

ŁU ZIL MÄN (FISH LAKE) LOCAL AREA PLANNING BACKGROUND

Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) and the Government of Yukon (YG) are developing a local area plan for the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) area. Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC) is also involved in creating the plan.

In Southern Tutchone, Fish Lake is called Łu Zil Män (sounds like Sloo Zill Mun) after the round whitefish that spawn there in the fall.

WHAT ARE LOCAL AREA PLANS?

Local area plans (LAPs) guide how lands in rural Yukon communities are developed, managed and protected. They include maps and policies that designate lands for different uses (e.g., residential, agricultural, community use, environmental protection, etc.) LAPs also include recommendations for how activities occurring on public lands – such as recreation, tourism, and resource development, can respect community values.

WHERE IS THE ŁU ZIL MÄN (FISH LAKE) PLANNING AREA?

The Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) planning area covers about 460 square kilometers to the west of Whitehorse. It is situated within the Traditional Territory of KDFN and TKC and includes KDFN Settlement Lands, Yukon lands, and privately owned lands.

First Nation families and their ancestors have fished, trapped, hunted, and gathered in the Fish Lake area for millennia, and continue to today. Archaeological records show that fishing and hunting camps at the north end of the lake are 5000-8000 years old. Ancient campsites around Bonneville are even older!

WHY IS A PLAN NEEDED?

The need for cooperative local area planning between KDFN and YG is recognized in the *Kwanlin Dün First Nation Self-Government Agreement*.

A plan for the Fish Lake area is a priority for the two governments due to a number of pressing land use issues, including:

- an influx of residential spot land applications in the mid-2000s;
- high levels of recreational and commercial tourism activity;
- the need for a clear, consistent approach for managing residential, agricultural and commercial uses; and
- historic and ongoing interest from KDFN citizens for Settlement Land allocations in the area.

Kwanlin Dün First Nation owns and manages about 80 square kilometers of Settlement Land within the plan boundary. However, the entire planning area is important to First Nations people.

Image credits: Holger Bergold (pg. 1); John Meikle (pg. 2)



HOW WILL THE PLAN BE DEVELOPED?

In 2020, KDFN and YG signed an agreement outlining how they will work together to create the plan over the next 2 years. It also outlines the types of land applications that can and cannot be considered while the planning process is underway.

A Steering Committee made up of 3 KDFN and 3 YG appointees will guide the process, with support from both governments' planning staff. Yukoners can get involved by attending public meetings, completing surveys, and by providing input to the Steering Committee.

WHAT WILL THE PLAN DO?

A local area plan will create a shared vision for the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) area to benefit all Yukoners, including future generations. The plan will answer questions like:

- What lands could be considered for residential or community development?
- What areas need to be protected for wildlife or heritage?
- How do we promote First Nations culture and history in the area?
- How can we manage tourism and recreational activities?
- What types of commercial or revenue generating opportunities are appropriate?

Once approved, all land use decisions by KDFN on Settlement Lands or YG on non-Settlement Lands must conform to the plan. The plan will also include recommendations for working together on community development and management goals that are identified through the process.

This is the first land use plan under KDFN's Lands Act, Nan kay sháwthän Däk'anúta ch'e (We look after our Land). The plan will help KDFN citizens reconnect to their ancestral home at Łu Zil Män.

WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW?

STEERING COMMITTEE

We are looking for Yukoners interested in joining the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) Steering Committee. You are the community experts, and we need your help to make this plan a success! If you are interested, reach out before February 15, 2021 to one of the contacts provided below.

BACKGROUND REPORT

We are working with a consultant to develop a background report about Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) that will help guide development of the plan. The report will be available for public review later this spring.

STAY CONNECTED

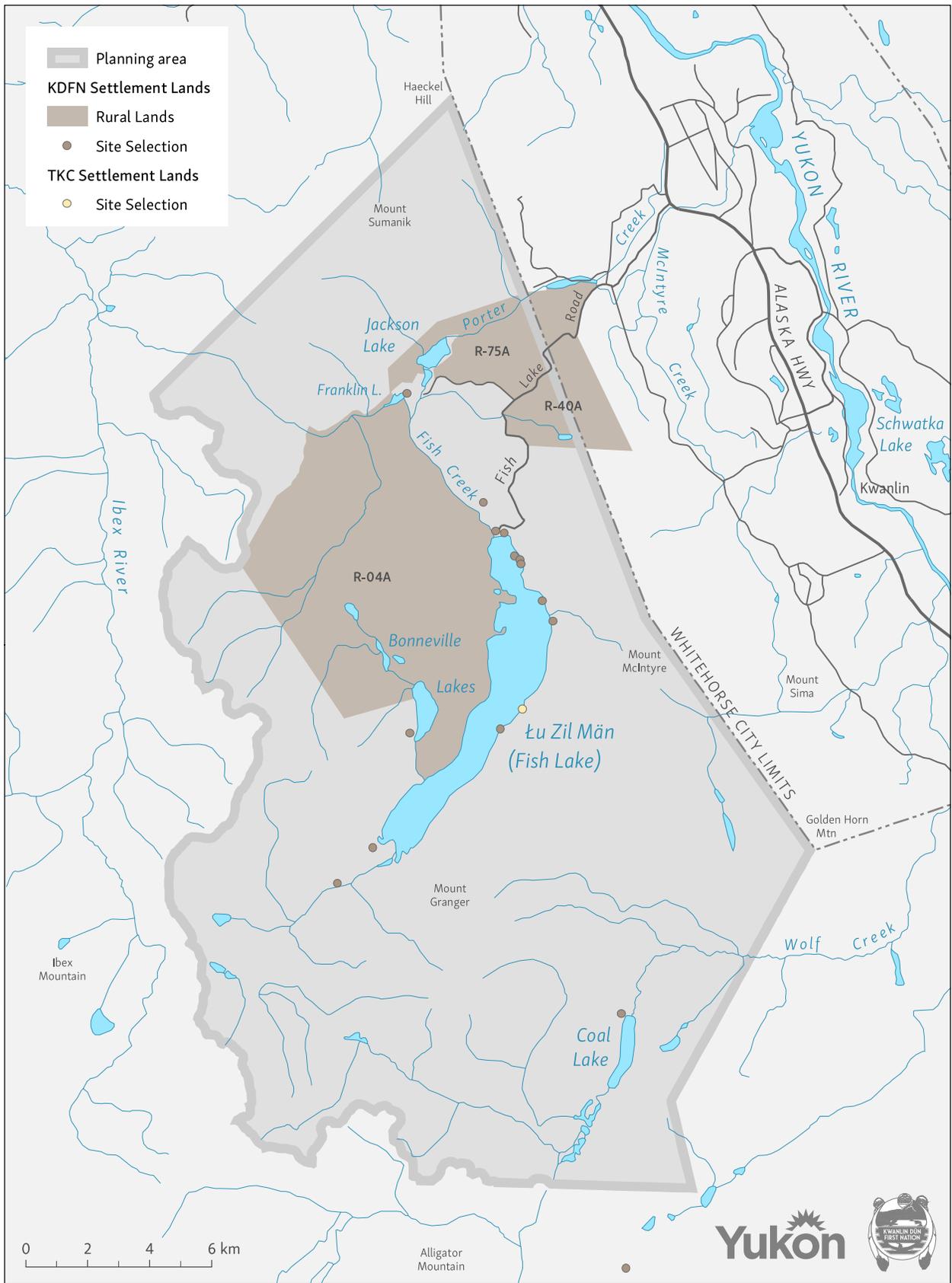
Plan updates will be posted regularly on YG and KDFN websites and Facebook. If you want to be updated directly, please provide your email or mailing address to one of the planners below.

CONTACT THE PLANNERS

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Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) Local Area Plan - Base Map