



# PRIORITY PLACE IN-PERSON MEETING REPORT OCTOBER 29 & 30, 2019

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**Priority Place Initiative – Yukon South Beringia  
October 29 & 30, 2019  
Whitehorse, YT**

This document summarizes the discussions that took place during the first in-person meeting on the Priority Place Initiative in Yukon.

The purpose of the Priority Place Initiative is to have partners work collaboratively to advance an integrated conservation action initiative for Yukon South Beringia.



**The purpose of the in-person meeting was to:**

- determine objectives and vision for the Yukon South Beringia Priority Place (PP) initiative and
- build and strengthen relationships among conservation partners

**Some of the desired outcomes were to:**

- identify partners willing to work together on the PP Initiative,
- develop a prioritized list of interests, concerns, problems and solutions,
- begin creating a list of preliminary actions – activities/projects (“ready to go”), and
- begin developing guiding principles for working together.

Prior to the meeting, the group decided that in order to allow adequate time to discuss and validate a pre-generated list of issues and concerns (see pre-meeting Homework tables in Appendix B) that the agenda would be narrowly focused (Appendix A). The idea was to have a discussion that linked the issues to causes/impacts and then develop a prioritized list of solutions. Although ideas were generated and meaningful conversations took place, the final steps of developing a list of solutions did not occur.

26 participants representing over 19 organizations (Appendix C) participated in the two-day meeting.

**Next Steps:**

**Near-term individual work:** Each meeting participant to review the Issues to Solutions/Activities table in order to clean-up, add, or edit entries.

**Near-term group work:** As a group, partners will refine key activities and prioritize those activities (this will take place either by WebEx/Teleconference or if possible in-person)

**Future (December 2019 to March, 2020):** The group needs to make progress on:

- Developing a governance structure
- Defining projects for funding (consideration of prioritized short term and longer term activities)



## Context

A key step towards working together is being able to understand each other. The first in-person meeting took place in late October and one of the purposes of the meeting was to determine objectives and a vision for the Yukon South Beringia Priority Place (PP). Prior to the meeting, a “homework” exercise was created to inspire partners to think about conservation ideas, issues, concerns and solutions before coming together for the first time. The intent was to lay the foundation for an open and productive discussion at the meeting. Organizations were encouraged to have discussions within their own organizations in order to complete the table(s) in advance.

### Day 1 – October 29

On Day 1, partners partook in a Sharing Circle. They were asked to share Values, Concerns and Interests. Broadly speaking, the group expressed the value of working together, conservation, recognizing traditional ways, species at risk (SAR) and the future; and the importance of species. When speaking about concerns, they raised the concept of balance (what it means), whether or not First Nations gave permission to the process, as well as the potential to miss out on this opportunity (if we don’t participate). There was also an interest in avoiding duplication, in terms of the Dawson region land use planning exercise and acknowledgment of conflicting land uses and limitations in funding. In terms of interests, there was support for working together and increasing the awareness of Beringia, improving knowledge and incorporating traditional knowledge into programs and decisions, as well as recognizing the opportunity to work on species at risk, and the importance of intact ecosystems. The group also generated a list of sound ideas that could be viewed as solutions and /or activities on the ground:

- raise conservation as a priority – develop guiding principles, and methods to contribute
- the Priority Place Initiative (PPI) could provide metadata useful for leveraging funds that enable targeted monitoring of species and habitat that are at risk or could become more vulnerable
- outcomes from PPI - metadata – monitoring, but it depends on timing
- opportunity to shift conversation from industry is problem to industry is part of solution
- target protection and conservation, preserve intact regions in advance of significant development
- conserve wildlife and wild places through land and water management that is based on science-based solutions coupled with local knowledge
- bring a voice to science
- act responsibly towards climate change by implementing better land stewardship to help wildlife and ecosystems
- be proactive and cope with climate change
- modernize reclamation
- set aside lands that limit access - a more holistic approach (like land use planning)

Generally, participants valued the opportunity to work together around the topic of conservation.

At the meeting, concerns were raised that the PPI could slip into the realm of regional land use planning. CWS recognizes that the Dawson regional land use planning process is underway and is interested in finding opportunities to inform the Dawson process and avoid duplication. The staff of the Yukon Land Use Planning Council and the Dawson Regional Planning Commission are aware of the PP initiative and regularly participate in PP meetings.

On Day 1 of the PP meeting Tim Van Hinte, the Senior Land Use Planner for the Dawson Regional Land Use Plan (DRLUP) commented on the two processes. Tim reminded the group of the obligations to the regional planning process set out in Chapter 11 of the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA) and

acknowledged that several concurrent initiatives (e.g. the PPI and the TH’s stewardship framework project) were taking place. He recognized that the timing was not ideal but that the initiatives could either provide beneficial information to the DRLUP, contribute to a sub-regional plan or a recommendation for implementation of the DRLUP.

Tim indicated that the draft Resources Assessment Report was released and that it is a good source of information but not necessarily the only information the Commission will draw upon. He also shared that updates were being made to the mineral potential inventory for the Dawson Region.

Tim stressed that the Dawson Regional Planning Commission is not a decision making body and that they will recommend a regional land use plan to the Parties (Government of Yukon and TH). The Commission is currently updating planning information and is seeking public feedback on planning issues and resource information. Tim stressed the importance of having sound information and also spoke to activities on the land, the mineral potential, the traditional economy, and tourism on the landscape. He advised the group about upcoming public engagement sessions on November 13th (Dawson) and November 20th (Whitehorse) in addition to the next Commission meeting on December 4-5 in Dawson.

For the remainder of the day, facilitated discussions took place around the topics identified in the Issues to Solutions tables.

**Day 2 – October 30**

On Day 2, during the agenda item, Recap of Day 1, while asking the question “did we get to where we wanted?” the partners expressed concern that the goal around the overall initiative were not clear and that the discussions on the Issues Table from the previous day was too broad. A suggestion was made to facilitate a discussion around the topic of scoping and specifically around two questions:

1. What do we need to conserve?
2. What should be considered when we are identifying solutions for projects under this initiative?

The group broke into smaller groups and reconvened to generate the following information:

1) Discussion results – What do we need to conserve?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indigenous world view – more ecosystem approach</li> <li>• Beringian endemics or near endemics</li> <li>• federally- listed species at risk, (e.g. bees to bears), species ranked high conservation concern by Yukon CDC (S1-S3) and the ecosystems that support them (grasslands, tundra dunes)</li> <li>• species of interest, concern, at risk and their habitats</li> <li>• unique ecosystems including all SAR</li> <li>• the ecological integrity of the area for sake of upholding our agreements with each other</li> <li>• species of interest – too broad, idea that moose could be one of those species, don’t want to turn this into a moose management plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• eliminate species that already have management plans</li> <li>• in order to prioritize, create some sort of criteria</li> <li>• ecosystems discussion, everything is connected</li> <li>• looking at endemics and ecosystems and processes that support them and within those, focus on special ecosystems – grasslands, Beringian tundra</li> <li>• entire ecosystem</li> <li>• support the UFA, conserving the entire ecosystem</li> <li>• medicinal plants, animals, bees/insects, habitat that supports them, ecosystems that function</li> </ul>



2) Discussion results – What should be considered when we are identifying solutions for projects under this initiative?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• leveraging tools and systems in place now</li> <li>• wildlife mgmt. plans and other strategies/climate change strategy/ data constraints</li> <li>• build in adaptation and flexibility (in tools)</li> <li>• species population and dynamics can happen fast, adaptation – zoning designations may need to change to incorporate changing landscapes</li> <li>• acknowledge legislation we have</li> <li>• human interest/use in the landscape and effects on the species, habitat and individuals</li> <li>• done with traditional and western knowledge</li> <li>• don't consider those species that have management plans in place</li> <li>• fill the knowledge gap - better knowledge? People on the land? On species? Where they are found? Threats to the species? Where are various habitats?</li> <li>• increase capacity within communities and local government</li> <li>• projects or actions applicable to more than one conservation outcome</li> <li>• no regrets solution – doing this action regardless (e.g. climate change, landscape or ecosystem scale) – broader approach – multiple species</li> <li>• feasible solutions, who is responsible for seeing them through</li> <li>• make sure that we have equitable /respectful place for Indigenous knowledge/participation</li> <li>• achievable and feasible and responsible</li> <li>• baseline data as well how much money?</li> <li>• timelines?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• projects on the go/ shovel ready to build on.</li> <li>• knowledge gaps</li> <li>• who will be effected? by the conservation action and who would not benefit</li> <li>• maintaining traditional lifestyles</li> <li>• looking at new technologies, mining occurs on the landscape – reclamation</li> <li>• knowledge gaps – where our understanding do not match up, we don't have knowledge, or we don't understand, when we reclaim something do we have the same measure? Expectation?</li> <li>• projects should be SMART – specific, meaningful/motivating, achievable/ collaborative/ relevant to question 1 (endemic) time bound and time sensitive</li> <li>• collaboration with FN, given results from studies – who's input has been considered? Often Skewed. Land use. Who will it affect the most? Make sure everyone will heard. FN are good as a resource not just a legal obligation</li> <li>• human condition, anything this big, there will be unknowns, never one perfect solution</li> <li>• most answers will have more questions, trail off</li> <li>• it will never be finished</li> <li>• working living document / go back to and make changes (adaptive)</li> <li>• achievable – do ABC to get to E and more visionary approach</li> <li>• aspirational – bigger vision for this area, need to have that conversation – higher vision</li> </ul>

For the remainder of the second day, facilitated discussions took place around the remaining topics identified in the Issues to Solutions tables.

The issues were grouped into themes:

1. People - People
2. People - Land
3. People -Wildlife and Species

In some cases the group decided to either reframe the issue, merge it with another issue or delete it.

### **People-People**

This discussion focused on relationships, communication, data and implementation. The participant's comments are captured in the tables (Appendix E). Below is a snapshot of what was heard.

The participants identified the following solutions for the issue **Lack of Trust**:

- Openness
- Honesty
- Inclusivity

- Starting small
- Going slow, allowing adequate time
- Developing agreements to share information
- Following-up
- Working together / spending time on the land
- Acknowledging capacity issues
- Sharing ‘appropriate’ information among networks
- Seeking opportunities to work together
- Teaching each other
- Being accountable
- Respecting each others timelines

For the issue **Inequitable Access to Conservation engagement**, the participants identified solutions such as:

- Being flexible
- Taking a holistic view
- Allowing time for participation
- Engaging with a broader group, on their own terms
- Provide funding
- Increasing knowledge and understanding
- Acknowledging and understanding tools within Final Agreements

The participants identified the following solutions for the issue **Legal Duty to Consult**:

- “Just Do It”
- Engage and consult with individual First Nations, early, and deeply
- Acknowledge existing infringement and work tougher on joint solutions
- Recognize capacity issues
- Allow adequate time
- Collaborate to reduce demands on time
- Provide funding (training, capacity)
- Ensure the ‘right’ people are in the room

Around the issue of **Communication about Science and Indigenous Knowledge**, the participants identified solutions such as:

- Communities should drive the projects (get local knowledge from the people)
- Sit down together and tell a story
- Make information sharable (online, reports, newsletters)
- Build a user-friendly format
- Provide adequate targeted funding
- Build time into schedules to communicate (travel to communities)
- Follow-up and bring information back to the community
- Determine your audience
- Use networks to communicate (e.g. RRCs)
- Get Indigenous Knowledge (TK) and Science to speak to each other
- Be specific when requesting information or asking questions

- Decide who will coordinate and how they will share information
- Build capacity for those reviewing projects (decision-makers, public servants)

For the issue **Sustainable Development Threatens the Economy** the participants identified solutions such as:

- Work together with industry (share the land)
- Accept non-compatible values
- Balance responsible use and maintain species
- Compromise and trade-offs are essential
- Build trust with industry (build bridges)
- Improve communication
- Increase certainty and clarity for industry (data and information)
- Responsible and sustainable mining (take care of the land)
- Increase understanding of the mining process (impacts, reclamation, best practices)
- Learn from each other and listen to each other
- Set the bar and stick to it
- Don't put them out of business
- Design flexible projects (adaptive management)

### **People-Land**

This discussion focused on maintaining intact ecosystems, loss of habitat, development and human activity, cumulative effects and climate change. The participant's comments are captured in the tables (Appendix F). Below is a snapshot of what was heard.

For the issue of **Restoration of Disturbed Areas**, solutions identified are:

- Incentivize (support local economies)
- Establish thresholds
- Use native species (or allow native species to recolonize)
- Monitor and track success (develop new best practices)
- Decide what is the desirable state for restoration (end point) and for what purpose
- Amend regulations
- More stringent requirements in permits and better enforcement
- Prioritize areas for restoration efforts (e.g. roads, which could address access issues, decrease hunting pressure)
- Use as offsets

Solutions identified for the issue of **Increased Access** are:

- Understand impacts to SAR Beringian species
- Fund habitat mapping of key SAR (or fund for discovery and monitoring of SAR)
- Monitor and track caribou use (compare to baseline)
- Map all the roads
- Mitigate and control road use
- Consider other related projects (e.g. TH and YG)
- Share information among departments



For the issue of **Loss of Habitat**, solutions identified are:

- Identify which SAR Beringian species (figure out threats)
- Determine threats
- Use predictive models to find refugia
- Map wildlife movement corridors
- Analyze and prioritize threats (e.g. Climate change, agriculture)
- Obtain / purchase imagery
- Reduce our impact
- Identify high value areas (biodiversity)
- Use existing mechanisms
- Establish a network of connected areas
- Use conservation planning tools (manage access)
- Use existing or establish new guidelines and policies
- Monitor and follow up
- Support indigenous harvesting rights
- Control vehicle use
- Monitor vegetation (specific creeks, shifts in alpine)
- Carry out strategic land use planning (discriminate where development can / cannot occur / unique specific habitat)
- Establish 'reserves' (e.g. Riparian areas)
- Map wetlands or use existing information (identify the most important and developed an understanding of climate change impacts to these areas)
- Test best management practices
- Adapt TH cultural indicators into biocultural First Nations indicators and use in regulatory processes
- Establish guidelines for working around breeding and migrant birds
- Create awareness, conduct compliance monitoring (Migratory Bird (MB) and SAR)
- Identify hot spots (e.g. MB stopover sites)

Solutions identified for **contamination** include:

- Assessing risk (is this an issue?)
- Updating legislation, if needed

For the issue of **More effective management of wide ranging species** actions included:

- Study, map and monitor SAR (not just plants and insects but wide ranging species)
- Co-develop and use adaptive management frameworks
- Identify gaps in current monitoring programs
- Use a multi-scale approach (start small and use in a larger area)
- Use an ecosystem approach instead of species specific (consistent with PCA and principles of PP across Canada)

Solutions identified for the issue of **Degradation of Biodiversity** include:

- Linking the issue to recovery
- Co-developing an adaptive management framework (including cumulative effects on ecological and cultural, spiritual values)
- Funding a cumulative effects study in YSB (complimenting existing data, includes thresholds)

**Around the topic of Climate Change, action identified were:**

- Promoting and supporting connectivity (establish and link protected areas)
- Supporting the development of models (projections)
- Considering climate change impacts and interactions when zoning
- Developing a spatially explicit habitat supply model following fire (caribou and grizzly bear)
- Mapping wildlife movement corridors (incl. changing climate scenarios)
- Supporting new research to assess changes of natural disturbance regimes (wildfire, water flow)
- Looking for new tools and using the 'right' tools
- Using the precautionary principle (given uncertainty of impacts of climate change)
- Supporting on the land monitors (e.g. game guardians)
- Sharing resources (e.g. field trips, helicopters)
- Working at a larger scale (Yukon-wide)
- Leveraging existing networks (e.g. NWBLCC)



## Document created at the meeting: Sharing Circle – October 29, 2019

VALUES	
<b>Working Together</b>	inclusivity
	collaborative
	an opportunity with a diverse group
	being invited today
	Placer miners value family - working on the land
	relationships being part of conservation conversation
	exclusivity / equitability be defined for this group
	well-being - what does it all mean
	UFA - shared responsibilities, work together, we are all signatories to the UFA
<b>Conservation</b>	share - care- respect, apply to SAR
	protecting land, water, species, wildlife and traditional knowledge
	environment and species conservation
	broaden the focus beyond vertebrates
	speak for the plants and invertebrates
	protecting the land, water, air, animals and species
	intact ecosystems and ecological processes and linkages
	data - knowledge - tools - decisions
	more knowledge
	science
<b>Traditional Ways</b>	protecting land, water, species, wildlife and traditional knowledge
	protecting our traditional way of life
	protecting traditional knowledge
	traditional knowledge - western science - integrate knowledge basis
	future economic development without sacrificing heritage resources and/or traditional values
<b>Species</b>	understanding sustainable and responsible harvesting of flora and fauna
	keep special and unique species on the landscape for the future
	there could be a focus on specific, unique species
	clear understanding of what and where species of concern are located
	unique species conservation is a collective responsibility
	Responsibility towards species for which we are global stewards
	a responsibility to care for globally important species
	global stewardship
	limited money for SAR, this is an opportunity
<b>Future</b>	planning with understanding, values, and interests of yesterday, today and tomorrow
	be proactive re: climate change
	climate change resilience

<b>CONCERNS</b>	
	'balance' and what it means
	not clear that First Nations were asked and gave permission for the naming and designation of Beringia South
	have First Nations given consent for planning to occur
	Did First Nations give permission to this process?
	missing an opportunity
	conservation efforts that infringe upon rights
	balance - what does it mean? Species loss / out of balance /conservation
<b>LUP Concerns</b>	not repeating the Dawson Land Use planning process
	I don't want to have a shadow land use planning process
	how to advance this conversation while recognizing and respecting RLUP and other processes
	duplication of land use planning efforts
	another environmental policy
	how much more are we asking for?
	lack of connection between departmental initiatives
	not creating something new, support existing decision-making structures
	Peel LUP did not consider biodiversity, would like to see change for the Dawson Region LUP
	LUP may not consider species
<b>Land Use Conflict</b>	overlap with heart of industry, mining interests
	economic impacts
	all the big projects coming to the Yukon and currently in the Yukon
	big projects that are coming and that currently are here
	mined land will be reclaimed, titled land does not return, agricultural leases
	land access
	hunting pressure
	disturbance
	limited by money for fieldwork
	little money is available to prevent species from becoming SAR
	South Beringia is a unique area in Yukon which is a shared landscape with Alaska and eastern Russia - is this coordinated with AK initiatives or networks
	don't sacrifice traditions, heritage, sustainable harvesting
	incorporate yesterday, today and tomorrow
<b>INTERESTS</b>	
<b>Working Together</b>	meeting key players, organizations, people
	learn from each other
	listening to identify main concerns and opportunities
	support decision-making
	maintaining present lifestyle amidst change
	learn and understand from others

	learning from others/partners
	learn and understand where people are coming from
	understanding of PPI for RRC
	personal interest is getting to know everyone
	hope to get on the same page working together for Yukon species
	coordination with DRLUP
<b>Beringia</b>	increase awareness of Beringia (RRC)
	leverage funding for monitoring of Yukon South Beringia SAR / more people in area
	more information - biodiversity - Yukon South Beringia
	improve our knowledge and ability to maintain biodiversity in Yukon (South Beringia)
<b>Knowledge</b>	incorporate traditional knowledge into land use planning
	understand the species and landscape "where they are and why"
	traditional knowledge - decisions - programs - questions (RRC)
	knowledge - improves conservation
	loss of information - where did it go?
<b>Species at Risk</b>	I want to focus on SAR because we have an opportunity to do so in this venue in a way we can't always in other venues
	how SAR are connected to landforms, landscape evolution and geology
	value species that are not SAR
	what caused SAR to become at risk
	which SAR are in Yukon and what caused them to become at risk
	which species are at risk in the Yukon and where (what area)
	A defined method for feeding into plans and EA's that will advance protection of SAR and potentially vulnerable species
	Yukon is still data scarce and lacks information and data on many species at risk
	understand species on the landscape
<b>Ecosystems</b>	value/recognize intact ecosystems
	gain better understanding of species distributions
	celebrate intact ecosystems
	large intact areas are important
<b>IDEAS</b>	
	Raise priority of conservation as a guiding principle in planning and decision making in South Beringia
	PPI could provide metadata useful for leveraging funds that enable targeted monitoring of species and habitat that are at risk or could become more vulnerable
	outcome - metadata - monitoring timing
	shift the conversation from "industry is the problem" to "industry is part of the solution"
	protection and conservation of targeted, intact regions in advance of significant development
	conserving wildlife + wild places through land and water management that is based on science-based solutions coupled with local knowledge
	bring voice to science

	acting responsibly towards climate change by implementing better land stewardship to help wildlife and ecosystems
	cope with climate change, be proactive
	working on solutions
	modernize reclamation
	setting aside lands that limit access - a more holistic approach (LUP)



**Appendix A – AGENDA for the initial in-person Priority Place meeting****Dates:** October 29 & 30, 2019**Location:** Yukonstruct – NorthLight Innovation Hub, 2180 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Whitehorse, YT**Purpose of meeting:** Partners will work collaboratively to advance an integrated conservation action initiative for Yukon South Beringia**Purpose:**

- Determine objectives and vision for the Yukon South Beringia Priority Place (PP) initiative
- Build and strengthen relationships among conservation partners

**Desirable Outcomes:**

- Identification of **partners** willing to work together on the PP Initiative
- Prioritized list of **interests, concerns, problems and solutions**
- Start developing a list of **preliminary actions** – activities/projects (“ready to go”)
- Start working on **guiding principles** for working together

**Day 1**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Participants Lead(s)</b>
9:00 - 9:05	Opening Prayer	Copper Jack
9:05 - 9:20	Icebreaker	All
9:20 - 9:30	Setting the context: reintroduce the Priority Place initiative	Paula
9:30 - 9:40	Rules of engagement	Paula – lead
9:40 - 10:20	Sharing circle - hear about partner’s interests and values	All
10:20 -10:30	Health Break	
10:30 - 12:00	Group Exercise: Instructions (10-15 minutes) Work through grouped items (40 minutes, swap groups and hear summary) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Facilitated discussion to develop prioritized lists of issues/ concerns and causes of impacts within Yukon South Beringia (Verification Day 1)</li> <li>b. Identify possible solutions/activities to address concerns (Day 2)</li> <li>c. Identify key partners/players and Ranking (Day 2)</li> </ol>	All, Paula/ Michael – lead, plus volunteers
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch Break (on your own)	
1:00 - 1:15	Reconvene as large group – check-in	All
1:15 - 3:00	Group Exercise ( <i>continued</i> ) Breakout sessions – work for 1 hour, swap groups and hear summary	Paula/Michael – lead
3:00 - 4:00	Field trip (40 minute guided walk along the river) – wear/bring appropriate outdoor clothing, boots, toques, mitts etc.	All Syd Cannings & Lewis Rifkind – leads
4:00 - 5:00	Group Exercise ( <i>continued</i> ) -Check-in with broader group. Complete any unfinished work.	All
6:00 or 6:30	Group dinner ( <i>location to be determined</i> )	All welcome

**Day 2**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Participants Lead(s)</b>
8:30 - 8:45	Recap Day 1 – did we get to where we wanted?	Paula/Michael – lead
8:45 - 9:15	15 minute Presentation on Beringian Species (YG) 10 minutes Questions	Bruce Bennett
9:15 - 10:00	Group Exercise ( <i>continued</i> ) Break out group discussions (Solutions/Activities)	All
10:00 -10:15	Health Break	
10:15 - 12:00	Group Exercise ( <i>continued</i> ) Break out group discussions (Solutions/Activities) Work until 11:30 and swamp groups to hear summary	All
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch Break (on your own)	
1:00 - 1:10	Check-in from morning group discussions	Paula/Michael – lead
1:10 - 3:00	Group Exercise ( <i>continued</i> )  Larger group discussion (Partners and Ranking)	All
3:00 - 3:15	Health Break	
3:15 - 4:00	Wrap-up – Day 1 and Day 2	All, Paula/Michael
4:00 - 4:30	Next Steps and Closing Prayer	Paula Copper Jack

## Appendix B – Homework Exercise Guidance Document

### Yukon South Beringia Priority Place Initiative

One of the key components of the Priority Place initiative is having partners work collaboratively to advance an integrated conservation action plan for Yukon South Beringia.

A key step towards working together is being able to understand each other. Our first in-person meeting will take place in a few weeks and one of the purposes of the meeting is to determine objectives for the Yukon South Beringia Priority Place (PP).

This exercise is to inspire partners to think about conservation ideas, issues, concerns and solutions before the meeting, laying the foundation for an open and productive discussion when we meet.

With that in mind, I encourage you to have discussions within your organizations in order to complete the following table(s).

The column headings are somewhat self-explanatory but I have added a few questions and when necessary provided definitions. By using common language, we should be at the same starting point.

Another part of the meeting will be a Sharing Circle on Day 1. For that exercise, partners may want to consider their shared cultural values and social values, and how those values influence decision-making, among a group of diverse people, working together on a conservation initiative.

Please fill in Tables 1 and 2 by **Tuesday, October 15 2019**, in order to have time to share information among the partners a week prior to the meeting.

#### **Table 1: Ideas about conservation**

<p>- What does conversation mean to you/ your organization?                  - Provide a complex or simple statement or bulleted list.</p>
1)

#### **Table 2:**

Issue(s) Concern(s)	Causes	Impacts	Solutions	Partners	Ranking
1)					

#### **a) Identify issue(s)/ concern(s):**

- What do you think are current conservation issues within Yukon South Beringia PP (use either a complex or simple statement to describe the issue(s) or concern(s).)
- Try to narrow your list to the top 2 or 3 issues or concerns

#### **b) What are some of the causes of the issues/concerns?**

- For each issue or concern, list some of the causes. What is the source of the problem? Describe it.
- Think about both natural and human causes, this may help scope the list of solutions or the identification of gaps.

- Identify current perceived sources of the problem (e.g. lack of data/ certain activities on the land/ changing environments – climate change, forest fire/ lack of funding/ lack of enforcement ...).

**c) What is the impact?**

- Is it a negative impact or a positive impact?
- Is it a significant impact or not?
- Describe the impact.

**d) What are possible solutions?**

- What change would you like to see? Describe it. (e.g. additional funding – try to provide specific examples rather than simply stating ‘increase capacity’)
- Are there possible barriers to the solution?
- Are there existing solutions? (e.g. enforce existing regulations)
- How are we going to do it?
- What is the strategy to reduce the impact and improve the outcome?
- What type of behavioral change is required and by who (individual, community, society)? Provide detail.

*Note: It would be ideal if you identified solutions and potential project activities that could mitigate some of the issues or concerns, but if you are not there yet, leave it open for discussion by the group.*

**e) Which partners should be involved?**

- Are there new partners?
- Are there jurisdictional considerations?
- Who is responsible?

**f) Ranking: How important is this to you?**

- Please provide a rank (i.e. the degree or urgency in addressing each concern, for each issue outlined using a ‘High’, ‘medium’ or ‘low’)

Groups will be able to share their values during the Sharing Circle on Day 1 of the face-to-face meeting. Sharing organizational conservation values will assist participants in understanding what other participants feel is important to them.

**What are Values?**

One definition of value is ‘something (such as a principle or quality) intrinsically valuable or desirable.’ Values are a major motivating force for people because they categorize how people attach meaning, worth and importance to things. A person’s values will determine how they perceive any particular situation.

The following examples may assist you in identifying any important organizational values that may contribute towards achieving conservation outcomes within Yukon South Beringia PP.

What is critical from your organization’s perspective? What do you care about?

- Clean Air
- Clean Water
- Life Below Water (fish, invertebrates, plants etc.)
- Life on Land (animals, plants etc.)
- A healthy ecosystem
- Other?

## Appendix C – Participants List

Name	Organization
Betty Baptiste	Selkirk First Nation
Bruce Bennett	Environment Yukon, YG
Jeff Bond	Yukon Geological Survey , YG
Louise Bouvier	Dan Keyi Renewable Resources Council *
Syd Cannings	Canadian Wildlife Service, ECCC
Amber Church	Yukon Parks, YG
Chris Clarke	Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Implementation Dept.
Hillary Corley	Energy Mines and Resources, YG
Paul Fairfield	Land Policy, Yukon Government
Ian Fraser	Dawson District Renewable Resource Council
Nancy Hughes	Canadian Wildlife Service, ECCC
Trish Hume	Yukon Chamber of Mines
Copper Jack	Yukon Land Use Planning Council
Sebastian Jones	Yukon Conservation Society
Thomas Jung	Environment Yukon, YG
Jamie Kenyon	Ducks Unlimited Canada
Tyler Kuhn	Environment Yukon, YG
Jonathan Leger	Champagne and Aishihik First Nations
Krista Magee	CanNor
Laura MacKinnon	Alsek Renewable Resource Council
Chrystal Mantyka-Pringle	Wildlife Conservation Society
Ellie Marcotte	Selkirk First Nation
Emily McDougall	AFN Yukon Region *
Paula Pacholek	Canadian Wildlife Service, ECCC
Brooke Rudolph	Klondike Placer Miners' Association
Kyle Russell	Environment Yukon, YG
Mike Sutor	Fish and Wildlife, YG *
Michael Svoboda	Canadian Wildlife Service, ECCC
Rachael Thom	Kluane First Nation
Tim van Hinte	Dawson Regional Planning Commission
Mike Walton	Yukon Conservation Society
Caitlin Willier	Environment Yukon, YG

\* Unable to participate

## **Appendix D – List of Values compiled from input by some partner organizations as part of Homework Exercise**

What is critical from your organization's perspective? What do you care about?

- Clean Air
- Clean Water
- Life Below Water (fish, invertebrates, plants etc.)
- Life on Land (animals, plants etc.)
  
- **Community economic health (Dawson, Carmacks etc)**
- **Family well being**
- **Wildlife health**
- **Plant growth**
- **Habitat development through modern reclamation**
- **Spending time on the land**
- **Geology and earth sciences**
- **History (both ancient and more recent)**
- **A Stewardship ethos.**
- **\*A healthy ecosystem – which includes people as part of the ecosystem**
- **\*Species have intrinsic value and therefore rights to persist. Corollary to this is another value that humans have responsibility for the persistence of species when our actions have impact.**