



FOR RELEASE
February 27, 2014

New forest mapping agreement contributes to regional economic growth

WHITEHORSE—The Yukon government is initiating a new forest vegetation inventory for the Haines Junction area, which will support future economic growth.

A two-year \$764,000 contract for the Haines Junction Yukon Vegetation Inventory project was awarded to Timberline Forest Inventory Consultants on February 5, 2014. This contract enables the mapping and detailed description of 1.47 million hectares of southwestern Yukon forest.

This action supports the growth of the industry while also adding to Yukon's ecological knowledge base.

"A new forest vegetation inventory will provide the detailed information needed to support sound decision-making in forest development and management with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations," Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Scott Kent said.

Such an inventory describes the amount, location and types of vegetation in an area and provides vital ecological information. It will supply Geographic Information System (GIS) data, allowing for the production of maps and analytical products.

The Yukon government will use the survey to support forest resources management, timber harvest planning and other forest-based projects in the Haines Junction area. The same information will help the wood processing industry make future investment and job creation decisions based on high-quality data.

"This initiative has the potential to boost forest-related economic growth for the entire area," Kluane MLA Wade Istchenko said.

The inventory will be available for use by other stakeholders. These include First Nation governments, Wildland Fire Management, land and natural resource managers, land use planners, consultants and researchers.

Together, the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and the Yukon government continue to implement the jointly approved Forest Resources Management Plan for the Champagne and Aishihik Traditional Territory.

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News Release #14-047



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