

COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

CRE-98-04

Project Report for the Yukon River Panel



Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board



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1 Abstract

In 2004, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (YFWMB) Community Stewardship Program continued to promote and implement stewardship initiatives in Yukon. Community Stewards in Whitehorse, Dawson City, Mayo, Haines Junction and Old Crow worked to advocate and support the conservation of salmon, freshwater fish, wildlife and habitat through community participation in locally driven projects. The program was managed, coordinated and administered by the YFWMB staff, with guidance and technical advice coming from the Yukon River Panel (YRP) and YFWMB members. It was funded externally by 15 different funding agencies and community partners, including the YRP as a major contributor. Community stewards were able to plan, implement and support numerous fish and wildlife conservation projects and initiatives. They facilitated communication between Federal, Yukon and Yukon First Nation governments, public consultative bodies such as the Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board and Renewable Resources Councils, non-governmental agencies and interested individuals. Stewards invested time in outreach to community youth, as they will be the Stewards of the Future. Finally, several employment and volunteer opportunities were created through their efforts, which yielded more than \$430,000 in project funding.

2 Introduction

*Stewardship is an ethic by which Canadians care for our land, water and air as parts of a natural life support system and act to sustain and enhance it for generations to come.
(Canada's Stewardship Agenda, 2002)*

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (the Board) Community Stewardship Program is building on the mandate and the accomplishments of the Habitat Conservation and Stewardship Program (HCSP - Department of Fisheries and Oceans, 1998-2003), expanding that program beyond salmon and habitat projects, although these continue to be an important part of the stewardship program. The Board program promotes and implements stewardship initiatives at the community and regional levels in Yukon.

Community stewardship coordinator positions have been established in Mayo, Dawson City, Old Crow and Haines Junction. These communities have demonstrated the need and desire to support and enhance the stewardship ethic. Community stewards provide the mechanism through which local conservation needs are identified, and grassroots stewardship projects are developed. Through this program, community residents are able to identify and participate in projects and activities that protect and enhance local and regional natural resources.

A complete explanation of acronyms is shown in Appendix 1.

3 Objectives

The overall goal of the program is to achieve conservation of salmon, freshwater fish, wildlife and habitat through community participation in locally driven projects. Community stewardship coordinators are currently working toward the following specific objectives:

1. to enhance community understanding of the importance of stewardship and conservation of salmon, freshwater fish and wildlife resources and habitats;
2. to assist communities to identify local stewardship priorities and help develop related plans, programs and projects;
3. to ensure the collection and integration of scientific, local, and First Nation traditional knowledge as part of the design and implementation of stewardship initiatives;
4. to provide opportunities for individual and community capacity building through stewardship projects;
5. to support and facilitate communication between community and government stakeholders and to assist the cost effective implementation of stewardship programs at the local level;
6. to identify and pursue additional funding sources to support local stewardship initiatives; and
7. to ensure tangible and measurable results of stewardship initiatives are achieved and are apparent to communities and partners.

4 Structure

The Board Executive Director, Christine Cleghorn, is the overall supervisor of the program with administration provided by the Board. As program manager, Jocelyn McDowell has pursued all aspects of the program including sourcing funds, establishing relationships with community agencies and supporting community stewardship coordinators themselves. She is the central contact and coordinator the program. Coaching and ongoing technical advice has been provided by Al von Finster (Yukon River Panel Advisor) and from Board members, Gerry Couture, Dan McDiarmid and Shirley Ford.

The program is primarily supported externally. While the Yukon River Panel (Restoration and Enhancement Fund) is our biggest funder, we also have cash and in-kind support coming from the following funding organizations and community agencies:

1. Alsek Renewable Resources Council,
2. Canadian Council for Human Resources in the Environmental Industry,
3. Dawson District Renewable Resources Council,
4. Department of Fisheries and Oceans,
5. Ducks Unlimited,
6. Mayo District Renewable Resources Council,

7. Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation,
8. North Yukon Renewable Resources Council,
9. Parks Canada,
10. Vuntut Development Corporation,
11. Vuntut Gwitch'in First Nation,
12. Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust,
13. Yukon River Commercial Fishers Association, and
14. Yukon Salmon Committee.

Steering committees, comprised of the Stewardship Program Manager, one board member, a representative of the Yukon River Panel and supporting community partners, were formed for each position. Committees are responsible for work plan development, annual evaluation and liaison with associated natural resource managers. Individual work plans for 2004/2005 are shown in Appendix 2.

5 Progress

Each Community Steward's performance was evaluated by the respective community steering committee in March 2005. While the ever-shifting politics and temporal variability in capacity in communities sometimes make dialogue and program evaluation a challenge, the program's efficacy is also assessed on an ongoing basis through the Manager's ongoing discussions with funders, management agencies, community partners and of course, the Stewards themselves.

What follows is an assessment of the program based on the processes noted above.

5.1 Program Manager

The Manager position was funded 29% by the YRP, 27% by DU, 27% by YFWET and 18% by the Board.

Jocelyn McDowell carried on as central coordinator and manager of the Stewardship Program throughout 2004/2005.

5.1.1 Education, Communications and Awareness / Sharing Knowledge

Jocelyn is responsible for promoting the program, and spends a good deal of time developing written material, presentations and illustrations to that end.

She is/has been involved in the following projects:

- Community Stewards were featured as central elements of a 2005 Board calendar: 2000 copies depicting Yukoners caring for and using their resources, were distributed throughout the territory.
- A poster that will depict human involvement and presence in the landscape. This will become a Board promotional tool, and falls directly in line with the promotion of the Stewardship program goals of instilling a sense of responsibility for Yukoners' natural resources.

- A promotional brochure listing supporters, and explaining the program and the work that the Stewards do in the communities.
- A brochure and a newsletter about the Bison Recovery Project (with the Yukon Wood Bison Technical Team). There will also be a website which will be accessible through the YFWMB site.
- A short film that will depict trapping as a lifestyle consisting of inherent good stewardship and conservation.

5.1.2 Project Development and Implementation

Jocelyn spends a great deal of the year maintaining the Stewardship program. She spends considerable time supporting the stewards that are in place, providing feedback on community project development and guidance and support as required. She is also the principle liaison for funders and involved community agencies.

She has been available to help in the development of stronger Game Guardian programs, and has spent days in the field supporting and encouraging several of the Guardians working on the Southern Lakes Caribou Recovery Project.

Jocelyn is currently working with the Board's Trapping Working Group, the Yukon Government and a Dawson filmmaker to develop a film on trapping in a stewardship context.

Last fall she assisted the Alsek Steward with a clean up project at Sulphur Lake and a fish rescue at a culvert along the Alaska Highway.

5.1.3 Sharing Knowledge

Jocelyn is currently training in website construction and design. She will be the Board's in-house webmaster, and soon will be capable of promoting the Stewardship program and individual projects through the web.

5.1.4 Community Capacity

Jocelyn ensures that stewards receive the training they need.

- Sebastian Jones received computer literacy training.
- Jake Duncan received training and exposure to the development of Cooperative fish processing facilities.
- Beverley Brown attended Community Economic Development workshops.
- Russell McDiarmid was taken under the wing of mentor, Kate Maddigan.
- All stewards received formal bird identification training as well as ongoing mentoring with Ducks Unlimited biologist Amy Leach.
- Kate, Russell and Brad Wilson attended the Salmon Committee's Net Cage Farming workshop in March.

Jocelyn also helped facilitate the continued training of two Old Crow youth who had been involved with a Recycling Education campaign in Old Crow.

5.1.5 Partnership Building/Cooperation

Jocylyn ensures that steering committee members are well informed and involved with hiring processes, work plan development and evaluation for the respective community stewards. As well as being in regular contact with the four Stewards, the members of their steering committees, our major funders and technical advisors, Jocylyn has done much work toward building relationships in jurisdictions where we hope to build our program in the future. She is also building requisite relationships with various foundations and organizations with specific interests in the management of salmon, watersheds, wetlands, forests and wildlife.

5.1.6 Proposal Writing and Fundraising

Jocylyn has done all of the fundraising for the continuation of the Stewardship program in 2005, involving approximately \$300,000 in funds and in-kind support from 14 different partners (see Appendix 1).

5.1.7 Measuring and Celebrating Results

Jocylyn has focused on promotion of the Stewardship Program by delivering presentations, reports and visual displays (calendar, posters, and photos) to program partners and other interested agencies, including the Yukon River Panel (November 2004 and March 2005). She is also diligent following-up events by sending photos to folks involved in stewardship activities ensuring that they feel appreciated and celebrated.

5.2 Dawson

The Dawson position was funded 82% by the YRP, 9% by PC/DFO, 5% by the Board and 2.5% by the YRCFA.

Jake Duncan continued to work in Dawson through the summer and fall of 2004. Jake's energy and commitment have been highly valued in the community. He devoted almost all of his energy to salmon and salmon habitat, which reflects the program priority in this region.

By late fall, political and social changes meant that Jake had exhausted his opportunities for progress in Dawson. The Board recruited for a stewardship apprenticeship position in November, and hired Sebastian Jones to work half time, alongside Jake (as mentor) for the remainder of the fiscal year. Sebastian is poised to fill the Dawson position full time in April 2005. (Much of what is reported below about Sebastian's activities reflects the apprenticeship nature of his role. He has been getting his 'feet wet' and will be functioning at full capacity once the new fiscal year arrives.)

5.2.1 Education, Communications and Awareness

Both Jake and Sebastian have seized numerous opportunities to increase local understanding about the importance of stewardship and the conservation. Jake:

- was instrumental in developing the website: www.juvenilefishid.com as well as developing identity samples to accompany the material;
- assisted in the planning and organization of the Yukon College Fisheries Training course. He also participated in the delivery of the 2004 session and supplied many tools and educational aids to the training opportunity; and
- assisted in the development of recommendations which include the study of size selectivity of the gill net fishery, and a pilot study in the development of selective fishery practices.

Sebastian:

- coordinated a two-day workshop exploring the new Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA) for 17 local people including First Nation and Renewable Resource Council (DDRRC) folks. His report is included in Appendix 3; and
- initiated a quarterly newsletter for the community outlining stewardship activities. See Appendix 3.

5.2.2 Project Development and Implementation

Jake:

- acquired and coordinated the use of cold storage for (subsistence) fish obtained from the test fishery;
- completed the proposal and much of the planning and organization for First Fish (although it was cancelled due to forest fires);
- participated in the ongoing Integrated Fishery Management Program (IFMP);
- drove the development of a Juvenile Fish Identification Handbook / website;
- has been integral in the development of a cooperatively-run value-added fish processing facility;
- with the help of the First Nation, developed maps for the sub-basin Restoration and Enhancement plan; and
- assisted YTG staff with spring waterfowl surveys in the Dawson region.

Sebastian:

- organized and coordinated a local YESAA workshop; and
- is coordinating the collection of Plant Watch data in Dawson (This is a national initiative to collect the dates at which several different plants first bloom throughout the country).

5.2.3 Sharing Knowledge

Jake:

- helped facilitate and complete the final 2004 reports for the Yukon Queen II working group and, as the project was turned over to new leaders, reviewed all

- relevant Yukon Queen II material and previously produced information with them;
- participated in the spring meeting of a working group with deputy ministers of Environment and Tourism;
 - initiated and drove the process to develop a Yukon River Value-Added fish processing facility and cooperative;
 - initiated, coordinated, sought funding & partnerships, and participated in the Yukon's first workshops on the cooperative business model and its implications for Yukon economic development;
 - actively participated in the Klondike River Area Under the Curve (AUC) surveys, the juvenile out-migration project, and a radio telemetry study; and
 - developed, facilitated and coordinated the in-season management Test Fishery Program. (He also participated in and chaired steering group.)

Sebastian has done excellent work since November insofar as he is now a known resource for the community, and sees evidence of this in the frequency of visits, inquiries and invitations to participate and assist with local resource issues and processes. The DDRRC has made him a regular feature on their monthly agendas. Sebastian was integral to the coordination and delivery of a YESAA training workshop in Dawson.

5.2.4 Community Capacity

Jake:

- assisted with planning the curriculum for the first community-based writing course. He also facilitated the 2003 annual fisheries technician course (Dawson, Yukon College) and completed it himself in 2004;
- used the knowledge gained in the salmon out-migration timing study to add to the juvenile field *id* reference material and to complete www.juvenilefishid.com;
- was available to train participants in all R&E projects (i.e. local Test Fishery Coordinator); and
- mentored individuals and groups through numerous project management and strategic planning processes. Since the fall, he has been mentoring Sebastian Jones.

Sebastian was integral to the delivery of the YESAA course. In the interest of becoming a larger community resource, he has taken a land management course, the YESAA course and a computer literacy course. He is also now capable of using mapping and digital camera equipment and software, as well as being able to share data electronically.

5.2.5 Partnership Building/Cooperation

Jake was:

- consistently in contact with THFN, the YRCFA and the DDRRC;
- in regular dialogue with DFO, YTG (Environment) and the YFWMB;

- connected (beyond the border) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game; and
- a participant in the Yukon River Working Group and various DFO and YSC public meetings, as well as the spring meeting of the YRP.

Sebastian attended the fall YRP meeting in Whitehorse as well as the RRC AGM.

Both Jake and Sebastian have been diligent in the face of shifting local politics and economic pressures in initiating and facilitating conversations amongst resource users and managers in order to build the relationships that will eventually make co-management of natural resources in this region a reality. They have also been keen participants in meeting and sharing experiences with other Yukon stewards.

5.2.6 Proposal Writing and Fundraising

Jake assisted community groups with the development of several successful community YRP salmon conservation project proposals for 2005, including the Chandindu weir project, the Yukon River Test Fishery, the Klondike River spawning escapement and the Value Added Fish Processing project. He also developed successful proposals for the latter which went to the Community Development Fund and the Enterprise Trade Fund. These projects were worth about 350K.

Sebastian raised and organized resources (about 3K) for the YESAA training workshop.

5.2.7 Measuring and Celebrating Results

Both Jake and Sebastian have focused on numerous ‘hands-on’ initiatives that have directly involved residents in a range of initiatives where results are transparent, and they are both widely recognized as champions for conservation and stewardship.

5.3 Mayo

The Mayo position was funded 48% by the YRP, 24% by DU, 10% by NNDFN, 13% by CCHREI and 5% by the Board.

Joella Hogan continued to work as our Steward until the end of July. Her excellence was quickly recognized in the community and she was hired to work with her local First Nation (Nacho Nyak Dun) in the Lands Department at the beginning of September. The Board recruited for the Mayo position at that time.

Three applicants were hired on contract for the remainder of the fiscal year. Local resident, Simone McDonald was hired to continue work on existing Mayo projects. Kate Maddigan (of Whitehorse) was hired to ensure that 2005 field season proposals were researched and executed and to mentor local resident Russell McDiarmid. Russell was also hired to take advantage of information sharing and training opportunities, so that when he finished his program in the Renewable Resource Management program at

Yukon College (April 2005), he would be well positioned to take the reigns of the position full time.

5.3.1 Education, Communications and Awareness / Sharing Knowledge

Joella:

- set wheels in motion for 3 youth activities (fish camp, ice fishing and moose hunting) which would promote stewardship and tradition;
- carried the momentum of the Peel River Research project by pursuing interviews with local elders;
- assisted the NND Fish and Wildlife officer assistant with harvest interviews throughout the salmon season;
- was involved with several formal and informal community information sessions regarding the Lower Mayo River Stream Channel Enhancement work. Joella wrote sections of the Devils Elbow HPA interpretive panels and coordinated community (RRC, Lands and Resources committee, and Elders) review of the panels;
- monitored the summer 2004 conference calls in order to inform the Integrated Fishery Management Plan;
- attended a YSC meeting in Carmacks in the Spring;
- regularly attended Mayo and Selkirk RRC meetings;
- has been integral to information sharing both within the First Nation and throughout the community; and
- talked regularly with Jake, Jocelyn and Brad to share opinions and advice.

Kate attended Mayo RRC meetings and was in good communication within the First Nation Lands office. She was also very energetic at bringing stewards together and germinating effective dialogue (especially with Russell and Simone), resulting in well developed planning for several upcoming projects.

5.3.2 Project Development and Implementation

Joella:

- coordinated the development of the Devil's Elbow interpretive site in July (hiring workers, expediting supplies and coordinating various aspects of the project);
- worked through summer 2004 with the Selkirk RRC summer student to organize, collate and store the Upper MacMillan harvest monitoring data;
- worked closely with DU and Selkirk student doing field surveys in the Cristal Lake wetland study; and
- worked toward the integration of past and current (R&E, etc.) projects, studies and recommendations into a draft Stewart River Restoration and Enhancement Plan, using a community based approach.

With help from the NND lands department, Simone, Russell and Kate did the winter monitoring on the Mayo River habitat restoration project.

5.3.3 Community Capacity

Joella set up formal activities for NND youth to explore traditional salmon harvest (several children gathered to paint a mural and talk about salmon, resulting in a submission to the Yukon Salmon Committee art contest). She also provided an unofficial mentoring role with the NND Guardian trainee, and was quick to provide opportunities for any interested youth to participate in projects.

Kate mentored Russell through several processes, including the Mayo River surveying, proposal and project development and general communication processes.

5.3.4 Partnership Building/Cooperation

Joella and Kate were excellent participants in meetings and activities of the Mayo and Selkirk RRCs, NND and the Youth Council. Joella also an effective bridge into the community for Duck's Unlimited, and Kate has been helpful at bringing DFO closer to activities in Mayo. Joella, Kate and Russell have all connected to the Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council.

5.3.5 Proposal Writing and Fundraising

Joella assisted the First Nation and the NND Youth group in getting funds for youth activities (moose hunting, ice fishing and fish camp). She helped the Mayo RRC with Proctor Lake Clean-up proposal development, and DU with one for a waterfowl study at Cristal Lake. She also assisted NND in getting funds for a collaborative project with CPAWS. In total these projects were worth about 23K.

Kate, Simone and Russell have worked closely with the RRC and the First Nation to develop several proposals for youth projects for the coming season.

5.3.6 Measuring and Celebrating Results

Joella's experience outside the community and territory, combined with her familial ties to the community, enable her to bring perspectives to relationships within the First Nation and community as a whole that are helpful and quietly profound. While she now officially has a different role within the First Nation, conservation and stewardship, as they are associated with Joella, will continue to be welcome and cause for celebration in the community.

5.4 Alsek

The Alsek position was funded 79% by DU, 14% by the ARRC and 7% by the Board.

Brad Wilson has continued to work half time in the Haines Junction /Alsek region. The Champagne and Aishihik First Nations have a fully operational program contributing to salmon and habitat conservation, and the White River First Nation has been working directly with a contractor in its conduct of salmon projects that are linked to Panel R&E

Funding. Brad supports these processes and activities whenever he is called upon, and has provided leadership in a range of other community initiatives.

5.4.1 Education, Communications and Awareness

While he only worked half time, in all his activities Brad consistently worked to raise awareness of the importance of stewardship and conservation. Brad was present and keen to bring people into conversations and takes opportunities to involve people in conservation and stewardship projects. He:

- made regular submissions to the Echo (Appendix 3);
- completed and distributed the Burbot Setline educational pamphlet (Appendix 3);
- participated regularly in Asek RRC, local YSC and village council meetings; and
- participated regularly in the development of the Kluane, Champagne and Aishihik, and White River First Nations Salmon Management Plans.

5.4.2 Project Development and Implementation

Brad:

- led the development of the Beaver Creek Wetland Interpretive Panels and the Dezadeash Lake Signs;
- participated in DU banding program;
- participated in DU surveys at Scottie Creek wetland, Taye Lake (brood surveys) and Kloo/Jarvis wetland;
- implemented the Marshall Creek fish salvage which in turn, has begun the process of passage restoration there;
- has been instrumental in developing the Dezadeash Lake Management and the Aishihik Integrated Wildlife Management Plans;
- led the development of Tower Bay closure communications work;
- planned the redevelopment of the Dezadeash River Trail in Haines Junction (with Parks Canada, the Village and DU);
- implemented the barrel clean up at Sulphur Lake;
- organized several community wetland monitoring projects (including Taye Lake);
- chaired Sealed Bid Auction DU dinner committee and coordinated many aspects of that event;
- participated in Asek RRC summer student hiring process;
- facilitated the Pine Lake spring ice fishing day;
- participated in CWS roadside duck surveys; and
- is helping to develop the Dezadeash River Trail with Parks and Village of Haines Junction.

5.4.3 Sharing Knowledge

Brad was available to the community to conduct research and bring information to various processes. He:

- assisted the Asek RRC with several research projects;

- assisted the Alsek RRC Bear Awareness project on Haines Road;
- prepared a Wetlands Education Program for the St. Elias School;
- helped research Kokanee Salmon issue for Kluane Park Management Board; and
- worked with other stewards on joint projects.

5.4.4 Community Capacity

Brad:

- worked closely with the 2004 summer student;
- helped prepare material for Kluane First Nation Education Day March 30 2005;
- prepared for an April 2005 St. Elias School Wetland Education workshop; and
- participated in CAFN summer culture camp.

5.4.5 Partnership Building/Cooperation

Brad:

- worked closely with the Alsek RRC, CAFN and YTG whenever issues arose;
- was always available and keen to work with the four First Nations of the Kluane region;
- worked with the Elders of Haines Junction, and was available to assist and facilitate their involvement in natural resource management activities;
- developed a good working relationship with Parks Canada, the Village of Haines Junction and the YTG regional office;
- has had numerous interactions with the youth and educators at the school;
- was the chair of Haines Junction DU fundraising dinner committee bringing together all community groups;
- regularly worked with the Fish and Game Association and CWS; and
- regularly participated in YFWMB and YSC meetings.

5.4.6 Proposal Writing and Fundraising

Brad worked on:

- Kloo/ Jarvis Wetland Habitat Protection Area proposal; and the
- Interpretive panels proposal for the Dezadeash Lake planning team.

He is still working on Dezadeash River Wetland site construction proposal. All of these are pending.

5.4.7 Measuring and Celebrating Results

Brad has a subtle presence generally, but has found strength in familiarity in the Alsek area. He has focused on several ‘hands-on’ initiatives such as the fish salvage and Sulphur Lake clean up, where results are transparent and people are directly involved. The regional First Nation governments, the Alsek RRC, the regional biologist and ordinary Alsek citizens alike have acknowledged his valuable contribution to regional conservation initiatives.

5.5 North Yukon

The North Yukon position was funded 28% by the YRP, 28 % by DU, 28% by VGFN, 11% by the NYRRC and 4% by the Board.

Beverley Brown was hired in May 2004 to work as half-time steward in Old Crow. (The North Yukon RRC also hired Beverley as half time Executive Director.)

5.5.1 Education/Communication/Awareness

Beverley developed several educational projects:

- A series of three environmental education posters to act as a information directory depicting monitoring activities, planning initiatives and co-management agencies in Old Crow;
- youth-driven community education campaign promoting recycling, and reducing waste and demonstrating impacts of hazardous waste on water quality;
- school presentation on climate change (also arranged school involvement in community Climate Change Workshop); and the
- “What the Land Means to Me” art contest with youth.

5.5.2 Project Development & Implementation

Beverley:

- provided support to all salmon research projects, including pre-season public meeting and in-season fishery information;
- coordinated of the Chum Fishery Substitution project;
- provided logistical assistance and community support for many Land Use Planning Council activities;
- assisted coordination of the North Yukon RRC “Big Caribou Day” event;
- researched local potential to establish community-based duck monitoring program;
- arranged a waterfowl survey with RRC members and two wetlands field trips with youth;
- helped VGFN in the development and facilitation of a major revival in recycling activity. She hired local women to sew canvas grocery bags and engaged two girls in hosting the program and a community supper and workshop;
- developed wetlands handbook for youth and proposed duck monitoring program to school educators; and
- helped establishing the community-driven Vuntut Hunters & Trappers Association, which promotes the wise and sustainable use of the wildlife resources in North Yukon.

5.5.3 Sharing Knowledge

Beverley was also very effective at sharing knowledge. She:

- arranged VGFN councilor participation in the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association Education Exchange in Alaska;
- submitted an interview with VGFN Natural Resources Director to YR DFA newsletter;
- compiled local and territorial salmon fisheries information package for VGFN Councilor tour of Ft. Yukon fisheries, and encouraged local involvement in YR DFA in-season teleconferences;
- coordinated and delivered a wetlands and watersheds workshop at the local school;
- promoted local participation in the North Yukon Planning Commission Wildlife/Fisheries/Habitat workshops; and
- developed a newsletter with North Yukon RRC outlining stewardship activities and promoting conservation management.

5.5.4 Community Capacity

Beverley actively engaged local participants in all kinds of activities. She:

- created youth employment positions to assist in both the Recycling, Garbage and Dump and Climate Change Workshops;
- arranged local participation in DU survey flights;
- worked with a summer student developing office skills;
- continually promoted the ongoing recycling program which empowering the youth (particularly the female) to promote waste reduction and stewardship of the land;
- secured resources to ensure that these girls could attend a territory-wide recycling workshop in Whitehorse;
- secured resources and coordinated a project to get youth out on the land with experienced trappers;
- facilitated a youth proposal writing training session; and
- established an assistant position for the Vuntut Hunters & Trappers Association (ongoing).

Beverley was the first female steward in Old Crow, and was also the first to succeed in engaging women and girls in stewardship projects.

5.5.5 Partnership Building

In all aspects of her work, Beverley was effective at bringing people together. She:

- coordinated meetings with the YSC Porcupine River Working Group;
- facilitated involvement of local youth and governments in developing action plan for landfill and waste issues;
- coordinated seven agencies to assist with planning of trapping initiatives including YTG, RCMP, VGFN (Health & Social, Natural Resources, Justice, and Leadership) and the local school;

- coordinated community meetings with Porcupine Caribou Management Board, YG Regional Biologist, NYRRC & VGFN;
- liaised with community members, NYPC and the Peel River Watershed Commission; and
- was always keen to get together with other stewards to share project ideas and information. With her previous experience in community resource management, she provided a strong and consistent link between the stewardship program and the RRC in Old Crow. This spilled over to other communities as Bev consistently raised the profile of the stewardship program through her RRC work.

5.5.6 Proposal Writing /Fundraising

Beverley was very active and successful at fundraising. She was integral to the development of two R&E proposals including the Porcupine River Salmon gathering with was funded. In total, she raised over 40K for the following projects:

- Porcupine River salmon gathering in Old Crow with Ft. Yukon (YRP);
- made-in-Old Crow canvas grocery bags and Recycling, Dump & Garbage Workshop;
- environmental education posters series: “Monitoring in Old Crow”;
- trapping training;
- Vuntut Hunters & Trappers Association coordinator (training) position; and
- building a Recycling, Sorting and Processing facility (pending).

5.5.7 Measuring and Celebrating Results

Beverley’s work was highly visible in the community. She mobilized a sector of the community to undertake stewardship activities in a way that had not previously happened. In a short period of time she became a well known face around Old Crow. Bev was able to take advantage of opportunities as they arose and was expert at shining the spotlight on youth.

6 Funding

A cash flow statement is provided in Appendix 4. It does not include ‘in-kind’ contributions, nor does it account for administration costs that were assumed by the YFWMB. It also does not show approximately \$3,000 of (as yet uncollected) holiday pay for stewards. The 2003/2004 Yukon Stewardship program cost approximately \$265,000 (cash) or \$320,000 (total). *Note that the Dawson and Mayo positions were less expensive than anticipated due to staff turnover and subsequent reduced wage costs. Coordinator / management costs were higher than anticipated for the same reasons.*

Funder support for each position is shown below (in thousands). In-kind contributions (italicized) represent approximately 15% of the budget. The Board (including the YFWET) contributed approximately 16% to the total budget.

	Manager	Dawson	Mayo	Alsek	Old Crow	Total
YRP (R&E)	25	48	25		17	115
DUC	20		15	34	15	84
YFWET	20					20
YRCFA		1.5				1.5
Respective FN			6		15	21
CCHREI			4.5			4.5
PC/ DFO		6				6
VDC					6	6
Local RRC				6	30*	36
YFWMB	<i>10</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>3+2</i>	<i>4</i>	25
TOTAL value	75	58.5	53.5	45	87	319

*The Old Crow position was full time (half steward, half RRC director – hence the large contribution from the NYRRC).

The Stewardship program represents a significant investment from our partners, with cash and in-kind support totalling \$320K. Five jobs are generated in this process. The impact of the program throughout the Yukon, however also consists of the generation of more than \$430,000 in project funding in the four satellite communities. The economic impact of the program is tremendous, and when combined with the obvious social and environmental benefits, it is clear that we are meeting the envisioned program objectives.

7 Discussion

Jocelyn, Jake, Sebastian, Simone, Joella, Kate, Russell, Beverley and Brad have all demonstrated commitment, creativity and ingenuity in their work. Numerous fish and wildlife conservation projects and initiatives that have been planned and implemented are now underway.

It would be relatively easy to measure the success of this program if Stewards were only tasked with developing and facilitating community conservation projects. Integral to that seemingly straightforward task, however, is the very intangible engagement of

community members in co-management processes; Stewards are expected to both inspire this participation and to develop local capacity for it. That is delicate work, and it takes time, tact, sensitivity, commitment and perseverance. The rewards for this work are beginning to show in Yukon communities and beyond.

Yukon resource management involves cooperative work amongst a variety of agencies: First Nations and community resource councils are often in early stages of development; established government agencies can be disconnected from community dynamics; evolving or subtle shifts in local politics can suddenly alter or halt management processes that in more established systems may proceed more predictably. Community stewards, with their solid background in natural resource management, can be in a very positive position since they have considerable local knowledge, and yet are not directly linked to any order of government. As a result, they often end up being able to both lead and support local, regional and territorial stewardship initiatives.

It should be noted that a good deal of the Program Manager's time has been spent reporting, and seeking and securing funds for the program. The Board anticipates the continued work of annually fundraising for this program. The Board is currently developing evaluative tools for the program manager's position, as well as reviewing the evolution of the job description for this position.

8 2005/2006

At this time, a turnover in staff in Alsek, and Old Crow is consuming much of the energy of the program manager. New stewards in these communities will be positioned as soon as possible. Draft work plans for 2005/2006 are provided in Appendix 5.

We are currently planning for the new fiscal year of our program and are in the process of securing funds to maintain the existing community positions. In the long run, our intent is to also find resources and build partnerships required to deliver our program in the future with the Northern Tutchone (Pelly Crossing / Carmacks), Southern Lakes (Carcross), Tlingit-Teslin, and the Kaska-Southeast Yukon (Watson Lake & Ross River). (Note: a program expansion of this kind would also require additional administrative and supervisory support.)

The funding forecast for 2005/2006 is as follows:

8.1 Program Manager

The Yukon River Panel and Duck's Unlimited will be supporting this position in 2005. The Board will continue to support the manager's position by providing office space and designated Board member support (consisting of time and travel).

8.2 Dawson

The Yukon River Panel will continue to support the Dawson position. The Yukon River Commercial Fishers Association will continue to support the position, and Parks Canada

and Department of Fisheries and Oceans have also confirmed the value of the program and have agreed to continue their provision of office space in 2005/2006.

8.3 Mayo

The Yukon River Panel and DU will continue to support the Mayo position. The Mayo RRC will supply office space and the NND will provide internet and phone for the position. The Selkirk RRC is also planning to contribute to the position this coming year.

8.4 Haines Junction

DU will continue to support the Haines Junction position in 2005. The ARRC has agreed to continue to donate office space and supplies for Brad. The Canadian Wildlife Service will be contributing a small amount and the Board will continue to provide administrative support.

8.5 North Yukon (Old Crow)

VGFN, DU and YRP will continue to support the North Yukon position. The Vuntut VDC will be donating office space, and the RRC will provide supplies. The North Yukon Planning Commission and Canadian Wildlife Service will be contributing small sums and the Board will continue to provide administrative and coordination support.

9 Recommendations

This program has demonstrated successes and challenges. The expanded stewardship program now has a life of its own. It is valued at the local, regional and territorial levels. Its worth has been demonstrated, and its value will increase as the Stewards' relationships grow, and awareness, participation and capacity all increase at the community level. It is essential that we give our Stewards a chance to continue to build strong relationships and momentum as this program takes shape and demonstrates the promise that was foreseen by the Board and Panel.

Given the limited resources, shifting local politics and variability in capacity of community agencies, it may be unrealistic to expect financial or continuous commitment from all community groups. Therefore, it is recommended that participants continue to build partnerships in the communities.

Stewards need time to establish themselves in the communities. We are also struck this year with the reality of staff turnover within the program. It is important to recognize that there will be moments when progress will appear to be moving slowly. It is recommended that funders consider committing to at least another 2 years. This would give communities and governments enough time to recognize and develop the full value of the program in fostering community capacity. It will enable stewards to take full advantage of natural resource co-management opportunities in Yukon communities.

Appendix 1 Acronym Explanations

Acronym	Explanation
AGM	Annual general meeting
ARRC	Alsek Renewable Resources Council
AUC	Area under the curve
CAFN	Champagne and Aishihik First Nations
CCHREI	Canadian Council for Human Resources in the Environmental Industry
CPAWS	Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service
DDRRC	Dawson District Renewable Resources Council
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
DUC	Ducks Unlimited Canada
HCSP	Habitat Conservation and Stewardship Program
HPA	Habitat Protection Area
IFMP	Integrated Fisheries Management Plan
MDRRC	Mayo District Renewable Resources Council
NND	Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation
NYPC	North Yukon Planning Commission
NYRRC	North Yukon Renewable Resources Council
PC	Parks Canada
R&E	Restoration and Enhancement Fund (Yukon River Panel)
RCMP	Royal Canadian Mounted Police
RRC	Renewable Resource Council
THEN	Trondek Hwetch'in First Nation

VGFN	Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation
YESAA	Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act
YFWET	Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust
YFWMB	Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board
YRCFA	Yukon River Commercial Fishers Association
YRDFA	Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association
YRP	Yukon River Panel
YSC	Yukon Salmon Committee
YTG	Yukon Territory Government

Appendix 2

Community Steward 2004 Work Plans (Coordinator, Dawson, Mayo, Alesk, Old Crow)

Stewardship Program Coordinator/Manager: Work Plan 2004

The Stewardship Program Coordinator / Manager will continue assume a central coordinating role in the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board Stewardship Program. Coordination will reflect the needs for salmon, freshwater fish, wildlife and habitat management, restoration and enhancement through community participation in locally driven projects.

1.1 Education, Communications and Awareness

The Coordinator will develop relevant materials and seize opportunities to increase local understanding about the importance of stewardship and the conservation of fish, wildlife and habitat. This may be done through presentations, activities, written or visual materials, or simple one-on-one conversations. *This is critical as it will provide the foundation upon which trust and community interest will grow.*

1.2 Project Development and Implementation

Bridging the gap between community and management agency (YTG, DFO, etc) priorities is critical. The Coordinator may provide support for projects by seeking funding and developing and coordinating some, or all aspects of projects.

The Coordinator will coordinate components of the YFWMB Community Stewardship projects that have to do with salmon stocks and habitat.

The Coordinator will assist Community Stewards in the development of individual watershed salmon restoration and enhancement plans, as well as the Yukon River Canadian Sub-basin Salmon plan and the Yukon River Salmon Restoration and Enhancement plan. This will be done in concert with DFO, Habitat and Enhancement Branch and other management entities.

With the technical advice of DFO Habitat and Enhancement Branch, the Stewardship Coordinator will participate as an advocate for salmon and salmon habitat in local, regional land, and water use planning processes.

The Coordinator will lead the development of the YFWMB Trapping Working Group Film project. S/he will work closely with the working group and the film maker to develop proposals to raise funds and implement the production of the film.

1.3 Sharing Knowledge

As appropriate, the Coordinator will support Community Stewards in the collection and integration of scientific, local, and First Nation traditional knowledge as part of the design and implementation of local stewardship and planning initiatives.

1.4 Community Capacity

The coordinator will assist Community Stewards to develop community and individual capacity to participate in the stewardship projects, ultimately increasing a community's ability to effectively maintain local habitat and conserve fish and wildlife populations. *Personal development through increased self-esteem and improved skills of program participants will improve the overall community environment. By identifying and addressing training needs, the Steward can help equip communities to conduct future projects.*

1.5 Partnership Building/Cooperation

The Coordinator will work closely with the Community Stewards and community agencies such as local governments and Renewable Resources Councils. As appropriate, the Coordinator will develop and maintain a strong presence in the communities. S/he will establish good communication with user groups, special interest organizations, land claim bodies, and government agencies. Examples of these groups are:

Yukon River Panel	Public Schools
Ducks Unlimited	Land Use Planning Commissions
Yukon Salmon Committee	Park Management Boards & planning teams
DFO Habitat Enhancement & Stock Assessment	Forest Management Planning Teams
YTG – Environment Regional Fish & Wildlife staff	Northern Climate Exchange
YTG – Economic Development	Conservation Groups
Yukon College	Industry Associations

The Coordinator will attend at least one Yukon River Panel meeting in Whitehorse.

The Coordinator will facilitate good communications and partnerships amongst Community Stewards. They will work together in the planning, developing and coordinating of programs and stewardship activities spanning two or more geographical areas. The Coordinator will meet regularly with community Stewards to exchange ideas and information and discuss strategies on how to consistently carry out the Stewardship Program.

The Coordinator will provide assistance and support for specific First Nation projects such as the Game Guardian Program.

1.6 Proposal Writing and Fundraising

The Coordinator will help Stewards to identify funding sources (including the Yukon River R&E Fund) and to develop proposals for locally driven projects.

1.7 Measuring and Celebrating Results

In facilitating and assisting community Stewards, the Coordinator will emphasize a focus on “hands on” initiatives where results are transparent and people can be directly involved. (i.e. establishment of HPAs, restoration of salmon habitat, community involvement in wildlife monitoring projects, creation of jobs, or development of specific skill sets.) Results of these projects will be promoted widely

by the Coordinator to help instil community pride and increase support for stewardship.

Dawson Steward: Workplan 2004

1.8 Education, Communications and Awareness

The Steward will develop relevant materials and seize opportunities to increase local understanding about the importance of stewardship and the conservation of fish, and fish habitat. This may be done through presentations, activities, written or visual materials, or simple one-on-one conversations. *This is critical as it will provide the foundation upon which trust and community interest will grow.*

The steward will take a lead role in sharing information from the local community to First Nations staff; territorial, federal and U.S. government agencies; and area residents living up and down stream of Dawson. The Steward should establish a community-accessible computer and internet station to help in the development of stewardship initiatives at a local level, as well as providing a method-means for training.

Information and educational aids (ie. displays or newsletters) should be developed. Once developed, these displays could be utilized in various initiatives such as the First Fish project, planning sessions and generally made available via RRCs and shared with other Stewards.

The steward will assist with and participate in the Yukon College's Certified Fisheries Technician training course. Assist with the development of curriculum for technical program with Yukon College and the Yukon River Panel if requested.

The steward will assist with and participate in the First Fish Project as appropriate. Start developing training/educational displays for the project. Stay involved with the Project and be available as others become interested.

The steward will assist with and participate in local area salmon fisheries management projects and initiatives (i.e. Test Fisheries, IFMPs). The steward should assist with the hiring and training of a local area coordinator. He should identify areas of in-season management that can be conducted via this community-based initiative, as a contingency (ie. if test fisheries are not required).

When requested, the steward will attend and participate in TH General Assemblies. The Steward should participate and generally be available to the TH Fish & Wildlife Advisory Committee and staff (i.e Manager) as requested.

1.9 Project Development and Implementation

With direction from the DDRRC, TH, the YRCFA and YTG the Steward will facilitate the coordination of plans and projects. The steward may support these by seeking funding and helping to develop and coordinate them.

The following plans and projects have been identified:

Watershed Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Plan. The Steward will continue to advocate and facilitate the development of an overall Yukon River North Mainstem Watershed R&E Plan. He will gather large-scale maps for consultation workshops and generally prepare for planning sessions. He will integrate YRP templates so the plan “fits” into larger plans. He should get people interested while communicating throughout year and get commitments from others to participate in developing the plan.

Yukon River Canadian Sub-basin Salmon Plan / Yukon River Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Plan. The Steward will facilitate the input of community priorities to the Yukon River Canadian Sub-basin Salmon Plan and the Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Plan. (This would consist of consultation on draft plans either through community meetings or electronic communication.)

Integrated Fish and Wildlife Management Planning. The Steward will contribute to this planning on an as-required basis, should this planning take place. In consultation with DFO, Habitat and Enhancement Branch, the Steward will participate as an advocate for salmon and fish habitat conservation in any community planning processes.

Integrated (salmon) Fishery Management Plans The Steward should actively participate in community meetings. The Steward will attend pre and post season YSC public meetings in Dawson and in Whitehorse when appropriate.

Land and Water Use Planning In consultation with DFO Habitat and Enhancement Branch, the Steward will participate as an advocate for salmon and fish habitat in local or regional land and water use planning processes. The steward will advocate and participate in ‘Yukon River Management Planning’ as appropriate.

Community Based Moose Survey In consultation with the DDRRC and YTG regional office, identify community concerns over local moose demographics and harvest situation. Develop strategy to meet concerns.

Monitoring Assist YTG Regional office with survey and monitoring work, when time and resources permit. This will not only augment YTG’s capacity, but will generate new skills for the Steward, which in the long term can be shared with the community. Possible activities could include breeding bird and duck surveys, caribou

body condition surveys, 40 Mile Caribou Herd ground-based monitoring, furbearer track transects, Tombstone snowmachine monitoring and sheep surveys.

1.10 Sharing Knowledge

The Steward will support the First Nation and Community Groups in their efforts to collect and integrate scientific, local, and traditional knowledge as part of the design and implementation of local stewardship and planning initiatives. This could involve helping with collection, storage or dissemination of information. The Steward will also work within current processes (activated by the DDRRC, TH, YTG and YRCFA) to investigate knowledge gaps in local fish populations, distribution and habitat. (Examples of investigation methods may include monitoring programs, local knowledge workshops or interview projects.) The steward will take direction from the DDRRC, TH, YTG (?) and YRCFA based on current ongoing work.

The following projects have been identified:

- (1) Assist with and participate in the Yukon Queen working group, as requested.
- (2) Maintain active involvement in Yukon River Value-Added fish processing facility and cooperative. Assist with development of informative presentations.
- (3) Assist with and participate in locally based salmon restoration projects, plans and initiatives, as required. To balance the potential heavy involvement and sharing of skills and knowledge, the Steward should receive the training required to ensure his meaningful contribution to the capacity building in the community.
- (4) Assist with and participate in salmon Fisheries Management projects and initiatives, i.e. Test Fishery Steering Group. Assist with the training of the new project coordinator.

1.11 Community Capacity

Stewards will work to develop community and individual capacity to participate in the stewardship projects, ultimately increasing a community's ability to effectively maintain local habitat and conserve fish and wildlife populations. *Personal development through increased self-esteem and improved skills of program participants will improve the overall community environment. By identifying and addressing training needs, the Steward can help equip communities to conduct future projects.*

Where gaps exist and/or opportunities arise (i.e. resources, facilities and expertise may be procured), the steward may help coordinate or facilitate training in the following areas:

Literacy: Assist with planning and sourcing funds to host first community-based writing course.

Field techniques: Add to the juvenile field ID reference material and be available for training in all R&E projects. Complete the Fisheries Technician Course (College)

Proposal writing/fundraising: Plan a course in this area with Yukon College in 2004.

Project Management: Assist as requested, and source training opportunities in the field of project management.

Organization/strategic planning: Identify areas where Steward can assist with Strategic planning.

1.12 Partnership Building/Cooperation

The Steward will work closely with the First Nation of Tron dek Hwech'in, Dawson District Renewable Resource Council, the Yukon River Commercial Fishing Association as well as the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board. The Steward will develop and maintain a strong presence in the communities by participating in local activities, and by encouraging local people to visit the office of, and utilize the services of the Steward. They will establish good communication with user groups, special interest organizations, land claim bodies, and government agencies. Examples of these groups are:

Tr'ondek Hwech'in
City of Dawson
Yukon River Panel
Yukon River Salmon Joint Technical Committee
Yukon Salmon Committee
DFO Habitat and Enhancement & Stock Assessment
YTG – Environment Regional Fish & Wildlife staff
YTG – Economic Development

Robert Service School
Land Use Planning Commissions
Park Management Boards & planning teams
Forest Management Planning Teams
Northern Climate Exchange
Conservation Groups
Industry Associations
Yukon College

The Steward will attend at least one Yukon River Panel meeting in Whitehorse.

The Steward will also develop good communications and partnerships with other Yukon Stewards. They will work together in the planning, developing and coordinating programs and stewardship activities spanning two or more geographical areas. Stewards will meet regularly to exchange ideas and information and discuss strategies on how to consistently carry out the Stewardship Program.

The Steward may provide assistance and support for specific First Nation projects.

1.13 Proposal Writing and Fundraising

Stewards will take on the role of identifying funding sources (including the Yukon River R&E Fund) and assisting with the development of proposals for locally driven projects.

Activities may include:

- (1) Hosting or facilitating workshops on proposal writing and fundraising.

Developing literacy related to W&F initiatives. Assist with the first offering of the community-based writing course.

1.14 Measuring and Celebrating Results

The Steward will focus on “hands on” initiatives where results are transparent and people can be directly involved. (i.e. establishment of HPAs, restoration of salmon habitat, community involvement in wildlife monitoring projects, creation of jobs, or development of specific skill sets.) Results of these projects will be promoted widely by the Steward to help instill community pride and increase support for stewardship.

Northern Tutchone (Mayo) Steward: Work Plan 2004

1.15 Education, Communications and Awareness

The Steward will develop relevant materials and seize opportunities to increase local understanding about the importance of stewardship and the conservation of fish, wildlife and habitat. This may be done through presentations, activities, written or visual materials, or simple one-on-one conversations. *This is critical as it will provide the foundation upon which trust and community interest will grow.*

1.16 Project Development and Implementation

Bridging the gap between community and management agency (YTG, DFO, etc) priorities is critical. With direction from the RRC and NND, the Steward will provide support for projects by seeking funding and developing and coordinating all aspects of projects. The following plans and projects have already been identified:

Watershed Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Plan. The Steward will advocate (initiate?) the development of an overall Stewart River Watershed R&E Plan. The Steward will contribute to existing Sub-Watershed Plans such as that of the McQuesten River. Support NND in their efforts to increase baseline data for watershed restoration and enhancement planning. *At this time, the Watershed Plan is primarily a means to account for various stream projects. In time it will become more important.*

Yukon River Canadian Sub-basin Salmon Plan / Yukon River Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Plan. The Steward will facilitate the input of community priorities to the Yukon River Canadian Sub-basin Salmon Plan and the

Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Plan. (This would consist of consultation on draft plans either through community meetings or electronic communication.)

Fish and Wildlife Management Plan In Mayo there is a 5 year (2002-2007) community F&WMP process (coordinated by the RRC). The community has already identified a number of priorities that will guide the steward in developing and implementing projects. The Steward will work closely with NND, the RRC and YTG as they continue to identify critical habitat areas or areas in need of restoration, achieve meaningful protection for the areas, or develop action plans and identify funding to ensure restoration.

In consultation with DFO, Habitat and Enhancement Branch, the Steward will participate as an advocate for salmon and salmon habitat conservation in any community planning processes.

Integrated Fishery Management Plans The Steward should actively participate in community meetings by ensuring that the meetings are co-ordinated and that an agenda, record of meeting & action items are developed. The Steward will attend pre and post season YSC public meetings in Dawson (*IFMPs are the plans for the "fishery" – i.e. how many fish can be caught, by whom, when & how.*)

Land and Water Use Planning In consultation with DFO Habitat and Enhancement Branch, the Steward will participate as an advocate for salmon and salmon habitat in local, regional land, and water use planning processes.

Peel River Drainage Mapping DU is conducting a broad land-cover map of the Peel River drainage in response to oil and gas interests in the area. The Steward will assist in a field program during summer 2003, depending on staff requirements of the project.

UKHM Wetland Restoration DU is working on a multi-disciplinary team to design an experimental wetland treatment for Cristal Creek in the United Keno Hill Mine area. The Steward will assist in the collection of waterbird and wetland information in relation to the evolving study design, and assist and advise DU staff on the project design and methods.

1.17 Sharing Knowledge

The Steward will support the First Nation in their efforts to collect and integrate scientific, local, and traditional knowledge as part of the design and implementation of local stewardship and planning initiatives. This could involve helping with collection, storage or dissemination of information. The Steward will also work within current processes (activated by the RRC, NND and YTG) to investigate knowledge gaps in local fish and wildlife populations, distribution and habitat. (Examples of investigation methods may include monitoring programs, local knowledge workshops or interview projects.) The steward will take direction from

the RRC, NND and YTG based on current ongoing work and will continue to participate in discussions with Mayo and Selkirk RRCs on status of HPAs.

The following projects have already been identified:

Salmon Fishery Monitoring The Steward will co-ordinate in-season information flow between fishery managers and communities. This is a way to collect data while disseminating updates on run strength and so on. (YSC/DFO Fish Management)

Peel River Research Work with YTG regional office and NND to complete interviews on special habitat areas in the Peel River watershed.

Lower Mayo River Stream Channel Enhancement Assist NND by facilitating community awareness of this project.

Wetland Conservation The Steward will help design, research and develop community / local / traditional knowledge about the importance of other wetlands in the Mayo area, including McQuesten for future conservation planning.

Devils Elbow HPA The Devil's Elbow HPA proposed by the RRC includes a wildlife viewing platform on the Silver Trail. The Steward will assist in the design of viewing boards to include importance of the Stewart River for nesting waterbirds, including geese and ducks.

Upper MacMillan The Upper McMillan is being considered as an HPA by the Selkirk RRC, and DU is partnering with them on a ground-based monitoring project along the McMillan River that began in 2000. The Steward will assist in the design of information booklets and be responsible for collecting waterbird information from river monitors.

1.18 Community Capacity

Stewards will work to develop community and individual capacity to participate in the stewardship projects, ultimately increasing a community's ability to effectively maintain local habitat and conserve fish and wildlife populations.

The steward should assist Selkirk RRC with training of monitors.

Personal development through increased self-esteem and improved skills of program participants will improve the overall community environment. By identifying and addressing training needs, the Steward can help equip communities to conduct future projects.

1.19 Partnership Building/Cooperation

The Steward will work closely with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, Mayo District Renewable Resource Council as well as the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board. The Steward will develop and maintain a strong presence in the communities by participating in local activities, and by encouraging local people to visit the office of, and utilize the services of the Steward. They will establish good

communication with user groups, special interest organizations, land claim bodies, and government agencies. Examples of these groups are:

FNNND, Selkirk FN and Little Salmon/Carmacks FN	Mayo Public School Land Use Planning
Village of Mayo	Commissions
Yukon River Panel	Park Management Boards & planning teams
Ducks Unlimited	Forest Management Planning Teams
Yukon Salmon Committee	Northern Climate Exchange
DFO Habitat Enhancement & Stock Assessment	Conservation Groups
YTG – Environment Regional Fish & Wildlife staff	Industry Associations
YTG – Economic Development	Yukon College
	Mayo Wellness Group

The Steward will attend at least one Yukon River Panel meeting in Whitehorse.

The Steward will also develop good communications and partnerships with other Yukon Stewards. They will work together in the planning, developing and coordinating programs and stewardship activities spanning two or more geographical areas. Stewards will meet regularly to exchange ideas and information and discuss strategies on how to consistently carry out the Stewardship Program.

The Steward may provide assistance and support for specific First Nation projects such as the Game Guardian Program.

1.20 Proposal Writing and Fundraising

Stewards will take on the role of identifying funding sources (including the Yukon River R&E Fund) and developing proposals for locally driven projects.

Steward should assist NND to apply for funds for projects identified on McQuesten River.

1.21 Measuring and Celebrating Results

The Steward will focus on “hands on” initiatives where results are transparent and people can be directly involved. (i.e. establishment of HPAs, restoration of salmon habitat, community involvement in wildlife monitoring projects, creation of jobs, or development of specific skill sets.) Results of these projects will be promoted widely by the Steward to help instil community pride and increase support for stewardship.

Alsek/Kluane (Haines Junction) Steward – Work Plan 2004

1.22 Education, Communications and Awareness

The Steward will develop relevant materials and seize opportunities to increase local understanding about the importance of stewardship and the conservation of fish, wildlife and habitat. This may be done through presentations, activities, written or visual materials, or simple one-on-one conversations.

Communication and education projects and plans include:

- Implementation of wetland viewing project near Beaver Creek, including development of educational panels.
- Dezadeash Lake Management plan Interpretive signs as recommended by the steering committee (Proposal to CCAF – interpretation and education in part with longer term research re Des. lake mgmt plan.)
- Banding projects with students and local citizens will provide opportunities for communication and education
- Use Pine Creek monitoring and maintenance as an education tool when possible
- Steward will follow through with completion and distribution of Burbot Setline Pamphlet.
- Contributing to the *Echo*

As an educator, the Steward should take opportunities to work with and interact with youth (i.e. Science Camp, Culture Camp) whenever possible.

1.23 Project Development and Implementation

With direction from the Ducks Unlimited, the ARRC, Department of Environment, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Board, the Steward will contribute to relevant local planning processes, and providing support for projects by seeking funding and developing and coordinating projects.

The following planning processes have been identified:

- Continue to develop a proposal for a Habitat Protection Area for the Jarvis-Kloo Lake wetlands in response to that recommendation in the Aishihik integrated wildlife plan.
- Support the Alsek River Integrated Fisheries Management Plan
- When required, assist CAFN with ongoing implementation of their Community Salmon Management Plan
- If opportunities arise with new staff at White River First Nation, the Steward will support the First Nation in their development of a White River Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan. *At this time, the Watershed Plan is primarily a means to account for various stream projects. In time it will become more important.*
- In consultation with DFO, Habitat and Enhancement Branch, the Steward will participate as an advocate for salmon and fish habitat conservation in any community planning processes.

The following projects have been identified:

- Assist with and conduct field studies of water birds and facilitate community involvement in wetland monitoring at Kloo-Jarvis wetlands, Scottie Creek and Tay Lake (partnership with YTG, DU).
- Marshall Creek Grayling Triage
- Dezadeash River Trail work (partnership with Parks Canada, Village and DU)
- Pine Creek monitoring and maintenance
- Sulphur Lake Barrel clean up
- Assist with the implementation of the Dezadeash management plan

1.24 Sharing Knowledge

The Steward will assist DU, ARRC, local First Nations, YTG and others, in their efforts to collect and integrate scientific, local, and traditional knowledge as part of the design and implementation of local stewardship and planning initiatives.

1.25 Community Capacity

Stewards will work to develop community and individual capacity to participate in the stewardship projects, ultimately increasing a community's ability to effectively manage local habitat and fish and wildlife populations.

- Support and assist with ARRC summer student program
- Working on projects that involve youth, i.e. Culture, Science Camp, youth coordinator
- Develop skills with youth during Duck banding sessions and brood surveys (Tay Lake, Scottie Creek and Kloo-Jarvis wetlands).

1.26 Partnership Building/Cooperation

The Steward will develop and maintain a strong presence in the communities by participating in local activities, and by encouraging local people to visit the office of, and utilize the services of the Steward. He will continue to establish good communication with user groups, special interest organizations, land claim bodies, and government agencies.

The Steward will also develop good communications and partnerships with other Yukon Stewards. They will work together in the planning, developing and coordinating programs and stewardship activities spanning two or more geographical areas. Stewards will meet regularly to exchange ideas and information and discuss strategies on how to consistently carry out the Stewardship Program.

The Steward will communicate with and may provide support for specific First Nation projects such as the Game Guardian Program.

The Steward will attend the annual Duck's Unlimited banquet in Beaver Creek, and will organize one for Haines Junction for fall 2004.

The Steward will attend one YFWMB Board meeting.

1.27 Proposal Writing and Fundraising

The Steward will take on the role of identifying funding sources (including the Yukon River R&E Fund) and developing proposals for locally driven projects.

1.28 Measuring and Celebrating Results

The Steward will focus on "hands on" initiatives where results are transparent and people can be directly involved. (i.e. establishment of HPAs, restoration of fish habitat, community involvement in wildlife monitoring projects, creation of jobs, or development of specific skill sets.) Results of these projects will be promoted widely by the Steward to help instil community pride and increase support for stewardship. The Steward will make working partnerships transparent to the broader community, to encourage and enhance perceptions of cooperative resource management.

North Yukon (Old Crow) Steward: Work Plan 2004

The North Yukon Steward will be working under the management of the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board. As a community resource person, the Steward will take direction from VGFN and the North Yukon RRC. This work plan will serve as a guide and will be an adaptive tool which will be adjusted as appropriate.

1.29 Education, Communications and Awareness

The Steward will develop relevant materials and seize opportunities to increase local understanding about the importance of stewardship and the conservation of fish, wildlife and habitat. This may be done through presentations, activities, written or visual materials, or simple one-on-one conversations. *This is critical as it will provide the foundation upon which trust and community interest will grow.*

1.30 Planning & Project Development and Implementation

Bridging the gap between the community and management agencies and integrating their priorities is critical.

1.2.1 Planning

The Steward will provide support for planning and implementation when appropriate. The following plans are identified as priorities:

Land and Water Use Planning The Steward will participate in land use and other related planning processes in the Traditional Territory, and will support and advocate for good stewardship within those processes. In consultation with DFO

Habitat and Enhancement Branch, the Steward will advocate for fish and fish habitat in local and regional land, and water use planning processes.

Forest Management Plan

The Steward will support the development of a Forest Management Plan for the North Yukon through their participation and collaboration in fundraising, conducting community surveys, workshops and public meetings related to the Planning Process.

Yukon River Canadian Sub-basin Salmon Plan / Yukon River Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Plan. The Steward will facilitate the input of community priorities to the Yukon River Canadian Sub-basin Salmon Plan and the Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Plan. This will consist of consultation on draft plans, both through community meetings or electronic communication.

Integrated (salmon) Fishery Management Plans The Steward should actively participate in community meetings and may help facilitate the development of an agenda and the consolidation of meeting notes and action items. The Steward may assist with the IFMP process by providing local knowledge, promoting conservation during years of low salmon returns, and explaining the state of knowledge on the distribution and abundance of chinook, chum and coho salmon within the Porcupine River drainage. The Steward will participate in updating the IFMP with knowledge and information obtained through local Restoration and Enhancement Programs. For example a VGFN fall chum salmon tagging study conducted in 2003 demonstrated that 88% of the tags applied to fall chum salmon near Old Crow were accounted for at the Fishing Branch River weir. The Steward will attend pre and post season YSC and Porcupine River Working Group meetings in Old Crow.

1.2.2 Projects

The Steward will provide support for projects by seeking funding, developing and coordinating all aspects of projects. Whenever possible, the steward will ensure that projects are carried out by qualified, local people. The following projects are identified as priorities:

Fish and Wildlife Management Plan Implementation

The Steward will work closely with VGFN, the RRC and YTG to support and implement the North Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Plan, and seek the input of DFO Habitat and Enhancement staff for matters respecting fish habitat. He/she will seek funding and will develop and coordinate some or all aspects of projects. Identified priorities may include the following surveys and projects: Freshwater Fish, Moose, Peregrine, Breeding Birds (point counts) and Muskrat (push-ups) surveys, Caribou Body Condition study, Vegetation Plots (IBEX), Furbearer track transects, Permafrost and Lake Level monitoring

Wetlands/Waterfowl

The Steward will assist in the collection of waterbird and wetland information in relation to conservation of important wetlands in the north Yukon. The Steward will help facilitate workshops and assist in collecting local knowledge about wetlands under the direction of VGFN, and assist and advise DU staff on any project design and methods. The Steward will develop a ground-based waterbird monitoring project in the Bluefish Lakes area and will become trained in waterbird banding in order to develop a banding project near Old Crow in 2004-2005.

Salmon Research, Development and Management Projects

Under the direction of VGFN and the technical leader, the Steward will coordinate and support the following projects as appropriate. Projects should be implemented, whenever possible, by qualified local people.

CRE-15-04 Juvenile Chinook/Coho Habitat Assessment

CRE17-04 Chinook Radio Tracking/Telemetry Pilot Project

CRE-27-04 Chum Mark/Recapture Test Fishery – Porcupine R.

The Steward will coordinate the following project:

CRE-106-04 Chum Fishery Substitution

Other Projects

The Steward will be involved in a number of other projects that respond to the needs of the Community and the partners. These may include:

- Water quality and chemistry testing
- Contaminated site clean-up
- GIS mapping/support/training

1.31 Sharing Knowledge

As appropriate, the Steward will support the First Nation and Renewable Resource Council in their efforts to collect and integrate scientific, local, and traditional knowledge as part of the design and implementation of local stewardship and planning initiatives. This could involve helping with collection, storage or dissemination of information.

With direction from VGFN and the RRC, the Steward will work within current processes to investigate knowledge gaps in local fish and wildlife populations, distribution and habitat. Methods of investigation may include monitoring programs, local knowledge workshops, and interview projects.

Salmon Fishery Monitoring

The Steward will co-ordinate the flow of information between fishery managers and communities as a way to collect in-season data while disseminating updates.

Wetland Conservation

The Steward will help design, research and develop community processes that gather and catalogue information regarding local and traditional knowledge about the importance of wetlands for future conservation planning.

1.32 Community Capacity

Stewards will work to develop community and individual capacity to participate in the related projects, ultimately increasing a community's ability to effectively maintain local habitat and conserve fish and wildlife populations. The Steward will make concerted effort to develop and support projects with youth whenever possible; the Steward will pursue opportunities for interaction and capacity building through the local school. *Personal and professional development through increased self-esteem and improved skills of program participants will improve the overall community environment. By identifying and addressing training needs, the Steward can help equip communities to conduct future projects.*

1.33 Partnership Building/Cooperation

The Steward will work closely with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, North Yukon Renewable Resources Council, as well as the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board. The Steward will develop and maintain a strong presence in the communities by participating in local activities, and by encouraging community members to visit the office and utilize the services of the Steward. They will establish good communication with user groups, special interest groups, land claim bodies, and government agencies. These groups may include, but are not limited to:

Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation	North Yukon Land Use Planning Commission
Village of Old Crow	Park Management Boards & planning teams
Yukon River Panel	Porcupine Caribou Management Board
Ducks Unlimited	Forest Management Planning Teams
Yukon Salmon Committee	Northern Climate Exchange
DFO Habitat Enhancement & Stock Assessment	Conservation Groups (NGOs)
YTG – Environment (Regional Fish & Wildlife)	Industry Associations
YTG – Energy, Mines & Resources (Forest Management)	Yukon College
YTG – Economic Development	Chief Zzeh Gittlit School
Vuntut Development Corporation	Parks Canada
North Yukon Renewable Resources Council	Canadian Wildlife Service

The Steward will attend at least one meeting of the Yukon River Panel.

The North Yukon Steward will develop good communications and partnerships with other Community Stewards. They will work together in planning, developing and coordinating programs and stewardship activities spanning two or more geographical areas. Stewards will meet regularly to exchange ideas and information and discuss strategies on how to best carry out the Stewardship Program.

The Steward may also provide assistance and support for specific First Nation projects such as the Game Guardian Program, if deemed appropriate by VGFN and the RRC .

1.34 Proposal Writing and Fundraising

The Steward will take on the role of identifying funding sources, including the Yukon River Panel R&E Fund and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust, and develop proposals for locally driven projects.

1.35 Measuring and Celebrating Results

The Steward will focus on “hands-on” initiatives where results are transparent and people can be directly involved. This may include the establishment of Habitat Protection Areas, restoration of salmon stocks and habitat, community involvement in wildlife monitoring projects, creation of jobs, or development of specific skill sets. Results of these projects will be promoted by the Steward in order to foster both community pride and healthy stewardship ethics in the Traditional Territory.

Appendix 3

2005 Program Promotional Material

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Sebastian Jones | - YESAA WORKSHOP REPORT |
| | - March Newsletter |
| Brad Wilson | - Echo Submission |
| | - Newsletter |

**YESAA Workshop
Dawson City, Feb 15-16 2005
Final Report**

**Prepared By:
Sebastian Jones, Dawson Community Steward**

**Prepared for:
The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board & Community Partners**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This workshop was very much a collaborative effort; many people helped make it a success, in particular I would like to thank Yukon Environmental Network's Kate Maddigan for funding the Workshop; and Dawson District Renewable Resources Council's Shelby Jordan for ongoing advice and Linda Taylor and her daughter Rachel Hunt for the goodies without which no workshop is complete; the Lands Department at Tr'ondek Hwech'in for the use of the hall; the Tr'ondek Hwech'in training fund for the facilitator's accommodations. Roberta Joseph of Tr'ondek Hwech'in Fish and Wildlife provided me with much needed practical help and support. Thank you especially to Rosanna White, your enthusiasm and good humour combined with your thorough knowledge made a tough topic accessible to all.

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ABSTRACT

The Dawson Community Steward initiated this workshop. A component of the Steward's work is to bring together community groups in conservation related activities. The impending YESEA Act will have large effects on the way we assess developments in the future. This workshop was planned to educate the community about how they will fit into YESEA and to expose the new steward to these groups, so as to create an atmosphere where people expect the Steward to be a leader in conservation related projects in Dawson and to show how these people and the Steward can work together. These groups and individuals now have a better understanding of the YESEA process and the Dawson Community Steward.

INTRODUCTION

Environmental assessment processes in Canada are generally intended to ensure that government considers the environmental effects of proposed activities before granting any approval that would allow an activity to proceed. The processes often include mechanisms for gathering input from interested parties and the public for consideration in the assessment.

From 1995 to 2003, the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) was the primary assessment legislation that applied in Yukon. With the transfer of resource management responsibilities to the Government of Yukon in 2003, much of CEAA's role was replaced by assessments conducted under the territorial *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA), a mirror of CEAA.

Sometime in 2005, most of the roles of both CEAA and EAA are expected to be replaced by assessments conducted under the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* (YESAA). YESAA is federal legislation established to fulfil the commitments of Chapter 12 (DAP Chapter) of various First Nation Final Agreements. YESAA establishes an independent assessment agency, the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board, to oversee the assessment of proposed activities in Yukon. The new assessment process will include consideration of both environmental effects and socio-economic effects. The assessments will be conducted by agencies that are 'arms-length' from governments, but governments will remain the decision makers.

The YESAA assessment process will apply to all lands in Yukon and to all government decision makers in Yukon (federal, territorial, First Nation and municipal).

The new assessment process establishes clear requirements for assessment agencies to provide opportunities for participation of interested parties and the public. Also, as this new process unfolds, there will be opportunities for groups and individuals to provide input on how the assessment process will work. Effective participation in defining the process and in key initial assessments will be instrumental in ensuring that the YESAA assessment process addresses the needs of NGOs and the public.

The Dawson Community Steward initiated the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act workshop. The Dawson Community Steward is a position created under the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board The Community Stewardship Program seeks to establish partners for the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife and habitat. The soon to be implemented YESEA Act is assumed to have broad implications on how we in the Yukon manage our land. For this reason, the Dawson Steward asked the nascent YESEA board for some training for those bodies likely to be affected by the Act. Due to the youthful stage of development of the Board, they were unable to provide this training in house and instead directed the Steward to R. White Consulting, who specialises in this field.

The Yukon Environmental Network (YEN) funded this workshop. The YEN is a regional affiliate of the Canadian Environmental Network; this organisation strives to promote networking between environmental organisations and others who share its mandate- to *Protect the Earth and Promote Ecologically Sound Ways of Life*.

A primary mandate of the Community Steward is to assist individuals and groups with Involvement in the Management of the Yukon's Natural Resources (*UFA 1995*). One component of this is education. It is for this reason that the idea of a workshop to explain the new act and its implications was conceived.

METHODS, MATERIALS, RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Dawson Community Steward provided coordination and communication for this project. The Steward, Sebastian Jones, coordinated the project from his office, located in Dawson City, Yukon. The project was divided into four main sections with specific tasks to be accomplished, and they included: a pre-project stage for planning purposes; the coordinating stage, where all the participants were assembled and a mutually acceptable place and date for the workshop identified, a main project stage in which the actual workshop took place; and, a post-project stage that saw reports formatted and disseminated.

Rosanna White conducted the workshop; Rosanna has lived in Yukon since 1984. She began her career with the Yukon Conservation Society then took a position with YTG in what was then Renewable Resources before moving to DIAND Land Management. Here she led environmental assessments of several large mining and forestry projects. In 1995 she began working on developing the Development Assessment Process (DAP), chapter 12 from the UFA. This, of course, has become YESEA. During this time she had the opportunity to facilitate many meetings and workshops and when she retired in 2001, these experiences served well to let her specialize in training a variety of clients in Land Management and environmental assessments. Rosanna is currently teaching land management at Yukon College.

The workshop took place over two days, starting from 10am to 5pm on the 15th of February and completing from 9am to 4pm on the 16th.

Topics covered included:

- The types of projects covered by YESEA. It was shown that this information is covered in the proposed Yukon Activity and Project Regulations.
- The YESEA process.
- The different levels of assessment and where each applies.

In true workshop fashion, participants were encouraged to work with people from various disciplines and to take on the roles three different players in the YESEA process. Two case studies were conducted, the first being a designated office or local assessment, the second was more complex and would have been a board or panel -territory wide-assessment.

A total of 17 people took part in the workshop. Participants were affiliated with: Tr'ondek Hwech'in Chief and Council, Lands, Fish and Wildlife and Heritage Departments; Dawson District Renewable Resources Council; Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board; Yukon Environmental Network; Parks Canada; and students in related studies.

The statement of expenses is in the appendix.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This workshop provided a valuable tool for the participants. As the new regime comes into force, more people and groups will need this type of training.

It is recommended that the YESEA Board developed a training method that it can offer on an ongoing basis in all the Designated Offices

REFERENCES

Umbrella Final Agreement 1993, Chapter 12

Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, 2005, mandate.

Yukon Environmental Network, press release, 2005

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF EXPENSES AND SOURCES

REVENUE	WORKSHOP	HALL	FACILITATOR	SNACKS	COORDINATION	TOTAL
SOURCE	Y.E.N.	T.H. LANDS	T.H. Training	DDRRC	YFWMB	
EXPENSE	\$1500	\$500	\$350	\$150	\$500	\$300

DAWSON COMMUNITY HABITAT STEWARD NEWS LETTER #2, MARCH 2005



Greetings from the Dawson Steward! This is the second in what will be a series of quarterly updates on what I have been doing and what is planned for the future and how you can be involved in community stewardship projects.

- Plant Watch.

Spring is approaching and many of us mark its arrival by the date of the first Prairie Crocus found blooming near town. Do you think that spring is coming earlier now? Is this a sign of global warming? Plant Watch is an initiative that is trying to collect the dates at which several different plants first bloom and leaf out in as many Yukon communities as possible. If any of you would like to be part of this, please contact me.

- YESEA

The new, made in the Yukon, environmental assessment act will be in effect soon. Not many of us have a clear understanding of what difference this will make to us or to projects that are planned. In February, I coordinated a two-day workshop for 17 local people from groups such as Tr'ondek Hwech'in government, the Dawson District Renewable Resources Council and a selection of other interested folks. In April, Steve Caram will be opening a YESEA office in Dawson where we will be able to go for information on any matters related to environmental assessments.

- Chandindu Weir

For several years, the Commercial Fishing Association and Tr'ondek Hwech'in ran a weir on the Chandindu or 12 Mile river. This weir successfully counted king salmon on their way to spawn. The Steward applied for and received funding to remove the equipment and clean up the site. Three people have been hired to do this and will be starting right after Easter.

- Dawson District Renewable Resources Council

The Steward and the Council will be working closely on many things and I will be giving regular reports to the Council. The public is always welcome at regular Council meetings and this is another place to find me.

- Restoration and Enhancement Fund.

The R&E Fund is the compensation fund set up when the Yukon River Salmon Agreement was signed (a few) years ago. It is a contribution of US\$ 1.2million a year to part pay for the Alaskans catching more than their fair share of fish.

This year in the Dawson area, 7 projects received money, these include:

1. 1st Fish Camp
2. Test Fishery
3. Chandindu Weir demobilization
4. Yukon Stewardship Program (My wages)
5. Yukon Queen II mitigation plan
6. A study of how decaying, spawned out salmon affect the boreal forest
7. Continuation of "Bio engineering" at Germaine Creek

For more information on these projects, or any other issues, please come and see me, the coffee is always on !

Dawson Community Habitat Steward
Box 1066 Dawson City Tel. 993 4401
Email Sebastian@yknet.ca

(ECHO SUBMISSION Spring 2005 - BRAD WILSON)

Why do Birds Migrate North Each Year?

Each spring and fall, groups of birds put themselves through an extremely long and arduous journey. The incredible travelers are known as migratory birds. Some only migrate a few miles, but others like the Arctic Tern breed above the Arctic Circle and winter in the Antarctic. Many songbirds travel thousands of miles over open ocean en route to summer and winter staging grounds, these flights can last four or five days, non-stop. Bad weather, such as heavy rains or strong head winds, means almost certain death for many of these migrants. Dr. Williams, a wildlife expert from Wood Hole Massachusetts, says: “only half the song birds that leave the coast will ever see it again”.

For hundreds of years, humans have been wondering why these seemingly feeble little creatures would put themselves into such a high – risk situation? These birds face many obstacles during these seasonal migrations. Some of these obstacles are natural, as mentioned above, and others are man made. “In North America a hundred million waterfowl migrate south every fall, but only forty million will return to breed in the spring. Hunters will take twenty million; predation, accidents, man made pollutants and disease claim the others.” This brings us back to that question, why do they migrate? Some people believe they are simply looking for a large area they can temporarily exploit for feeding and nesting purposes. Others believe that they need the increased daylight hours to bring up their young. Some also believe migratory birds have a strong attachment to their ancestral grounds, and as a result, return there to breed each year.

Scientists have studied the effects of changing daylight on migratory birds, and the results have been overwhelming. Rowan conducted an experiment on two groups of sparrows. He exposed both groups to the extreme conditions of winter, giving both groups enough food to last the entire experiment. He placed one group in natural lighting conditions and the other group under controlled light. With the controlled birds, Rowan increased the light by five minutes a day, until mid-December. The birds in the controlled lighting responded to the increased daylight with greatly enlarged ovaries and testes. These conditions are common among pre – mating, and pre – migratory birds. Also, the males were singing vigorously, and showing signs of wanting to migrate, such as exhibiting lots of energy and staying to the south side of their cages. This experiment tells us that the artificial lighting in December was enough to bring these birds into a state of migratory readiness. Weather and food appeared to have no impact in this experiment.

Probably one of the most important reasons for migrating to the north is the extended hours of daylight. The longer day gives the birds more time to indulge in the more important things in their life cycle. These activities include feeding, mating, nesting and moulting. Karplus states, “ at 69 degrees North, American Robins feed their young for 21 hours a day”. An American Robin in the same conditions, nesting in the southern United States feeds its young for only 12 to 14 hours a day. The most important stage of a migratory bird’s life cycle is bringing up the fledglings. Because most birds are inactive during the night, the extra few hours of daylight make a substantial difference in the nestling phase. Karplus’s interpretation, “the major advantage gained by birds from their lengthy migration is more rapid development of nestlings through that

vulnerable period when they are succulent but fearless”. For a large portion of migratory birds, especially larger waterfowl, the moulting phase can also be a very vulnerable point in their life cycle. Canada Geese, when flushing from predators, fly straight up, however, during moulting this usual flying pattern would be impossible. Whether the predator is on land or in the air, extended daylight hours lessen the chances of successfully stalking these birds.

Some bird enthusiasts believe that migratory birds are simply returning to their ancestral grounds. Migratory birds could have inhabited these regions prior to the ice age. This is what scientists know as the Northern and Southern Home theories. The Northern Home Theory says that birds living in the northern hemisphere, before glaciation, were driven southward because of the extreme winter conditions the ice age brought. After the ice retreated, birds began venturing back north, only to return to breed in the summer months when conditions were more acceptable. A similar but contrasting Southern Home Theory says that birds living in the southern hemisphere became over crowded, so as the ice retreated, they sought greener pastures up north. The over crowding was especially bad during breeding season when birds were most active, and because of natural selection processes the north became the place to be during the summer breeding months.

Humans have long been fascinated with the seasonal disappearance and return of birds, and as a result they have developed countless legends and scientific theories to explain bird migration. The north’s long summer days provide a real advantage to most birds, but on the other hand, the long winter nights can be very dangerous. “Weighing the advantages and disadvantages of migration, sheer numbers prove that for birds migrating is an adaptive solution to the unavoidable seasonal changes on earth”. With these adaptations birds can exploit the summer boom conditions (food, land, and light), then flee for the winter months, spending their lives in two regions of the earth.

Brad Wilson
Community Steward
Alaska Highway North



Community Steward

Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

DUCKS UNLIMITED CANADA DINNER AND AUCTION IN HAINES JUNCTION

The Community Steward is planning a Ducks Unlimited Canada fund raising event, dinner and auction, for the fall of 2004 and would like to invite interested people in the community to put their names forward to be on the committee that hosts this event. The funds for this event will go towards ongoing projects in Haines Junction and throughout the Yukon, including satellite habitat mapping, wetland inventories and ongoing wildlife monitoring, viewing, stewardship and conservation planning initiatives. If your interested in being on the committee please contact Brad Wilson at the contact info below. Your help will be appreciated.

SALMON FISHING SEASON IS COMING!

- Remember to turn return your Salmon Conservation Catch Cards
- If any one is interested in receiving up to date run timing and closure information for the upcoming Alek and Yukon River salmon season please send me an email and I will put you on the list
- The new **Salmon Hot Line** number is 1 877 725 6662 (SALMON 2)
- The Yukon Salmon Committee will be having a regular meeting on August 24,25,26 2004 at **Klukshu** and everyone is welcome!

Debbie Hotte was the lucky winner of the Ice Chisel at the Pine Lake Fishing day

Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

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Haines Junction Yukon
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Email: bwilson@yknet.ca



Ducks Unlimited Canada

Wetlands are among the most productive wildlife habitats.

Appendix 5
Community Steward 2005 Work Plans
(Coordinator, Dawson, Mayo, Alsek, Old Crow)

1 Stewardship Program Coordinator/Manager: Work Plan 2005

The Stewardship Program Coordinator / Manager will continue assume a central coordinating role in the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board Stewardship Program. Coordination will reflect the needs for salmon, freshwater fish, wildlife and habitat management, restoration and enhancement through community participation in locally driven projects.

1.1 Education, Communications and Awareness

The Coordinator will develop relevant materials and seize opportunities to increase local understanding about the importance of stewardship and the conservation of fish, wildlife and habitat. This may be done through presentations, activities, written or visual materials, or simple one-on-one conversations. *This is critical as it will provide the foundation upon which trust and community interest will grow.*

The Coordinator will:

- develop a brochure on the stewardship program for general distribution and fundraising purposes;
- develop a poster for YFWMB;
- develop the 2006 calendar for the YFWMB;
- upgrade web skills with Yukon College Dreamweaver course;
- continue to develop photo database of stewards at work in their communities.

1.2 Project Development and Implementation

Bridging the gap between community and management agency (YTG, DFO, etc) priorities is critical. The Coordinator may provide support for plans and projects by seeking funding and developing and coordinating some, or all aspects of projects. The Coordinator will:

- coordinate components of the YFWMB Community Stewardship projects that have to do with salmon stocks and habitat;
- assist Community Stewards in the development of individual watershed salmon restoration and enhancement plans, as well as the Yukon River Canadian Sub-basin Salmon plan and the Yukon River Salmon Restoration and Enhancement plan. This will be done in concert with DFO, Habitat and Enhancement Branch and other management entities;
- with the technical advice of DFO Habitat and Enhancement Branch, participate as an advocate for salmon and salmon habitat in local, regional land, and water use planning processes;
- lead the development of the YFWMB Trapping Working Group Film project. S/he will work closely with the working group and the film maker to develop proposals to raise funds and implement the production of the film;
- assist the Bison Technical team with their communications work.

1.3 Sharing Knowledge

As appropriate, the Coordinator will support Community Stewards in the collection and integration of scientific, local, and First Nation traditional knowledge as part of the design and implementation of local stewardship and planning initiatives.

1.4 Community Capacity

The coordinator will assist Community Stewards to develop community and individual capacity to participate in the stewardship projects, ultimately increasing a community's ability to effectively maintain local habitat and conserve fish and wildlife populations. *Personal development through increased self-esteem and improved skills of program participants will improve the overall community environment. By identifying and addressing training needs, the Steward can help equip communities to conduct future projects.*

The Coordinator is responsible for:

- staffing positions within the stewardship program, and for promoting best possible choices in that process to enhance community capacity;
- ensuring that stewards receive appropriate training that will in turn, enhance program's capacity to foster growth at community level.

1.5 Partnership Building/Cooperation

The Coordinator will work closely with the Community Stewards and community agencies such as local governments and Renewable Resources Councils. As appropriate, the Coordinator will develop and maintain a strong presence in the communities. S/he will establish good communication with user groups, special

interest organizations, land claim bodies, and government agencies. Examples of these groups are:

Yukon River Panel
Ducks Unlimited
Yukon Salmon Committee
DFO Habitat Enhancement & Stock Assessment
YTG – Environment Regional Fish & Wildlife staff
YTG – Economic Development
Yukon College
Canadian Wildlife Service
Parks Canada

Public Schools
Land Use Planning Commissions
Park Management Boards & planning teams
Forest Management Planning Teams
Northern Climate Exchange
Conservation Groups
Industry Associations
North Yukon Planning Commission
Yukon Trappers Association

The Coordinator will:

- attend at least one Yukon River Panel and one YSC meeting in Whitehorse;
- attend as many YFWMB meetings as possible; participate in relevant workshops, meetings and training sessions when possible;
- attend and participate in Biodiversity Awareness workshop April 2005;
- participate in the YT wetlands education working group;
- facilitate good communications and partnerships amongst Community Stewards. They will work together in the planning, developing and coordinating of programs and stewardship activities spanning two or more geographical areas. The Coordinator will meet and talk regularly with community Stewards to exchange ideas and information and discuss strategies on how to consistently carry out the Stewardship Program;
- provide assistance and support for specific First Nation projects such as the Game Guardian Program.

1.6 Proposal Writing and Fundraising

The Coordinator will help Stewards to identify funding sources (including the Yukon River R&E Fund) and to develop proposals for locally driven projects.

The Coordinator will continue to ensure that resources are in place to support Stewardship Program and will communicate regularly with program funders and project partners throughout the year.

1.7 Measuring and Celebrating Results

In facilitating and assisting community Stewards, the Coordinator will emphasize a focus on “hands on” initiatives where results are transparent and people can be directly involved. (i.e. establishment of HPAs, restoration of salmon habitat, community involvement in wildlife monitoring projects, creation of jobs, or development of specific skill sets.) Results of these projects will be promoted widely by the Coordinator to help instil community pride and increase support for stewardship.

The Coordinator will ensure that promotional materials for the Stewardship program (brochure, 2006 calendar, posters and presentations for various events) are widely distributed and available.

2 Dawson Steward – Work Plan 2005

2.1 Education, Communications and Awareness

The Steward will develop relevant materials and seize opportunities to increase local understanding about the importance of stewardship and the conservation of fish, and fish habitat. This may be done through presentations, activities, written or visual materials, or simple one-on-one conversations. *This is critical as it will provide the foundation upon which trust and community interest will grow.*

The steward will:

- take a lead role in sharing information from the local community to First Nations staff; territorial, federal and U.S. government agencies; and area residents living up and down stream of Dawson;
- establish a community-accessible computer and internet station to help in the development of stewardship initiatives at a local level, as well as providing a method-means for training;
- develop information and educational aids (ie. displays or newsletters) Once developed, these displays could be utilized in various initiatives such as the First Fish project, planning sessions and generally made available via RRCs and shared with other Stewards;
- assist with and participate in the Yukon College's Certified Fisheries Technician training course;
- assist with the development of curriculum for technical program with Yukon College and the Yukon River Panel if requested;
- assist with and participate in the First Fish Project as appropriate;
- start developing training/educational displays for the project. Stay involved with the Project and be available as others become interested;
- in consultation with the DFO Fisheries Management and Stock Assessment, assist with and participate in local area fisheries management projects and initiatives (i.e. Test Fisheries, IFMPs). The steward should assist with the hiring and training of a local area coordinator. He should identify areas of in-season management that can be conducted via this community-based initiative, as a contingency (ie. if test fisheries are not required);
- when requested, attend and participate in TH General Assemblies;
- participate and generally be available to the TH Fish & Wildlife Advisory Committee and staff (i.e. Manager) as requested;

2.2 Project Development and Implementation

With direction from the DDRRC, TH, the YRCFA and YTG the Steward will facilitate the coordination of plans and projects. The steward may support these by seeking funding and helping to develop and coordinate them.

The following planning processes have been identified:

Watershed Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Plan. The Steward will continue to advocate and facilitate the development of an overall Yukon River North Mainstem Watershed R&E Plan. He will gather large-scale maps for consultation workshops and generally prepare for planning sessions. He will integrate YRP templates so the plan “fits” into larger plans. He should get people interested while communicating throughout year and get commitments from others to participate in developing the plan.

Yukon River Canadian Sub-basin Salmon Plan / Yukon River Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Plan. The Steward will facilitate the input of community priorities to the Yukon River Canadian Sub-basin Salmon Plan and the Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Plan. (This would consist of consultation on draft plans either through community meetings or electronic communication.)

Integrated Fish and Wildlife Management Planning. The Steward will contribute to this planning on an as-required basis, should this planning take place. In consultation with DFO, Habitat and Enhancement Branch, the Steward will participate as an advocate for salmon and salmon habitat conservation in any community planning processes. The Steward will seek the input of DFO Fisheries Management and Stock Assessment staff for matters affecting salmon management and stock assessment projects in the area.

Integrated Fishery Management Plans The Steward should actively participate in community meetings. The Steward will attend pre and post season YSC public meetings in Dawson and in Whitehorse when appropriate.

Land and Water Use Planning In consultation with DFO Habitat and Enhancement Branch, the Steward will participate as an advocate for salmon and salmon habitat in local or regional land and water use planning processes. The steward will advocate and participate in ‘Yukon River Management Planning’ as appropriate.

The following projects have been identified:

Moose Survey In consultation with the DDRRC and YTG regional office, identify community concerns over local moose demographics and harvest situation. Develop strategy to meet concerns.

YTG Work Assist YTG Regional office with survey and monitoring work, when time and resources permit. This will not only augment YTG's capacity, but will generate new skills for the Steward, which in the long term can be shared with the community. Possible activities could include breeding bird and duck surveys, caribou body condition surveys, 40 Mile Caribou Herd ground-based monitoring, furbearer track transects, and sheep surveys.

Yukon Queen II Assist with and participate in the YQII working group, as requested.

Fishery Cooperative Maintain active involvement in Yukon River Value-Added fish processing facility and cooperative. Assist with development of informative presentations.

Stay Current Assist with and participate in locally based salmon restoration projects, plans and initiatives, as required. To balance the potential heavy involvement and sharing of skills and knowledge, the Steward should receive the training required to ensure his meaningful contribution to the capacity building in the community.

Test Fishery Assist with and participate in Fisheries Management projects and initiatives, i.e. Test Fishery Steering Group. Assist with the training of the new project coordinator.

Chindindu River Weir Assist with Chindindu River weir removal and site reclamation as required.

2.3 Sharing Knowledge

The Steward will support the First Nation and Community Groups in their efforts to collect and integrate scientific, local, and traditional knowledge as part of the design and implementation of local stewardship and planning initiatives. This could involve helping with collection, storage or dissemination of information. The Steward will also work within current processes (activated by the DDRRC, TH, YTG and YRCFA) to investigate knowledge gaps in local fish populations, distribution and habitat. (Examples of investigation methods may include monitoring programs, local knowledge workshops or interview projects.) The steward will take direction from the DDRRC, TH, YTG and YRCFA based on current ongoing work.

2.4 Community Capacity

Stewards will work to develop community and individual capacity to participate in the stewardship projects, ultimately increasing a community's ability to effectively maintain local habitat and conserve fish and wildlife populations. *Personal development through increased self-esteem and improved skills of program participants will improve the overall community environment. By identifying and addressing training needs, the Steward can help equip communities to conduct future projects.*

Where gaps exist and/or opportunities arise (i.e. resources, facilities and expertise may be procured), the steward may help coordinate or facilitate training in the following areas:

- Literacy: Assist with planning and sourcing funds to host first community-based writing course.
- Field techniques: Be available for training in all R&E projects.
- Proposal writing/fundraising: Plan a course in this area with Yukon College in 2005.
- Project Management: Assist as requested, and research training opportunities in the field of project management.
- Organization/strategic planning: Identify areas where Steward can assist with Strategic planning.

2.5 Partnership Building/Cooperation

The Steward will work closely with the First Nation of Tron dek Hwech'in, Dawson District Renewable Resource Council, the Yukon River Commercial Fishing Association as well as the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board. The Steward will develop and maintain a strong presence in the communities by participating in local activities, and by encouraging local people to visit the office of, and utilize the services of the Steward. They will establish good communication with user groups, special interest organizations, land claim bodies, and government agencies. Examples of these groups are:

Tr'ondek Hwech'in
City of Dawson
Yukon River Panel
Yukon River Salmon Joint Technical Committee
Yukon Salmon Committee
DFO Habitat and Enhancement & Stock Assessment
YTG – Environment Regional Fish & Wildlife staff
YTG – Economic Development
YRCFA – Commercial Fisher's Association

Robert Service School
Land Use Planning Commissions
Park Management Boards & planning teams
Forest Management Planning Teams
Northern Climate Exchange
Conservation Groups
Industry Associations
Yukon College

The Steward will:

- attend at least one Yukon River Panel meeting in Whitehorse;
- attend as many ARRC meetings as possible, and at least one YFWMB and one YSC meeting annually;
- attend TH Lands meetings and G.A.s as requested and will attend relevant workshops, meetings and training sessions when possible;
- establish contact with all fisheries management and stock assessment projects conducted in the area;
- also develop good communications and partnerships with other Yukon Stewards. They will work together in the planning, developing and coordinating programs and stewardship activities spanning two or more geographical areas. Stewards will talk regularly to exchange ideas and

information and discuss strategies on how to consistently carry out the Stewardship Program;

- provide assistance and support for specific First Nation projects as requested.

2.6 Proposal Writing and Fundraising

Stewards will take on the role of identifying funding sources (including the Yukon River R&E Fund) and assisting with the development of proposals for locally driven projects. Activities may include:

- Hosting or facilitating workshops on proposal writing and fundraising.
- Developing literacy related to W&F initiatives.
- Assisting with the first offering of the community-based writing course.

2.7 Measuring and Celebrating Results

The Steward will focus on “hands on” initiatives where results are transparent and people can be directly involved. (i.e. establishment of HPAs, restoration of salmon habitat, community involvement in wildlife monitoring projects, creation of jobs, or development of specific skill sets.) Results of these projects will be promoted widely by the Steward to help instil community pride and increase support for stewardship.

3 Northern Tutchone (Mayo) Steward – Work Plan 2005

3.1 Education, Communications and Awareness

The Steward will develop relevant materials and seize opportunities to increase local understanding about the importance of stewardship and the conservation of fish, wildlife and habitat. This may be done through presentations, activities, written or visual materials, or simple one-on-one conversations. *This is critical as it will provide the foundation upon which trust and community interest will grow.*

3.2 Project Development and Implementation

Bridging the gap between community and management agency (YTG, DFO, etc) priorities is critical. With direction from the RRC and NND, the Steward will provide support for projects by seeking funding and developing and coordinating all aspects of projects. The following planning processes have been identified:

Watershed Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Plan. The Steward will continue the development of an overall Stewart River Watershed R&E Plan. The Steward will contribute to existing Sub-Watershed Plans such as that of the McQuesten River. Support NND in their efforts to increase baseline data for watershed restoration and enhancement planning. *At this time, the Watershed Plan is primarily a means to account for various stream projects. In time it will become more important.*

Yukon River Canadian Sub-basin Salmon Plan / Yukon River Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Plan. The Steward will facilitate the input of community priorities to the Yukon River Canadian Sub-basin Salmon Plan and the Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Plan. (This would consist of

consultation on draft plans either through community meetings or electronic communication.)

Fish and Wildlife Management Plan In Mayo there is a 5 year (2002-2007) community F&WMP process (coordinated by the RRC). The community has already identified a number of priorities that will guide the steward in developing and implementing projects. The Steward will work closely with NND, the RRC and YTG as they continue to identify critical habitat areas or areas in need of restoration, achieve meaningful protection for the areas, or develop action plans and identify funding to ensure restoration.

In consultation with DFO, Habitat and Enhancement Branch, the Steward will participate as an advocate for salmon and salmon habitat conservation in any community planning processes. In consultation with DFO, Fisheries Management and Stock Assessment, the Steward will participate in any community planning processes with respect to fisheries management and stock assessment.

Integrated Fishery Management Plans The Steward should actively participate in community meetings by ensuring that the meetings are co-ordinated and that an agenda, record of meeting & action items are developed. The Steward will attend pre and post season YSC public meetings in Dawson (*IFMPs are the plans for the "fishery" – i.e. how many fish can be caught, by whom, when & how.*)

Land and Water Use Planning In consultation with DFO Habitat and Enhancement Branch, the Steward will participate as an advocate for salmon and salmon habitat in local, regional land, and water use planning processes.

The following projects have been identified:

Salmon Fishery Monitoring The Steward will co-ordinate in-season information flow between fishery managers and communities. This is a way to collect data while disseminating updates on run strength and so on. (YSC/DFO Fish Management) The Steward will participate in weekly in-season conference calls(e.g. the YRDFA conference calls) to provide updates on fishery and stock status in the area.

Duncan Creek Wire Hazard Removal Work with Y2C2 and local youth to remove telegraph wire hazardous to moose and other wildlife.

Peel River Research Work with YTG regional office and NND to complete interviews on special habitat areas in the Peel River watershed.

Lower Mayo River Stream Channel Enhancement Assist NND by facilitating community awareness of this project and by supporting monitoring efforts. Implement development of interpretive trail including research and design of panels, and trail construction.

Wetland Conservation The Steward will help design, research and develop community / local / traditional knowledge about the importance of other wetlands in the Mayo area, including McQuesten for future conservation planning.

Devils Elbow HPA The Devil's Elbow HPA proposed by the RRC includes a wildlife viewing platform on the Silver Trail. The Steward will assist in the final stages of site development as required.

Upper MacMillan The Upper McMillan is being considered as an HPA by the Selkirk RRC, and DU is partnering with them on a ground-based monitoring project along the McMillan River that began in 2000. The Steward will assist in the design of information booklets. He will support the SRRC as DU in the collection of waterbird information.

Peel River Drainage Mapping DU is conducting a broad land-cover map of the Peel River drainage in response to oil and gas interests in the area. The Steward will assist in information gathering as required.

UKHM Wetland Restoration DU is working on a multi-disciplinary team to design an experimental wetland treatment for Cristal Creek in the United Keno Hill Mine area. The Steward will assist in the collection of waterbird and wetland information in relation to the evolving study design, and assist and advise DU staff on the project design and methods.

3.3 Sharing Knowledge

The Steward will support the First Nation in their efforts to collect and integrate scientific, local, and traditional knowledge as part of the design and implementation of local stewardship and planning initiatives. This could involve helping with collection, storage or dissemination of information. The Steward will also work within current processes (activated by the RRC, NND and YTG) to investigate knowledge gaps in local fish and wildlife populations, distribution and habitat. (Examples of investigation methods may include monitoring programs, local knowledge workshops or interview projects.) The steward will take direction from the RRC, NND and YTG based on current ongoing work and will continue to participate in discussions with Mayo and Selkirk RRCs on status of HPAs.

Continue to work with NND to secure funding for a meat drying workshop to coincide with local events (such as Old Village Days last weekend of August), and possibly other knowledge sharing opportunities such as hide tanning and traditional medicinal herbology.

3.4 Community Capacity

Personal development through increased self-esteem and improved skills of program participants will improve the overall community environment. By identifying and addressing training needs, the Steward can help equip communities to conduct future projects. Stewards will work to develop community and individual capacity to participate in the stewardship

projects, ultimately increasing a community's ability to effectively maintain local habitat and conserve fish and wildlife populations. The steward will:

- assist Selkirk RRC with training of monitors;
- seize or create opportunities to involve local youth in stewardship projects whenever possible.

3.5 Partnership Building/Cooperation

The Steward will work closely with the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, Mayo District Renewable Resource Council as well as the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board. The Steward will develop and maintain a strong presence in the communities by participating in local activities, and by encouraging local people to visit the office of, and utilize the services of the Steward. They will establish good communication with user groups, special interest organizations, land claim bodies, and government agencies. Examples of these groups are:

FNNND, Selkirk FN and Little Salmon/Carmacks FN
Village of Mayo
Yukon River Panel
Ducks Unlimited
Yukon Salmon Committee
DFO Habitat Enhancement & Stock Assessment
YTG – Environment Regional Fish & Wildlife staff
YTG – Economic Development

Mayo Public School Land Use Planning
Commissions
Park Management Boards & planning teams
Forest Management Planning Teams
Northern Climate Exchange
Conservation Groups
Industry Associations
Yukon College
Mayo Wellness Group

The Steward will:

- attend at least one Yukon River Panel meeting in Whitehorse;
- attend as many MDRRC meetings as possible, and at least one YFWMB and one YSC meeting annually;
- attend NND Lands meetings and G.A.s as requested and will attend relevant workshops, meetings and training sessions when possible;
- establish contact with all of the fisheries management and stock assessment projects conducted in the area.
- attend at least one Yukon River Panel meeting in Whitehorse;
- also develop good communications and partnerships with other Yukon Stewards. They will work together in the planning, developing and coordinating programs and stewardship activities spanning two or more geographical areas. Stewards will talk regularly to exchange ideas and information and discuss strategies on how to consistently carry out the Stewardship Program;
- provide assistance and support for specific First Nation projects such as the Game Guardian Program as requested;

3.6 Proposal Writing and Fundraising

Steward will take on the role of identifying funding sources (including the Yukon River R&E Fund) and developing proposals for locally driven projects.

3.7 Measuring and Celebrating Results

The Steward will focus on “hands on” initiatives where results are transparent and people can be directly involved. (i.e. establishment of HPAs, restoration of salmon habitat, community involvement in wildlife monitoring projects, creation of jobs, or development of specific skill sets.) Results of these projects will be promoted widely by the Steward to help instil community pride and increase support for stewardship.

4 Alesk/Kluane (Haines Junction) Steward – Work Plan 2005

4.1 Education, Communications and Awareness

The Steward will develop relevant materials and seize opportunities to increase local understanding about the importance of stewardship and the conservation of fish, wildlife and habitat. This may be done through presentations, activities, written or visual materials, or simple one-on-one conversations.

Communication and education projects and plans include:

- Implementation of wetland viewing project near Beaver Creek, including development of educational panels.
- Dezadeash Lake Management plan Interpretive signs as recommended by the steering committee
- Banding projects with students and local citizens will provide opportunities for communication and education
- Use Pine Creek monitoring and maintenance as an education tool when possible
- Assist with St. Elias school wetland education project (April) and Kluane First Nation Education day (March)
- Assist Trix Tanner with classroom incubation of chum salmon.
- Follow through with distribution of Burbot Setline Pamphlet.
- The Steward will liaise with community regarding the development of Kloo Jarvis HPA planning process. She will also be responsible for keeping the community informed and involved in any dialogue around wetland importance and conservation.
- Contribute to the *Echo* (4 per year)

As an educator, the Steward should take opportunities to work with and interact with youth (i.e. Science Camp, Culture Camp) whenever possible.

4.2 Project Development and Implementation

With direction from the Ducks Unlimited, the ARRC, DFO, Department of Environment, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and Board, the Steward will contribute to relevant local planning processes, and provide support for projects by seeking funding and developing and coordinating projects.

The following planning processes have been identified:

- Continue to develop a proposal for a Habitat Protection Area for the Jarvis-Kloo Lake wetlands in response to that recommendation in the Aishihik integrated wildlife plan.
- Support the Alsek River Integrated Fisheries Management Plan
- When required, assist Champagne and Aishihik, Kluane and White River First Nations with ongoing implementation of their Community Salmon Management Plan
- If opportunities arise with new staff at White River First Nation, the Steward will support the First Nation in their development of a White River Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Plan. *At this time, the Watershed Plan is primarily a means to account for various stream projects. In time it will become more important.*
- In consultation with DFO, Habitat and Enhancement Branch, the Steward will participate as an advocate for salmon and salmon habitat conservation in any community planning processes.
- In consultation with DFO, Fisheries Management and Stock Assessment, the Steward will participate in any community planning processes regarding management and assessment of salmon resources within the area.

The following projects have been identified:

- Assist with and conduct field studies of water birds and facilitate community involvement in wetland monitoring at Scottie Creek/Koidern and 6 Mile Lake (partnership with YTG, DU).
- Marshall Creek Grayling Triage
- Dezadeash Lake sign project
- Assist contractor (Brad Wilson) with Dezadeash River Wetland and Trail System development (partnership with Parks Canada, Village and DU)
- Pine Creek monitoring and maintenance
- Weekly roadside waterfowl surveys (with CWS) - April.
- Assist with the implementation of the Dezadeash management plan
- Kokanee Salmon in Kathleen Lake
- Pine Lake Ice Fishing Day

4.3 Sharing Knowledge

The Steward will assist DU, ARRC, local First Nations, YTG and others, in their efforts to collect and integrate scientific, local, and traditional knowledge as part of the design and implementation of local stewardship and planning initiatives.

The Steward will assist with weekly roadside waterfowl surveys (with CWS) in April.

4.4 Community Capacity

Stewards will work to develop community and individual capacity to participate in the stewardship projects, ultimately increasing a community's ability to effectively manage local habitat and fish and wildlife populations.

- Support and assist with ARRC summer student program (including assistance with hiring)
- Work on projects that involve youth, i.e. Culture, Science Camp, youth coordinator
- Develop skills with youth during Duck banding sessions and brood surveys (Tay Lake, Scottie Creek and Kloo-Jarvis wetlands).

4.5 Partnership Building/Cooperation

The Steward will:

- develop and maintain a strong presence in the communities by participating in local activities, and by encouraging local people to visit the office of, and utilize the services of the Steward;
- continue to establish good communication with user groups, special interest organizations, land claim bodies, and government agencies;
- also develop good communications and partnerships with other Yukon Stewards. They will work together in the planning, developing and coordinating programs and stewardship activities spanning two or more geographical areas. Stewards will talk regularly to exchange ideas and information and discuss strategies on how to consistently carry out the Stewardship Program;
- communicate with and may provide support for specific First Nation projects such as the Game Guardian Program;
- attend the annual Duck's Unlimited banquet in Beaver Creek, and will sit on the organizing committee and assist in the organization of one for Haines Junction for fall 2005;
- attend at least one Yukon River Panel meeting in Whitehorse;
- attend as many ARRC meetings as possible, and at least one YFWMB and one YSC meeting annually;
- attend CAFN Lands meetings and G.A.s as requested and will attend relevant workshops, meetings and training sessions when possible;

4.6 Proposal Writing and Fundraising

The Steward will take on the role of identifying funding sources (including the Yukon River R&E Fund) and developing proposals for locally driven projects.

4.7 Measuring and Celebrating Results

The Steward will focus on “hands on” initiatives where results are transparent and people can be directly involved. (i.e. establishment of HPAs, restoration of fish habitat, community involvement in wildlife monitoring projects, creation of jobs, or development of specific skill sets.) Results of these projects will be promoted widely by the Steward to help instill community pride and increase support for stewardship. The Steward will make working partnerships transparent to the broader community, to encourage and enhance perceptions of cooperative resource management.

5 North Yukon (Old Crow) Steward: Work Plan 2005

The North Yukon Steward will be working under the management of the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board. As a community resource person, the Steward will take direction from VGFN and the North Yukon RRC. This work plan will serve as a guide and will be an adaptive tool which will be adjusted as appropriate.

5.1 Education, Communications and Awareness

The Steward will develop relevant materials and seize opportunities to increase local understanding about the importance of stewardship and the conservation of fish, wildlife and habitat. This may be done through presentations, activities, written or visual materials, or simple one-on-one conversations. *This is critical as it will provide the foundation upon which trust and community interest will grow.*

5.2 Planning & Project Development and Implementation

Bridging the gap between the community and management agencies and integrating their priorities is critical.

The Steward will provide support for planning and implementation when appropriate. The following plans are identified as priorities:

North Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Plan The Steward will work with VGFN and NYRRC in providing community input in the revisions of this management plan.

North Yukon Planning Commission Provide administrative & communications support, facilitate community input and understanding of the Commission’s activities.

Forest Management Plan Forest management could become one of the largest fish habitat issues in the Porcupine unless there is a complete transition to oil. Much of the best timber is in riparian forest or on south facing slopes above fish habitat. The steward should support any community process to develop an FMP

Yukon River Canadian Sub-basin Salmon Plan Yukon River Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Plan The Steward will initiate and facilitate the input of community priorities to the Yukon River Canadian Sub-basin Salmon Plan and the Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Plan. This will consist of consultation on draft plans, both through community meetings or electronic communication.

Integrated (salmon) Fishery Management Plans The Steward should actively participate in Porcupine River / Yukon Salmon Committee Working Group meetings and may help facilitate community participation as well as the development of an agenda and the consolidation of meeting notes and action items, and relay of information back to the community. The Steward may assist with the IFMP process by providing local knowledge, promoting conservation during years of low salmon returns, and explaining the state of knowledge on the distribution and abundance of chinook, chum and coho salmon within the Porcupine River drainage. The Steward will participate in updating the IFMP with knowledge and information obtained through local Restoration and Enhancement Programs. For example a VGFN fall chum salmon tagging study conducted in 2003 demonstrated that 88% of the tags applied to fall chum salmon near Old Crow were accounted for at the Fishing Branch River weir.

The Steward will attend pre and post season YSC and Porcupine River Working Group meetings in Old Crow.

Vuntut National Park and Nii'ilii'Njak (Fishing Branch) Management Plans The Steward will be familiar with the stages of the management plans, actively participate in meetings, communicate planning activities to the community and facilitate community participation.

Crow Flats Special Management Plan As this SMA is at the beginning of the planning process, the Steward will act as liaison between all agencies and the community. The Steward will promote the maintenance of the integrity of the SMA as one ecological unit, and the protection of the full diversity of the fish and wildlife populations and their habitat, as outlined in Ch. 10 VGFNFA.

The Steward will provide support for projects by seeking funding, developing and coordinating all aspects of projects. Whenever possible, the steward will ensure that projects are carried out by qualified, local people. The following projects are identified as priorities:

Fish and Wildlife Management Plan Implementation The Steward will work closely with VGFN, the RRC and YTG to support and implement the North Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Plan, and seek the input of DFO Habitat and Enhancement staff for matters respecting fish habitat and seek the input of DFO Management and Stock Assessment staff for matters affecting salmon management and stock assessment projects in the Porcupine drainage. He/she will seek funding

and will develop and coordinate some or all aspects of projects. Identified priorities will be reviewed in April 2005.

Wetlands/Waterfowl The Steward will assist in the collection of waterbird and wetland information in relation to conservation of important wetlands in the north Yukon. The Steward will help facilitate workshops and assist in collecting local knowledge about wetlands under the direction of VGFN, and assist and advise DU staff on any project design and methods.

The Steward will develop a ground-based waterbird monitoring project in the Bluefish Lakes area and will become trained in waterbird banding in order to develop a banding project near Old Crow in 2004-2005 .

Salmon Research, Development and Management Projects Under the direction of VGFN and the technical leader, the Steward will coordinate and support R&E projects as appropriate. Projects should be implemented, whenever possible, by qualified local people. Assist in the development of proposals, in particular in stewardship activities such as First Fish camp

Freshwater Lakes Fish Inventory The Steward will continue exploring the possibilities of a project proposal to inventory fish stocks in nearby lakes with YG and community members as an alternative chum salmon fishery.

Salmon Gathering The Steward will coordinate the July 2005 Porcupine River Salmon Gathering R&E project

Other Projects The Steward will be involved in a number of other projects that respond to the needs of the Community and the partners. These may include:

- Waste reduction and recycling initiatives with VGFN Recreation Dept
- Water quality and chemistry testing beside the sewage lagoon
- Contaminated site clean-up at Whitefish wetlands with DU
- GIS mapping/support/training with NYPC

5.3 Sharing Knowledge

As appropriate, the Steward will support the First Nation and Renewable Resource Council in their efforts to collect and integrate scientific, local, and traditional knowledge as part of the design and implementation of local stewardship and planning initiatives. This could involve helping with collection, storage or dissemination of information.

With direction from VGFN and the RRC, the Steward will work within current processes to investigate knowledge gaps in local fish and wildlife populations, distribution and habitat. Methods of investigation may include monitoring programs, local knowledge workshops, and interview projects.

Salmon Fishery Monitoring The Steward will co-ordinate the flow of information between fishery managers and communities as a way to collect pre-season, in-season

and post-season data while disseminating updates. Encourage participation of community members in YRDFA teleconferences.

Wetland Conservation The Steward will help design, research and develop community processes that gather and catalogue information regarding local and traditional knowledge about the importance of wetlands for future conservation planning. The Steward will coordinate a summer youth wetlands canoe trip on the lakes beside town with VGFN Recreation Dept and have hands-on teaching of duck identification, duck count/survey, invertebrate identification and frog monitoring. Follow-up in-classroom training can continue in partnership with schoolteachers in fall.

5.4 Community Capacity

Stewards will work to develop community and individual capacity to participate in the related projects, ultimately increasing a community's ability to effectively maintain local habitat and conserve fish and wildlife populations. The Steward will make concerted effort to develop and support projects with youth whenever possible; the Steward will pursue opportunities for interaction and capacity building through the local school. *Personal and professional development through increased self-esteem and improved skills of program participants will improve the overall community environment. By identifying and addressing training needs, the Steward can help equip communities to conduct future projects.*

5.5 Partnership Building/Cooperation

The Steward will work closely with the Vuntut Gwitch'in First Nation, North Yukon Renewable Resources Council, as well as the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board. The Steward will develop and maintain a strong presence in the communities by participating in local activities, and by encouraging community members to visit the office and utilize the services of the Steward. They will establish good communication with user groups, special interest groups, land claim bodies, and government agencies. These groups may include, but are not limited to:

Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation	North Yukon Land Use Planning Commission
Village of Old Crow	Park Management Boards & planning teams
Yukon River Panel	Porcupine Caribou Management Board
Ducks Unlimited	Forest Management Planning Teams
Yukon Salmon Committee	Northern Climate Exchange
DFO Habitat Enhancement & Stock Assessment	Conservation Groups (NGOs)
YTG – Environment (Regional Fish & Wildlife)	Industry Associations
YTG – Energy, Mines & Resources (Forest Management)	Yukon College
YTG – Economic Development	Chief Zzeh Gittlit School
Vuntut Development Corporation	Parks Canada
North Yukon Renewable Resources Council	Canadian Wildlife Service

The Steward will:

- attend at least one Yukon River Panel meeting in Whitehorse;

- attend as many NYRRC meetings as possible, and at least one YFWMB and one YSC meeting annually;
- attend VGFN Lands meetings and G.A.s as requested and will attend relevant workshops, meetings and training sessions when possible;
- develop good communications and partnerships with other Community Stewards. They will work together in planning, developing and coordinating programs and stewardship activities spanning two or more geographical areas. Stewards will talk regularly to exchange ideas and information and discuss strategies on how to best carry out the Stewardship Program;
- also provide assistance and support for specific First Nation projects such as the Game Guardian Program, if deemed appropriate by VGFN and the RRC .

5.6 Proposal Writing and Fundraising

The Steward will take on the role of identifying funding sources, including the Yukon River Panel R&E Fund and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust, and develop proposals for locally driven projects.

5.7 Measuring and Celebrating Results

The Steward will focus on “hands-on” initiatives where results are transparent and people can be directly involved. This may include the establishment of Habitat Protection Areas, restoration of salmon stocks and habitat, community involvement in wildlife monitoring projects, creation of jobs, or development of specific skill sets. Results of these projects will be promoted by the Steward in order to foster both community pride and healthy stewardship ethics in the Traditional Territory.