2025](#)

Masa akat uwaxix ya at kudu.akhw à?

How this plan came to be

The following community-based fish and wildlife work plan is the third one developed for the Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory (with previous plans drafted in 2002 and 2012). This plan builds on these previous draft work plans and includes new issues and ideas that Teslin community members and the working group brought forward.

The working group included representatives from the Teslin Tlingit Council, the Teslin Renewable Resources Council, and the Government of Yukon. To begin the planning process, the group distributed a questionnaire and conducted oral interviews in February 2020. These conversations were designed to gather community members' observations, values and concerns about fish, wildlife, and changes they have seen while spending time on the land.

The working group reconvened in spring 2023 to review the community feedback and begin drafting key themes of the plan. Over the course of 2024 to 2025, the working group continued to develop the plan, including hosting a community engagement session in November 2024 to ensure the plan accurately reflects local priorities.

This plan is a reflection of the knowledge, values and voices of the Teslin community and the collaborative efforts of the working group.



PHOTO: Minnie Clark

Dâsawé ya hâ îxh sitîyi át?

What are the priorities?

The community, the Government of Yukon, the Teslin Tlingit Council, and the Teslin Renewable Resources Council identified the following goals as the most important to achieve over the next five years. The objectives and recommended actions of each theme address topics related to education, habitat, climate change, harvest management, and monitoring.

Xhât | Fish and Fish Habitat: A better understanding of fish populations, their habitats and human relationships with fish. Communications and gatherings to improve ethical human behaviour towards fish and their habitats.

Dzisk'w | Moose: A better understanding of moose populations and their habitats, as well as human relationships to moose. Communications to better manage human behaviour toward moose.

Às xhût wu.ádi atx | Predators: A better understanding of predator species and human relationships to them. Communications and community planning to better manage wildlife attractants and to mitigate negative encounters.

Ghàtā yēdané | Trapping: Increasing trapping activities and broader economic opportunities for trapline support in the Traditional Territory.

Masa khun wûti | Human Impacts: Reducing the environmental impacts of an increase in people in the Traditional Territory.

A dên daxh à atgutú atx'í | Other Ungulates: A better understanding of sheep and caribou populations. Education to better mitigate caribou road fatalities.

Nîkw kha kanas.àtx'í | Disease and Pests: More knowledge, communication and monitoring of disease and pest risks to local fish and wildlife populations.

PHOTO: Minnie Clark

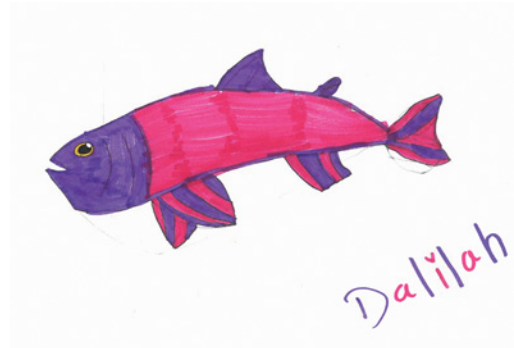


XHÂT

Fish And Fish Habitat

Dasa adàt kha xh'agaxhtuwûs?

What are the issues?



Various fish species reside in the Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory, including T'á (Chinook salmon), Dalèyí (lake trout), S'âkh' (burbot), Xhât yádi (lake whitefish), Shakwskakâk (broad whitefish), Tàslèyí (northern pike), T'ásí (arctic grayling), and Shîsh (inconnu). Each species is an important part of Teslin Tlingit culture to this day. Many of these species are important food for citizens, residents, and visiting anglers. The health and status of local fish populations continue to be a priority issue for the region.

The most notable example of declining fish populations in recent years has been that of T'á (Chinook salmon). The Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory holds significant headwater and spawning habitat for Yukon River T'á (Chinook salmon). Despite a relatively pristine spawning habitat, these populations are subject to numerous pressures along the river and have experienced significant declines. Concerns and issues relating to Yukon River T'á (Chinook salmon) are being addressed at the local, territorial, national and international levels. The Teslin RRC and Teslin Tlingit Council (TTC) are actively involved in all of these initiatives. Within Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory, TTC management of salmon issues is guided by the Teslin Tlingit Council Salmon Plan 2018-2025. The Teslin RRC and TTC will continue to advocate for salmon at various tables, though the specific actions will not be repeated in this plan.

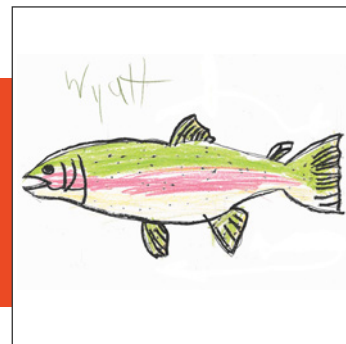
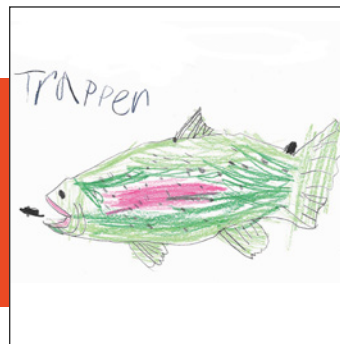
All fish species in this area are likely experiencing some degree of negative impacts from human disturbance, harvest, climate change, and habitat changes, which can contribute to population declines and poor fish health. While several fish surveys are currently occurring in the Traditional Territory, community members would like to see these continue and see additional surveys conducted to help fill information gaps and improve the baseline knowledge of different fish species in the Traditional Territory. An increase in long-term monitoring efforts, including water quality sampling, could increase the understanding of fish habitat and opportunities for habitat restoration and connectivity.

Overfishing is a growing concern, especially in identified high-use areas, like Teslin Lake. Community members would like more angler surveys in these areas and more communication materials and approaches that focus on understanding regulations, understanding local cultural values around catch and release, teaching best practices for catch and release, caring for harvested fish, and diversifying target species.

Àdé saduwa hêyi khunûk

Recommended actions

Ojective	#	Recommended action	By whom	Time frame
A better understanding of fish populations, their health and their habitats	1	Conduct a lake trout monitoring assessment on Teslin Lake (SPIN)	TTC, YG	2026
	2	Conduct northern pike population monitoring within Nisutlin Bay	TTC, YG	Ongoing
	3	After survey results are available, discuss and publicly consult on possible changes to the management approach and harvest management regime, if needed	TTC, TRRC, YG	Ongoing
A better understanding of angler harvest pressure in high-use areas	4	Conduct angler harvest surveys in high-use areas (i.e., Teslin Lake and Nisutlin Bay)	TTC, YG	2026
	5	Continue to identify other high-use lakes/ivers as candidates for angler surveys (e.g., Quiet Lake, Big Salmon Lake, Sandy Lake)	TTC, YG	Ongoing
	6	Continue to identify other high-use lakes/ivers as candidates for angler surveys (e.g., Quiet Lake, Big Salmon Lake, Sandy Lake)	TRRC, YG	Ongoing





An increase in educational materials to improve human behaviour toward fish populations and their habitat	7	Develop a communication strategy that provides awareness for anglers, including regulations, best practices (fish handling), restrictions and advisories	TTC, TRRC, YG	2025
	8	Host fishing-related workshops to increase knowledge of proper harvest care and promote catching various species	TTC, YG	2026 and 2028
	9	Develop, update and maintain communication products that support the above (i.e., interpretive signs and public education packages)	TTC, TRRC, YG	2026+
	10	Continue collaborating on a European whitefish (Squanga and Little Teslin) management plan with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans	TTC, TRRC, YG	Ongoing
	11	Continue collaborating on the national Management Plan for bull trout under the federal Species at Risk Act	TRRC	Ongoing
Reduce information gaps for key fish species and their habitats	12	Continue the Teslin Lake Trout tagging project	TTC, TRRC	2025
	13	Continue to discuss other population and habitat issues as they are identified	TTC, TRRC, YG	Ongoing
Fish habitat is monitored and restored	14	Improve knowledge of fish habitat and changes in Sidney Lake	TTC, TRRC	2025
	15	Investigate habitat restoration opportunities in Hermit Creek	TRRC	2025+
	16	Maintain water temperature monitoring program	TTC	Ongoing
	17	Develop a youth-led beaver dam monitoring program on high-risk streams	TTC, TRRC	2027

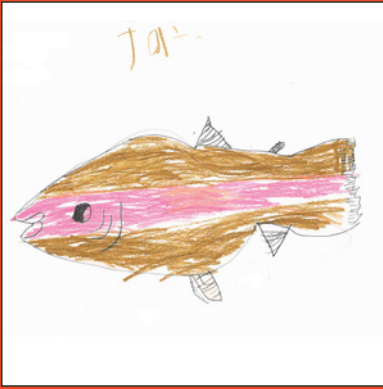


PHOTO: Courtesy G. Rourke





PHOTO: Minnie Clark

DZISK'W | MOOSE

Dasa adàt kha xh'agaxhtuwûs?
What are the issues?

Moose occur throughout the Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory and are ecologically and culturally significant. Moose are an important part of Teslin Tlingit's subsistence lifestyle.

Community members often express concerns about allocation, access, harvest pressure, and timing of moose hunting, particularly concerning licensed harvest. There are worries within the community about local hunters facing competition from Whitehorse and non-resident hunters, and declining moose hunting opportunities for First Nation subsistence hunters.

The Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory overlaps eight Moose Management Units (MMUs), summarized in Table 1.

The community would like increased communication with hunters and more educational materials and information available about population trends, health, harvest pressure, and culturally sensitive hunting etiquette. More planning, enforcement and action are needed to ensure moose harvest levels are sustainable and do not impact moose populations. Additional baseline information and harvest reporting will assist with informing management decisions.



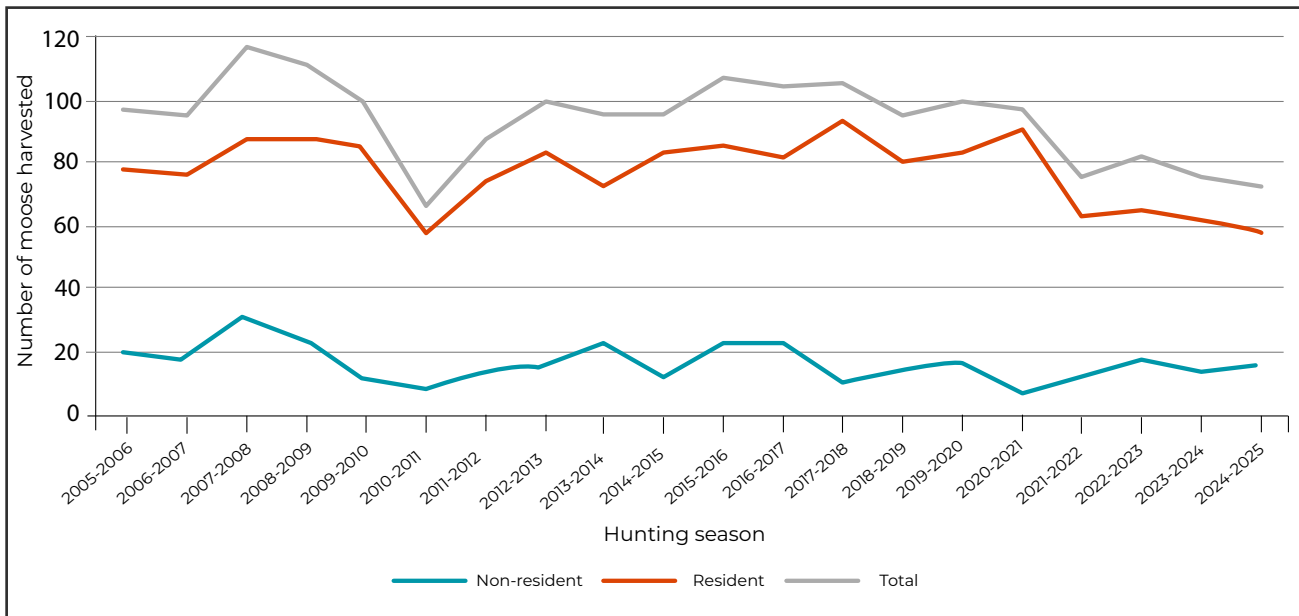


Figure 2. Number of moose harvested by licensed hunters in Game Management Subzones (GMS 8-10, 8- 21 to 824, 8-15 to 8-17, 8-26, 8-27, 9-08 to 9-11, 10-02 to 10-05, 10-10 to 10-14, and 10-21 to 10-26) overlapping the Yukon portion of Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory (TTCTT) between the hunting season 2005-2006 and 2024-2025. GMS overlapping less than 15% with the TTCTT were omitted from this analysis. This figure may represent an overestimation of the true licensed harvest within TTCTT as all moose harvest within GMS overlapping more than 15% were included. This figure does not include estimated harvest by First Nations.

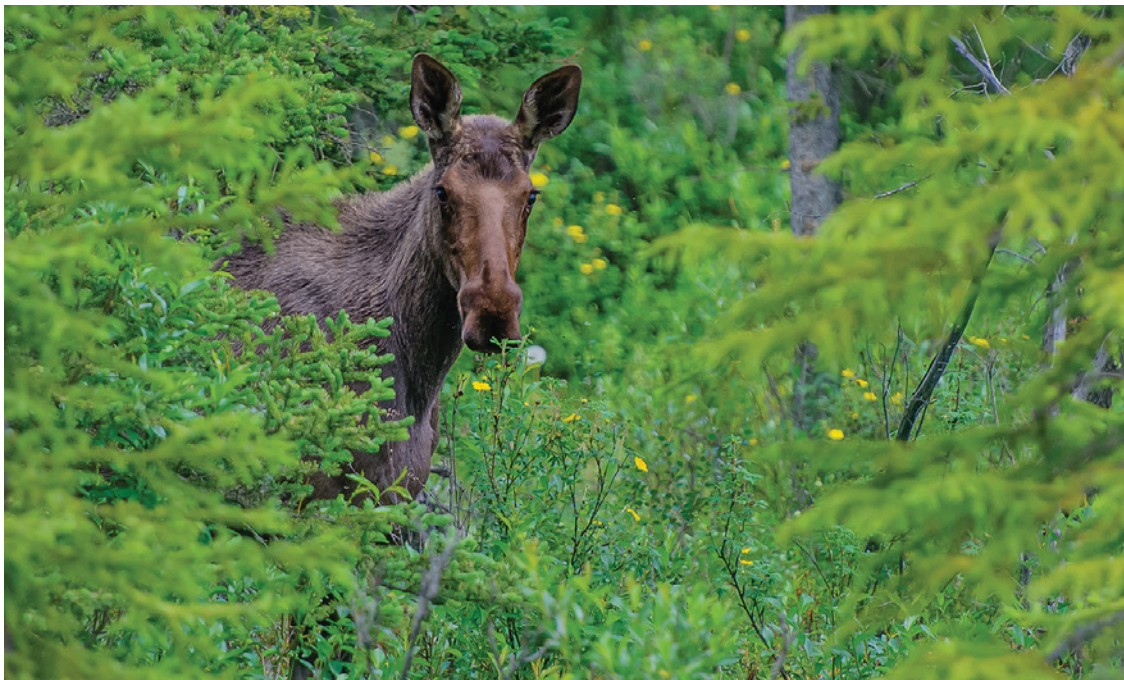


PHOTO: Minnie Clark

Table 1: Moose monitoring status (by Moose Management Unit, MMU) in Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory.

MMU	GMS	Last Surveys	Density (moose/1000km ²)	Total Moose	Sustainable Harvest
Nisutlin/Quiet Lake	8-24, 10-10, 10-21 to 10-23	2010, 2022*	232	1825	55 (3% of population)
Wolf Lake	10-13, 10-14, 10-16,10-24, 10-25	2011**	207	1423	43 (3% of population)
Cassiar Mountains	10-26, 10-28, 10-29	2020	148	440	10 (10% of total bulls)
Teslin Burn	9-07 to 9-11	2013	247	888	25 (10% of total bulls)
Teslin River	8-11 to 8-17, 8-25 to 8-27	2011, 2021*	277	2154	36 (10% of total bulls)
South Canol	8-19, 8-20,8-22, 10-01 to 10-03	2013, 2022*	107	517	15 (10% of total bulls)
Pelly Mountains	10-04, 10-05, 10-11,10-12	n/a**	200	946	28 (3% of population)
Big Salmon	8-03, 8-05,8-09, 8-10, 8-18, 8-21, 8-23	1998**	188	1404	42 (3% of population)

NOTES:

*Field work for survey was completed, but results are still being analyzed and are not currently available. Results in the table are based on the most recent available survey results.

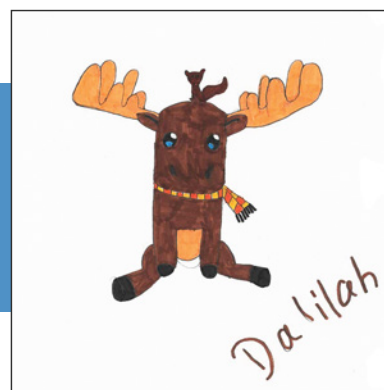
**Complete MMU never surveyed. Moose densities in unsurveyed areas are extrapolated from adjacent areas with similar habitat.

***In MMUs where no or incomplete survey information exists, or where surveys are more than ten years old, the recommended sustainable harvest is based on the estimated population density (moose per 1000 km² within moose habitat). More than 180 moose per 1000 km² = 3% of total estimated population size. For more recent surveys, the recommended sustainable harvest is set at 10% of total bulls (based on Science-Based Guidelines for the Management of Moose in Yukon).

Àdé saduwa hêyi khunûk

Recommended actions

Objective	#	Recommended action	By whom	Time frame
A better understanding of moose from community-based knowledge and monitoring	18	Design and implement a community-based monitoring program with local interviews for moose, including data on road mortality	TTC, TRRC, YG	2025
The Teslin Region Moose Management Plan is finalized	19	Finalize the <i>Teslin Region Moose Management Plan</i>	TTC, TRRC, YG	2025
Moose surveys scheduled to estimate the number of moose in high-priority Moose Management Units	20	Conduct moose surveys for the following moose management units: • Wolf Lake • Teslin Burn	YG	As scheduled
	21	After each survey's results are available, discuss and publicly consult on possible changes to the management approach and harvest management regime, if needed	TTC, TRRC, YG	As needed
	22	Finalize research into how regional movements of moose may be sustaining local high harvest levels ("Feeder Area" project)	TTC	2025



Moose harvest is managed to maintain a harvest level sufficient to provide the amount of moose necessary for subsistence uses and to maintain or increase general harvest opportunities for all hunters	23	Implement the Teslin Tlingit Council moose harvest monitoring program to improve harvest reporting by Citizens and get a statistical estimate of the number of moose harvested	TTC	Ongoing
	24	Continue to encourage all hunters to avoid the Nisutlin River and refrain from issuing harvest permits to Non-Citizens to hunt on Teslin Tlingit Council Settlement Land	TTC	Ongoing
	25	Review and continue the Teslin Tlingit Council hunting closure from October 1 to January 1 in Subzones 10-21, 10-22 and 10-23 so hunters can avoid consuming meat tainted by the rut	TTC	Ongoing
	26	Draft a harvest data sharing Memorandum of Understanding that outlines how confidential Teslin Tlingit Council harvest data will be shared with the Government of Yukon to assess the status of the moose populations	TTC, YG	2025
	27	Conduct the Tlingit Needs Study (which includes moose, trout and caribou) to gather information regarding how Teslin hunters use the land and estimate Tlingit needs for moose	TTC	2026
	28	Address the recent Teslin River Moose survey results through a proposed regulation change	TTC, TRRC, YG	2025
	29	Collect and share licensed harvest information to support and manage moose in TTC Traditional Territory	YG	Ongoing
Ensure harvest of cow moose does not endanger moose populations	30	Deliver the Hunter Education and Ethics Development course, with local and Tlingit values and practices included in the course	TTC, TRRC, YG	2026
	31	Continue to require that all Teslin Tlingit Council programs harvest bulls, not cows, for various programs to the greatest extent possible	TTC	Ongoing
	32	Direct potlatch harvests towards bull moose whenever possible	TTC	Ongoing
Public information about moose is increased	33	Provide information in various formats (e.g., posters, public information dinners, social media, etc.) on moose-related issues and projects that the Parties are working on	TTC, TRRC, YG	As needed



PHOTO: Minnie Clark





PHOTO: Minnie Clark

Às xhùt wu.ádi atx | PREDATORS

GOOCH | WOLVES

Dasa adàt kha xh'agaxhtuwûs?

What are the issues?



Wolves are apex predators that play a crucial role in the ecosystem. However, community members are expressing increasing concerns that wolf predation might contribute to declines in local moose populations. There is interest in regulating wolf populations through increased trapping efforts and in knowing more about current wolf population numbers.

There is a growing interest in establishing a community-based wolf program, targeting specific areas as part of a broader moose management initiative in the Traditional Territory. This initiative aims to manage wolf populations in a balanced and careful way that can provide more economic incentives to trap and hunt wolves. These efforts should be accompanied by an educational approach that shares the value of wolves in the ecosystem.

Àdé saduwa hêyi khunûk
Recommended actions

Objective	#	Recommended action	By who	Time frame
A community wolf hunting and trapping program is developed and implemented	34	Identify priority areas to implement a community wolf hunting and trapping program	TTC, TRRC	2025
	35	Link assistant trappers with concession holders in priority areas	TTC, TRRC	Ongoing
	36	Provide trapper training to assistant wolf trappers and facilitate wolf trapping mentorships	TTC, TRRC, YG	As needed
	37	Provide wolf pelt handling workshops for hunted wolves. Ensure Tlingit values are incorporated into training materials	TTC, TRRC	As needed
	38	Continue the Wolf Pelt Program and incentives	TC, TRRC	Ongoing
	39	Explore funding opportunities to increase incentives for wolf pelts	TTC, TRRC, YG	Ongoing
	40	Provide regular program updates as publicly available	TTC	Ongoing
	41	Communicate value of wolves in the ecosystem through community wolf program materials and education	TTC	Ongoing
	42	Explore cultural considerations in wolf management	TTC	Ongoing
The status of wolves is monitored in the Nisutlin River area	43	Conduct an aerial wolf survey in the Nisutlin River area to update wolf pack information and wolf density	YG	Winter 2026
	44	Make results from the wolf monitoring available to the public	YG	Ongoing
Wolf trapping is facilitated through regulation	45	Support regulation change proposals that increase efficiency and facilitate wolf trapping efforts in conjunction with trapper feedback	TTC, TRRC, YG	Ongoing



PHOTO: Minnie Clark

S'IK XÛTS | BEARS

Dasa adàt kha xh'agaxhtuwûs?

What are the issues?



The Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory is home to black and grizzly bears. People continue to be concerned that bear numbers are increasing, with more bears coming into the community and increasing numbers of human-wildlife conflicts.

The community would like to see more community-based strategic solutions for reducing human-wildlife conflicts with bears, including managing waste and other attractants, increasing education on conflict mitigation, and bear safety.

In addition to human-wildlife conflicts, black and grizzly bears are key predators of ungulates, particularly newborn (fawns and calves) moose, caribou, and deer. High levels of predation can negatively impact these populations, especially if they are already in decline due to other factors. If ungulate populations decrease in the future, bear predation may need to be examined more closely to assess its potential effects and consider possible management approaches.

Àdé saduwa hêyi khunûk
Recommended actions

Objective	#	Recommended action	By whom	Time frame
Increased public awareness of bear attractants and mitigation measures in place in the community	46	Develop Teslin community-specific information on minimizing wildlife attractants	TTC, TRRC, YG	2025
	47	Conservation Officers annually distribute the Bear Attractant Audit list	YG	Annually
	48	Create a coordinated program and educational materials for properly storing meat and disposing of spoiled meat and meat scraps	TRRC	2025
	49	Prepare an annual summary of bear conflicts and attractants. Make this information publicly available	YG	Annually
A new Teslin-based approach for mitigating wildlife attractants is developed for the community	50	Create a human-bear conflict working group (consisting of the Government of Yukon, Village of Teslin, Teslin Tlingit Council and the Teslin Renewable Resources Council)	Human- bear conflict working group	2026
	51	Complete a bear hazards assessment and develop options for mitigation	Human- bear conflict working group	2026
	52	Conduct a trial of bear-proof community and personal bins and evaluate their effectiveness	Human- bear conflict working group	2026
Success of Bear Translocation Program is evaluated	53	Provide regular updates to Teslin Renewable Resources Council and Teslin Tlingit Council on results from the translocated bear program	YG	As needed
	54	Provide training to Teslin Tlingit Council staff and Game Guardians to assist the Conservation Officer Services Branch with bear immobilizations	TTC, YG	2025

Continued public education about bears	55	Continue the bear-aware program in the school and community, striving to include cultural and community-specific concepts. Increase opportunities to share information about bear hunting and butchering	TTC, TRRC, YG	Ongoing
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PHOTO: Minnie Clark



PHOTO: Minnie Clark



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Ghàtā Yēdané | TRAPPING

Dasa adàt kha xh'agaxhtuwûs?

What are the issues?

Trapping is an important activity in the Traditional Territory, contributing to the region's heritage and local economy. Community members would like a broader trapper support program with additional resources available to meet their needs and stronger efforts to promote trapping to youth through on-the-land camps and mentorship opportunities.

Trappers are encouraged to keep their records as an essential component of trapline management. Communicating meaningful and realistic reporting requirements under the new and upcoming *Mandatory Fur Harvest Reporting* regulation could help with this management if it is communicated to the trappers through education and support programs.

Àdé saduwa hêyi khunûk

Recommended actions

Objective	#	Recommended action	By whom	Time frame
Trapping activities are increased in the Traditional Territory	56	Host trapping workshops and on-the-land learning opportunities for youth and students	TRRC	Annually
A mandatory fur harvest reporting regulation is in place	57	Assist with the implementation of the mandatory fur harvest reporting regulation	TTC, TRRC, YG	When implemented
Broader economic opportunities for trapline support are explored	58	Engage with the trapping community about what their needs are and consider regulation changes, as needed	TRRC	Ongoing
	59	Develop and fund a Trapper Support Program	TRRC; YG	2025
	60	Explore additional funding opportunities to increase trapping incentives	TTC, TRRC, YG	Ongoing
Concession Holders are encouraged to use their trap lines	61	Host annual trappers' night/dinner	TRRC	Ongoing
	62	Provide educational and administrative support to trappers, e.g. trapping newsletter	TRRC	Ongoing
The Marten Conservation Area is phased out	63	Support the removal of the Marten Conservation Area quotas	TRRC, YG	2025-2029



PHOTO: Minnie Clark

Masa khun wûî HUMAN IMPACTS

Dasa adàt kha xh'agaxhtuwûs?

What are the issues?

As the Yukon population grows, more residents and visitors are on the land for hunting, fishing and recreation activities. This trend is especially notable in the Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory due to its proximity to Whitehorse, accessibility via the Alaska Highway, South Canol Road, and Teslin Lake, in addition to tourists driving through the Traditional Territory on their way to Alaska.

The community is noticing that this increase has led to more invasive species, waste left in hunting and camping areas and more people using roadside pullouts to dispose trash. Waste at roadside pullouts is overwhelming these facilities; garbage cans cannot keep up with this increased demand. People are observing more litter in the Traditional Territory, which is a concern as a wildlife attractant and for taking away the area's natural beauty.

Off-road vehicles' popularity and improved capabilities enable people to access remote or previously inaccessible areas. To address this, the community would like to see more educational approaches and materials that promote respect for the land by off-road vehicle users.

Àdé saduwa hêyi khunûk

Recommended actions

Objective	#	Recommended action	By whom	Time frame
The amount of garbage left on the land in the Traditional Territory is reduced	64	Coordinate with the Village of Teslin and Teslin Tlingit Council Game Guardians to monitor and increase the frequency of roadside garbage pickups at rest stops	TTC,YG	Annually
	65	Create educational signage promoting responsible outdoor practices (e.g. Leave No Trace) at targeted locations in the Traditional Territory, as needed	TTC, TRRC, YG	Ongoing
	66	Increase presence and enforcement of hunting camps during peak summer months and hunting season	TTC, YG-COSB	Annually
	67	Explore the feasibility of adding additional garbage bins at high-use areas (e.g., boat launch)	TTC	2025
Impacts of off- road vehicles are monitored and managed	68	Identify problem areas, or sensitive habitats, within the Traditional Territory that are being impacted by off-road vehicle use	TTC, TRRC, YG	2026
	69	Create targeted educational materials that promote respect for the land by off-road vehicle users	TTC, YG	2026
	70	Research potential tools and approaches (such as ORV Management Areas), to limit and manage human access and associated disturbances in identified sensitive areas	TTC, TRRC, YG	2025
Trail mapping and classification in the Traditional Territory are coordinated to understand how people are using and accessing the area	71	Amalgamate existing trail data from various agencies and sources	TTC, TRRC, YG	2025
	72	Develop (or adapt) standardized methods for trail mapping and classification	TTC, YG	2025
	73	Identify priority areas for trail mapping and create a prioritized schedule for surveying	TTC, YG	2026

Public outreach and education around invasive species is developed and distributed	74	Develop and distribute outreach and educational materials about invasive species in the Traditional Territory for the community and the school	TTC, TRRC	2026
	75	Work with partners to develop outreach, educational materials and signage to communicate the community's concerns about the introduction of invasive species into lake and river systems in the Traditional Territory from the use of outside boats	TTC, TRRC, YG	2026
The presence and spread of invasive species continues to be monitored and managed	76	Explore collaboration between Teslin Tlingit Council and the Government of Yukon (through summer student programs) to conduct regular mapping of invasive species and management of disturbed areas	TTC, YG	2025
	77	Explore options for incorporating community-based methods in invasive species monitoring	TTC, TRRC, YG	2025
	78	Explore options for minimizing the introduction of aquatic invasive species from the use of non-local boats	TTC, YG	2026



PHOTO: Minnie Clark

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A dên daxh à atgutu atx'i | Other Ungulates

WATSIX | CARIBOU

Dasa adàt kha xh'agaxhtuwûs?

What are the issues?

Eight caribou herds from the Northern Mountain population of woodland caribou range through Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory: Wolf Lake, Pelly, Finlayson, Little Rancheria, Swan Lake, Carcross, Laberge, and Atlin herds (Figure 3). Table 2 summarizes population and survey information for the herds. The community is concerned about the potential decline in caribou numbers in all herds in light of climate change and other human impacts. They would like additional studies to determine whether these herds are stable, particularly for those herds where very little recent information exists.

The issue of caribou fatalities on roads in winter remains a concern. These fatalities are impacting caribou populations and human safety. Completing and implementing the *Southern Lakes Caribou Relationship Plan* will be crucial for the collaborative management of the Southern Lakes herds (i.e., Atlin, Carcross, Laberge and Ibex herds). There is also ongoing interest in providing additional caribou-focused educational opportunities for youth in the region.

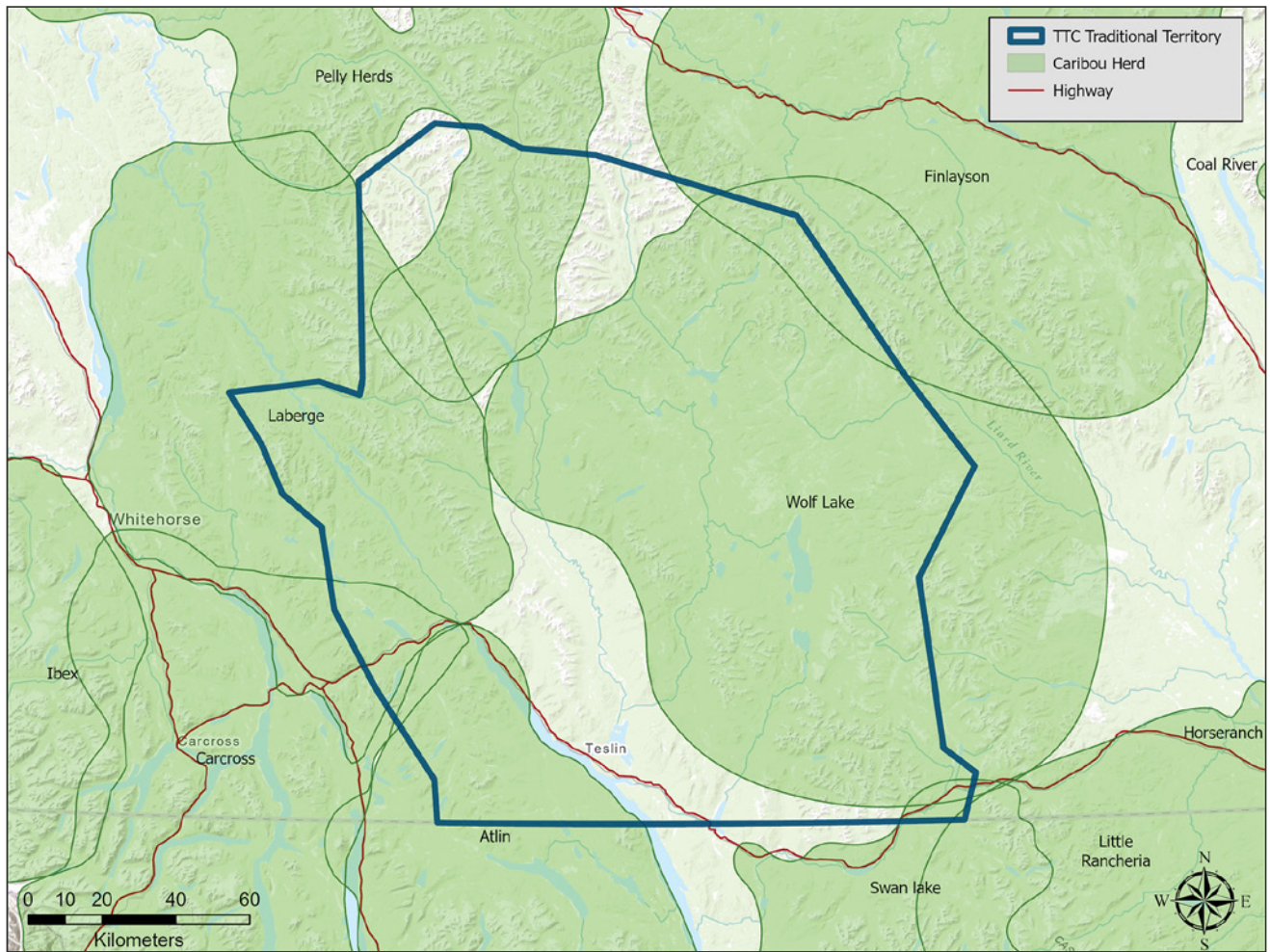


Figure 3: Northern Mountain woodland caribou herd ranges that overlap with the Yukon portion of the Teslin Tlingit Traditional Territory



PHOTO: Minnie Clark

Table 2. Caribou herd population status in Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory.

Herd	Population Est.	Last Surveyed	Status
Wolf Lake	1,184	2022	stable
Pelly	1,000	2002	unknown
Swan Lake	702	2021	stable
Little Rancheria/Horseranch ¹	1,200	1999	unknown
Carcross	850	2019	stable
Laberge	746	2019	stable
Atlin	1,527	2018	increasing
Finlayson	3,359	2022	stable/increasing

¹A survey on the Little Rancheria/Horseranch herd occurred in 2022, results are pending.

Àdé saduwa hêyi khunûk

Recommended actions

Objective	#	Recommended action	By whom	Time frame
The status of the Wolf Lake caribou herd is monitored	79	Conduct fall rut surveys of the Wolf Lake caribou herd every other year	YG	2026
	80	Use collar data to evaluate habitat use, population demographics, movement, and seasonal range of the Wolf Lake caribou herd	YG	2027
	81	Provide a technical report for the Wolf Lake caribou herd detailing the results of monitoring efforts from 2020 to the present	YG	2027
	82	Share monitoring results from the Wolf Lake caribou herd with the community	YG	Ongoing
The status of the Pelly herd caribou is monitored	83	Complete a GPS-collaring program in parts of the Pelly caribou herd range to better understand distribution	YG	2027
	84	Begin regularly scheduled fall composition surveys for the Pelly caribou herd	YG	2026
Strategies and tools are implemented to reduce the number of caribou road collisions	85	Assess vegetation and snow clearing requirements along the Alaska Highway to increase highway visibility to reduce wildlife collisions	TTC, TRRC, YG	Ongoing
	86	Work with the Government of Yukon Interdepartmental Wildlife Collisions working group to create targeted messaging and educational materials for reducing caribou vehicle collisions for different user groups (e.g., the trucking industry and tourists)	YG	Ongoing
Support continues for the <i>Southern Lakes Caribou Relationship Plan</i>	87	Support the implementation of the commitments and recommendations in the <i>Southern Lakes Caribou Relationship Plan</i>	TTC, TRRC, YG	Ongoing
Increase caribou- related educational opportunities for youth	88	Coordinate with and assist local teachers in piloting or implementing the 'Caribou in the Schools' curriculum in their classrooms	TTC, TRRC, YG	Ongoing



PHOTO: Gillian Rourke

TAWÊ | SHEEP

Dasa adàt kha xh'agaxhtuwûs?

What are the issues?

Thinhorn sheep, including Dall's and Stone sheep, are sparsely distributed in low numbers across much of the Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory. Residents have noticed that sheep have disappeared from the Deadman Creek area but have reported few concerns about sheep in other parts of the Traditional Territory.

Àdé saduwa hêyi khunûk

Recommended actions

Objective	#	Recommended action	By whom	Time frame
Sheep presence in the Traditional Territory is monitored	89	Continue Game Guardian (or citizen) ground monitoring for the presence of sheep in the Deadman Creek area	TTC	Ongoing
	90	Collect and record anecdotal observations of sheep in the Traditional Territory	TTC, TRRC, YG	Ongoing

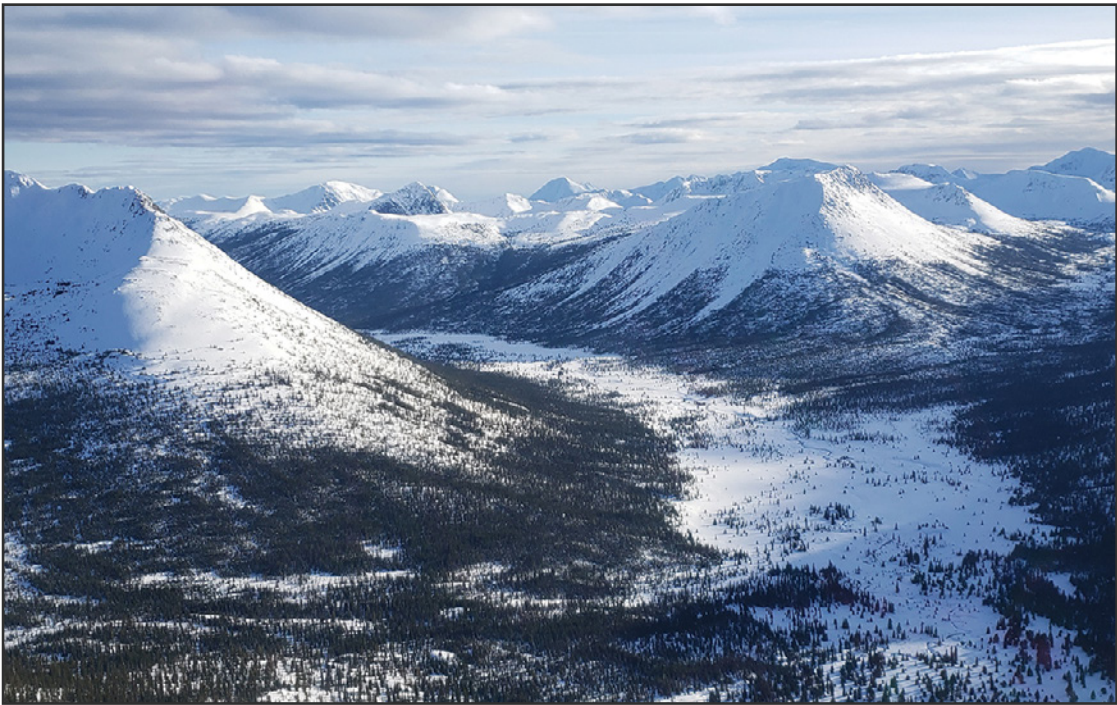


PHOTO: Gillian Rourke



PHOTO: Gillian Rourke

Ján or Jánwu | MOUNTAIN GOATS

Dasa adàt kha xh’agaxhtuwûs?

What are the issues?

Mountain goats are found in parts of the Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory, primarily in remote and rugged alpine areas. While not as commonly observed as other ungulates, they are an important part of the ecosystem and hold cultural significance for the Teslin Tlingit people.

There is limited information on the current status and population trends of mountain goats in the region. Concerns have been raised about the potential impacts of habitat disturbance, climate change, and increasing human activity, such as backcountry recreation and industrial development, on goat populations. These factors can contribute to stress, displacement, and reduced survival rates, particularly for young goats.

Given their sensitivity to disturbance and relatively low reproductive rates, continued monitoring of mountain goat populations and habitat conditions is important. Future management efforts may need to focus on assessing potential threats, improving habitat protection, and ensuring sustainable population levels.

Àdé saduwa hêyi khunûk | Recommended actions

Objective	#	Reccomended Action	By Whom	Time frame
Mountain goat populations in the Traditional Territory is monitored	91	Conduct surveys to monitor mountain goat populations in the Traditional Territory	YG	2029
	92	Collect and record anecdotal observations of mountain goats in the Traditional Territory	TTC, TRRC	Ongoing



PHOTO: Minnie Clark



PHOTO: Gillian Rourke

Nîkw kha kanas.àtx'.í DISEASE and PATHOGENS

Dasa adàt kha xh'agaxhtuwûs?

What are the issues?

A variety of diseases and pathogens exist in many of the fish and wildlife species within the Traditional Territory (e.g., trichinosis and winter ticks), and others are most likely not present yet but have the potential to emerge eventually in wildlife within the Traditional Territory (e.g., chronic wasting disease) or be newly detected (e.g., avian influenza). Disease transmission and prevalence in wildlife populations, especially in the face of our changing climate, will be important factors in monitoring our wildlife's health and wellbeing and human health.

Community members have a critical role to play in this monitoring of our wildlife's health and wellbeing, as well as human health.

Àdé saduwa hêyi khunûk
Recommended actions

Objective	#	Recommended action	By whom	Time frame
Information about disease and pathogen presence and risks to local fish and wildlife populations is widely communicated and monitored	93	Develop a list of wildlife diseases and pathogens that are of concern for fish and wildlife within the Traditional Territory and review existing communication materials that exist	TTC, TRRC, YG	Ongoing
	94	Ensure that wildlife disease/ pathogen information is shared with the public, either through existing communication materials or through the creation of new materials, including how to report concerns	TTC, TRRC, YG	Ongoing



PHOTO: Minnie Clark

Dàsa dês? What is next?

This plan provides an overview of priority fish and wildlife issues within the Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory and outlines recommended actions to address these concerns.

Over the next five years, the parties involved will address as many of these actions as possible within their budgets.

Nevertheless, changes may occur, and new priorities may emerge. Acknowledging this, the parties will review this plan in 2027 to assess completed work and, if necessary, identify any emerging issues. A final implementation review of the plan will take place in 2029, after which the parties can decide to initiate the development of a new work plan.



PHOTO: Minnie Clark



