



2007/2008 Annual Report



Yukon Fish and Wildlife
Enhancement Trust

April 1.07 to March 31.08

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Message from the Chair

On behalf of the Trustees, it is with great pleasure that I report and summarize the 12th year of operation of the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust (the "Trust") for 2007-08. During the past twelve years, the Trust has contributed towards a wide variety of projects having a significant benefit to the continuing enhancement, restoration and protection of fish and wildlife and their habitat throughout Yukon.

As I mentioned in our last report the returns for 2007 were promising enough that the Trust elected to earmark 160k for the 2007-08 fiscal year. Just over \$120,000 was provided to 12 proponents to complete projects throughout Yukon. In this report please see a detailed list of the projects, including the amount elected to be funded and a summary for each. To view a PDF version of those final reports please visit our new website www.yfwmb.ca.

The Trust's revised investment and spending policies are formulated to provide up to 80% of the three year running average of the Trust's annual net gains from its investment portfolio. This money is put towards funding proposals and management of the Trust. For fiscal year 2008-09 the Trust is expected to spend up to 220k on funding projects and managing the Trust.

The Trust encourages proposals from communities, community groups, renewable resource councils, non-

profit groups, businesses, and individuals. The Trust Manager, Ian Pumphrey, has been busy revising its operational procedures, application guidelines and updating its investment and spending policies, and application guidelines. Ian will be happy to assist proponents with proposal preparation advice; so please feel free to contact him if you require assistance in making an application to the Trust.



The Trust is a charitable organization and is happy to accept gifts of all forms such as bequests, charitable gift annuities, publicly-traded securities, and gifts of residual interest. We are able to provide tax receipts for gifts. Some people do not realize that by planning their charitable gift, they can make "tax-smart" gifts that can significantly save them money now and when the time comes to settle their estate. Talk to your financial planner on the best approach for you or give Ian a call so he can refer you to an advisor.

In conclusion, I encourage everyone who has an interest in the well being of Yukon fish, wildlife, and their habitat for now and future generations to submit a proposal to the Trust and/or make a contribution.

Sincerely,

Shirley Ford, Trust Chair

Trust Structure

Trustees

Chapter 27 of the Umbrella Final Agreement (the “UFA”) establishes the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust (the “Trust”). The Objective of the Trust is:

“to restore, enhance and protect fish and wildlife populations and their habitat in the Yukon, so as to achieve the objectives of Chapter 16 (Fish and Wildlife) of the UFA including initiating, sponsoring, funding, directing and carrying out measures to achieve those objectives”.

The Council for Yukon First Nations, the Yukon Territorial Government and the Government of Canada contributed to the Trust pursuant to an Indenture Agreement between these parties and the first Trustees as directed by Chapter 27 of the UFA. The total Trust investment portfolio as of March 31, 2007, was approximately \$4 million. These funds are invested according to the Trust’s investment policy and only a portion of the net annual gain is used to fund Trust approved projects. Funds are allocated through a public call for proposals.

The Trust Indenture Agreement sets out the legal, financial and administrative rules and practices that the Trustees must follow. Investments are made on behalf of the Trustees through a certified investment

management firm and the Trust’s investment policy statement provides specific investment guidelines for that firm. Decisions regarding the distribution of project funding are determined by consensus among the Trustees.

Twelve trustees make up the Trust. These Trustees also act as the Board of Directors for the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board however the Trust and the Board are separate legal entities.



Trust Chair

The Board of Trustees elects the Trust Executive Committee which is made up of the Trust Chair and a minimum of two other Trustees. This committee is tasked with providing direction to the Trust and its Manager.

Trust Chair

Shirley Ford

Executive Committee

Randall Tetlich
Harry Smith
Rebecca Bradford-Andrew



Trustees

Trustees

Left row, top to bottom:

- Shirley Ford
- Randall Tetlich
- Harry Smith
- Rebecca Bradford-Andrew
- Dan McDiarmid
- Georgina Sydney

Right row, top to bottom:

- Art Johns
- Joe Johnson
- Don Hutton
- Craig Yakiwchuk
- Stan Njootli
- Jim Haney
- Terry Wilkinson

Applying to the Trust

The Board of Trustees is always interested in any project that restores, enhances, or protects Yukon fish, wildlife and their habitat. The Trust has funded a variety of projects from caribou recovery programs to education and awareness campaigns. Recipients of Trust funding have included First Nation governments, Renewable Resource Councils, researchers, non-profit organizations, independent contractors and community groups.

On the Trust's updated website, www.yfwmb.ca, you will find application forms, proposal guidelines, final report guidelines and a proposal coversheet that must accompany all applications. Interested parties can print these documents right from the webpage or download them. The timeline for proposal intake and funding allocations are listed below and on the following pages.

January-February – Call for Proposals

The official call for proposals goes out January 1 of each year and intake for proposals remains open until March 1. Proposals submitted after March 1 will not be considered.

Proposals

- Trust staff is available throughout the year to help any applicant with a proposal submission.
- Proposals should follow the application guidelines provided through our webpage. Guidelines can also be mailed, faxed, e-mailed, or picked up from the Fish and Wildlife Management Board office throughout the year.
- All applications must have a *Trust Application Cover Sheet* attached to the proposal submission.
- Proposals are not guaranteed to be funded. A technical committee shall rate and make

recommendations to the Trustees, who make final allocation decisions.

March – Technical Review

Every proposal submitted to the Enhancement Trust goes through a technical review process to ensure the project is technically viable and goals are attainable. Our technical review panel is made up of Trustees, the Trust Manager and any outside expertise that may be required.

April – Selections

Final selection is conducted in April by the Board of Trustees. Each proposal is scrutinized by the technical review committee and rated according to the objectives of the Trust. The Trustees determine which projects will receive funding for the year. Projects may receive full or partial funding and the Trustees may request some applicants to alter their proposals in order to obtain funding.

May – Funding and Monitoring

By the end of May all applicants will be sent a letter regarding the success of their application. Those who are successful must sign a contribution agreement with the Trust that includes the proposal, work plan, timeline and funding contribution. Each successful project will be monitored until the end of the project.

Final Reports and Publications

All projects that are funded by the Trust must submit a final report outlining various aspects of the project as well as demonstrating that the funding has been spent in accordance with their proposal. Final reporting guidelines can be found on the website or from the Fish and Wildlife Management Board office.



2007-08 Funded Projects

Contract Number	Proponent Organization	Project Name	Project Location	Amount Awarded
2007-08-002-C1	Selkirk Renewable Resources Council	Stewardship 2007	Lhumsaw Wetlands HPA management area near Pelly Crossing	\$ 21,000.00
2007-08-003-C2	The Carcross/Tagish First Nation	Southern Lakes Moose Educational Program	Southern Lakes area.	\$ 21,000.00
2007-08-004-C3	Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation	Restoration of Fish Habitat in the LSCFN Traditional Area	LSCFN traditional areas creeks	\$ 20,000.00
2007-08-005-C4	Teslin Renewable Resources Council	Ground-based monitoring bird book	Teslin Tlingit Traditional Territory.	\$ 1,800.00
2007-08-006-C5	Kluane First Nation	Kluane First Nation Wildlife Monitor	Within the Kluane First Nation's Core Area and, due to the Shalwak Project for this year, Sheep Mountain section.	\$ 22,520.00
2007-08-007-C6	Yukon Conservation Society	Technical Review of the draft New Yukon Placer Mining Regulatory Regime to Ensure it Protects Freshwater Fish	Yukon	\$ 4,000.00
2007-08-008-C7	Champagne and Aishahik First Nations	Fish and Wildlife Harvest Monitor	Within CAFN Traditional Territory.	\$ 10,000.00
2007-08-009-C8	Troy Hegel - Doctoral Candidate, Institute of Arctic Biology, University of Alaska	Yukon Woodland Caribou Demographic Responses to Climatic and Biophysical Features	Caribou herd ranges throughout the Yukon	\$ 11,000.00
2007-08-010-C9	Ben Schonewille - Teslin Lake Bird Banding Station.	Spring Operation of Teslin Lake Bird Banding Station.	Teslin Lake	\$ 5,000.00
2007-08-011-C10	Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board	Sharing the Land Scholarship Fund		\$ 1,000.00
2007-08-012-C11	Laberge Renewable Resources Council	Assessing possible impacts of increasing use of Off-Road Vehicles on the Dall's sheep population and their habitat on Pilot Mountain (Miners Range)	Pilot Mountain	\$ 12,000.00
2007-08-013-C12	Yukon Fish and Game Association	Turn in Poachers contribution	Yukon	\$ 1,700.00

2007-08 Project Summaries

All final reports can be viewed as PDF documents on the Trust's website – www.yfwmb.ca. The following is a summary of each project report.

2007-08-002-c1 **Selkirk RRC – Wildlife Stewardship Program Summer 2007**

The Wildlife Stewardship Summer Project of 2007 had a solid team of three students: Christina Saliba; Calvin Menzi; and Kiefer Johnnie. Christina filled the position of Lead Wildlife Steward and has a background in Health Sciences and is working toward a Wildlife Biology bachelor degree. Calvin, a student of Pelly Crossing, with experience working as a Wildlife Steward in the summer of 2006, and with a general interest in wildlife, filled the position of Wildlife Steward. Kiefer Johnnie, a student of Pelly Crossing with an interest in nature and wildlife, filled the last position of Wildlife Steward. This year's projects included the continuation of duck monitoring on Rock Island Lake, Lhutsaw Lake, Six Mile Lake, and the newest addition, Six Mile Meadow was well recorded by GPS coordinates, pictures, and detailed observations. The creeks analyzed for the river restoration and juvenile Chinook enhancement projects were Willow, Grayling, and Caribou creeks located along the Pelly Farm Road. Mica and Needlerock Creeks were hiked to observe live adult, carcasses, and redds of Chinook salmon. The Selkirk Traditional Territory was assessed for a one-week period from Faro to the Granite Canyon by boat along the Pelly River. Projects like this help provide valuable information to scientific groups and the community, while allowing students to develop outdoor and technical skills and increase their knowledge of the land and its wildlife.



2007-08-003-c2 **Carcross Tagish First Nation – Southern Lakes Moose Educational Program**

The main goals and objectives of the Southern Lakes Moose Educational Program were to get people out on the land, show we have a presence and care about our wildlife, especially moose, and educate as many people as possible about harvesting bull moose instead of cows. This program focussed on First Nations (FN), since FN members from both CTFN and KDFN have been known to harvest cows if unsuccessful in the harvest of a bull moose. One of the main objectives was to have members from CTFN and KDFN do joint patrols in the Southern Lakes area, recording as much information as possible on each patrol about wildlife and people seen or contacted; and educating them on the harvest of bulls only! Due to the unavailability of KDFN, the program was carried out mostly by CTFN members patrolling the Southern Lakes area. In conjunction with the patrols, this education program included presentations at a few public schools and students received fridge magnets showing the difference of what happens when a cow moose is harvested instead of a bull moose. On December 12 there were presentations made at the Ghuch Tla (Carcross) school. In setting up the schedule with Principal Brian Shanahan we realized it was perfect timing for some of the school students as they just did studies about moose.



2007-08-004-c3 LSCFN - Restoration of Fish Habitat in the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation Traditional Area

The project, as outlined in the final proposal to the Trust, was to continue to remove obstructions from streams that were known for fish movement and migration. Funding in the past was received from different sources for similar work within our Traditional Territory. The trapping industry in recent years has not yielded the type of payouts that many trappers have seen in the past.



As a result, beavers have become abundant in many areas. Some of the areas that have been suitable habitat for beavers have now been overrun with them. As a result there is much flooding along valleys and more importantly, there is restricted movement of fish throughout these particular areas. The crew were instructed to first walk or canoe a stream, or a significant portion of it, and identify and GPS any obstructions that were encountered. For this project, two persons were hired (Willis Allen, Danny Skookum). One crew person was instructed to be the navigator and make all decisions. The other was to operate the GPS and camera, and to take notes. Everything encountered and all activities were to be written down. (All GPS locations have been mapped and provided on 3D air photo mosaics as part of this report). The crew was then instructed to go into the areas where obstructions were found (beaver dams, log jams), and to remove them. Each morning the crew would arrive at the LSCFN administration building and discuss with the Renewable Resources Manager what was

done the day prior, and what they would do next. Expenses were recorded and given out occasionally during this time as well. The streams that were named in our original proposal were the focus of concern. This project has tried to stick to these areas as much as possible.

2007-08-005-c4 Teslin RRC – Ground-based Monitoring Handbook

The Teslin Renewable Resources Council developed a Ground Based Monitoring Hand Book which could assist the planning partners (Environment Yukon and Teslin Tlingit Council) to acquire information on what is happening out in the bush. Data collected using the book will be used to help make decisions regarding habitat and wildlife populations within the Traditional Territory. The Council and its planning partners met on a number of occasions to determine how the booklets would be laid out and what type of information and questions would go into the booklet. We wanted to design the books to be practical and easy for the participants to carry on their persons. The book will be used to collect ground based data observed by persons who spend a lot of time out on the land and the data collected would be limited to the Teslin Tlingit Traditional Territory.

2007-08-006-c5 Kluane First Nation – Wildlife Monitor

During the project year the following activities were completed:

- Field work on the ground – seasonal
- Aircraft survey with Parks Canada – Sheep – Sheep Mountain to Congdon Creek to Boulder Creek (June 2007)
- On and Off Road Patrols – records of sightings and activities
- Training – Parks – the only training component would be the aircraft survey and they would teach the proper way of spotting animals
- Conduct Harvest Questionnaires – there is **Reported Harvest** on the patrol form summary and we have some questionnaires that were filled out by the hunters who requested permission to hunt in KFN's Traditional Territory

- Ride Along Component – Parks – the only opportunity was the Aircraft survey
- Investigate reports of harvesting within the corridor when the Wildlife Monitor is out on patrol.

The activities contributed to our goals and objectives: by allowing us to gather data while patrolling the land; to help us in our future management regime; and provide us with information and harvest data to share with the Dan Keyi Renewable Resource Council, Parks Canada and YTG – Department of Environment Office in Haines Junction. The Wildlife Monitor position is very important to the First Nation because it gives us the presence on the land. The Lands, Resources and Heritage Department staff are not on the land all the time due to our busy schedules.

2007-08-007-c6 YCS – Technical Review of Draft New Yukon Placer Mining Regulatory Regime to Ensure It Protects Freshwater Fish

Golder Associates Ltd. (Golder) has been retained by the Yukon Conservation Society (YCS) to undertake an independent review of the proposed new 2007 regulatory regime for the Yukon placer mining industry. The management and implementation of the proposed new regulatory regime is being coordinated by the Yukon Placer Secretariat, a joint partnership between Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), the Yukon Government and the Council of Yukon First Nations.



Placer mining for gold has been carried out along the banks of Yukon's rivers and streams for more than a century. Approximately 2.5% to 5% of the watercourses in the Yukon have been affected (Miles and Associates 2003). Until recently, little or no focus has been devoted to the conservation, protection and restoration of fish habitat associated with these mining activities (Birtwell et al. 2005). There is a legacy of impacted and destroyed fish habitat across the Yukon which can be associated to placer mining activities (c.f. Miles and Associates 2003, Birtwell et al. 2005, Miles and Chilibeck 2007).

The proposed new regulatory regime represents a progressive shift in the way the Yukon placer mining industry has been managed. Compared to the existing Yukon Placer Authorization (YPA) (1993), the proposed new regulatory regime has the following features

- Watershed based authorizations as a goal of the new regime. Individual site authorizations will still be available under certain conditions;
- Improved site and stream classification system based upon its habitat quality, sensitivity, productive capacity, and fish and fisheries suitability;
- Adaptive and risk management frameworks, as management tools to meet the new regime's objectives;
- Four distinct monitoring programs to track environmental compliance, aquatic health, water quality and industry economic health;
- Sediment discharge and turbidity standards based upon "end of pipe" as well as in-stream water quality / sediment objectives; and
- Recognition of the function and value of all fish and aquatic habitats and resources.

There is a need for improved definitions of components of the regime relevant to both anadromous salmon, salmonids and resident fish including:

- Site Authorizations Details;
- Framework and Logic Model for the Watershed Sensitivity and Fish Habitat Suitability Classification;
- Development of Quality Assurance (QA) / Quality Control (QC) Procedures for Monitoring Protocols;
- Development of a Reference Condition Approach Error Policy;
- Inclusion of "Sustainable Mining" as a Guiding Principle in the Regulatory Regime;

- Development of an Incremental Cost of Production Model;
- Revisions to the Guidelines for the Design, Construction, and Reclamation of Yukon Placer Mines;
- Annual review of the Risk Assessment Scoring System for Diversion Channels, In-Stream Works, and Water Acquisition;
- Importance of the Management Decision Process to the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat; and
- Adaptive Management Framework:

The new regulatory regime for placer mining in the Yukon can benefit from the parallel implementation of DFO's Wild Salmon Policy (WSP) and principles of "no net loss" for protection of salmon and resident fish habitats. Key factors for the successful implementation of the proposed new regulatory regime in the Yukon placer mining industry will include:

- Strong monitoring and regulatory commitments by DFO and the Yukon Government;
- Industry commitment to working within the guidelines for the design and construction of placer mines and to compensation and monitoring requirements within Watershed Authorizations;
- Commitment by DFO for funding to evaluate the effectiveness of habitat compensation and monitoring programs in the Yukon placer mining industry. These evaluation would provide valuable insights into improving "Best Management Practices" and mine closure practices to minimize the risk to long-term impacts to fish and fish habitat; and
- Protection of resident freshwater fish under the new regulatory regime (Watershed Sensitivity and Fish Habitat Suitability Classification Methodology) will require classification and identification of "areas of special concern" and level of habitat suitability relevant for these fish species and their habitats, for example Arctic grayling. In many cases, these classes of habitats provide high levels suitability for both anadromous salmon and non-anadromous resident fish species, across multiple life stages and seasonal conditions. Definition of suitable habitats for both salmon and resident fish species will require compilation and integration of available information on the life history based habitat use and production.

2007-08-008-c7 Champaigne and Aishihik First Nations – Fish and Wildlife Harvest Monitor 2007

The Fish and Wildlife Harvest Monitor (FWHM) reports directly to the Renewable Resource Manager and Officer, and is responsible for collecting all information on fish and wildlife harvest and other observations within CAFN Traditional Territory.

On September 1st, 1999, CAFN started a pilot project with YTG Renewable Resources to conduct a ground-based moose harvest monitoring. CAFN hired the Aishihik Wildlife Monitor to record all harvesting activities and other wildlife observations within CAFN Traditional Territory in the Yukon. In the following years, the monitoring activities expanded to collecting harvest numbers and other wildlife observations from the British Columbia portion of our traditional territory. The objective was to determine the amount of moose and other wildlife that were being harvested by our citizens and other Yukon First Nations within our traditional territory. Results will be used by the CAFN government to assist with the future management and protection of our local wildlife resources. The collection and use of this information ensures strict confidentiality to our subsistence hunters. They were only asked to identify species, sex, date and location of a kill.

From July 25 to August 5, 2007 the FWHM assisted with the Aishihik Lake Whitefish Monitoring program initiated by DFO and Yukon Energy Corporation (YEC). YEC has a long-term monitoring program with the goal of protecting the lake whitefish population in Canyon, Sekulmun and Aishihik Lakes and ensuring that no significant adverse effect to the lake whitefish fishery results from the operation of the Aishihik Generating Station. The FWHM assisted in the collection and sampling protocol, which included measuring length, weight, sex, maturity, aging structures (otoliths) retained from all caught lake whitefish and other species. Data will be archived and stomach contents preserved. These surveys are intended to ensure that the lake whitefish populations on these lakes continue to be healthy and sustainable.

From July 25, 2007 to March 31, 2008 the AFWM maintained a presence on the land recording and observing all

harvesting activities within CAFN Traditional Territory, both within the Yukon and British Columbia portions. Once again the ground-based moose monitoring was successful in recording the moose harvest within the Yukon and British Columbia portions from August 2007 to March 2008. The moose harvested from the British Columbia section of CAFN Traditional Territory was recorded into the overall harvest numbers. The caribou harvest between August and October 2007 shows that CAFN's citizens are taking the necessary steps to ensure compliance for our educational message of Bull Only Harvest.

2007-08-009-c8 Troy Hegel – Yukon Woodland Caribou Demographic Responses to Climatic and Biophysical Features

We examined how climate during different seasons influenced recruitment rates of Yukon Woodland Caribou from a number of different herds. We anticipated that climatic conditions during calving (spring) would have the greatest effect on recruitment because of how factors such as snowdepth influence predation on newborn calves. Interestingly, we found that climatic conditions in the year prior to birth had the strongest effect on recruitment rates. Climatic conditions prior to the rut can influence female body condition which can reduce her chance of either successfully giving birth and/or reduce the survival of her calf. This does not mean that climatic conditions during spring are not important; they do have a statistically significant effect on recruitment. Rather, statistically, the influence of climate prior to the rut explained more of the variation in observed recruitment patterns better than springtime conditions. These results suggest that female body condition is influenced sufficiently by pre-rut climate and it is influencing recruitment rates. That climate at this time plays such a strong role in recruitment is somewhat surprising because of the high rate of calf losses shortly after birth. This means female caribou in the Yukon should be in good body condition by the rut because most do not have to provide resources for calves. Our best model of how climate influences recruitment patterns included climate from the winter prior to the rut and climate in the fall season during the rut. Poor winter conditions prior to the rut may mean the females are exiting winter in poor condition and are unable to restore their body reserves sufficiently to successfully reproduce. Good fall conditions mean that the time available for females to restore their body reserves is longer, thus enabling them to successfully reproduce. We found no effect of climatic conditions 2 years prior to the rut, which would have suggested that there is a cumulative effect of climate on reproduction which could indicate limiting forage conditions. We also investigated the effect of predator removal on the influence of climate on recruitment. From a management perspective these results provide information which may assist in forecasting potential effects of future climatic conditions on caribou recruitment. They also suggest the importance of summer foraging conditions, and hence summer ranges, for caribou recruitment. While winter range is often viewed as a critical factor for caribou population dynamics, summer range may also be very important. These results may also be useful for managers working to predict potential effects of changing climate on caribou populations as it specifies how different seasons affect recruitment.

2007-08-0010-c9 Ben Schonewille – Teslin Lake Bird Banding Station

The Teslin Lake Bird Banding Station has been in operation since 2005 with financial support coming from numerous agencies including the Teslin Renewable Resources Council, Environment Canada (CWS), Yukon Environment and the Yukon Bird Club. For the 2007 spring season, a sizable financial contribution was made by the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust.

The objectives of the banding station are as follows:

- Collect baseline data pertaining to bird migration in the Teslin region.
- Provide a unique educational opportunity for community members and tourists of all ages.
- Gain a better understanding of the avifauna of the Yukon in general.



The banding station serves as a method of carrying out research on birds which is shared through an international database. This is due to the possibility of a banded bird being recaptured across international borders. Many of the birds banded at Teslin



Lake are highly migratory spending the winter months as far south as Central and South America. The station also plays a role in education as a place where the public, volunteers and students can take part in a unique, community based research project.

During the spring season, the station was operated for 25 days from April 22 to June 2. Over this time period, 1,267 birds of 43 species were banded and 91 species were observed. The project involved the collection of data pertaining to bird migration through the Teslin region. This was done using the capture of birds (and banding) in addition to the observation of all birds during each day of operation. The ultimate goal of the project activities were to calculate an “estimated daily total” for each species during each day.



In addition to collecting the above data, the station was an excellent location for all members of the public to visit the station and learn about birds and bird migration as well as scientific data collection in general

(see section 3.3 for a breakdown of visitor hours tabulated at the station). The activities undertaken by this project directly achieved the goals identified. The data collected by this project serves as baseline data on bird distribution and migration in the Teslin region and will be valuable for comparisons to future years of operation of the station. Through the collection of such baseline data, it is hoped that future land use practices will be able to be modified or adjusted to accommodate songbirds and/or their habitats as possible. Additionally, gaining a better understanding of bird distribution in the Yukon is crucial in making sound management decisions which may affect particular bird songbird species.

This project followed the objectives as initially planned and did not have any unexpected positive or negative effects on the welfare of fish, wildlife and/or their habitat.

2007-08-0011-c10 YFWMB – Sharing the Land Scholarship Fund

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (YFWMB) successfully awarded this year’s Sharing the Land Scholarship in October and our recipient was Alexandra Morrison-Rusas of Whitehorse. The process for deciding the successful applicant included advertising the scholarship in the local gazettes with the following message:

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board is proud to offer a scholarship to a student interesting in continuing the connection between people and the land through their educational goals. Each year, \$1000 will be awarded to a Yukon resident pursuing post-secondary training. We request applicants to submit a two-page essay outlining what significance the Yukon’s wilderness holds for you and what you hope to do to continue sharing the land with fish and wildlife in the future through your educational goals. For example, you may wish to pursue a Science degree so you can conduct wildlife research. Or perhaps you may want to obtain an Arts degree and write poetry inspired by landscapes of the north. Maybe you are interested in a Business degree to develop new techniques in recycling.



The Board considered this to be our finest year of applicant's and we are certain that the spirit of the Sharing the Land Scholarship has provided some incentive and positive reinforcement to students who plan to maintain their connection to the land through their educational goals.

2007-08-0012-c11 LRRC – Assessing possible impacts of increasing use of off-road vehicles on the Dall's sheep population and their habitat on Pilot Mountain (Miners Range)

The Laberge Renewable Resources Council, in partnership with the Ta'an Kwach'an Council and Environment Yukon, and with funding support from the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust Fund, undertook studies on the potential impacts of human activity on Sheep and other wildlife in the Miners range (Pilot Mountain, Flat Mountain) in South Central Yukon. This range of mountains (GMS 5-50) is situated to the West of the City of Whitehorse and is bounded by access routes including the North Klondike Highway, the Takhini River Road and the Dawson Trail. Therefore the mountain block has been accessible for many decades. Concern over the growing use of Off-Road Vehicles (ORV's) including 4 wheelers and snowmobiles (Loeks 2000) resulted in this range being identified as a possible test case to assess the potential for adverse effects from the use of these vehicles for recreation and hunting of a small local sheep population. This report documents current status of the sheep population and the studies conducted in 2007/2008 for this area. Overall, the three partners contributed a total of \$27,600 to the \$12,000 funding support from the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust Fund. With the exception of the ORV trail monitoring, not completed due to equipment problems, the balance of the studies were accomplished as per the proposal outline.



A reconnaissance of the trails and sheep on Pilot Mountain were flown by helicopter on July 14, 2007. The purpose of this survey was to document existing trails, assess possible camp locations for a future ground based assessment and to evaluate sheep distribution and numbers over the range and within easy observation distance for the proposed ground camp. A number of trails were identified in the Pilot Mountain range and a camp location identified at the terminus of one ATV trail. This flight has also documented locations of 175 sheep including 32 rams, 117 ewes and 26 lambs. This count was within historical survey results from surveys dating back to the 1970's.

A ground reconnaissance was conducted between July 28th and August 6th. A crew of three personnel used ATVs to access the main sheep range in central Pilot Mountain to evaluate sheep behaviour and distribution relative to one access route. A second crew arrived with a supply flight into the camp. Observations were made on the distribution and composition of the sheep groups accessed from a central camp and from daily hikes into the surrounding alpine areas. The best total count of the range from an earlier aerial survey was 175 sheep. Repeated observations of a subset of these sheep from the ground resulted in classification of 68% nursery sheep, 12 % lambs, and 19 % rams. It is noteworthy that of the rams classified, only 5% or three animals equaled or exceeded the legal hunting size according to the YTG hunting regulations. Behavioural observations on 12 different groups for 19 hours over four days found that sheep spent 32 % of their time bedded, 30 % feeding, 19 % walking and 19 % looking. There were too few human encounters to assess whether human activity altered these behaviours.

Local knowledge was gathered through a public open house held in the Hootalinqua Fire Hall on October 25, 2007. This was followed by a series of person to person local knowledge interviews. Information provided by the public with experience in this area was gathered as both written interviews and as mapped polygons. A dozen residents

contributed information directly onto maps at the open house and 38 of an additional 50 contacted agreed to be interviewed. An additional six people were approached for specific information, when this report was written. We surveyed a representative cross section of opinions including pilots, outfitters, guides, hunters, trappers, wilderness guides, hinterland hikers, and people hunting with horses, and residents who watch and feed birds or note wildlife sightings when commuting to work. This represented a significant sample considering that GMZ 5-50 is a very small area of the Yukon. The product of these surveys were tabulated and mapped. Recommendations from the public were also included in the final report.

Sheep historical use and ecology was assessed based on local knowledge, data in Environment Yukon sheep harvest management files. Between 1975 and 2007, twelve separate sheep surveys have been carried out, though fewer occurred in the later years. The average estimated population has been about 150 sheep and currently estimated to be at least 175 sheep. Concern is expressed over the low count of rams and their under-representation relative to nursery sheep. Current levels are estimated 27.4% with the longer term historical levels nearer 30%. These are contrasted with other populations were ratios range between 49 and 66 rams per 100 nursery sheep. Sheep habitat use, distribution, horn growth and hunting history are reviewed.

Recommendations include correction of the skewed ratio through limiting pressure on existing legal sheep, repeated sheep survey in 2008 and an evaluation of key habitat use by these sheep.

2007-08-0013-c12 YFGA – Turn in Poachers Contribution

The Turn In Poachers/Turn In Polluters program has proven successful numerous times since it's inception. It's difficult to measure the deterrent value of such a program; however it is clearly a positive, proactive way of informing and educating the public about concerns many Yukoners share about protecting our natural resources.

The Trust contributes to expenses incurred in the previous year. Summary of 2006/07 TIP calls:

Problem Wildlife	31	(up 5 from 2005/06)
Enforcement	33	(up 7 from 2005/06)
Road Kill	13	(down 1 from 2005/06)
Wildlife Management	10	(up 4 from 2005/06)
Other	11	(down 2 from 2005/2006)

Donating to the Trust

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust is a registered charitable organization. All donations receive a charitable tax receipt and donors will receive correspondence regarding the funded projects. We encourage all who have an interest in the protection, enhancement and restoration of fish, wildlife or habitat for future generations to contribute what they can. We encourage planned gifts and corporate donations.

*To make a donation
to the Yukon Fish & Wildlife
Enhancement Trust please
contact our office
or mail donations to:*

The Fish & Wildlife
Enhancement Trust
Box 31102
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Financial Statements

M. McKay & Associates Ltd.
Certified General Accountant

AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust

I have audited the statement of financial position of Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust as at March 31, 2008 and the statements of operations, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of The organizations management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at March 31, 2008 and the results of its operation and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

M. McKay & Associates
M. McKay & Associates
Certified General Accountant

Whitehorse, Yukon
October 17, 2008

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
March 31, 2008

		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
ASSETS			
CURRENT			
Cash	\$ 24,955	\$ 7,564	
Accounts receivable	2,000	-	
GST receivable	<u>2,499</u>	<u>1,740</u>	
	29,454	9,304	
INVESTMENTS (Note 4, 5)	<u>3,728,055</u>	<u>3,787,235</u>	
	<u>\$ 3,757,509</u>	<u>\$ 3,796,539</u>	
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ <u>11,614</u>	\$ <u>9,294</u>	
	11,614	9,294	
SHARING THE LAND SCHOLARSHIP (Note 7)	<u>11,804</u>	<u>12,804</u>	
	<u>23,418</u>	<u>22,098</u>	
NET ASSETS			
Unrestricted net assets	<u>3,734,091</u>	<u>3,774,441</u>	
	<u>\$ 3,757,509</u>	<u>\$ 3,796,539</u>	

Approved by the Trustees:

 , Trustee

 , Trustee

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the year ended March 31, 2008


NET ASSET	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2008</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>2007</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 3,774,441	\$ 3,774,441	\$ 3,669,207
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses	<u>(40,350)</u>	<u>(40,350)</u>	<u>105,234</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 3,734,091</u>	<u>\$ 3,734,091</u>	<u>\$ 3,774,441</u>

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
For the year ended March 31, 2008

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
REVENUE		
Dividend income	\$ 115,485	\$ 77,225
Gain (loss) on sale of investments	(3,288)	22,155
Interest income	68,448	72,821
Other revenue	<u>-</u>	<u>227</u>
	<u>180,645</u>	<u>172,428</u>
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Advertising and promotion	1,104	1,543
Annual report	-	438
Bank charges	69	133
Calendar	1,000	1,000
Conferences and seminars	2,890	-
Consulting fees	37,506	17,258
Investment management fees	41,059	35,164
Memberships and subscriptions	282	-
Office and general	1,580	257
Professional fees	6,563	4,629
Projects (Note 6)	119,820	5,600
Telephone	910	435
Training	1,179	-
Travel	<u>7,033</u>	<u>737</u>
	<u>220,995</u>	<u>67,194</u>
(DEFICIENCY) EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ (40,350)</u>	<u>\$ 105,234</u>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the year ended March 31, 2008

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
(Deficiency) excess of revenue over expenses	\$ (40,350)	\$ 105,234
Net change in non-cash working capital balances related to operations		
Accounts receivables	(2,000)	131
Due from Yukon Fish & Wildlife Mgmt. Board	-	29,490
GST receivable	(758)	(580)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	2,319	(3,334)
Scholarship Yukon Fish & Wildlife Mgmt. Board	<u>(1,000)</u>	<u>(15,803)</u>
Cash flow from operating activities	<u>(41,789)</u>	<u>115,138</u>
 INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
	<u>59,180</u>	<u>(133,412)</u>
 INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	17,391	(18,274)
CASH, beginning of year	<u>7,564</u>	<u>25,838</u>
 CASH, end of year	\$ <u>24,955</u>	\$ <u>7,564</u>



NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
March 31, 2008

1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust was established in February 1995 under the provisions of the of the Umbrella Final Agreement between the Council of Yukon First Nations, the Government of Canada, and the Yukon Territorial Government. The objective of the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust is to restore, enhance and protect fish and wildlife populations and their habitat, in Yukon, so as to achieve the objectives of Chapter 16 of the Umbrella Final Agreement. The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust is presently registered as a charitable organization for purposes of granting receipts to persons making gifts to the trust.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- a) Revenue Recognition - Revenue from contributions and investments are recorded on an accrual basis.
- b) The organization recognizes contributions in accordance with the deferral method. Deferred revenue represents funding received for which the expenditures have not yet been incurred. The revenue will be recognized when the corresponding expenditures are incurred.
- c) Volunteers contribute many hours per year to assist the organization in carrying out its service delivery activities. Because of the difficulty of determining their fair value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.
- d) The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those reported.

3. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The organizations's financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, investments, and accounts payable. Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that there are no significant currency, credit or interest risks arising from these financial instruments.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
March 31, 2008

4. MARKETABLE SECURITIES AND INVESTMENTS

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Cash and equivalents	\$ 146,231	\$ 63,209
Canadian Bonds	1,577,883	1,633,823
Mutual Funds	130,788	443,223
Canadian Equities	991,716	993,687
U.S. Equities	375,499	327,879
International Equities	<u>505,938</u>	<u>325,414</u>
	<u>\$ 3,728,055</u>	<u>\$ 3,787,235</u>
 Total fair value of Marketable Securities and Investments	 <u>\$ 3,817,895</u>	 <u>\$ 4,142,547</u>

Recent events in the financial markets will have an effect on the fair value of the marketable securities and investments.

5. INVESTMENT ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Opening Balance	\$ 3,787,235	\$ 3,653,824
Income from Investments	180,645	172,201
Management fees	(39,825)	(38,790)
Transfer of funds	<u>(200,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Closing Balance	<u>\$ 3,728,055</u>	<u>\$ 3,787,235</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
March 31, 2008

6. PROJECT EXPENSES

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Dawson City fur exhibition	\$ -	\$ 5,600
Selkirk Renewable Resource Council - Stewardship 2007	16,800	-
Ground-based monitoring handbook (Teslin Renewable Resource Council)	1,800	-
Yukon Woodland Caribou - demographic responses to climatic and biophysical features	11,000	-
Southern Lakes moose educational program (Carcross Tagish First Nation)	21,000	-
Restoration of fish habitat in the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation traditional area	16,000	-
Assessing possible impacts of increasing use of off-road vehicles on the Dall's sheep population and their habitat on Pilot Mountain. (Lake Laberge Renewable Resource Council)	10,000	-
Technical review of the draft the new Yukon Placer Mining Regulatory Regime to ensure it protects freshwater fish (Yukon Conservation Society)	4,000	-
Turn in poachers contribution (Yukon Fish and Game Assoc.)	1,700	-
Teslin Lake bird banding station	5,000	-
Kluane First Nation wildlife monitor	22,520	-
Champagne and Aishihik First Nation fish and wildlife harvest monitor	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>\$ 119,820</u>	<u>\$ 5,600</u>

7. SHARING THE LAND SCHOLARSHIP

Funds were received from the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board for a Sharing the Land Scholarship Fund with the purpose of awarding one scholarship of \$1,000 annually.



2007/2008 Annual Report

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