

Working with Partners towards an Integrated Conservation Action Plan (ICAP) for Yukon South Beringia Priority Place



Yukon South Beringia
Priority Place Initiative

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Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Canada

YUKON SOUTH BERINGIA

Overview

The Pan-Canadian Approach

Transforming Species at Risk Conservation in Canada

Priority Places (Canada) - Milestones

Yukon South Beringia

- Why here?
- Vision and Goal
- Partners and Roles
- Timeline
- Species at Risk
- Projects (2020 & 2021)
- Adaptive management planning cycles



Yukon Podistera, *Podistera yukonensis*
Photo Credit: S. Cannings

Next Steps



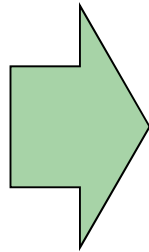
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Pan-Canadian Approach

To accelerate progress, align efforts, and guide collaboration

Status Quo Conservation

Species-based
Site-based
Opportunistic, reactive
Inconsistent frameworks,
metrics, terminologies
Costly, duplicative



Integrated Conservation

Multiple species
Ecosystem-based
Coordinated, strategic
Common frameworks, metrics, language
Cost-efficient

Shared priorities/ Shared Leadership/Indigenous Engagement

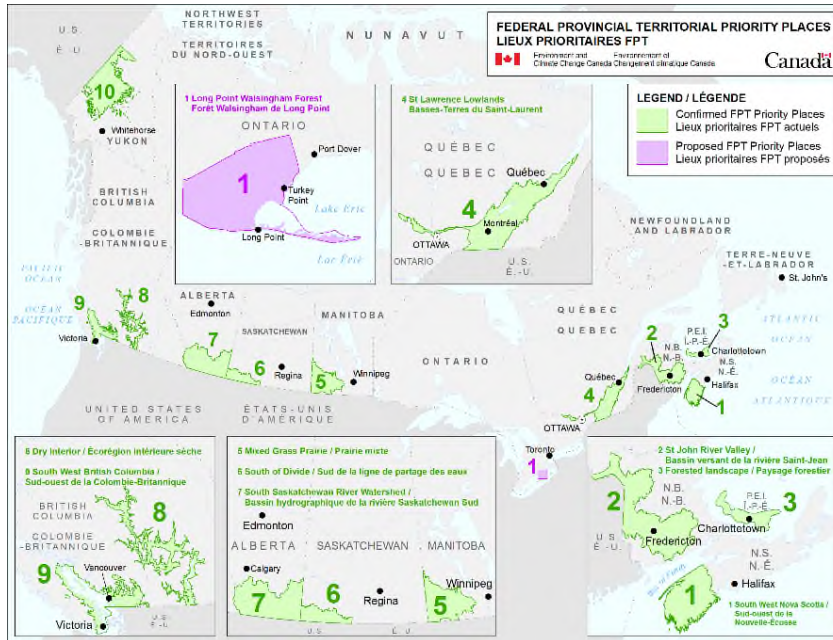


Spiked Saxifrage, *Micranthes spicatus*
Photo Credit: Syd Cannings



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Priority Places (Canada)



Milestones

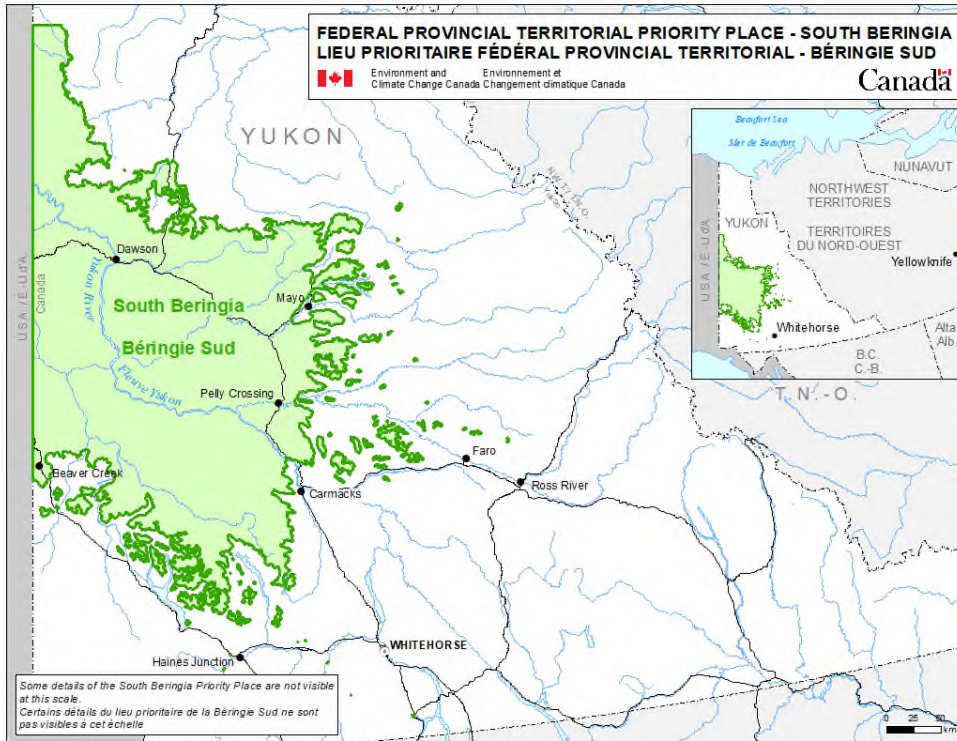
- Governance
- Engagement
- Collaborative Conservation action planning (targets, strategies and actions)
- Implementation
- Tracking and reporting (adaptive management)

A priority place is an area of high biodiversity value and concentrations of species at risk within a recognizable ecological theme. The people who live and work there see it as a distinct place with opportunities to advance conservation efforts.



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Why here?



- High biodiversity
- 26 species at risk (8 Beringian)
- Globally unique species
- Overlaps with Dawson Land Use planning
- Traditional practices, active mining and exploration, fishing, hunting and tourism activities

Opportunity to advance conservation efforts by working together (made in the Yukon)



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Vision and Goal

VISION: respect and uphold our sacred relationship with the natural world that maintains Yukon South Beringia's unique bio-cultural diversity

None of us is as smart as all of us.

—Ken Blanchard

Mission: to work with a group of partners to develop an Integrated Conservation Action Plan (ICAP) and carry out actions to improve outcomes for Species at Risk and species of interest in Yukon South Beringia



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Partners

List of core team – partners working group	
Canadian Wildlife Service ✓	Resolve (Canada)
Ducks Unlimited Canada	Wildlife Conservation Society Canada
First Nation of Na-Cho Nyak Dun ✓	Yukon Conservation Society
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation ✓	Yukon Government ✓
Natural Resources Canada	Yukon University (University of Alberta)

Other interested organizations

Alsek Renewable Resource Council *
 Assembly of First Nations - Yukon Region
 Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (Yukon) *
 Council of Yukon First Nations
 Dän Keyi Renewable Resources Council *
 Dawson District Renewable Resources Council *
 Indigenous Land Guardians (Norma Kassi)
 Klondike Placer Miners' Association *
 Yukon Chamber of Mines *
 Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board
 Yukon Land Use Planning Council*/ Dawson Regional Planning
 Commission
 Various tourism associations – Wilderness Tourism, First Nations
 Tourism Association, Klondike Visitors Association

* Denotes no longer core team working group members

Additional First Nations with overlapping territories

Champagne and Aishihik First Nations ✓

Carcross /Tagish First Nation
 Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation

Kluane First Nation ✓

Kwanlin Dün First Nation

Selkirk First Nation ✓

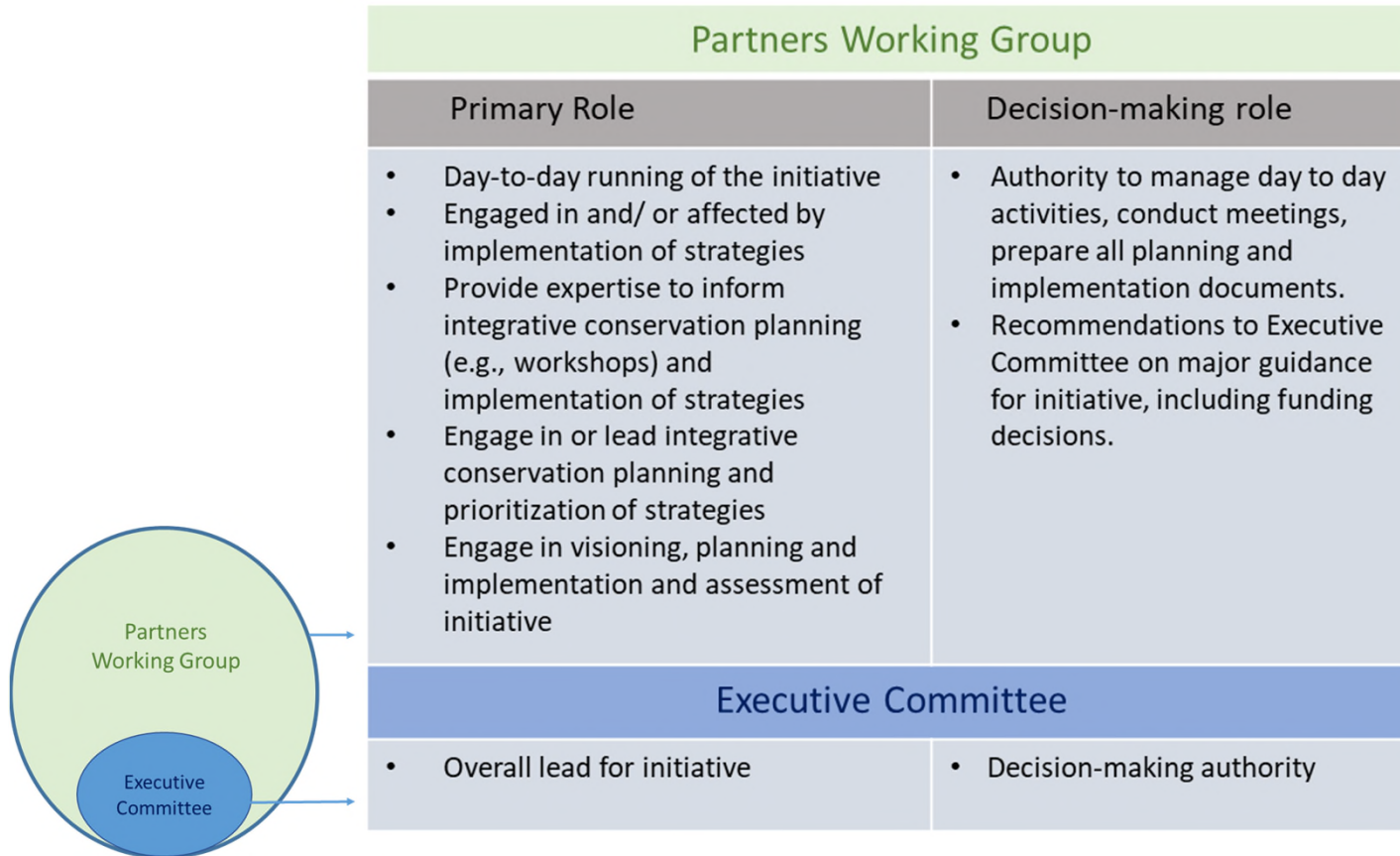
Ta'an Kwach'an Council
 White River First Nation

✓ ***Executive Committee membership***



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Roles – Working Group and Executive Committee



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Species At Risk

English name	Scientific name	Designatable Unit	COSEWIC	SARA	Beringian
Yukon Draba	<i>Draba yukonensis</i>		Endangered	No status	Yes
Little Brown Myotis	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>		Endangered	Endangered	No
Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus bohemicus</i>		Endangered	Endangered	No
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		Threatened	Threatened	No
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		Threatened	Threatened	No
Caribou	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i>	Barren-ground population	Threatened	No status	No
Baikal Sedge	<i>Carex sabulosa</i>		Special Concern	Special Concern	Yes
Spiked Saxifrage	<i>Micranthes spicatus</i>		Special Concern	Special Concern	Yes
Yukon Podistera	<i>Podistera yukonensis</i>		Special Concern	Special Concern	Yes
Yukon Buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum flavum</i>		Special Concern	No status	Yes
Bering Cisco	<i>Coregonus laurettae</i>		Special Concern	No status	Yes
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>		Special Concern	Threatened	No
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>		Special Concern	Threatened	No
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>		Special Concern	Special Concern	No
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>		Special Concern	Special Concern	No
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>		Special Concern	Special Concern	No
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>		Special Concern	No status	No
Wood Bison	<i>Bison bison athabasca</i>		Special Concern	Threatened	No
Grizzly Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	Western population	Special Concern	Special Concern	Yes
Caribou	<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>	Northern Mountain population	Special Concern	Special Concern*	Yes
Wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo</i>	Western population	Special Concern	Special Concern	No
Collared Pika	<i>Ochotona collaris</i>		Special Concern	Special Concern	Yes
Dune Tachinid Fly	<i>Germaria angustata</i>		Special Concern	Special Concern	Yes
Western Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus occidentalis mckayi</i>	<i>mckayi</i> subspecies	Special Concern	No status	Yes
Transverse Lady Beetle	<i>Coccinella transversoguttata</i>		Special Concern	No status	No
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	<i>anatum-tundrius</i> complex	Not at Risk	Special Concern	No
*Yukon herds fall within the original DU given SAR status of Special Concern; this is a different entity than that recently assessed by COSEWIC					
Color key					
invertebrates					
vertebrates					
plants					
fish					



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Funded projects

Project Title/ Description	Proposed project outcomes	Lead
Priority Places endemic meadow mapping	Creating more accurate maps to understand the distribution of this important habitat known as Beringian meadows - for South Beringian specialist, endemic species to inform conservation planning and mitigate threats	YG
Trondek Hwech'in Participation and Engagement in PPI	Increasing understanding of TH world view, stewardship values, traditional land management concepts, guiding principles, citizen engagement, increased public awareness and understanding of TK, planning approach and research designs	THFN
Nacho Nyak Dun Participation and Engagement in PPI	Sharing and incorporating TK into the project, engaging NND citizens and increasing awareness of SAR	FNNND
Addressing cumulative effects of development and climate change in the Yukon to inform effective land use planning	Baseline bird monitoring and inventory data; understanding of at-risk bird populations; recommendations for habitat conservation and/or special management areas	WCS
A decision-support process for projecting climate change and its impacts on habitat supply for species at risk	Understanding of how climate change is going to impact ecosystems and focal species; A climate adaptation plan that can be implemented through regional land use plans; a web based portal for users to use as a decision-support tool	WCS
Yukon Bioblitz	Improving our understanding of species diversity through collecting data on SAR and endemics, mobilizing citizen science, informing COSEWIC and management plans	YG
Species at Risk Conservation in the Yukon	using data gathered from camera traps to inform understanding of SAR, informing EA process and guidance for LUP	YG



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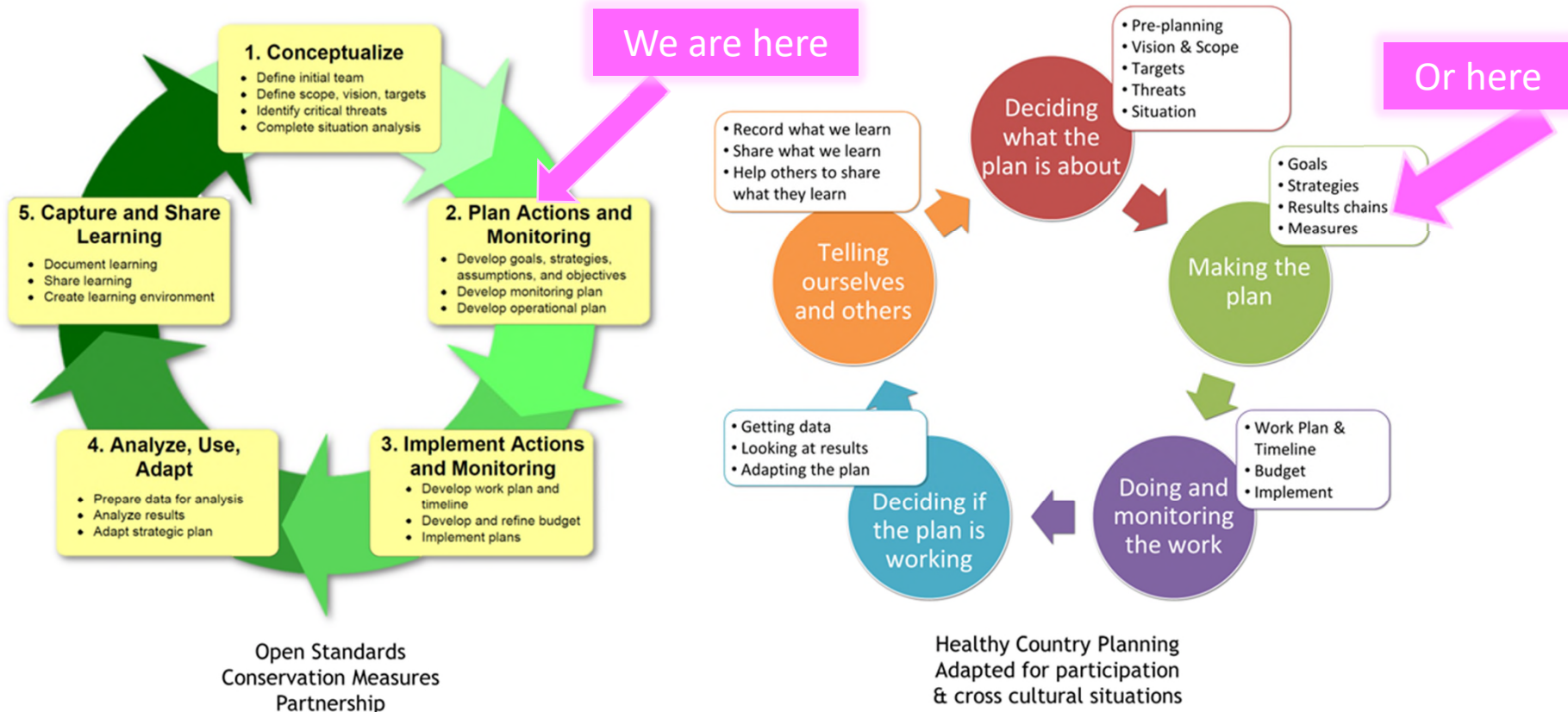
Funded projects (continued)

Project Title/ Description	Proposed project outcomes	Lead
Restoration Playbook	Habitat restoration monitoring and tools for pilot conservation credit facility	RESOLVE
Characterizing and mapping of climate-change refugia and enduring features, and co-development of a monitoring framework, to enhance habitat protection and stewardship for priority species and ecosystems in YSB	Assessment of current potential areas Maps of refugia and enduring landscape features overlay with SAR and species of interest Future opportunities for protection and stewardship	WCS
<i>Amendment - Addressing cumulative effects of development and climate change in the Yukon to inform effective land use planning</i>	<i>Publication and dissemination of results Sharing results with working group partners</i>	WCS
Carnivore species conservation in the Klondike Plateau ecoregion	Population Density for Grizzly Bears and Black Bears Pilot to determine Wolverine Density Data could contribute to conservation planning for these species (future mgmt. decisions - regulation, and mitigation)	YG
The intersection of Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science for Species at Risk and Endemics	Co-development of communications protocols Interviewing elders and youth Producing maps and biocultural indicators to contribute to conservation planning exercises with Indigenous knowledge at the forefront	Univ. of AB
Design and Implementation of a Communication Strategy	Collaborative effort of the YSB working group partners to create awareness of SAR and YSB PPI through education and outreach	YCS



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Adaptive Management Planning



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Healthy Country Planning – Conservation Standards

- Partners identified 11 Bio-cultural Values (aka Conservation Targets)
- Selected 3 priority Values to focus work: Riparian Systems, Beringian Steppe: Bluffs and Dry Meadows and Ancestral Stewardship Responsibility
- Verified and prioritized Pressures (Threats)
- Developed Situation Models for Pressures with the highest threat rating
- Identified 12 Draft SMART Goals for the 3 priority Values
- Agreed to 27 top-voted Strategies



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Next Steps

- Collaborate with YSB partners towards conservation outcomes for SAR and species of interest, through a lens of stewardship
- Continue to share information / results
- Design project ideas linked to Goals and Strategies (develop Results Chains)
- Develop a modified Integrated Conservation Action Plan (ICAP) and start to implement actions

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Màhsi' choo | Màhsi' cho | Sógá sénlá' | Másin cho | Niye sáw nîidhín | Shàw níthän |
Kwànäschis | Gùnèłchîsh | Gunàłchîsh | Tsin'jî cho | Thank you | Merci

