

TAKHINI COMMUNITY LAND USE PLAN

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations





ANNIE NED

Two pieces of beadwork were chosen from each community. One to represent our future generations (tomorrow - kàt'ą), and one to represent our elders (yesterday- kàt'ą k'e). This piece of beadwork was created by CAFN elder Annie Ned to represent our elders.

KATHLEEN JONES

This piece of beadwork was created by Takhni resident Kathleen Jones (Brown) to represent our future generations (kàt'ą - tomorrow).



FRANCES OLES

The graphic logo that appears in this report to represent the community is one of a series created by CAFN artist Frances Oles in 2011 when the exhibits were being developed for the Da Kų Culture Centre. See acknowledgments page for more information on the logos.

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GUNAŁCHÎSH

The CAFN Department of Heritage, Lands and Resources would like to say a big gunałchîsh for the contribution of all CAFN youth, elders and citizens and the participation of all those who attended community meetings, elders teas and kitchen table focus groups.

Project team and other staff:

2017 - 2020 Project Team:

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- Department of Language and Culture, Stephen Reid
- Gordon Allison, Consultant & former CAFN Lands Manager
- Alanna Quock, Regenerative Design & Development Consulting

2024 - 2025 Project Team:

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- Department Heritage, Lands and Resources, Jagger Jamieson, Lands Officer
- IRP Consulting: Tosh Southwick and Davida Wood
- ERM Consultants Canada, Whitehorse Office: Emily Caddell

The graphic logo that appears in this report to represent the community is one of a series created by CAFN artist Frances Oles in 2011 when the exhibits were being developed for the Da Kų Culture Centre. Each of our communities has its own unique graphic, representing something special for which the community is known, with the theme for each settlement chosen by the citizen's committee that guided the exhibit development process. The logos were used to show the location of our traditional settlements on the centre's feature floor map exhibit, and to link these places with the centre's wall exhibit panels, where information on our communities is presented.

2025 ADDENDUM

2025 Land Use Plan Updates

The original Community Land Use Plan (Phase One CLUPs) were not approved and passed by CAFN Chief and Council at the time. Since then, the demand for land use planning has been seen by the Department of Heritage, Lands and Resources and Chief and Council through the increase in citizens looking to build homes and cabins throughout the Traditional Territory. Chief and Council has asked to revive the CLUPs process so that the Nation has a strategic and consistent approach to applications and that citizens can use the land that they steward.

The original Community Land Use Plan was the result of extensive and thoughtful work by a committed team. That team engaged deeply with community members through meetings, gatherings, and story-sharing sessions, and produced a comprehensive and culturally grounded document. The plan reflected the priorities, values, and histories of the communities involved, and included a strong narrative foundation along with carefully considered land use direction. Importantly, the 2018 plan remains highly relevant today. The perspectives and ideas shared during that process continue to resonate, and the structure and content of the original document still offer a meaningful reflection of the community's intentions. In light of that, we felt that a full rewrite or restart was not only unnecessary but could potentially undervalue the work and time already invested. We also wanted to avoid going back to communities with the same questions they had already thoroughly answered - out of respect for their time, effort, and willingness to share.

Instead, we chose to take a focused and efficient approach by creating an addendum. This allowed us to address specific areas where updates were needed, while preserving the integrity of the original plan. In particular, we concentrated on updating the maps to ensure they accurately reflect current use and community priorities. We re-engaged with the key communities of Takhini and Shadhāla but also hosted sessions in Whitehorse and Haines Junction to confirm that these areas are still used and understood in the same ways, and to gather any new or evolving information. These updates were then brought back to community members for review, helping to ensure accuracy and relevance before finalizing the changes.

The result is a set of updated documents — including this addendum and maps — that reflect both continuity and responsiveness. The maps have been revised with the most current information, and the addendum provides clear documentation of the process and the adjustments made. These materials, presented in 2025, are meant to honor the foundational work of 2018 while respectfully updating and enhancing the plan to meet today's needs.

From November 2024 – February 2025, the CAFN Department of Heritage, Lands and Resources, with support from Inspire Reconciliation Potential (IRP) and ERM Consultants Canada held the following engagements with citizens:

#	Community	Date	Location	Purpose
1.	Takhini	November 14, 2024	Old Takhini Hall, Takhini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review 2018 Draft Phase One CLUPs Provide comments to the Land Planning team
2.	Haines Junction	November 26, 2024	Da Kų Cultural Centre, Haines Junction	
3.	Whitehorse	November 28, 2024	Yukon Inn Plaza Boardroom, Whitehorse	
4.	Champagne	January 18, 2025	Champagne Hall, Champagne	
5.	Champagne	February 15, 2025	Champagne Hall, Champagne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review proposed updates to 2018 Draft Phase One CLUPs based on inputs provided Provide final comments to the Land Planning team
6.	Takhini	February 20, 2025	Takhini Community Hall, Takhini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review proposed updates to 2018 Draft Phase One CLUPs based on inputs provided Provide final comments to the Land Planning team

During engagements 1 – 4, citizens:

- Reviewed the land use designations for Takhini and Shadhāla (Champagne) within the Phase One CLUPs.
- Provided feedback and reflections on updates (i.e., any additions, changes or suggestions) they would like to see to the Takhini and Shadhāla (Champagne) Phase One CLUPs.

During engagements 5 – 6, citizens:

- Reviewed updates made to the land use designations for Takhini and Shadhāla (Champagne).
- Shared feedback on considerations for Chief and Council to inform next steps in the CLUP process.

CLUPs for Takhini and Shadhāla (Champagne) were prioritized at this time given the demand for homes and cabins within these planning areas. CLUPs for Dakwākāda, Klukshu and Aishihik will be revisited in the future.

General Take Aways from Engagement

The following key takeaways were identified during engagements:

- Support for the draft land use designations in the 2018 CLUP.**
- General support** for the Phase One CLUPs for Shadhāla (Champagne) and Takhini.
- Feedback primarily **focused on the need to update maps to reflect existing approvals and changes since 2018** (e.g., cabins or residential approvals since 2018).
- Emphasis on the **importance of community and infrastructure planning** for CAFN.
- Appreciation to see this process moving ahead.**

Takhini CLUP Updates

The following updates and recommendations were identified and reflected in updates made to the land designations map for Takhini:

- **Updating residential area in the subdivision:** Reflecting residential expansion options and original subdivision vision/contours. The extended subdivision has been reflected in the updated maps.
- **Identifying areas for residential growth:** Thinking ahead to Takhini expansion for elements such as the location of a possible waste management facility for the subdivision, additional commercial / industrial space for economic development opportunities (e.g., a biomass facility) and retail options.
- **Concerns with potential residential expansion in R-40 Block:** Concerns shared related to the areas south and east of the subdivision across the highway in the R-40 and S-427 blocks, including proposed residential expansion and land designated for 'communal use'. Maps updated to reflect reduced area for potential residential development site.
- **Concerns with potential residential expansion along the highway near the Kluane Wagon Trail:** Concerns shared regarding the proposed expansion of the residential subdivision site within that section of the territory given potential land use conflicts with existing land users (e.g., dog teams) as well as the need for additional services and infrastructure provided by CAFN.
- **Updating land designations and mapping to reflect changes since 2018:** Reflecting approved cabin areas within the planning area (i.e., adding cabins approved since 2018). This includes adding the cabin across the road from the Takhini subdivision and reflecting existing roads on the map (e.g., those near the gravel pit).
- **Increasing land use designations for commercial and industrial uses:** Interest in expanding commercial opportunities near the subdivision but also limiting the use of those areas to 'commercial' and not industrial activities (i.e., limiting noise allowances and types of activities). Should industrial activities be proposed in commercial areas, updated land use designations should be considered.
- **Adding additional areas for potential future cabin sites:** Interest in extending the potential area for cabin sites (i.e., no services) to the very far west within the R-39 block. Having a single designated area for cabins limits fragmentation of the meadow areas to the south within the area.
- **Add Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) Traditional Territory limits to the map:** Request to reflect KDFN Traditional Territory in the mapping area.
- **Protecting heritage areas, traplines and trails:** Adding designations for buffers around historic gravesites, heritage areas, heritage trails and traplines.
- **Updating and adding symbology:** Gopher and gravel pits symbology updated to be clearer. Request to add salmon symbology to map and legend.
- **Add the following landmarks to the map:** Participants requested that the YG gravel pit and the 'hippie' cabin be added to the map.
- **CAFN to identify a new site for a community graveyard:** Citizens identified the need for a new community graveyard as the current graveyard (near Dwayne Smith's house) was intended for a few local historical family members and has since gotten larger than intended. A participant recommended the graveyard not be on CAFN settlement land to allow for others in the area to be buried in the cemetery.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Let's Get Started

This Community Land Use Plan is the first step in our community planning process for our Shadhäla Äshèyi Dän (Champagne and Aishihik First Nation) Settlement Lands in Takhini. This Land Use Plan establishes general land use designations that describe the broad types of land use and development that will occur on the nine Settlement Land parcels in Dakéyi Gha Takhini (the Takhini Planning Area). The process for creating this plan was comprehensive, and community-driven and integrated with CAFN's governance structure and Dän K'e (our ways).

This document also provides a general overview of CAFN's land management responsibilities, describes the three levels of land use planning that occur on CAFN Settlement Lands, and brings together background information about past and current use of the Takhini area.

All Voices Matter

A broad and community driven engagement process was undertaken to ensure all voices were heard in developing the Takhini Community Land Use Plan. The creation of the Takhini Land Use Plan in 2018 involved seven community meetings, numerous briefings, focus groups, news updates and three General Assemblies. In 2024 - 2025, 6 community engagement sessions were held to inform updates to the Community Land Use Plan.

Our Takhini Lands

The Takhini area community was developed in the early 1990's in order to provide CAFN citizens an opportunity to live on Settlement Land within commuting distance to Whitehorse. The Takhini Community Land Use Plan includes Settlement Land surrounding the Takhini River Subdivision and is along the eastern border of CAFN traditional territory.

CAFN Settlement Land Management

The CAFN's traditional territory stretches from the southern Yukon to Northern British Columbia. CAFN's Settlement Land Planning Strategy only covers the territory within the Southern Yukon. The CAFN Vision Statement (below) reflects CAFN's stewardship responsibility to the land:

"We, the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations people and our government, shall promote a healthy, unified and self-reliant people, while conserving and enhancing our environment and culture."

This report is a Community Land Use Plan which will produce land use designations used to guide future community land development in a way which will achieve CAFN's vision, assist decision-making and inform land development which ensuring responsible use of lands and resources for future generations.

Takhini Yesterday

Dän (Southern Tutchone) traditional stories connect CAFN people with dákeyi (our country). Traditional stories tell of a long history of Dän use through seasonal camps for fishing and hunting along the Takhini River. Traditional trails connect the Takhini area with special places and communities to the east, south, north and west, both within CAFN territory and to their neighbours, as during this time borders were fluid, and resources in this area shared.

Takhini Today

The Takhini community resides in the Takhini River Valley, which, like many areas of the Yukon, is being affected by changing climatic conditions. Permafrost thaw is not only affecting the safety of the highway, but will require consideration for current and future developments. As the community is only 50km from Whitehorse along the Alaska Highway, many community members commute for work. Subsistence is very much a part of many people's livelihoods, and therefore it is important future development does not affect member's access to the backcountry. The community is looking to increase their community gathering and commercial space, as well as developing land for residential use.

Takhini Tomorrow

A land use vision and values specific for the Takhini community have not yet been developed and confirmed by the Takhini community. Until Takhini-specific vision and values are developed, the Land Use Designations and Objectives will work towards fulfilling CAFN's vision statement and land use values gathered from previous CAFN planning exercises, which identify as priorities:

- Language and Culture
- Land and Identity
- Addressing Climate Change
- Community Well-Being
- Connectedness and Economy

Land use designations determined for the Takhini Land Use plan include "Community Heart" at the core of the community, "Commercial", "Residential", "Ecological Considerations", "Heritage Considerations", "Communal Use", and "Future Generations" which maintains land for future generations to determine use according to needs and desires. All these designations include detailed management objectives derived from the priorities outlined above.

How do we get there/ Looking Forward, Looking Back

The Takhini Community Land Use Plan has been created with the intention that it remains a living document. As vision and values are developed they will help to augment the Land Use Plan, and a process for reviewing and amending the document will be included once it has been established by the community.



1. LET'S GET STARTED (TL'ÁKHŪ TS'ŪCH'Ī)

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Dän (First Nation people) have always taken care of their land and its resources. In kwädāy (traditional) times, our people grew up knowing to show respect to the animals at all times, to never take more game than was needed, to keep the land and water clean. From our traditional teachings, our ancestors knew that if they took care of such things, the land and the animals would take care of them.

Parents and grandparents ensured the younger generation learned their responsibilities not only to the land and the animals, but also to each other and to their community. People knew they had to pay attention to the direction they received from their Elders. If your parents said 'do this', or your Chief said 'don't do that' it was for a good reason, it had to be taken seriously.

All of these traditional practices are ways of "managing" our lands and ourselves. It is not something new - we've always had rules set out for how people should behave in certain times and places, or specific situations - even if we are not aware that such rules exist.

Rules concerning how we behave towards each other are especially important in the case of our communities, where households from many different families and family backgrounds reside in the same area or location. Thus it is not a surprise to learn that Kwänzin (b.1880s-d.1952), also known as Chief Joe, laid out clear rules for his people. Chief Joe said where people could build their homes at Hutchi, and even went so far as fining community members \$5 if they didn't keep their area clean.

This Community Land Use Plan (CLUP) is the first step in our community planning process

for Takhini. Like a river, constantly flowing and adjusting its path, our communities are always changing as we work to make them better places to live and raise our children. The process for creating this plan evolved with community input and the plan was made stronger as a result. The CLUP is intended to be a living document that is reflective of our community now, and is responsive to changes in the future.

This CLUP establishes general land use designations for our Settlement Land in Takhini. The designations establish the broad types of land use and development that may occur in the Takhini Planning Area. This document also provides a general overview of CAFN's land management responsibilities and background information about past and current use of the Takhini area.

1. LET'S GET STARTED (TL'ÁKHŪ TS'ŪCH'I)

USING THIS DOCUMENT...

The document is organized in nine sections. The first three sections introduce the planning process, community engagement activities and planning area. The next three sections provide background information on CAFN's land management responsibilities, and past and current context for the planning area. Section seven provides the results of the CLUP planning process: the community vision & value and land use designations. Sections eight and nine outline the path to implementing the plan and monitoring and evaluating its progress. These sections will be completed through development of policies to support implementation at a later date.

1. LET'S GET STARTED (TL'ÁKHŪ TS'ŪCH'Ū)

COMMUNITY PLANNING APPROACH

This section describes the overall planning approach: a community-driven, comprehensive process that is integrated with CAFN's governance structure.

Participatory: Participatory means that the planning process is community-based and citizen-driven. The process has been developed with direct input from CAFN citizens and Takhini community members, elders, and youth, as well as CAFN departments and leadership. It is a transparent process, built on respect and open communication. It allows meaningful discussions to contribute to both planning ideas and stronger relationships within the community.

Comprehensive and holistic: Comprehensive means that the plan will consider all values including community, economic, and land-based values. Holistic means that the plan will be based on the interconnectedness and relationship between all these values, rather than each one on its own.

CAFN: The plan will be integrated with the CAFN governance structure, and will be built on the CAFN vision, values and strategic plan. The process will be created by CAFN government with input from citizens, and will reflect the community's values and vision while integrating with the broader CAFN governance and decision-making structures. This process will enable better decision-making and result in a "living" document that will be used, put into action, and revised on a regular basis.

COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS

The Community Land Use Plans are prepared under the direction of the CAFN Department of Heritage, Lands and Resources. The process is informed by CAFN citizens, and involves many opportunities for community input and engagement, as outlined in Section 2: All Voices Matter on page 7 and the Community Engagement Strategy in Appendix A. All types of knowledge have been considered in the development of the CLUP: traditional, local and scientific.

The process to create the Takhini CLUP has been divided into two phases. We have started with creating a Land Use plan, and policies to support the implementation of the plan will be developed at a later date.

Land Use Plan

The process to create the Land Use Plan follows three steps.

1. YESTERDAY - KĀT'Ā K'E

In this first step we:

- Met with CAFN departments, and established a working group to guide the community land use planning process
- Developed the planning process and defined the planning area
- Established the scope of the project
- Created a final work plan and schedule framework
- Gathered and reviewed background information about the planning area, including previous planning work and documents

1. LET'S GET STARTED (TL'ÁKHŪ TS'ŪCH'I)

- Gathered information about how people lived on the land in the past, the ways the Takhini area was used in relationship to other places in the CAFN Traditional Territory, and identified changes in the community over time.

The results of the last two items are included in the Yesterday - Kät'ą k'e section of this report.

2. ÄK'ĀN DZÄNU - TODAY

This step provides an overview of how people currently live with and use the land in the Takhini Planning Area. We gathered information on how the land is currently being used, what opportunities and constraints exist, and identified the community needs that need to be considered in developing the CLUP.

3. KÄT'Ā - TOMORROW

In this step we identified community values, develop a community vision and develop land use objectives. General land use designations are established that identify allowable uses that will ensure future development occurs in appropriate areas (i.e.: Residential, Commercial, Recreation, Future Development, etc.). They are created in order to help us meet our vision and land use objectives. We also make recommendations for future planning needs. This step is the final result of the CLUP and is similar to the Plan Ibex Local Area Plan and land use designations.

Final Land Use Plan

The process to create a final land use plan follows two steps:

4. HOW DO WE GET THERE?

We will review, analyze and establish policies, procedures, guidelines and implementation tools for CAFN land-use disposition and land management processes in CAFN communities.

5. HAVE WE ARRIVED?

An implementation strategy will be established and methods for evaluating objectives and implementation of the plan will also be developed to ensure that the plan is working, updated, and modified as required. A timeline for review, and incorporating into other CAFN planning processes will be established.

CLUP Planning Process

YESTERDAY — kàt'q̄ k'e

- Consider Ways We Lived On The Land In The Past
- Gather Background Information
- Review Previous Planning Work



TODAY — äk'ān dzānu

- Consider Ways We Live On The Land Now
- Determine Land Constraints
- Determine Land Opportunities
- Assess Community Needs Now And In The Future



TOMORROW — kàt'q̄

- Consider How We Would Like The Land To Be For Future Generations
- Establish Community Vision + Values
- Determine Land Use Objectives
- Establish Land Use Designations: The Different Activities That Can Occur On Our Lands, And Where They Are Allowed To Occur



Figure 3. Planning Process Diagram.

2. ALL VOICES MATTER (DÄN GHÄKWÄNJE TS'ÄN JENNÄTH'A)

2. ALL VOICES MATTER (DÄN GHÄKWÄNJE TS'ÄN JENNÄTH'A)

Because the process for the Dakwakada CLUP started first, the community engagement process in Takhini was guided by a communication strategy that was developed with input from the Dakwakada Land Planning Working Group and reviewed by Takhini Residents at the first community meeting in June 2015. Below is a list of all meetings and community engagement opportunities that were held during the planning process to inform the development of the original CLUP (2018). The approach used in Takhini was modified from what we did in Dakwakada, and instead of forming a working group, we held a number of kitchen table focus groups and family meetings.

- Dakwani Winter 2014 Newsletter Update & Call for Land Planning Working Group members
- Dec 2014 Door to Door Flyer - Call for Land Planning Working Group members
- Dakwani Spring 2015 Newsletter Update
- Dakwani Fall 2015 Newsletter Update
- Dakwani Winter 2015 Newsletter Update
- Land Planning Newsletter No 1 May 2015
- Land Planning Newsletter No 2 February 2016
- Land Planning Newsletter No 3 May 2016
- Community Survey Spring 2016
- Kitchen Table Focus Group March 21, 2016 - Takhini
- Kitchen Table Focus Group June 13, 2016 - Haines Junction
- Kitchen Table Focus Group October 24, 2016 - Takhini
- Kitchen Table Focus Group October 27, 2016 - Takhini
- Community Meeting June 3, 2015 - Takhini
- Community Meeting, February 24, 2016 - Whitehorse
- Community Meeting attempted June 14 2016 - Takhini
- Community Meeting November 21, 2016 - Takhini
- Community Meeting November 23, 2016 - Whitehorse
- Community Meeting May 1, 2017 - Takhini
- Community Meeting May 3, 2017 - Whitehorse
- C&C Briefing January 2015
- ECW Briefing April 2015
- C&C Briefing January 2016
- ECW Briefing November 2016 & November 2017
- General Assembly 2015, 2016, 2017

2. ALL VOICES MATTER (DÄN GHÄKWÄNJE TS'ÄN JENNÄTH'A)

From November 2024 - February 2025, the following engagements were held with citizens:

- Community Meeting, Da Kų Cultural Centre, Haines Junction (November 26, 2024)
- Community Meeting, Yukon Inn Plaza Boardroom, Whitehorse (November 28, 2024)
- Community Meeting, Champagne Hall, Champagne (January 18, 2025)
- Community Meeting, Champagne Hall, Champagne (February 15, 2025)



3. OUR TAKHINI LANDS (DAKÉYI GHĀ TAKHINI)

The Takhini CLUP applies to CAFN Settlement Land near the Takhini River Subdivision at the eastern most border of the CAFN Traditional Territory. This includes CAFN Settlement Land Parcels R40, R10, R29, S427, S342, S62, S141, S340 and S320 as shown on the map on page 14. This area covers approximately 3984 hectares (ha) of 242,500 ha of CAFN Settlement Land in the Yukon.

The Takhini River subdivision is the newest CAFN community. Built in the early 1990s as a place for CAFN citizens to live on Settlement land within commuting distance to Whitehorse. CAFN development in the Takhini Planning Area consists of residences and municipal services. There are 43 lots in the subdivision, with 30 homes and just over 80 residents. There are several other residences outside the subdivision in the Takhini Planning Area. After Haines Junction, Takhini is CAFN's largest community. There are many families with children in Takhini and 30% of residents are under 18. The CAFN General Assembly was last held on the Old Rodeo Grounds in the summer of 2013.

R10 is the site of the Takhini River Subdivision, two other residences and the Old Rodeo Grounds. R39 is the site of one residence and two cabin sites. R40 is the site of two residences. S342, S62 and S141 are CAFN beneficiary residential site-specifics. S427 is an undeveloped island. S340 and S320 are undeveloped site specific with no CAFN beneficiaries assigned. Past and current use of the area is described in more detail in Sections 5 and 6.

Figure 5. Takhini valley grasslands R39B. Gord Allison Photo.

3. OUR TAKHINI LANDS (DAKÉYI GHÀ TAKHINI)

Parcel	Area (Ha)	Beneficiary	Selection Rationale	Current Use
R10B	1620.0	Included S-46 & S-207 Paddy Jim & Walter Smith.	Traditional hunting fishing and trapping, , old village and rural residential, future potential for agriculture and grazing.	Takhini River Subdivision and residential on portion. Gopher, rabbit snaring, GA at old rodeo grounds.
R39B	1793.0		Traditional hunting and fishing, old village and gravesites	Portion cabin & residential. Gopher, rabbit snaring. Old gravel pit.
R40B	428.0		Special Access Permit - road to be decommissioned once quarry is no longer used.	Portion residential.
S342B	8.0	Johnny Kushniruk	Mile 945, Future Residential/ Agricultural/Grazing	Residential
S62B/D	8.0	Annie Ned	Residential	Residential
S141B/D	30.0	Paddy Jim/Darlene Jim	Future Cabin Site, Existing House & Fence for grazing	
S427B	65.0		Agriculture and Grazing	
S320B	2.0		Future Commercial/ Residential	
S340	30.0		Future Economic Development/ Grazing Agricultural/ Residential	

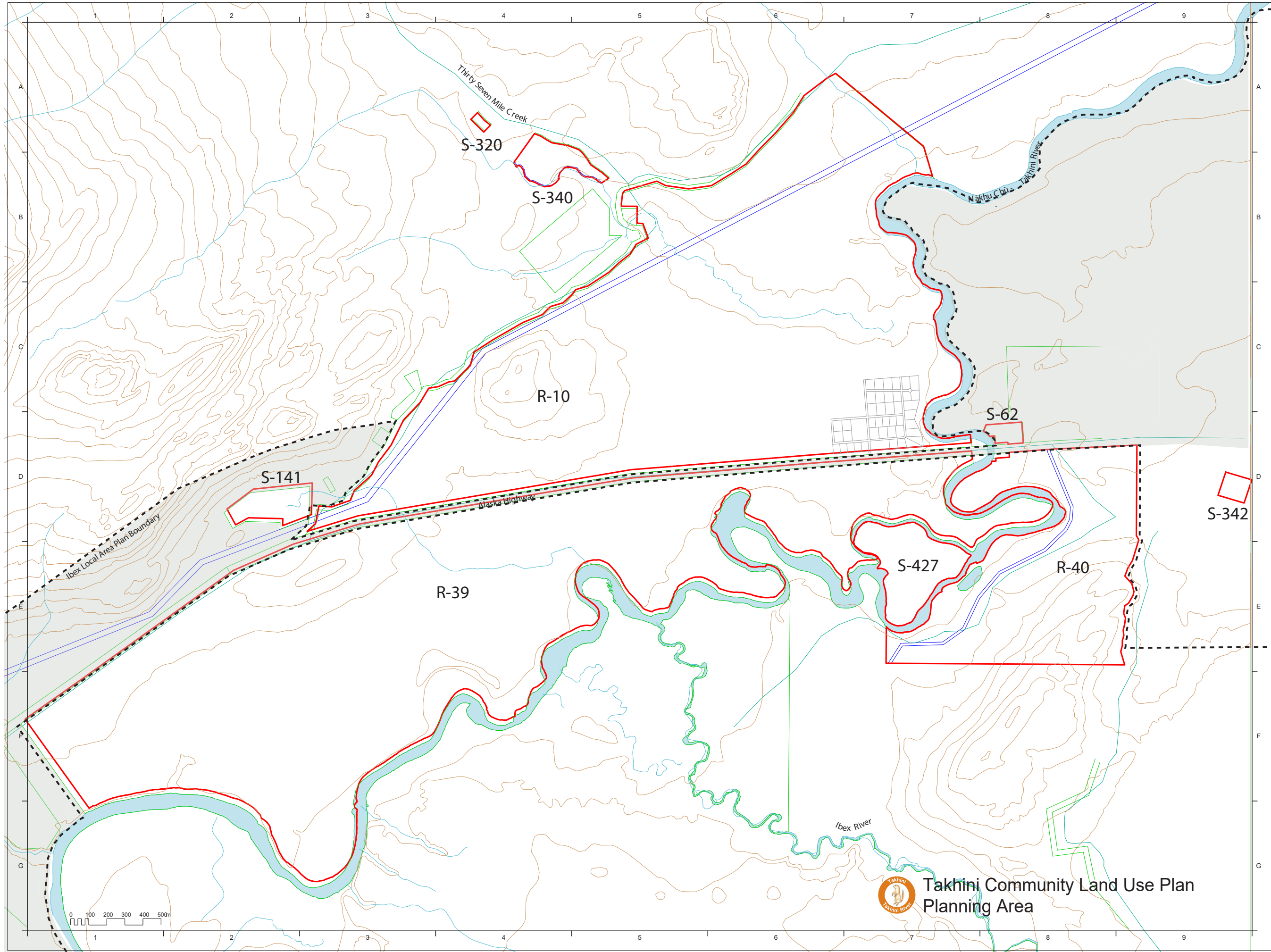
3. OUR TAKHINI LANDS (DAKÉYI GHĀ TAKHINI)

PLAN IBEX

Plan Ibex is a local area plan that was developed by the Hamlet of Ibex Valley in 1999. It covers lands along the Alaska Highway from Echo Valley, just outside the limits of the City of Whitehorse, to Stony Creek, just before the Kusawa Lake Road. It was developed in response to an influx of land applications in the area in the mid 1990s. CAFN's Takhini Planning Area is located toward the western third of the Hamlet of Ibex Valley. CAFN R-blocks are excluded from the boundary of the Hamlet of Ibex Valley. However, S-blocks along the highway are included and designated as First Nation Land Use. CAFN will develop a designation for those lands within this Community Land Use Plan that is consistent with the existing, adjacent, and future desired use.

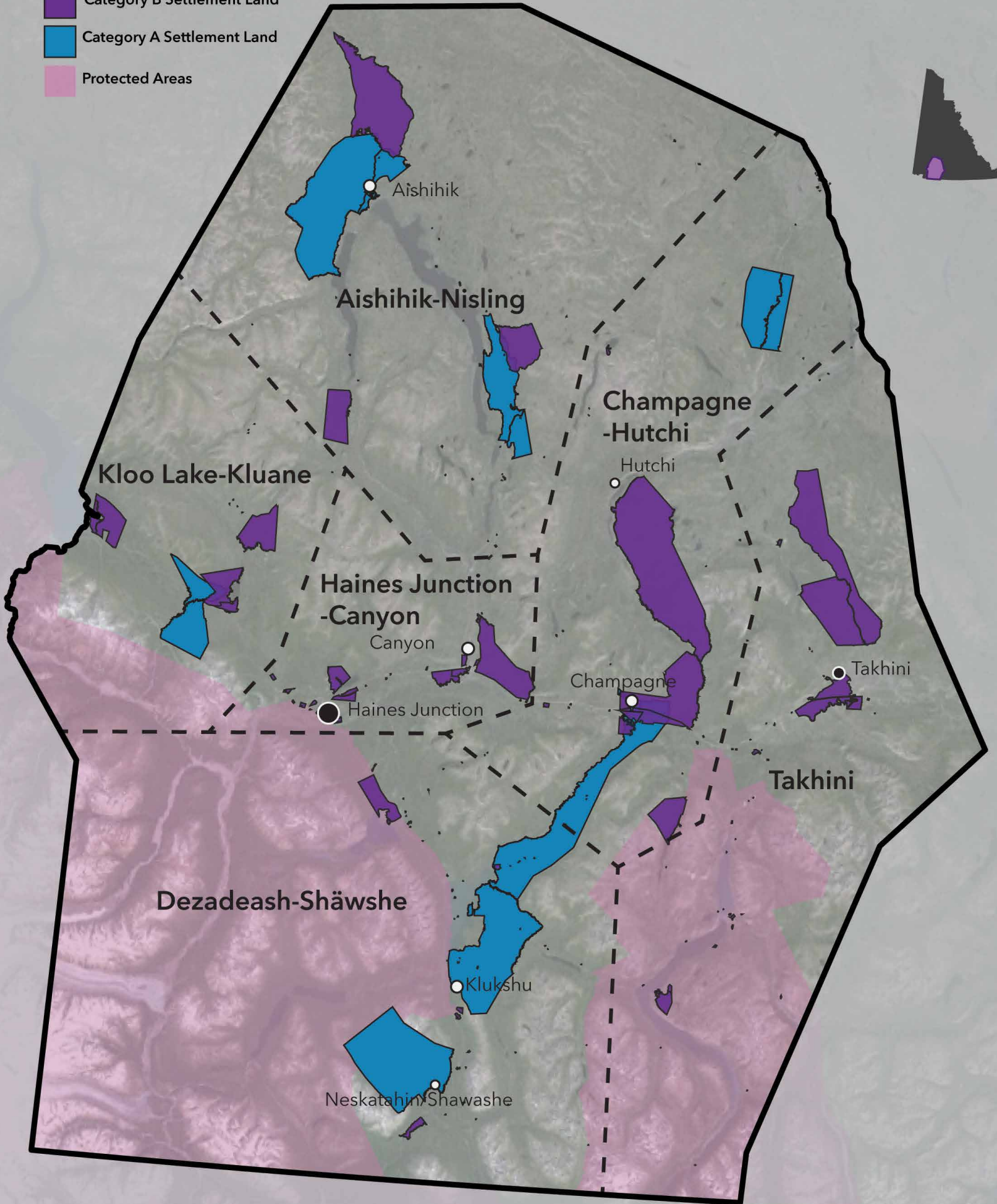


Figure 6. Takhini valley vegetation. Gord Allison Photo.



Takhini Community Land Use Plan
Planning Area

- Category B Settlement Land
- Category A Settlement Land
- Protected Areas



CAFN SETTLEMENT LAND PLANNING REGIONS

4. CAFN SETTLEMENT LAND MANAGEMENT

CAFN TRADITIONAL TERRITORY AND SETTLEMENT LAND

Information in this section is taken from the CAFN Settlement Land Planning Strategy. It provides a brief overview of CAFN citizens and their Traditional Territory and provides some context for how CAFN, like other Yukon First Nations with land claim settlements, came to acquire its Settlement Land and the management responsibilities for it. More detailed information on these topics can be found in the CAFN Settlement Land Planning Strategy and CAFN Final and Self-Government Agreements.

CAFN Citizens and Traditional Territory

CAFN consists of over 1,200 citizens, one of the largest memberships of Yukon's 14 First Nations. CAFN citizens reside within the Traditional Territory, as well as elsewhere in Yukon and in a variety of locations outside the Territory. CAFN people traditionally are speakers of Southern Tutchone, of the Athapaskan language family, as well as the coastal Tlingit language.

The homeland of the CAFN people is in the southwestern Yukon and northwestern British Columbia. These traditional lands are the core of the Champagne and Aishihik people's heritage, traditions, lifestyle and economy.

The CAFN Traditional Territory covers about 29,000 square kilometers (km²) of land in the Yukon and about 12,000 km² in British

Columbia. The Yukon portion of the Traditional Territory is shown in Figure 1. The processes for planning CAFN Settlement Land applies only to this part of the CAFN Traditional Territory at this time, as the claim to lands located within the British Columbia part of the Traditional Territory remain outstanding.

CAFN Final Agreement

Along with other Yukon First Nations, CAFN entered into a modern land claim treaty process and signed a Final Agreement that came into effect on February 14, 1995. The Final Agreement gave CAFN ownership of 2,427 km² of land, called Settlement Land, which represents about 8.4% of the Yukon portion of the Traditional Territory (see Figure 11). This consists of rural land selections ('R-blocks'), site-specific selections ('S-sites'), and community land selections ('C-lands'). The various parcels of land are described in Appendix A of the Final Agreement, and maps outlining the parcels are contained as Appendix B. Settlement Lands are designated as either Category A or Category B lands in the Final Agreement. A few parcels are fee simple land because they were previously titled lots.

In the Final Agreement, Settlement Land is called "equivalent to fee simple", meaning that CAFN has ownership of these lands in much the same manner that a person can own (have title to) private property. 'Fee simple' is the highest form of real estate title known in law, but is still subject to Crown actions such as expropriation, police powers and taxation. Settlement Land

4. CAFN SETTLEMENT LAND MANAGEMENT

is also subject to specified rights of access that are outlined in the Final Agreement.

Along with ownership of Settlement Land comes management responsibility for it. The Final Agreement (section 5.5.0) specifies that CAFN may exercise the following management powers on Settlement Land:

- To enact bylaws for the use and occupation of its Settlement Land;
- To develop and administer land management programs related to its Settlement Land;
- To charge rent or other fees for the use and occupation of its Settlement Land; and
- To establish a system to record interests in its Settlement Land.

The Final Agreement also gives CAFN specified rights and responsibilities in managing resources on Settlement Land, such as heritage, water, fish and wildlife, forest and non-renewable resources.

CAFN Self-Government Agreement

The CAFN Self-Government Agreement came into effect in February 1995 along with the Final Agreement. The Self-Government Agreement (sections 13.3 and 14.0) enables CAFN to enact laws on Settlement Land in relation to the following:

- Use, management, administration, control and protection of Settlement Land;
- Allocation or disposition of rights and interests in and to Settlement Land, including expropriation by [CAFN] for [CAFN] purposes;
- Use, management administration and protection of natural resources under the ownership, control or jurisdiction of [CAFN]

- Planning, zoning and land development; and
- Taxation of interests in Settlement Land and of occupants and tenants of Settlement Land.

The Self-Government Agreement also outlines provisions for compatible land use between certain neighboring Settlement and Non-Settlement Lands.

OUR SETTLEMENT LAND MANAGEMENT

The Final Agreement and Self-Government Agreement describe the land management powers that CAFN has for its Settlement Land. To exercise these powers, it is CAFN's responsibility to create and implement the processes required to plan and manage its lands as it sees fit.

This section describes the mechanisms and processes that the CAFN government has created to manage its Settlement Land. These are based on direction provided by the CAFN Constitution, the Vision Statement, the CAFN Council Priorities and Initiatives, and legislation and policies. These elements of CAFN Settlement Land management and planning and their relationships are shown in Figure 2.

Constitution

The CAFN Constitution, enabled by the Self-Government Agreement, is the supreme law of CAFN. It establishes and guides the CAFN governing body, called the First Nations Council (more commonly referred to as 'Chief & Council'). The Constitution begins with a number of objectives, with the first one being "to ensure the land, environment and traditional territory of the Champagne and Aishihik people are maintained, protected and respected."

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References to land management in the Constitution include section 63, which states that “there shall be no sale of any Settlement Lands.” Also, section 64 states that any transfer of Settlement Land shall require the unanimous approval of all Councillors and fourteen days’ notice before final approval, and shall not reduce or diminish the total amount of Settlement Land.

Vision Statement

The CAFN Vision Statement was developed by Chief and Council with staff in 1994 and subsequently approved by the General Assembly:

“We, the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations people and our government, shall promote a healthy, unified and self-reliant people, while conserving and enhancing our environment and culture.”

CAFN culture is undeniably linked to the land and environment of the Traditional Territory, and stewardship responsibility for the land is reflected in the Vision Statement. The Statement suggests that the land must be used in an appropriate manner, implying that the health of the land affects the health of the people and their culture.

CAFN Priorities and Initiatives

The CAFN Chief & Council’s ‘Strategic Plan 2023-2027’ document flows from the Vision Statement and establishes a clear direction for Chief and Council as well as for staff.

The Strategic Priorities for 2023-2027 are:

1. We heal together as a strong, self-reliant and self-determining Dän (people).
2. We learn, live and share our Traditional Language, Knowledge and Culture Dän k’e (Our Way).
3. We care for and connect with Dakéyi (Our Land).
4. We build the next generation of leaders through education, training, and connecting our Elders and Youth.
5. We benefit from a vibrant and sustainable economy in our Traditional Territory.
6. We have an effective accountable, unified Government and programs grounded in Dän k’e.
7. We have safe, sustainable, healthy communities.

4. CAFN SETTLEMENT LAND MANAGEMENT

Legislation: Traditional Activities Protection Act and Lands Act

Under the authority of the Final Agreement and Self-Government Agreement, CAFN has developed legislation for land management. In 1998 CAFN enacted a Traditional Activities Protection Act to regulate land use activities on Settlement Land. This Act outlines a permitting system for short-term uses of Settlement Land that includes compliance and enforcement provisions. The purposes of the Act are expressed as follows:

(a) to ensure the wise management of Settlement Land and resources of Champagne and Aishihik people on behalf of present and future generations;

(b) to ensure comprehensive and integrated decision making respecting the use and management of Settlement Land and resources, including the full consideration of environmental, cultural, historic and socio-economic factors in that decision making; and



Wintery sundog (Nita Joe)

4. CAFN SETTLEMENT LAND MANAGEMENT

(c) to protect the culture, traditions, health and lifestyle of Champagne and Aishihik people and to ensure that information pertaining to these things is used respectfully and wisely in decisions made by the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations.

In 2001 CAFN enacted a Lands Act to provide a legal basis for granting dispositions of Settlement Land, such as allocations and leases. The significance of land to CAFN is expressed in the following clause of the Lands Act: “all land shall be held in trust by the First Nations Council for the use and benefit of present and future generations of citizens.” The Act was minimally amended in 2005.

The Lands Act sets out the types of dispositions that can be made, who is eligible to apply for them, how the decisions on land applications are made, and what can be done with the land.

Lands Policy

CAFN passed a Lands Policy in 1999 to provide a basic system of interests (dispositions) in Settlement Land and to establish a process for application, review and decision-making for them. The Policy is the primary guiding document for land dispositions and contain details about the following matters:

- Eligibility criteria;
- Types and sizes of land dispositions;
- The nature of land dispositions (rights and the responsibilities that come with them);
- A land application and review process, including guidance for the lands committee;
- Conditions and limitations that apply to land dispositions; and
- Transfers of dispositions.

The Policy is guided by the following statement: “CAFN Land is a limited and valuable resource which the Heritage, Lands & Resources Department strives to manage in a responsible and respectful manner. The intent of the Lands Policy is to carry out this responsibility by providing diligence, fairness, and certainty in dispositions of CAFN Land.”

The Policy also contains this guiding principle: “[CAFN] endeavors to protect the environmental and social integrity of CAFN lands by managing them in a manner that is compatible with their cultural, physical and biological features”.

LAND USE PLANNING IN CAFN TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

There are three levels of land use planning that apply to CAFN Settlement Lands in the CAFN Traditional Territory: Community Land Use Planning, Settlement Land Planning and Regional Land Use Planning. Figure 5 illustrates these three levels of planning and the table above summarizes each level of planning.

Regional Land Use Plans

The process guiding Regional Land Use Planning is established under chapter 11 of the CAFN Final Agreement. Regional Land Use Plans will apply to all lands within the Regional Land Use Planning area. The majority of CAFN's Traditional Territory is encompassed by the Kluane Regional Planning Area. The Regional Land Use Planning process in the CAFN Traditional Territory will be led by a Land Use Planning Commission established as a result of the CAFN and other First Nations' Final Agreements.

4. CAFN SETTLEMENT LAND MANAGEMENT

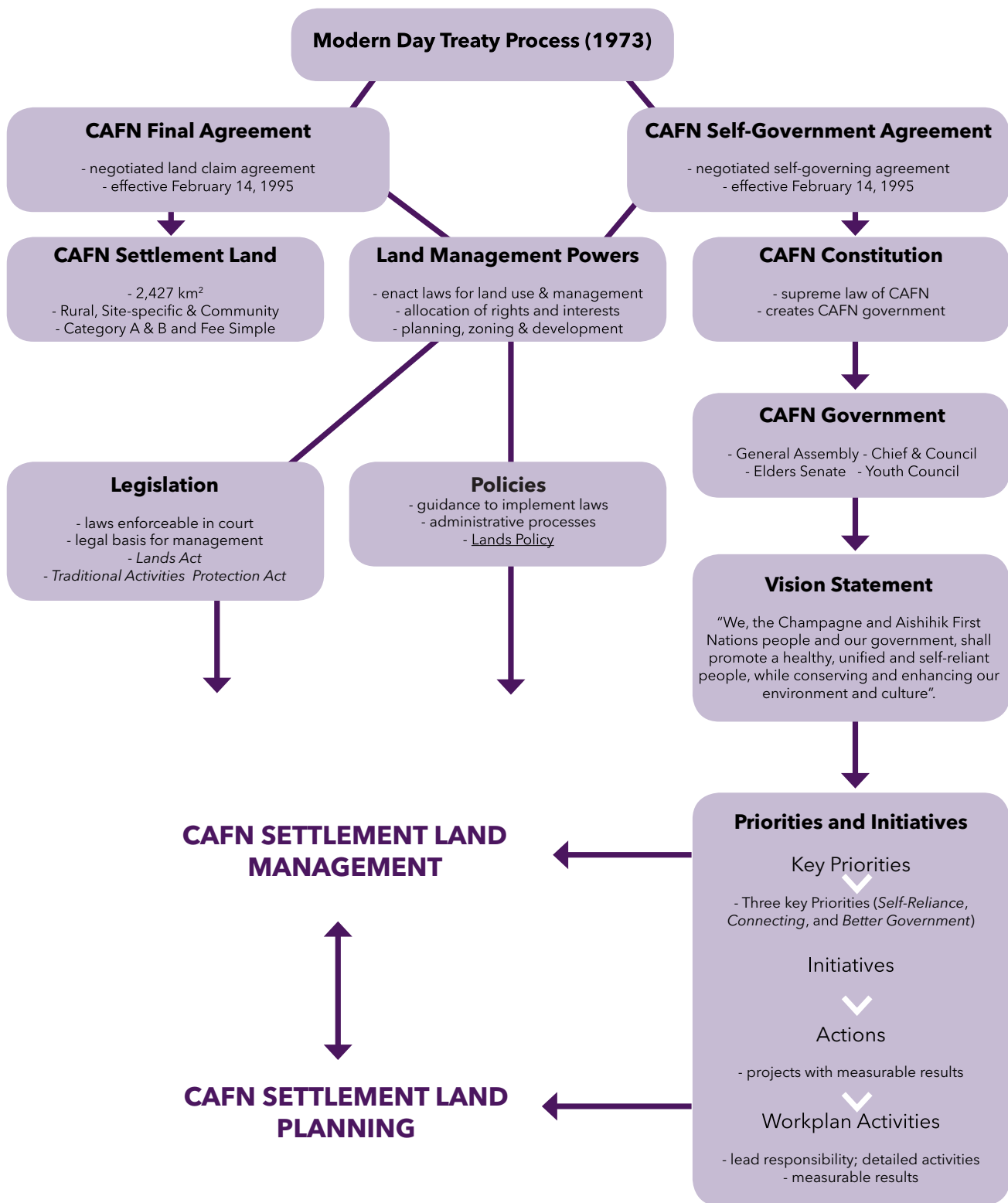


Figure 8. Elements of CAFN Settlement Land Management and Planning.

4. CAFN SETTLEMENT LAND MANAGEMENT

THE OBJECTIVES OF REGIONAL LAND USE PLANNING ARE:

- To encourage the development of a common Yukon land use planning process outside community boundaries;
- To minimize actual or potential land use conflicts both within Settlement Land and non-Settlement Land and between Settlement Land and non-Settlement Land;
- To recognize and promote the cultural values of Yukon Indian people;
- To utilize the knowledge and experience of Yukon Indian people in order to achieve effective land use planning;
- To recognize Yukon First Nations' responsibilities pursuant to settlement agreements for the use and management of Settlement Land; and
- To ensure that social, cultural, economic and environmental policies are applied to the management, protection and use of land, water and resources in an integrated and coordinated manner so as to ensure sustainable development.

At this time it is not known when Regional Land Use Planning will begin in the Kluane region.

Type of Plan	What Land the Plan Covers	Planning Products	Who Creates the Plan	Plans done or to be done
Regional Land Use Plans	Crown Land and Settlement Land	Land Use Zones (e.g. Protected Area, Integrated Management Area, etc.)	Land Use Planning Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · North Yukon · Dawson · Peel · Kluane · Others...
CAFN Settlement Land Plans	CAFN Settlement Land	Policy Statements?	CAFN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Aishihik-Nisling · Takhini · Dezadeash-Shawshe · Champagne-Hutchi · Haines Jct.-Canyon · Kloo-Kluane
Community Land Use Plans	CAFN Settlement Land	Land Use Designations (e.g. residential, commercial, future generations, etc.)	CAFN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Dakwākāda · Takhini · Champagne · Aishihik · Klukshu · Canyon

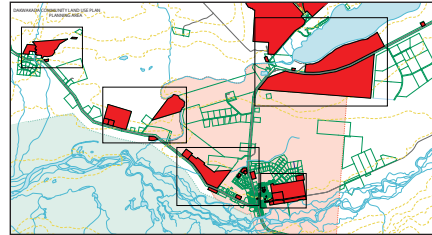
THREE LEVELS OF LAND USE PLANNING IN CAFN TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

COMMUNITY LAND USE PLANNING

- Result of CAFN's land management responsibilities
- Process developed by CAFN
- Information will provide valuable input into Settlement and Regional Land Use Planning Processes.

SCALE: Community-level and community use - includes Settlement Land in and around CAFN Communities.

PURPOSE: Guide future community land development in a way that will achieve CAFN's vision, assist decision-making, and inform land disposition process.

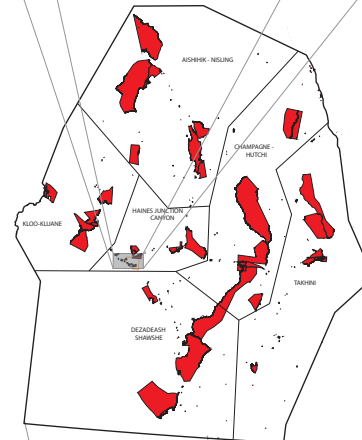


SETTLEMENT LAND PLANNING

- Result of CAFN's land management responsibilities
- Process developed by CAFN
- Information will provide valuable input into Regional and Community Land Use Planning Processes.

SCALE: Regions of CAFN Traditional Territory - includes large blocks of Settlement Land including (known as R-blocks) and site specific. Does not include areas of community use.

PURPOSE: Guide decision-making with respect to future Settlement Land use in the CAFN Traditional Territory.

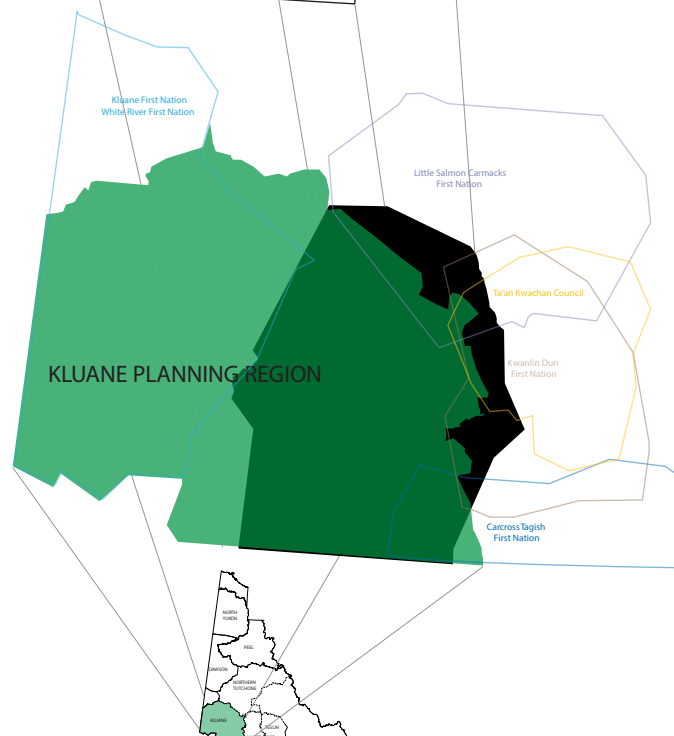


REGIONAL LAND USE PLANNING

- Result of Land Claims Process
- Process described in Chapter 11 of the CAFN Final Agreement
- Process undertaken by the Kluane Regional Planning Commission. Joint process with Yukon First Nations, YG and Canada.

SCALE: CAFN and Kluane FN (and White River FN) Traditional Territories. Northern and eastern boundaries of the Kluane planning region are tentative, and will be established once the planning process is further underway.

PURPOSE: Provides guidance for land and resource decision-making for all Yukon public lands and First Nation Settlement Lands within the Kluane planning area. This plan will aim to ensure that the land, the water and natural resources are planned and managed in a sustainable manner.



4. CAFN SETTLEMENT LAND MANAGEMENT

Settlement Land Plans

Settlement Land Plans are established for larger areas of CAFN Settlement Land that is outside the scope of Community Land Use Plans. Settlement Land Plans created by the CAFN department of Lands and Resources will inform CAFN land use decision-making processes and will provide valuable input into the Regional Land Use Planning process when it begins.

A Settlement Land Planning Strategy outlines how the Settlement Land Plans will be developed. The CAFN Traditional Territory has been divided into six Settlement Land Planning Regions based on traditional use of each area. The Aishihik-Nisling Settlement Land Plan was created first and is nearing completion. The planning process for the Takhini Settlement Land Plan has begun and the other four Settlement Land Plans will be completed in the next three years.

They address the type of land use management issues that would be found in both a Yukon Government Local Area Plan (such as one prepared for the Hamlet of Ibex Valley) and an Official Community Plan (such as the one for the Village of Haines Junction) and are developed in a way that is reflective of CAFN values and special relationship with the land.

The content of the document includes background information about the planning area, and results in identifying broad land use designations and land management objectives. The process for creating the Community Land Use Plans has been developed with the direct engagement of CAFN citizens to ensure that it is a CAFN product.

The approach for reviewing CAFN community plans will be adjusted to reflect the complexity of land use in each community.

Community Land Use Plans

CLUPs are established for CAFN Settlement Lands in and around CAFN communities. The CLUPs are created by the CAFN Department of Heritage, Lands & Resources and inform future community land development and decision making processes while also ensuring responsible use of CAFN lands and resources for future generations.

The structure of the Community Land Use Plans is reflective of CAFN's broad First Nation government land management responsibilities, including both the disposition and development of CAFN land. Because of this, the Community Land Use Plans are structured to be responsive to existing Yukon land planning processes while also reflecting the unique context of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nation communities.



5. TAKHINI YESTERDAY (KÄT'Ä K'E T'Á HÎNI)

OUR TRADITIONAL STORIES CONNECT US TO THIS PLACE

Dän (Southern Tutchone) traditional stories document the deep ties our culture has to dakeyi (our country). These include stories retold by grandparents only within the family setting, as well as kwändur (stories) documented by outsiders such as visiting anthropologists.

Our kwäday kwändur (traditional stories) tell us that at the beginning of time, Ts'ürk'i (Crow) along with Asuya (Beaverman), made our land safe for people by ridding the world of the giant man-eating animals.

Our kwändur also record how the land has changed, with Ts'urki or other beings "fixing" the land, making the land the way we know it today.

Fewer heritage studies have been done in the Takhini area, compared to other parts of CAFN Traditional Territory. This section is based on the limited information that was on hand before the start of the planning process, or was shared by community members during planning meetings.

CAFN Land Planning and CAFN Heritage welcome the opportunity to document additional stories about the Takhini area that can be shared. The intention would be to include any accounts shared in future versions of the plan.

HISTORY IN A NAME - TAKHINI, NÄKHÛ

Dän history is recorded in our stories, the things the ancestors lost and left behind, and in our traditional place names.

The name Takhini originates from a Tlingit name. The coastal Tlingit people had their own names for many geographical features within the Yukon as a result of their trading trips into the interior. On many early maps, the river appeared as Tahk-heena or similar variations.

The Southern Tutchone name for the Takhini River is NàkhÛ Chù because it flows out of NàkhÛ Män, now known as Kusawa Lake. NàkhÛ translates as a 'raft crossing place', referring to the area of the narrows near the north end of Kusawa Lake. It is also known as T'á hîni, King Salmon River (Paddy Jim).

THE LONG AGO HISTORY

The Takhini subdivision is relatively modern, being established as a CAFN community in the early 1990s. However, the archaeological evidence and the stories of our people agree that for a long time before this, it was a camping and harvesting area used by the ancestors on a shorter-term and seasonal basis. A significant number of archaeological sites around the village document thousands of years of such use.

5. TAKHINI YESTERDAY (KÄT'Ä K'E T'Á HÎNI)

40,000 to 13,000 years ago:	During the last period of glaciation massive sheets of ice flowed from the southwest Yukon's high mountains, covering the valleys and plateaus of Champagne and Aishihik territory.
13,000 to 10,000 years ago:	Rapid climate warming brought an end to the glacial period and the ice sheets melted back. As the ice receded to lands now within Kluane National Park, water from the melting glaciers created a large lake in the Dezadeash and Takhini valleys. Referred to as Glacial Lake Champagne, the lake covered valley to depths ranging from 35 to 165 meters. Over the millenia the lake existed, it left large deposits of clay sediments in the valleys. The ancestors may have first began living in our Traditional Territory during these times.
8,360 years ago:	Oldest dated evidence of the ancestors in our Traditional Territory. The find, part of a hunting spear, was recovered at one of the mountain-top "ice patches" where quantities of preserved caribou dung and associated hunting artifacts have been discovered.
7,000 years ago:	By 7,000 years ago the glacial lake had emptied, leaving drainage patterns as we know them today and the valley bottoms available for occupation by people. Evidence more than 5,000 years old of the ancestors has been found at an archaeological site in a meadow area about 3 km. southwest of Takhini, opposite the mouth of the Ibex River, and at the Kusawa Bluff site at the north end of Kusawa Lake.
7,000 years ago to late Pre-contact Times (±1800):	Abundant archaeological evidence for presence of the ancestors in the area and evidence of trade with neighbouring peoples throughout our history.
Trade Period (±1800-1890):	Around 1800 trade with our neighbors to the south took on greater importance owing to an increased demand for furs from our country. By this time, our coastal trading partners, the Tlingit of the Haines/Klukwan and Dry Bay/Yakutat areas, had access to trade goods of European and American origin. New items such as metal tools, guns, pots and cloth became available. The arrival of these new items is said to mark the beginning of the "historic period", even though it would be many decades before the first non-natives made their way into our country. This trade was conducted in the traditional manner and involved extensive cultural exchange, sharing of songs and stories, as well as marriage between our peoples.

5. TAKHINI YESTERDAY (KÄT'Ä K'É T'Á HÎNI)

THE MORE RECENT HISTORY

1890s:	By the 1890s the Tlingit traders had stopped making their trading trips into our country, and the Takhini area began to change with the arrival of the first non-natives in dakeyi (our country). These newcomers, who were prospectors and others looking for business opportunities, mostly continued on north to Dawson, but some spent time in our area. They came in via Alur Dän Tan, the same route that the Tlingit people had used to come inland to trade with the southern Yukon Dän and our neighbors to the north. Later in the 1890s, one of these newcomers, Jack Dalton, made improvements to the native trail and operated it as a commercial route to transport goods to the Klondike.
1900s:	Outside forces became increasingly present in the Takhini area. In 1902, the Whitehorse-Dawson Road was constructed, passing within 7 km to the northeast of the present community of Takhini. In 1903, prospectors travelling through the area discovered gold in the Kloo and Kluane Lakes areas, resulting in a moderate gold rush. The following year, construction of the Kluane Wagon Road to provide access to the new gold diggings passed within 3 km of where the Takhini community is now located.
1910s:	The big game hunting industry began in the Kluane Lake and White River country, bringing more newcomers through the region, but providing employment for some First Nation people. The fur farming industry also began in this decade.
1920s and 1930s:	These were generally healthy and quiet decades for our people, with subsistence hunting and fishing and fur trapping as the mainstays of the local economy and most families living out on the land.

THE ALASKA HIGHWAY BRINGS CHANGE

The coming of the Alaska Highway changed the way of life for most southern Yukon people. Individuals became more involved in the wage economy and many families moved to highway communities where there were jobs and new services such as schools, medical care, stores and other businesses. This was particularly the case for younger families, who moved to Kwanlin (Whitehorse) or Dakwäkäda (Haines

Junction) so their children could attend regular school rather than residential school.

There was an Alaska Highway construction camp located southwest of the Takhini River bridge. Remnants of the camp can be found scattered around the area.

5. TAKHINI YESTERDAY (KĀT'Ā K'E T'Á HĪNI)

1942-43:	The construction of the Alaska Highway brought many changes, including outside people, opportunities for wage labour and increased government presence. Families based at other locations and out on the land moved to highway communities.
1950s to 1970s:	As commercial and institutional facilities became concentrated in Haines Junction and Whitehorse, CAFN families continued to move to the larger centers. By the early 1970s, the Aishihik Indian Band had been amalgamated with the larger Champagne Indian Band, and the two increasingly joined together, usually at Shadhāla, for gatherings such as funerals, potlatches, weddings, political meetings, rodeos and dances. The Takhini area began to have full-time residency by First Nation people in this time period as well, with Annie Ned followed by other members of her family relocating here.
Early 1990s:	The CAFN subdivision now known as Takhini began to be developed. It was designed primarily for CAFN citizens who worked or went to school in Whitehorse to be able to live in their Traditional Territory.
1995:	CAFN's Final Agreement and Self-Government were enacted into legislation, giving CAFN ownership and authority over its Settlement Lands.

FISHCAMPS ALONG THE TAKHINI RIVER

In Kwädāy times, people stayed at many places throughout the Takhini Valley as it was a good place for fishing and hunting, both for big game like caribou as well as sheep in the surrounding mountains, and for small animals like gophers. Traditional trails connect the Takhini area with places and communities to the east (Kwanlin, Whitehorse), to the west (Shādela, Champagne), to the south (Nahkū, Kusawa) and to the north (Łu Shāw Mān - 52 Mile Lake, Hutchi and other points beyond).

Many of the modern-day population of Champagne and Aishihik citizens that now call Takhini home are descended from these

families that lived off the land in the Takhini, Łu Shāw Mān, Steamboat and Kusawa area in kwädāy times.

In the 19th century and likely earlier times as well, in the summer time at least, families camped at various places right on the Takhini River in order to harvest the king salmon run. The general area where the Takhini River Subdivision is now located is one such location; it was here, near the Takhini River bridge that Annie Ned (b. 1890s, deceased 1996) used to set her net (Steve Smith in Greer, 1998).

Attendees at a Takhini Community Land Planning meeting and later at the family group meeting, mentioned other traditional net set locations along the river, in the general Takhini

5. TAKHINI YESTERDAY (KÄT'Ä K'É T'Á HÎNI)

area - both upstream and downstream of the present highway bridge crossing.

One riverside fish camp location was reported by Chief Steve Smith a few years back. Chief Smith recalled being told by his mother, Irene Broeren Smith, about a salmon camp located not far from Takhini settlement:

By the island in the Takhini River, just upstream from the bridge; apparently the camp was on the west side of the river (that is, to the left of the island, as you're looking downstream)... It was a king salmon camp, occupied in early August (Steve Smith in Greer 1998).

Chief Smith reported that his mother Irene had not personally stayed at this camp, but been shown it when she had travelled through the area as a child. His mother referred to the camp as "Mundessa's camp". Mundessa, also known as the "Old Chief" was the father of Chief Jim Boss, and also Irene's great grandfather (mother's mother's father). Chief Smith understood that the fish camp was used by perhaps 20-30 people, and added that although this camp was last used in the 1880s-1890s, it is understood to have been a "long time" camp, used for many generations before Mundessa (Steve Smith in Greer 1998). The area where Mundessa's fish camp was located is flat and open, but also the site of an old burn and slumping into the river, consequently no evidence of the old camp remains according to Chief Smith.

Numerous archaeological sites, primarily represented by stone tool finds, document past use of the planning area by the ancestors. Most of the stone tool sites that have been found are ones located near the river and along the highway corridor. Stone tool sites were also documented in the 1970s, along the route identified for the Alaska Highway natural gas pipeline corridor, which parallels

the Alaska Highway west of Takhini, but east of the settlement, runs southeast through the Ibex Valley.

No traditional brush camp style house structures have been identified in the Takhini area; while we know from Elders' accounts that these types of dwellings were used here in times past, it is likely that any such evidence for these kinds of old-style structures were destroyed during the massive forest fire that swept through the Takhini valley in the 1950s.

A COMMUNITY GROWS AT TAKHINI

In traditional times, there were no firm boundary lines between the Champagne and Aishihik dän (people) and their neighbours. The lands that include the modern community of Takhini were shared with these neighbours, particularly the Ta'an Kwäch'än people with whom they had family connections.

Part of the seasonal round of CAFN people and their neighbours involved focus on salmon fishing in the summer. In the Takhini area, people moved to fishing camps along the river to catch salmon and dry them for storage. The main fishing camp in the area was called Lūr Däyèl, located at the confluence of the Takhini River and Little River, only 6 km. northeast of the community of Takhini.

As previously mentioned, traditional overland foot trails ran in different directions through the Takhini valley. The Kluane Wagon Road, built around the beginning of the 20th century, was the first through-route that directly connected the lower Takhini valley with points east and west. This new wagon route did not trigger much change or development in the area of the Takhini settlement. That would come with the development of the Alaska Highway

5. TAKHINI YESTERDAY (KÄT'Ä K'E T'Á HÎNI)

and other overland routes, such as the road south to Kusawa, that were created in the 1940s and later. These new travel routes made the area of the Takhini more accessible, both to local families, and to newcomers.

Near the present Takhini River Bridge, the remains of a highway construction camp can be seen. A bridge head reserve remains in place and remnants of the camp can likely be found scattered around the area.

Over the last three quarters of a century, from the coming of the Alaska Highway, the family of Mrs. Ned - her adult children Roddy Smith, Elijah Smith, Walter Smith, Lydia Kushniruk and Stella Jim - and their descendents have been intimately tied to the Takhini area.

Takhini only become a place with year-round residences in the 1970s, when Annie Ned moved here. She moved here, to reside full time, after fire destroyed her home at Mile 945 to the east. Mrs. Ned's Takhini home was situated close to her old fish camp site, but located east of the bridge, on the north side of the highway, on the piece of land that would become known as Settlement Land Parcel S62.

From the 1970s until Mrs. Ned's passing in 1996, many members of Mrs. Ned's extended family, included numerous grandchildren, son-in-law Ben Strand and members of the Kushniruk family lived with or near her on Parcel S62. During this same period, prior to the development of the Takhini subdivision, other members of Mrs. Ned's extended family also took up residence in the area of the Takhini River bridge crossing, either in homes they privately built, in or houses built by CAFN. This includes Walter Smith's house immediately to the west of the bridge, on the north side of the highway; and the Elijah Smith property on the east side of the bridge, on the south side of the highway.

As the modern community of Takhini grew, it became well known for its horses and many of its community members, for their horsemanship. Champagne and Aishihik Dän are thought to have first taken on horses in the 1930s, as people recognized the usefulness of horses for the late summer/fall shakat hunt, when meat was put up for the following winter. The critical role horses play in the guiding/outfitting business was also part of the story of why horses were taken on by the Champagne and Aishihik people.

The history of horses at Takhini is directly linked to Elijah Smith, who took it upon himself to get the young people of the community out on the land, and to teach the next generation bush and horse skills. This happened from the 1960s through to the 1990s.

Takhini resident Johnny Kushniruk mentioned that at one time up to 200 head of horses would range the Takhini Valley in winter. The horses would roam freely and corrals would be used only to round them up in the spring. The horses belonged to Elijah Smith, and outfitter Alex van Bibber. A number of old horse camps, dating to this period when horses were popular at Takhini, can be found throughout the planning area. The locations of these old camps were reported during community meetings and is shown on the map on page 50.

During this period, before Land Claims Settlement, residents wanting to graze their animals in the local area were forced to apply to Yukon Government Areas for grazing leases; over time, many of the grazing leases in the area were either sold into private hands, or later incorporated in Settlement Land. For example, the whole area that eventually became Settlement Land block R39 was first a grazing lease allotted to Elijah Smith. Elijah fenced off the area in order to contain his horses; remnants of the fence around this lease

5. TAKHINI YESTERDAY (KÄT'Ä K'E T'Á HÎNI)

can still be seen in areas along the highway. Margaret Jim had a grazing lease on the north side of the highway, west of the modern Takhini subdivision; Margaret's grazing lease, where Sally Jim lives today, was sold to Paddy and Stella Jim, and later incorporated in what is now the R40 block.

Rodeos were held during this period when horses were a common part of Takhini life; rodeo competitions provided an opportunity for local riders to improve and demonstrate their riding skills. There have been two rodeo grounds in the Takhini area. The first rodeo ground, located on R39 was used well in to the 1960s. The newer rodeo ground is located on Settlement Land parcel R40 was used in the 1990s; this rodeo ground was the site of the 2013 CAFN General Assembly.

Ned and Hutchi Jim (father of Annie Ned), and a relation to Hutchi Jim's second's wife's Dad, and a relation of "Old John" (Sheila Greer with Paddy and Stella Jim, 2001).

A newer site for burials is located on R-39 along a terrace between the older rodeo grounds and the house of Elijah Smith's family.

SPECIAL PLACES AND HERITAGE SITES

Burial Sites

Like any place in our territory that is well used and has been home to our people for many generations, in the Takhini area there would have been graves, the final resting places of our ancestors. Only one old gravesite has been documented here; however, it is located on the block of land south of the highway, upstream from or west of the bridge. This gravesite was reported by Elders Paddy and Stella Jim, and is understood to represent the cremated remains of a man who lived before the non-native newcomers had come into our country (Sheila Greer with Paddy and Stella Jim, 2001). Neither Paddy or Stella knew the man, as he died before their time, but they had been told of him by their people. It is thought that the man was an uncle to Paddy Smith (husband of Annie Ned), and possibly also a relation to George.



6. TAKHINI TODAY (ÄK'ĀN DZÄNU T'Á HÎNI)

This section provides a broad overview of the current state of the Takhini planning area including a summary of the biophysical environment, demographics, current land use, community services, economic potential and our community needs. Planning considerations are included in each section, as appropriate.

BIOPHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT (NĀN KAY GHÄKWJÏ K'È)

Summary

The Takhini planning area, is within the Yukon Southern Lakes Ecoregion of the Boreal Cordillera Ecozone within the Takhini River Valley of the Yukon River watershed. Water of the Takhini River flows 100km from Kusawa Lake and drains into the Yukon River.

Information in the following sections is sourced from the EcoRegions of Yukon document Southern Lakes Ecoregion section, unless otherwise noted.

Climate

Precipitation ranges from 250-300 mm annually. Monthly means are 10-20 mm from January to May and are greatest in June and July with means of 30-70 mm.

The mean annual temperature is -3°C and mean winter temperature is -25°C, with mean summer temperature of 12-15°C. The extreme temperature range is -62°C to 32°C. See Figure 12 on the following page for local winter temperatures recorded by a Takhini resident from 2012-2016.

Winds tend to be moderate, but are often strong. Gale force winds can cause structural damage. These winds are usually southerly and are associated with storms in the Gulf of Alaska. Strong northwesterly winds can occur, generally in the winter, and are associated with outbreaks of Arctic air.

Residents have said that Takhini needs its own weather station because it often varies so much from nearby communities.

Climate Change Adaptation Planning

In March 2016 CAFN completed a draft Climate Change Adaptation Plan - Community Infrastructure (CCAP-CI). The risk and vulnerability of community infrastructure including homes and community buildings, roads bridges and culverts, and water and wastewater systems were assessed and adaptation actions were identified.

Major themes identified in the Takhini community meetings for the Climate Change Adaptation Plan include:

GROUNDWATER CHANGES

- A lot of the discussion was focused on how the ground water is constantly moving and changing. Examples include small lakes drying up and back roads caving in.
- This led the conversation to the potential impact on the Takhini drinking water source and the need to know how the groundwater flows.

6. TAKHINI TODAY (ÄK'ÄN DZÄNJÜ T'Á HÎNI)

Day	JAN 2015						DEC 2013					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
1	-6	-9	-6	-29	-30	-36	-9	-15	-15	-40	-51	-51
2	0	-4	-3	-18	-15	-40	-51	-51	-51	-51	-51	-51
3	-12	-12	-15	-11	-12	-33	-32	-32	-32	-32	-32	-32
4	-22	-37	-20	-11	-20	-22	-29	-29	-29	-29	-29	-29
5	-27	-41	-8	-27	-16	-35	-32	-32	-32	-32	-32	-32
6	-30	-41	-20	-13	-16	-34	-30	-30	-30	-30	-30	-30
7	-30	-38	-8	-10	-22	-43	-34	-34	-34	-34	-34	-34
8	-15	-29	-10	-11	-5	-13	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
9	-17	-12	-9	-16	-4	-15	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
10	-18	-18	-17	-25	-5	-19	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
11	-9	-15	-16	-13	-6	-11	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
12	-11	-13	-24	-25	-7	-15	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
13	-8	-12	-30	-20	-23	-17	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
14	-13	-3	-14	-26	-5	-18	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
15	-10	-1	-2	-15	0	-6	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
16	-8	-7	+2	-24	-3	-26	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
17	-20	-2	-3	-8	-21	-38	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
18	-18	-17	+1	-17	-27	-47	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
19	-22	-12	-7	-24	-14	-29	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
20	-27	-7	-14	-19	-22	-29	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
21	-17	-6	-5	-28	-16	-24	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
22	-23	-10	-11	-25	-15	-14	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
23	-18	-1	+3	-23	-24	-13	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
24	-10	+2	+4	-40	-25	-28	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
25	-7	-7	-7	-41	-18	-20	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
26	-1	-20	-15	-20	-15	-18	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
27	0	-30	-17	-30	-30	-24	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
28	-10	-24	-19	-21	-21	-30	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
29	-15	-22	-18	-18	-14	-24	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
30	-9	-23	-17	-21	-12	-21	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43
31	-7	-22	-18	-8	-2	-22	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43	-43

Day	NOV						OCT					
	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
1	-10	-3	-8	-15	-3	-5	0	-6	-6	-6	-6	-6
2	-18	-3	-6	-15	-15	-13	+1	-13	-13	-13	-13	-13
3	-14	-11	-14	-23	-9	-2	+4	-8	-8	-8	-8	-8
4	-7	-7	-9	-13	-3	+2	-1	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2
5	-18	-19	-12	-7	-6	+5	0	+5	+5	+5	+5	+5
6	-10	-7	-7	-18	-13	+3	-7	+3	-7	+3	-7	+3
7	-18	-16	-12	-12	0	-2	-3	+7	-3	+7	-3	+7
8	-10	-15	-11	-15	+3	-4	0	-4	0	-4	0	-4
9	-8	-15	-16	-16	0	-8	+4	0	-8	+4	0	-8
10	-5	-8	-20	-12	-7	+6	-3	-1	-3	-1	-3	-1
11	-4	-17	+2	-15	+3	0	-5	-4	-5	-4	-5	-4
12	-7	-10	-8	-9	+4	-1	-9	-7	-9	-7	-9	-7
13	-10	-21	-22	-20	-9	+2	-2	-8	-2	-8	-2	-8
14	-5	-16	-10	-20	+10	+3	+5	-4	+5	-4	+5	-4
15	-9	-15	-7	-16	+1	-1	0	-7	0	-7	0	-7
16	-14	-20	-21	-15	-2	-6	-7	-3	-6	-7	-3	-6
17	-18	-18	-18	-24	-3	-5	-9	-6	-9	-6	-9	-6
18	-20	-9	-35	-28	+3	-2	+7	-9	+7	-9	+7	-9
19	-23	-8	-33	-21	-3	+6	-7	-7	+6	-7	-7	+6
20	-18	-9	-29	-27	-2	-3	+5	-8	+5	-8	+5	-8
21	+2	-8	-32	-22	-1	-7	-10	-11	-7	-10	-11	-7
22	-4	-14	-14	-29	-2	-1	-14	-23	-2	-1	-14	-23
23	-29	-9	-8	-15	0	-2	-3	-24	0	-2	-3	-24
24	-23	-16	-22	-16	-4	-4	-2	-16	-4	-4	-2	-16
25	-10	-14	-18	-18	-5	-11	-3	-14	-5	-11	-3	-14
26	-3	-14	-24	-38	-11	-4	+2	-22	-11	-4	+2	-22
27	-5	-20	-15	-36	-7	-6	-8	-24	-7	-6	-8	-24
28	-8	-25	-11	-43	-2	-9	+9	-18	-2	-9	+9	-18
29	-2	-26	-16	-47	0	-12	+5	-29	0	-12	+5	-29
30	-10	-18	-27	-45	-5	-1	-1	-33	-5	-1	-1	-33
31	-10	-18	-27	-45	-1	-6	-2	-36	-1	-6	-2	-36

Figure 12. 2012-2015 Takhini winter temperatures recorded by a Takhini resident.

- Residents were concerned about the compounding effects of an earthquake considering changing permafrost and ground dynamics.
- Residents discussed how the ground is primarily silt, which moves and is subject to erosion, though it does make flooding less of a concern.

PERMAFROST THAW

- Takhini appears to be the community with the greatest permafrost related impacts.
- Residents discussed the home that needed to be moved, the need to build homes above ground to reduce permafrost impacts and the need to understand the extent of permafrost within the community.

- Residents were concerned about the impact of permafrost thaw on drinking water
- Residents were concerned about the impact of permafrost thaw on highway and road safety, especially for commuting along the Alaska Highway.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- Residents suggested that future development should occur on other side of the highway as Takhini is not a good place to build due to ground instability
- Residents were also concerned about the potential social challenges associated with growth of the community

6. TAKHINI TODAY (ÄK'ÄN DZÄNÜ T'Á HÎNI)

- Residents discussed the impact of agriculture developments on land access and increased exposure to wind and permafrost thaw from extensive land clearing.
- Residents would like to see more permafrost studies and permafrost mapping prior to future developments.

HIGHWAY SAFETY

- There is a lot of concern about highway safety due to permafrost heaves.
- Discussed how we need to learn more efficient methods to fix the highway.

CHANGING VEGETATION

- Residents discussed how this year the berries were out 2 weeks early and during the fall someone saw a crocus and other flowers that are normally in bloom during the summer.

Thirty-six of the thirty-nine adaptation actions developed at the Climate Change Adaptation Community Workshop apply to Takhini. Ten adaptation actions can be considered or implemented through the CLUP and planning process:

- 1.2** Community Watershed Mapping – when complete will be considered in the CLUP
- 1.3** Aquifer vulnerability Mapping – when complete will be considered in the CLUP
- 1.9** Community Climate Change Experience – knowledge will be gathered through the CLUP process.
- 1.10** Community knowledge of flood histories – knowledge will be gathered through the CLUP process.

- 1.11** Flood Risk Mapping – when complete, flood risk mapping will be considered in CLUP
- 1.12** Hazards Mapping – when complete, hazard mapping will be considered in CLUP
- 1.15** Identify risks and vulnerability of Heritage Sites and structures – Information will be gathered through planning process
- 2.2** Incorporate Climate Change into CAFN policy – Climate Change will be considered in development and implementation of the CLUP.
- 5.1** Climate change implications and earthquake – when complete information will be considered in the CLUP
- 6.2** Food security for resilient communities – opportunities for improving food security will be considered in the CLUP

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The CAFN CCAP-CI will be considered in the development and implementation of this and future community land use plans.

Soils & Terrain

Soils are predominately Eutric Brunisols formed on a variety of glacial parent materials.

While much of the soil tested in the Yukon is deficient in nutrients and incapable of supporting significant agriculture, soils in the Takhini River valley are capable of supporting some agriculture (Yukon Ag Branch).

The majority of the planning area is in an area of gentle terrain with steep slopes along the banks of the Yukon River.

6. TAKHINI TODAY (ÄK'ÄN DZÄNU T'Á HÎNI)

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Soil and permafrost conditions will be taken into consideration when designating areas for future development, and site specific soil and geotechnical analysis will be required prior to any new construction project in undeveloped areas.

Hydrology

A hydrological site assessment of the planning area was completed in the fall of 2015 as part of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan - Community Infrastructure project (Hydrologic Inc., 2015). There are a couple of issues that are potentially linked to the hydrology of the area including:

- Foundation issues and differential settling of some residences
- Gutter and downspout issues have been noted in association with gutter icing due to midwinter melts and rain and roof water migrating to the foundations of some homes

No flooding issues with respect to the Takhini river were noted.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Adaptation actions to address hydrological issues include conducting a flood risk assessment for the Takhini area as well as community monitoring of existing water management infrastructure (roads, culverts, etc.). Once a flood risk assessment and assessment of existing road and drainage infrastructure has been completed it should be taken into consideration in the future review of this community land use plan. Most adaptation actions with respect to hydrology have to do with carefully considering the placement, orientation and design of new buildings

and water management infrastructure to direct runoff away from buildings and other infrastructure.

Permafrost

Takhini is within the sporadic discontinuous permafrost zone which means that 10-50% of the ground area is permanently frozen all year for at least two years (source - YGS). Gas pipeline drilling encountered permafrost in 20% of holes along the highway from Whitehorse to Haines Junction. Within the Takhini River Valley, permafrost reaches a maximum depth of 15m with mean near-surface ground temperature of -0.8 degrees celsius (Burgess et al., 1982). The active layer in mineral soil is commonly over 1.5 m thick, and so permafrost may not be identified at sites of shallow inspection.

Climate change risks with respect to melting permafrost include impacts on roads, structures and liquid waste disposal.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Adaptation actions to address permafrost risks include:

- 1.5** Develop permafrost impact inventory
- 1.6** Promote studies of Alaska Highway climate change impacts
- 1.12** Hazards Mapping
- 2.3** Apply climate change best practices and standards for new buildings.
- 3.3** Assess methods to upgrade existing buildings
- 3.4** Infrastructure upgrades

More detailed information on these adaptation actions can be found in the CAFN Climate

6. TAKHINI TODAY (ÄK'ÄN DZÄNÜ T'Á HÎNI)

Change Adaptation Plan - Community Infrastructure Report (2016). Permafrost will impact where we build in the future and the ways in which we build. This will be reflected in the land use plan in terms of what areas are designated for future development, and the different types of foundations and water and wastewater systems we can use in places where permafrost is found.

Vegetation

Vegetation in the Takhini Valley consists of white spruce with the dryer, south-facing slopes consisting of aspen and sagewort grasslands.

Forest fires have had a significant impact on vegetation in the area, particularly the 1957 burn. Regeneration of the spruce forest here has been slow and natural grasslands continue to dominate the terrain. As such, there is no commercial forest potential in the planning area (Plan Ibex).

Other variable ground cover shrubs are common in the area including shrub birch in moist depressions, willow in fen and wetlands, soapberry, lichen and moss (Ecoregions).

Wildlife

The Yukon Southern Lakes Ecoregion, and Takhini River and Ibex Valleys in particular, is important wildlife habitat with at least 50 of the 60 or more Yukon mammalian species present within the ecoregion.

An elk herd, introduced in the 1950s, with additions for genetic outcrossing in the 1990s, has survived in the Takhini River Valley and numbers about 60. Primary habitat is in the Stony Creek area, west of the planning area with travel corridors and summer range along the Takhini River. The winter range is generally

confined to areas north of the Alaska Highway (Plan Ibex).

Moose are found on the slopes of mountains south of the highway and mule deer are common on hillsides and the valley south of the highway near the Takhini River bridge. Dall sheep are found on Mt. "North Ibex", south of the planning area (Plan Ibex). The western portion of the planning area is an important wildlife travel corridor. It is important to implement measures to continue protecting these important wildlife values and corridors.

Black bear and grizzly bear are common and there is a known grizzly route through the subdivision to a river crossing location upstream on the Takhini River (Chambers, pers. Communication).

Wolves, Foxes and Coyotes are also known to frequent the area. Fur bearing animals are found throughout the eco-region and within the planning area. Most importantly, the planning area is an important place for gopher hunting and rabbit snaring for CAFN people.

The Takhini River riparian areas and adjacent ponds and marshlands are an important migration corridor for many species, including migratory birds. CAFN citizens have observed that many of the small lakes and wetlands in the area are drying up and the number of birds is decreasing. This impacts resident, occasional and migratory species of birds. The most important waterfowl habitat is within the marshlands north of the Alaska Highway near the Takhini Bridge.

Songbirds are active in spring and early summer, and leave usually in early July. The Peregrine falcon has been found in the Ibex valley area (Plan Ibex).

The Registered Trapping Concession in the area are #270, #279, #283 and #285.

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Outfitting Concessions Area #13 is Mervyn's Yukon Outfitting Ltd is located on the south side of the Alaska Highway from Klondike Highway to Kluane Lake. Outfitting Concessions Area #16 is Devil Hole Outfitters Ltd. is located south of the Alaska Highway between Kusawa Lake and Kluane National Park. Outfitting Concessions Area #17 is Northcurl Outfitters is located on the east side of Kusawa Lake in the Southern Lakes Region, south east of Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Consider wildlife corridors, the Bear Hazard Assessment Report and wildlife habitat when developing land use designations and locating future development.

Fish

The overall health of our lakes and fish populations is a high priority within CAFN communities to ensure the subsistence lifestyle and resources remains sustainable.

The Takhini River is important fish habitat and was an important food source for CAFN people. King (Chinook) salmon, lake trout, arctic grayling, longnose sucker, burbot, whitefish and pike are found in the Takhini River and Kusawa Lake system.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Ensure appropriate setbacks from riparian areas.

DEMOGRAPHICS (DÄN)

In March 2017, 102 CAFN citizens lived in Takhini. This represents 8% of the CAFN population. All CAFN citizens living in

Takhini live on Settlement Land. The population in Takhini represents 27% of all CAFN citizens who live on Settlement Land. See Figure 13, following page.

Over the next 10 years, the number of elders (age 60 years of age or older) living on Settlement Land is expected to rise by over 40% from 94 to 133. This means that by 2035, 35% of CAFN citizens living on Settlement Land will be elders.

The growing elder population and the growing younger population will put a strain on the dependency ratio for CAFN. The dependency ratio is the number of people who are reliant on the people of working age (between 20 and 59 years old). Currently, for every one person of working age, there is one person within the dependency age range. By 2035, it is forecasted that for every person of working age, there are nearly 2 people within the dependency age range.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

In planning for the future of the community, it is important to consider the demographics of the CAFN population in Takhini, as well as the demographics of CAFN as a whole, along with the factors influencing the broader demographics of the Ibex Valley and Yukon. Demographics influence the current and future land use needs.

CAFN population projections reveal that there will be fewer family members to look after the older and younger CAFN citizens and fewer taxpayers contributing to the CAFN tax base. Of further note, the majority of CAFN citizens who are of working age live and work in Whitehorse. This will place an additional strain on families and care-giving in CAFN communities (ICSP 2014).

6. TAKHINI TODAY (ÄK'ÄN DZÄNÜ T'Á HÎNI)

ON Settlement Land						Off Settlement Land		Total Yukon Pop'n
Age	Haines Jct	Canyon	Champagne	Takhini	Total	Total	Age	Total
0 - 5	14	0	1	6	21	979	0-12	145
6 - 12	19	1	1	14	35		13-23	172
13 - 18	27	1	1	15	44		24-59	665
19 - 30	46	2	5	17	70		60+	306
31 - 50	49	1	5	24	79			
51 - 59	26	1	4	8	39			
60 - 79	44	7	13	17	81			
80 +	10	2	0	1	13			
TOTAL	235	15	30	102	382	TOTAL		1288

* the other column applies to communities of Beaver Creek, Burwash, Carcross, Carmacks, Pelly, Mayo, Dawson City, Watson Lake, Ross River, Teslin

Figure 13. CAFN Population of the Yukon from CAFN data.

LIVING ON OUR LANDS (DÄNÄN KAY NÄNNJE)

General Overview

There are approximately 3984 hectares (ha) of Settlement Land in the Takhini Planning Area. The Takhini River Subdivision covers approximately 107.5 ha or 2.7% of the Settlement Land in the Takhini Planning Area.

Residential

Residential development is centered around the Takhini River Subdivision where approximately 102 citizens live in 31 homes on 43 lots. There are vacant lots available for future residential development within the existing subdivision.

There are two residences on R40, one residence and two cabins on R39, and two other residences on R10 outside of the subdivision. S342, S62 and S141 are site specifics with CAFN beneficiaries that were selected for residential purposes. S320 and S340 are site specifics without CAFN beneficiaries that were selected for their potential for future residential development.

6. TAKHINI TODAY (ÄK'ÄN DZÄNU T'Á HÎNI)

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

In locating future residential development, it is important to consider the proximity and relationship to other amenities within the planning area, and the potential impact on transportation and health indicators when creating new areas of development.

It is also important to consider the proximity to existing services such as water, wastewater, electricity and roads.

Traditional and Cultural Use

Current traditional and cultural use of the area includes heritage sites on R39, and gopher, grouse and other small game hunting and trapping.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

In areas known for traditional and cultural use development should be limited. In areas that have traditional and cultural importance where development is proposed, responsible best practices should be promoted.

Places of heritage value will be identified and considered in the planning process. Land Use designations and other land management mechanisms can be used to ensure heritage values are maintained.

It will be important to take into account that future residential development does not compromise hunting and trapping access and activities.

Maintaining access to the backcountry for CAFN citizens through CAFN Settlement Land is necessary to support traditional lifestyles. This is an important consideration because there is increasing development pressure in the Takhini Planning Area, and therefore it is necessary to work closely with the Yukon Government

to ensure that access to the backcountry is maintained.

Commercial

There is a commercial development in the Takhini Planning Area. In the original map of the Takhini Subdivision, there were 7.98 ha, or 4 lots, designated for commercial use.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

During community engagement activities citizens expressed a desire for more land for commercial development.

Industrial

In the original map of the Takhini River Subdivision there were 4.49 ha of land, or two lots designated for industrial use, though none have been developed for that purpose at this time.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

There was no indication during the planning process that more land for industrial purposes is currently desired. Citizens expressed that the industrial lots could be located elsewhere in the planning area and were not needed within the subdivision.

Recreational

There is a need for local recreational infrastructure, as the nearest services are located 50 km away in Whitehorse. In 2018, residents expressed the need for a new community hall. The current space is too small, and with the growing number of children in the community, residents would like to see more recreational

6. TAKHINI TODAY (ÄK'ÄN DZÄNÜ T'Ä HÎNI)

opportunities. Property Services completed a vision document and conceptual design for a community recreation centre for Takhini in 2014. The community provided their vision of what they would like to see included in the recreation centre and chose a central location on a lot within the Community Heart. A new Takhini community centre (Hall) opened in December 2024.

Agricultural

A large portion of the planning area has been used in the past for grazing purposes. There are no active grazing activities at this time, but the potential for these activities to occur on portions of R39 and R10 remain.

Forestry

There is no forestry potential in the planning area.

COMMUNITY SERVICES - PROVIDING FOR OUR PEOPLE (DÄN GHÄTS'ÜCH'Ï)

Community Infrastructure

Within the planning area, community services in Takhini are provided by Champagne and Aishihik First Nations Government. Yukon Government maintains the Alaska Highway that runs through the planning area. Information from the following sections is from the 2014 CAFN Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, unless otherwise noted.

TRANSPORTATION

Roads

Takhini River Subdivision is located approximately 50km from Whitehorse along the Alaska Highway. The Yukon Government

(YG) Department of Highways and Public Works services the Alaska Highway.

CAFN is responsible for maintenance of all roads on Settlement Land. In planning future development it is important to consider the associated costs of developing and maintaining road infrastructure.

Public Transportation

There is currently no scheduled public transportation for any CAFN communities,



Figure 14. Takhini water truck & residents. CAFN Photo.

however a community bus was purchased in 2013. CAFN's Community Wellness Department has recently begun offering scheduled transport service for citizens from Haines Junction to Whitehorse with stops in other CAFN communities along the way. The bus is also operated based on dedicated need, and is used for transporting residents to community events.

6. TAKHINI TODAY (ÄK'ÄN DZÄNU T'Ä HÎNI)

WATER & WASTEWATER

Takhini Subdivision is supplied with drinking water from a groundwater well. Water treatment was enhanced in 2013 with an arsenic removal system. These upgrades mean that the facility meets the Canadian Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality. Water is trucked to holding tanks at residences in the area. All homes and buildings in Takhini have individual septic systems.

The CAFN Draft Water Strategy was prepared in 2013 to establish a focused and integrated approach to management of water resources within the CAFN Traditional Territory. CAFN recognizes its collective responsibility to respect and take good care of water resources.

Many goals and actions of the water strategy can be considered, incorporated, and acted upon through the development and implementation of CAFN community and Settlement Land Plans.

POWER & COMMUNICATIONS

The Takhini River Subdivision is supplied with power through the Whitehorse Aishihik Faro (WAF) transmission lines, and a 100 Kv transformer. There is limited cellular coverage at this time. Most parcels within the planning area are serviced or serviceable from Yukon Electric power lines.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

It will be important to consider existing community services and the associated cost of developing new infrastructure for future land development activities. New development should be located adjacent to existing services whenever feasible. Along with location, it will also be important to consider whether the

electrical capacity is able to meet CAFN's current needs and future development plans.

Community Wellness & Education

The department of *Dän ts'än nännji* (People Helping People (Wellness)) provides a wide range of programs and services for the CAFN community including social assistance, individual case management, elder's fuel benefits, community care, elders programs, recreation, family health and health promotion. Programs and services are based on individual and community need, staff availability and funding.

Services offered in Takhini include: health promotion (such as foot care programming), Social Assistance, Employment Opportunities Program crew, kids programming after school programs, and day camp in the summer.

While recreational opportunities are often limited in remote communities, several activities have been offered by the CAFN *Dän ts'än nännji* Department over the last few years.

As much as programming and services have a big impact on the health and wellbeing, the natural and built environment also has a substantial impact on our mental and physical health and wellbeing. Studies show that decisions about factors such as density of communities, land-use mix, presence and size of parks, height and size of residential structures, food store location, and how roads are laid out affect people's physical health and psychological wellbeing. Health and wellbeing are important aspects of land use planning.

6. TAKHINI TODAY (ÄK'ÄN DZÄNÜ T'Á HÎNI)

Community Buildings and Amenities**MUNICIPAL HALL**

Mundessa Hall, the Takhini municipal hall includes a small community hall space, and a large garage that houses a drinking water truck, a fire truck, and water treatment rooms. When community meetings are held in Takhini, they are held in the small community hall space.

RECREATION

There is a playground and outdoor hockey rink within the subdivision. Many trails extend from the planning area.

ECONOMIC POTENTIAL: OUR PEOPLE WORKING (DÄN N-DÄSÄDLA)

In 2018, CAFN's employment rate was estimated at 17% which was significantly higher than the Yukon rate of 6.3%. There is very little economic activity in the Takhini area. There is no local industry, no commercial center, and very few local jobs. Many residents commute 50km to Whitehorse to access jobs, school, and recreation opportunities.

In 2018, the CAFN Government employed approximately 125 people, 95 of whom worked in full time positions, 25 of the overall number of positions were in Whitehorse, a handful were in Takhini and the rest were in Haines Junction. These statistics will be updated along with updates to the CLUP to reflect changes in CAFN economic potential.

CAFN has an Economic Development Plan that was drafted in 2013, in which these top five priority sectors were identified:

1. Land development for housing/home ownership
2. Electricity generation
3. Specialized schools/education programs
4. Logging/wood products
5. Mineral exploration and mining

The only sector that may have applicability to Takhini is land development for home ownership and commercial purposes.

Home ownership is related to self-reliance and has a role in economic development by relieving CAFN of the burden of providing housing and related services to citizens. A number of commercial lots are being made available for use by citizens in the planning area so that local businesses have a place to be established.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Available and suitable land is required to enable economic development opportunities and projects within the planning area. There is a desire for land for commercial use.



7. TAKHINI TOMORROW (KÀT'À T'Á HÎNI)

OUR LAND USE VISION

Dákwän Shadhäla yè Äshèyi Kwädän dá government yè, Dän shäw ghùle du n-däsäduye shj, Dän dèts'än shäw nàkutth'et du n-läts'än nàkune ni, Kwädäy dän k'è, dákeyi shj dákeyi ye dákwänje shj ghàts'ukhj nū.

We, the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations people and government, shall promote a healthy, unified and self-reliant people, while conserving and enhancing our environment and culture.

A land use vision specific to Takhini has not yet been developed. Until a Takhini-specific vision statement is developed, Land Use Designations and Land Use Objectives in Takhini will work toward fulfilling CAFN's vision statement and the CAFN government's strategic goals.

OUR LAND USE VALUES

Our land use values describe what is important to us about how we live on the land and in our community. Land-use value statements were also gathered from all previous CAFN planning exercises and grouped into themes. Six land-use values emerged: Language and Culture, Land and Identity, Addressing Climate Change, Community well-being, Connectedness and Economy.

The values have not yet been confirmed by the Takhini community. They have been used to inform the land use objectives and designation descriptions used in the Takhini CLUP.

LAND USE DESIGNATIONS

Purpose

The land use designations as shown on the map on page 47 are established to ensure that future development in CAFN communities occurs in appropriate areas and that land is developed in a way that meets community development objectives and CAFN government's strategic goals. The land use designations establish broad management objectives and provide broad guidelines on allowed uses for designated areas.

Application

The land use designations guide all land use and development decisions within planned CAFN communities. Any future zoning, land disposition, development plans, permitted development, and land management activities in any planned area should conform to the management objectives and allowed uses of the land use designation for that area.

7. TAKHINI TOMORROW (KÀT'À T'Á HÎNI)

Community Heart

The Community Heart designation applies to the core area of the Takhini community. It allows for a wide mix of community uses and includes existing community and recreation facilities.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide space for community services and facilities that balance present and future needs for physical infrastructure, human resources, and health and social services.
- Provide space for recreational, cultural, and government amenities.
- Create spaces for elders and youth to gather.
- Support healthy lifestyles.
- Create opportunities for employment and training.
- Provide a diversity of housing types considering CAFN demographics and to meet the needs of the community.
- Promote the visibility of our language and culture.
- Maintain and enhance the rural character of the community.
- Encourage development in serviced areas
- Promote sustainability (walkability, community gardens, etc.).

Nän kay ndäsäye ts'än - Commercial

The commercial designation is established on lands where commercial business activities may occur within the Takhini Planning Area.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide suitable land for CAFN owned and operated businesses.
- Promote the economic self-reliance of CAFN citizens.

- Promote and support local economic and business development opportunities.
- Encourage and expand a diversified local economy with increased employment opportunities.

Dän näkù nay - Home/House (Residential)

The residential designation applies to lands used primarily for residential use within the Takhini Planning Area.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide land to meet current and future CAFN residential needs.
- To direct development toward areas where services are already in place, or planned future residential areas.
- Provide a diversity of residential options considering CAFN demographics and to meet the current and future needs of the community.

Kwäta kwä'ą shäts'unji - Ecological Considerations

The Ecological Considerations Designation applies to riparian corridors along rivers and streams, and other areas where there is important wildlife habitat or other ecological conditions to take into consideration.

OBJECTIVES

- Protect and maintain the land and its resources for future generations.
- Promote respect and stewardship of the land in which we live.
- Protect and buffer riparian corridors and fish habitat.
- Maintain wildlife travel corridors.

7. TAKHINI TOMORROW (KÀT'À T'Á HÎNI)

- Accommodate non-consumptive uses, including sensitive recreational uses.

Kwäday Kwädän nännje uyets'unji du - Heritage Considerations

The Heritage Considerations Designation identifies places of recognized heritage significance, and strongly emphasizes the “living heritage” traditions of the Champagne and Aishihik dän. Heritage may be tangible (e.g., historic cabin or cache), or intangible in nature (e.g., locale or feature with associated traditional story, or family association), or a combination of both. Significance may be at the family, community or broader level. Wherever possible, citizens with recognized personal and family interest are encouraged to act as stewards of these special places and to continue the associated traditional uses, including teaching of relevant practices to younger generations. Respectful use is encouraged, and when required, management guidelines specific to each place may be developed.

OBJECTIVES

- Protect and maintain the land and its heritage for future generations.
- Promote respect and responsibility for the heritage places within our communities.
- Promote cultural education and cultural tourism potential.
- Respect traditional customs, including adult teachings.

Communal

The Communal Designation identifies areas of communal importance. Respectful use is encouraged, and when required, management guidelines specific to each area may be developed.

OBJECTIVES:

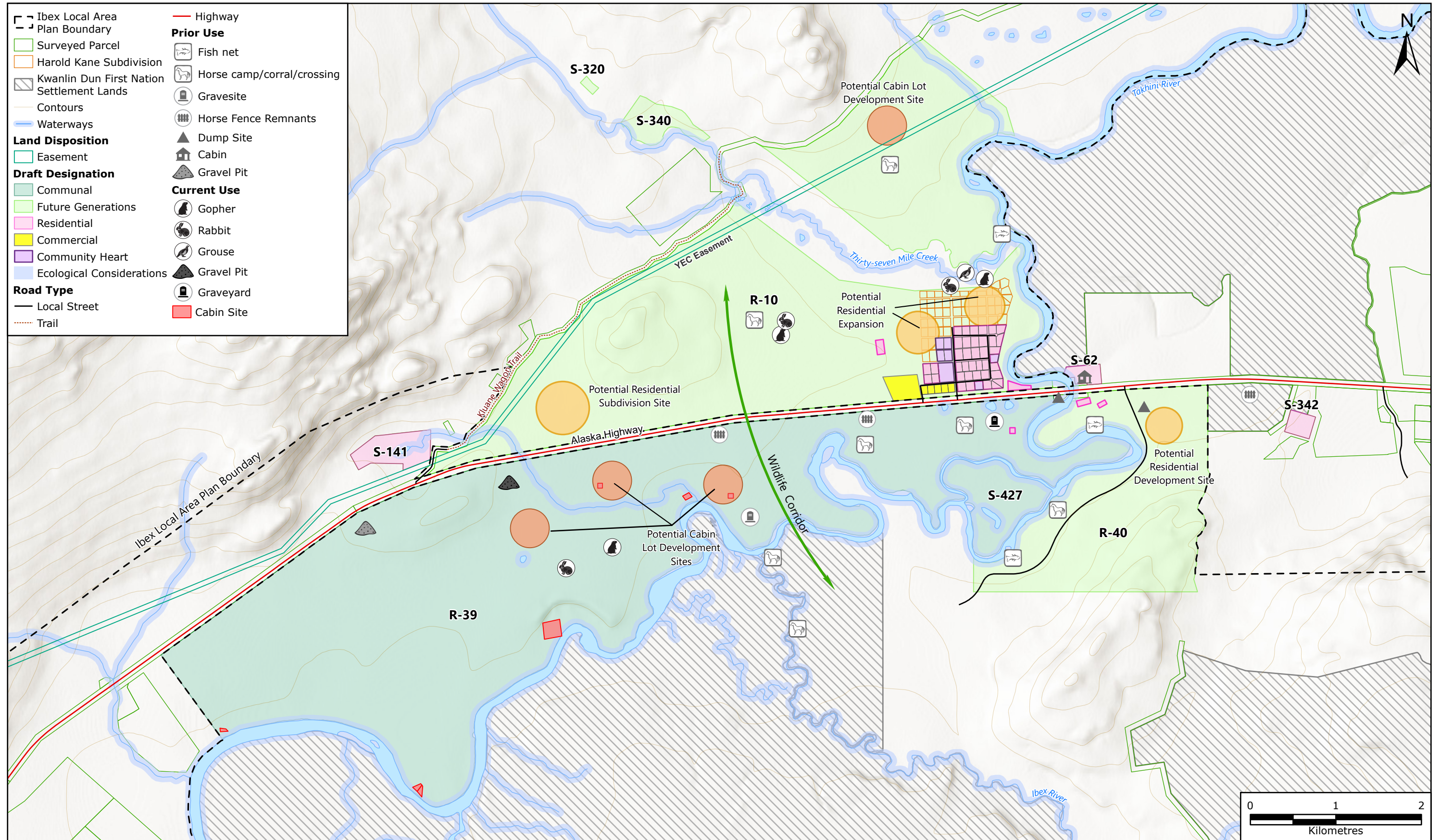
- Provide space for communal activities and community gathering.
- Provide natural space for citizens' cultural and recreational use.
- Protect and maintain the land and its heritage for future generations.
- Promote respect and responsibility for the communal places within our communities.

Dádunena dunena ghä - Our Children Tomorrow

The Future Generations designation applies to all lands where no other designation has been applied. It is similar to an Open Space designation, found in other types of community plans, in that no use is prescribed, nor prohibited. The land is simply left undeveloped until a proposed development or land use is determined. A plan amendment would be required to allow development to occur on a land designated for future generations.

OBJECTIVES

- Protect and maintain the land for future generations.
- Promote the use of the land, and access to the backcountry.
- Promote respect and responsibility for the land in which we live.
- Provide land for future generations to determine use for their needs and desires.



8.HOW DO WE GET THERE? REALISING OUR VISION

LAND DISPOSITION PROCESS & PROCEDURES

The land disposition process is currently guided by the CAFN Lands Act and Lands Policy as described on pages 18 to 21 of this plan.

We are actively reviewing the CAFN Lands Policy and related legislation. That review will inform the ways that we will implement this plan. These sections will be updated and included as policies and guidelines are completed and approved by Chief and Council.

DEVELOPMENT AND BUILDING REVIEW

There is currently a limited process in place for reviewing and managing development on CAFN Land. The Lands Act and Lands Policy generally deal with the land disposition process, and are limited in their attention to the process for managing development on CAFN Land.

Options for managing development on CAFN Land will be reviewed and included in this section once policies and guidelines have received approval from Chief and Council.

9. HAVE WE ARRIVED? LEARNING FROM OUR EXPERIENCE

LOOKING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK: MONITORING AND EVALUATION.

The Takhini CLUP is considered a living document. We will actively track our progress in meeting our vision and achieving our community development objectives. We will develop a process for tracking that progress, and reviewing and amending our plan. That process will be included in this section once it has been established.

REFERENCES

The following plans and documents have been reviewed and considered in the development of the Takhini CLUP:

CAFN Final Agreement

CAFN Self Government Agreement

CAFN Constitution

CAFN Integrated Community Sustainability Plan 2014

CAFN Economic Development Plan 2013

CAFN Draft Water Strategy 2013

Champagne-Aishihik First Nation. Champagne-Aishihik Rural Land Selections, February 1999.

Smith, C.A.S., Meikle, J.C., and Roots, C.F. (editors), 2004. Ecoregions of the Yukon Territory: Biophysical properties of Yukon landscapes. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, PARC Technical Bulletin No. 04-01, Summerland, British Columbia, 313 p.

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Yukon Government. Yukon Area Development Act in the Ibex Valley Development Area Regulations Report, Whitehorse, Yukon, September 2005.

(Yukon Ag Branch)

(Burgess et al., 1982)

(Chambers, pers. Communication).

(Hydrologic Inc., 2015).

(Yukon Geological Survey)

