



Łu Zil Män  
(Fish Lake)  
LOCAL AREA PLAN

# WHAT WE HEARD REPORT #1

## 2022 Engagement

Prepared by



**GROUNDSWELL**  
PLANNING

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## INTRODUCTION

In March 2020, Government of Yukon (YG) and Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work jointly towards a local area plan for the Łu Zil Män (LZM) (Fish Lake) area. A Steering Committee comprised of three representatives of each government was appointed in Fall 2021 and began meeting in late 2021.

In Summer 2022, the governments initiated a two-month-long program of engagement intended to:

- Ensure the public, KDFN citizens and stakeholders are informed about the planning process, opportunities to participate, and why their involvement matters.
- Confirm the accuracy of information contained in the LZM summary background report and comprehensive background report.
- Obtain additional information that may further the Committee’s understanding of current conditions, issues, and opportunities in the planning area.
- Gather input from KDFN citizens, the public and stakeholders on the desired future state (vision) of LZM and what makes it special and important (values).
- Reinforce KDFN’s and YG’s roles as stewards, leaders and listeners regarding LZM.

After summer engagement concluded, YG and KDFN received a request from the Jackson Lake Community Association to provide comments in late 2022. The following report provides a summary of “What We Heard” in both Summer and Fall 2022.

## OVERVIEW OF ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

A variety of engagement activities were planned to reach the plan’s key audiences: KDFN citizens; LZM area residents/property owners; public; and organizations with a direct or indirect interest in the LZM planning area. Both governments set up online project pages to house information and promote participation, and posters were installed at frequently visited locations in the planning area. A complete list of engagement activities, their duration and participation is shown below.

Engagement Activity	Dates	Promotion	Participation
Online survey	June 24-August 31	Facebook, mailout, posters, newspaper	325* responses
Mail out survey (KDFN)	June 24-August 31	Posters, mailers	* responses
Fireweed Farmer’s Market booth	July 11/18/25	Facebook, newspaper	175+ people
KDFN citizen’s event	August 2	Facebook	125-150* people
Fish Lake residents’ event	August 18	Mailout	~20 people
Other outreach/solicitation	May 25/December	E-mail	6 responses

*\*Hard copy surveys filled out by KDFN citizens either via the mail-out or at the August 2<sup>nd</sup> were input by the engagement team into the online survey program for tabulation. An estimated 40-50 hard copy surveys were submitted; the rest were completed online.*

The survey, administered by the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, received a total of 325 responses – considered a very strong result by both governments. KDFN citizens, planning area residents, and stakeholders shared their perspectives with the engagement team through other engagement tactics as well.



KDFN Steering Committee member Jasmine Bill at the Fireweed Market booth



KDFN Steering Committee member Margaret McKay providing support to citizens at the August 2<sup>nd</sup> event



KDFN staff member Rae Mombourquette leading citizens in a LZM trivia game at the August 2<sup>nd</sup> event



KDFN Chief Doris Bill with the August 2<sup>nd</sup> engagement team comprised of KDFN/YG staff and KDFN/YG Committee members



YG Steering Committee member Jocelyne Leblanc at the welcome booth at the August 2<sup>nd</sup> KDFN event



LZM project consultant Jane Koepke of Groundswell Planning talking to the public at the Fireweed Market booth

## SURVEY RESULTS

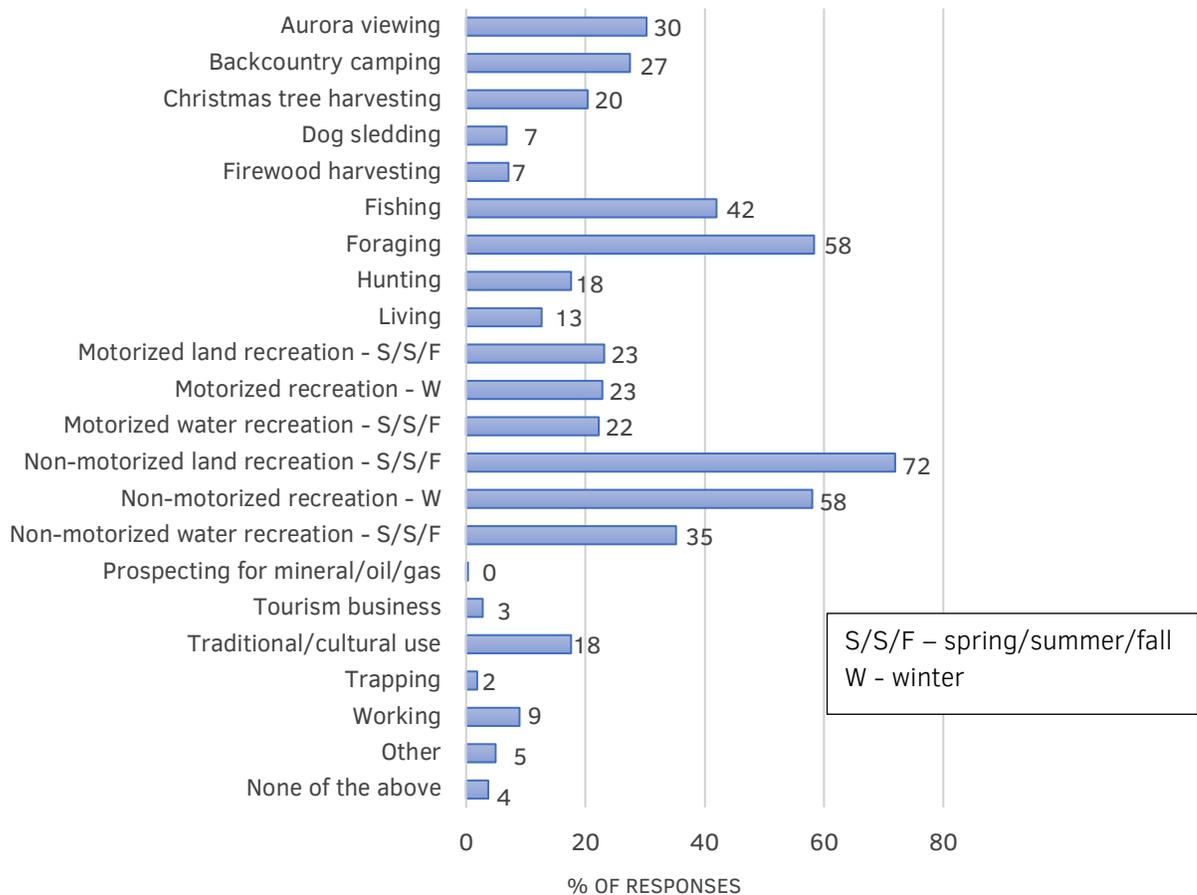
The following section provides a summary of key results from the survey, with online and paper results combined. Aggregate results are reported for each question; for key multiple-choice questions, results for KDFN/other First Nation citizens and Fish Lake area residents are further broken out. The survey form can be found in Appendix A.

### Use of the Planning Area

Non-motorized recreation (in all seasons) accounted for four of the “Top 5” uses of the planning area shared by survey respondents, with 72% indicating land-based recreation in spring/summer/fall. 58% and 42% of respondents indicated that they forage and fish in the area, respectively, while 18% hunt there. 27% camp in the backcountry and between 20-25% of respondents participate in motorized recreation across seasons and land/water. 18% use the area for traditional/cultural activities. Resource-based activity is uncommon, although 20% indicated Christmas tree harvesting.

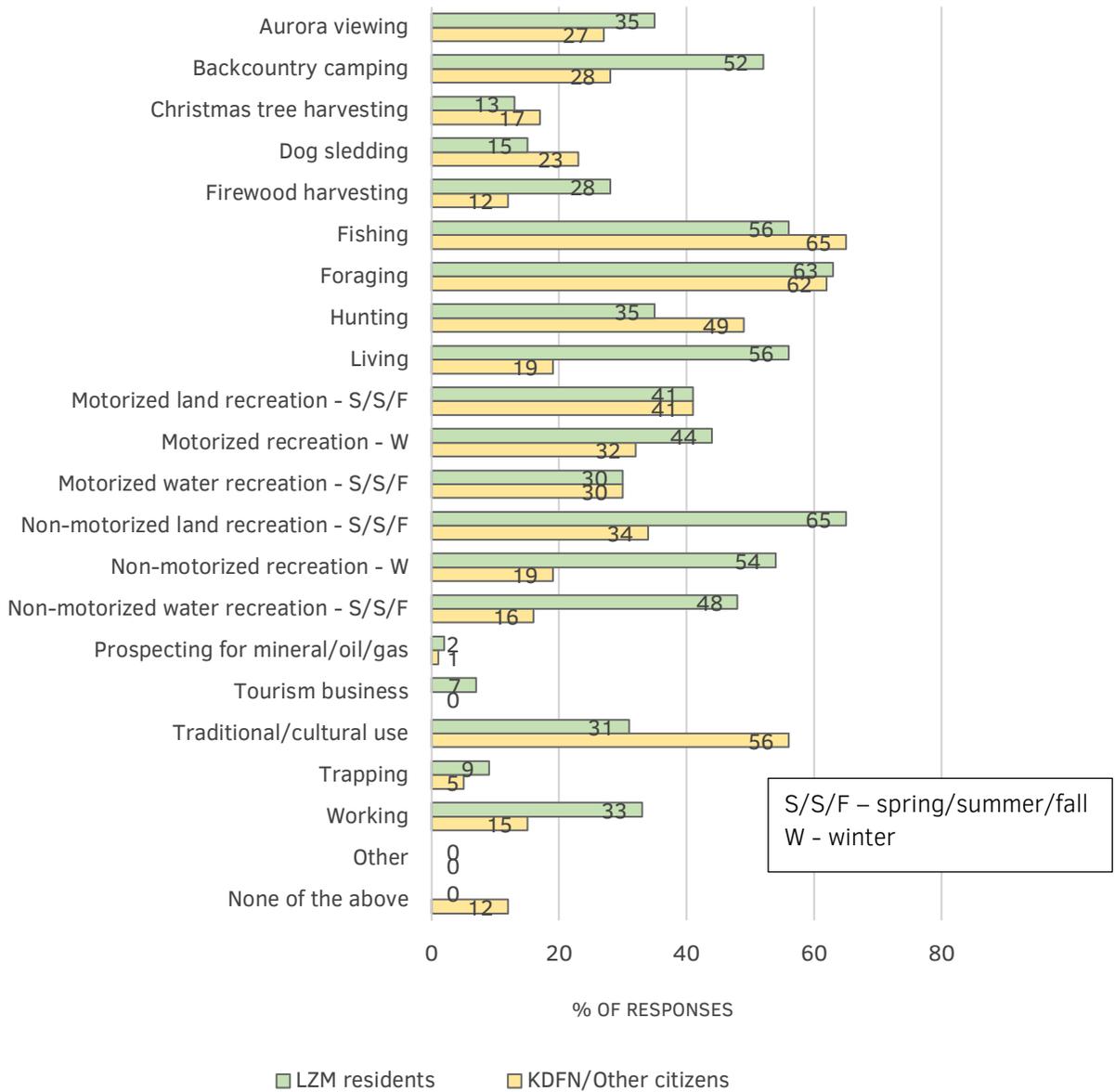


Q1. How do you currently use the LZM area?  
(All responses)



Results from First Nation citizens and LKM residents diverged from the total responses in some cases. For example, both groups were more likely to fish and hunt in the planning area and participate in cultural/traditional use. While the groups showed similar rates of motorized recreation, residents indicated significantly more participation in non-motorized recreation in all seasons (although lower than the aggregate group). 56% of First Nation respondents indicated traditional/cultural activities, while 12% indicated participating in none of the listed activities.

**Q1. How do you currently use the LKM area?  
(First Nation & resident responses)**

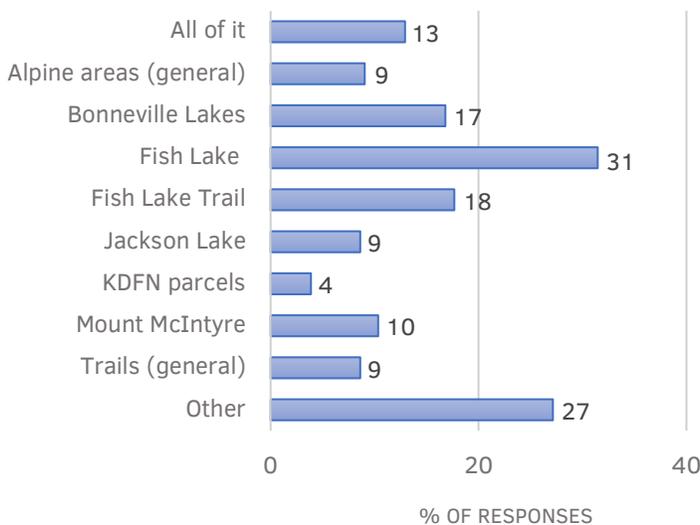


## Important Places

When asked to identify important places in the planning area, many survey respondents shared multiple locations. The most common location cited was Fish Lake itself (31%), followed by the Fish Lake/Bonneville Lakes Trail (18%) and the Bonneville Lakes area (17%). 13% indicated that the entire area was valuable to them. Mount McIntyre was the next most cited location (10%), followed by alpine areas, Jackson Lake, and LZM-area trails (9% each), and KDFN Settlement Land parcels (4%).

A variety of other locations were shared by 27% of those who responded. Landmark mountains in the area - particularly Haeckel Hill, Mount Granger, Mount Sumanik and “Knuckle” Ridge – each received a handful of mentions. The Skyline cross-country ski trail was also mentioned by numerous respondents.

Q2. What places in the LZM area are most important to you, and why? (All responses)



## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

### On important places

“The Fish Lake area is important because it is an alpine area close to where I live in Whitehorse and is so completely different. I value the different plants and the different times they bloom in the late spring and early fall. I value the views across the lake and into the hills. I value the fact that so many cars can be the parking area, and so few people are in evidence when I walk.”

“entire area...very valuable land...brings sobriety to our family on land”

“We would always take drives to fish lake and go fishing, explore and pick berries. It was a place we all went together and spent quality time with the family.”

“..spent many summers and falls having campfires up there with friends, floating on the lake and looking at the aurora later in the summer and into the fall and winter months.”

“..my aunts and uncles used the area for fishing and summer camping. It’s a traditional area to my ancestors.”

“There is a very special beauty to the area, particularly in the fall. Our family makes a point each fall to get in the alpine to see the fall colours and to pick a few cranberries and blueberries.

“Because the appeal of the hiking relies heavily on the vistas, I would say the entire area is important to me in that way.”

“It’s my way of life. It is my home.”

“...I have used almost all of it...The importance of this is that all portions of the planning area have been or are (used)...or will be (used by) the people of the future.”

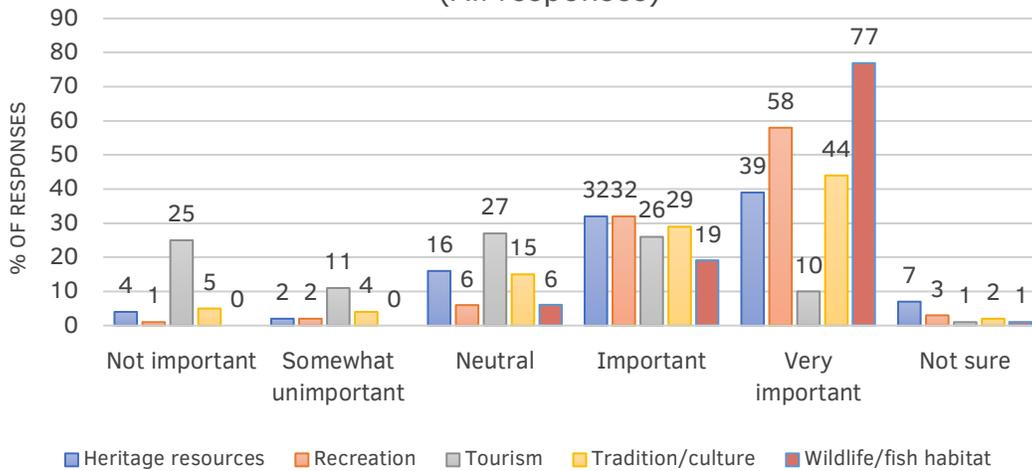
“This is an absolute jewel in our backyard. As soon as one leaves the highway, the views and the wildlife viewing opportunities begin and it just gets better as one approaches the lake.”

“Being able to get so high and see the large expanse of land and mountains...such a great area, close to Whitehorse to feel a connection to the land around us.”

## Values

When asked about what they feel is most important in the LZM area, 77% of all respondents indicated wildlife and fish habitat, followed by recreation (58%), tradition/culture (44%), and heritage resources (39%). Responses were mixed for tourism, with 25% feeling it was “not important”, 27% indicating neutrality, and 26% and 10% feeling it was “important” and “very important”, respectively.

Q3. Please indicate how important the following activities and values associated with LZM are to you.  
(All responses)

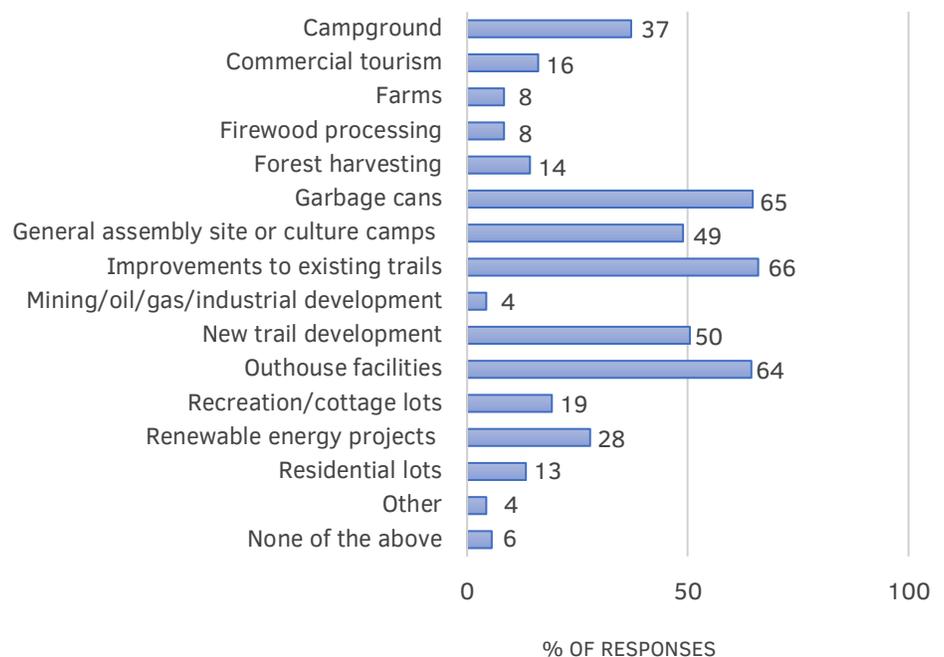


## Future Development

Only three of the 14 theoretical development options presented were deemed appropriate by most survey respondents. These were trail improvements, garbage cans and outhouses, all of which received 64-66% support. New trail development (50%), general assembly/culture camps (49%), and a campground (37%) were the next most supported options.

New recreational lots received support from

Q4. What types of future development opportunities do you feel are appropriate in this area?  
(All responses)

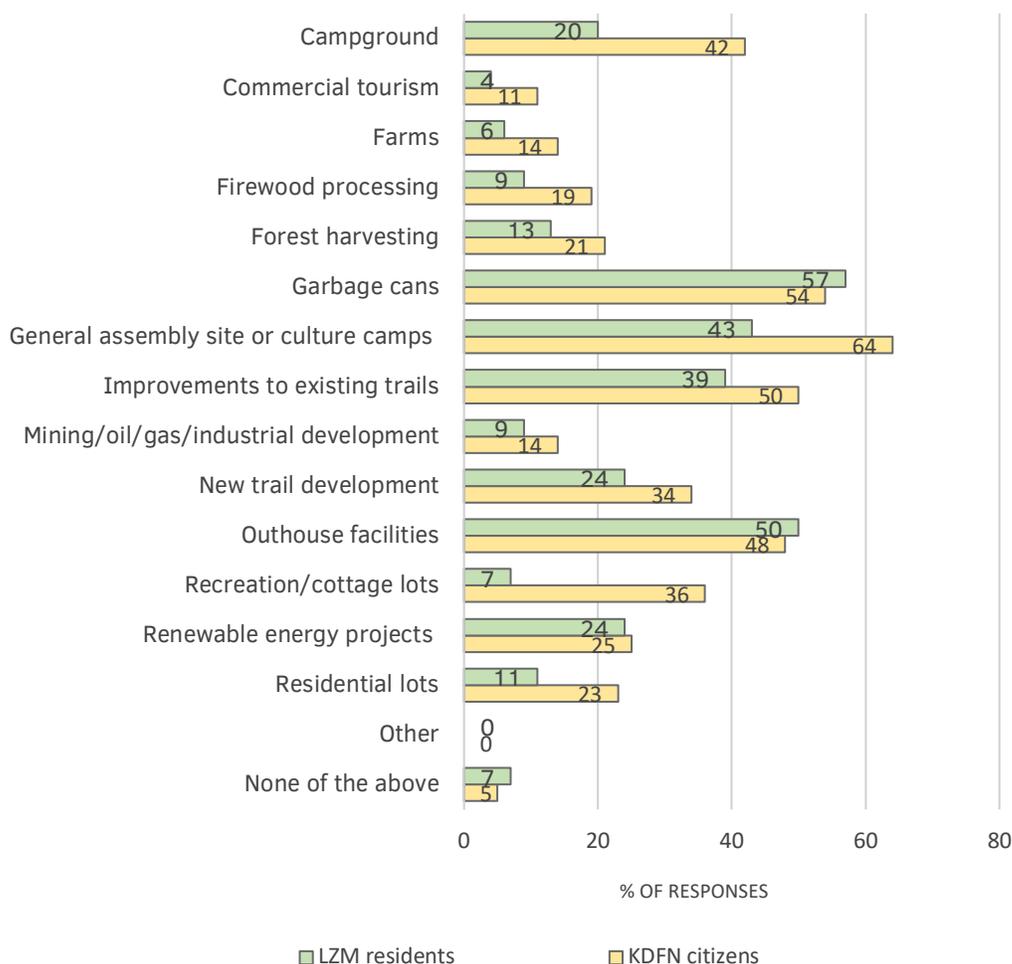


19% of respondents, compared to 13% for residential lots. While 28% deemed renewable energy projects appropriate, tourism (16%), forestry (14%), farming (8%), and mining/oil/gas (4%) were less supported. 6% of all respondents felt that no options were appropriate.

The most supported type of development among First Nation citizens and residents was general assembly/culture camp sites, which was selected by 64% of citizens. The next most supported options were garbage cans, trail improvements and outhouses; however, only garbage cans were supported by a majority in both groups (a contrast from the overall results).

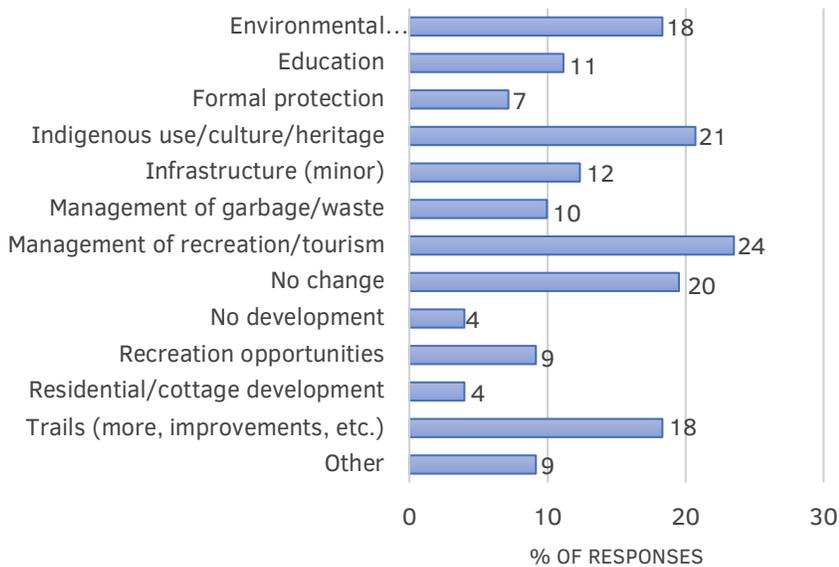
A campground, recreational and residential lots received at least twice as much support (percentagewise) from First Nation citizens than residents at 42%, 36% and 23%, respectively. This pattern of higher First Nation citizen support extended to resource activity such as forestry (21% vs. 13%), firewood processing (19% vs. 9%), farming (14% vs. 6%), mining/oil/gas (14% vs. 9%), and tourism (11% vs. 4%).

**Q4. What types of future development opportunities do you feel are appropriate in this area?  
(First Nation & resident responses)**



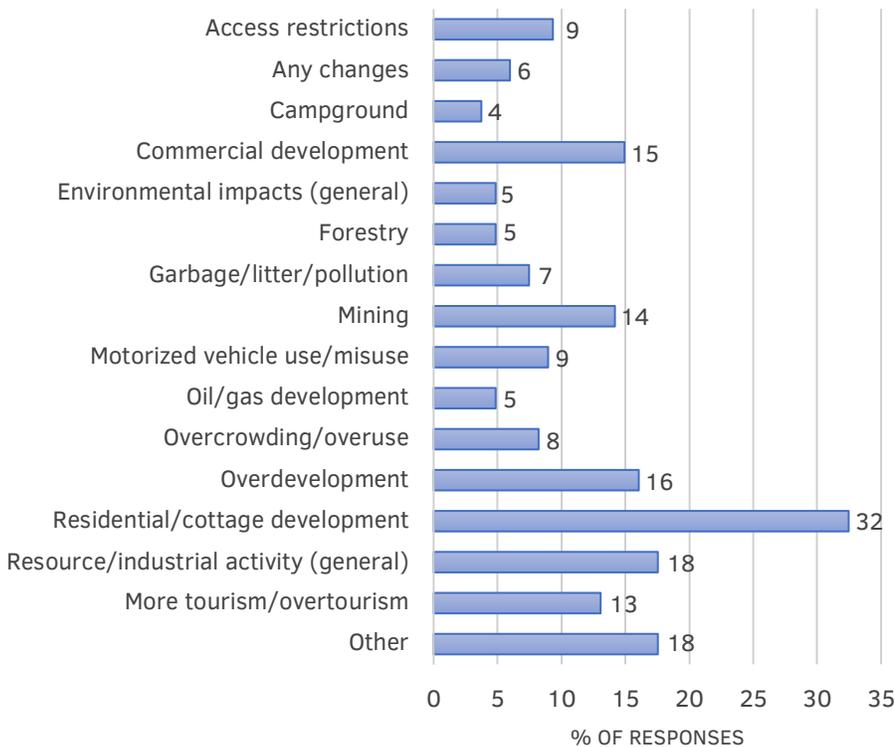
## Vision for the Future

### Q5. What would you like to see in the LZM area in 25 years? (All responses)



Survey respondents desired a future Fish Lake area where, above all else, recreation and tourism uses are managed (24%), First Nation use and culture were protected and promoted (21%), and there is little to no change from present day conditions (20%). Hopes for environmental preservation and trail improvements and/or additions were close behind at 18% each, followed by minor infrastructure (12%), education (11%) and management of garbage and waste (10%). “Other” vision elements included free and unrestricted access, camping, and respectful use.

### Q6. What do you NOT want to see in the future?



Survey respondents articulated their vision of an undesirable future for the area as well. New residential and/or cottage development was by far the most frequently mentioned (32%), with the next being resource or industrial activity (18%), overdevelopment in general (16%), commercial development (15%), mining (14%) and more or “overtourism” (13%). Two contradictory themes – access restrictions and motorized use – were mentioned by 9%. “Other” comments varied widely, with no predominant themes emerging.

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

### On hopes for the future

"I want to see it available to all as it is used today, berry picking in the fall, hiking in the summer, walks along the ridges with views that are so beautiful your heart skips a beat."

"I would like to see this area developed by the people of our nation as a place of wilderness prosperity and safety + clean renewable energy projects. It's a place where we can go if viruses or sickness happens".

"Saw a very large grizzly bear track in the snow while skiing. Hope he or she is still there...along with their offspring".

"It should be an oasis located near Whitehorse where Indigenous culture and the outdoors go hand in hand".

"Controlled growth, conscious efforts by all parties to manage any growth in use in a sustainable manner. Respectful use of the land and waters by all parties.."

"I want to see Łu Zil Män as a protected area"

"Due to proximity to Whitehorse there is a need to develop the area for intense levels of recreational use that can be expected with increasing population...The area along the road up to the lake should be developed for residential lots..."

"KDFN and TKC (will) know best how to be stewards for the land and water, and I hope that - when I visit the area in 25 years - I can see...that their stewardship played an important role in keeping the area the beautiful place it currently is."

"I hope to see it much the same...But perhaps with clearer distinctions between recreation areas and hunting / traditional use areas."

"Harvest camps. Tradition and culture camp."

"An extensive trail network for both summer and winter non-motorized use. This could include huts."

"A thriving natural environment and a strong FN presence in the area. Effective interpretation of the area's history. Well managed commercial use of the area. Sustainable harvest of fish and game. Programs and facilities to manage recreational use of the area."

### On what is NOT desired for the future

"Condos. High density housing. Fences. FN land that is inaccessible or off limits. Hunting. Farms or large agriculture parcels. Cottages or residences..."

"Environmental destruction and degradation."

"..don't want to see more development, especially for the benefit of settlers"

"I don't want to see private property. This should be land that is shared. I also don't want to see industrial development or any new roads... I also don't want to see an increase in motorized activity."

"I would not like to see more trails, but rather consolidation and improvements of existing routes."

"Hordes of tourists and commercial tourism. Residential development."

"...increase of human density in the area will start to impact wildlife and the land. Additional new trails and firewood removal (as examples) follow when there are additional residential areas developed."

"Overuse, braided trails, disrespect for the land. Overuse without the proper facilities and trails.."

"..not too many restrictions on uses such as snowmobiles or boats please, would be better to work on educating people rather than banning things."

"Wrecked habitat. Cottages ringing the lake."

"Any activities that can't coexist with the traditional use..."

"Restrictions on recreational uses. Land grabs for grazing and agriculture."

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

### On issues for Committee to consider

"..address all the random use. Use legislation that exists OR make new regulations to help control all this activity.."

"Being close to town the use could skyrocket, the use areas need to be designed to allow a backcountry feel beyond the road and keep the main traffic of tourists and campers closer to the road."

"Ensuring the prioritization of Indigenous community desires for the land, as well as land and habitat conservation."

"Hire on-the-land caretakers, who patrol the area to keep protected from people building fires, using areas as party spots or race cars."

"Look seven generations ahead and make your plans with that in mind."

"Managing motorized and non-motorized use for recreation. There are lots of opportunities for both to continue."

"More signage and history of KDFN from the area would hopefully remind people it is a sacred place that should be respected."

"Other than land that is already private, no land should be surveyed and sold. Ever. Keep it in the commons and manage it for the good of the planet."

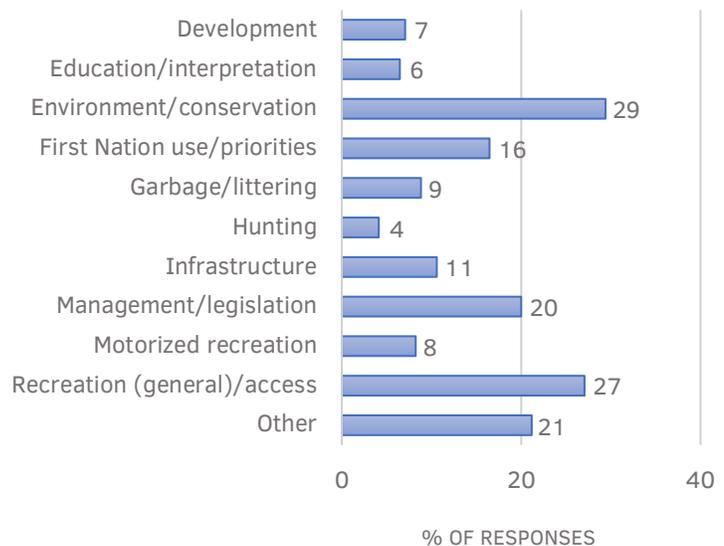
"..we must take a firm stand to protect the wild areas we have now before it is too late."

"..there is definitely the potential for land use conflicts to escalate, alongside increased use of the area. The LAP should consider mechanisms to decrease such conflict."

## Items for Steering Committee Consideration

Survey respondents who shared suggestions or advice for the Committee touched on multiple themes. The most frequently mentioned topic (at 29%) was that of environmental integrity and conservation, with most of these question respondents urging the Committee to prioritize this in its planning efforts. Recreation/access was the next most common theme at 27%; most of these comments spoke to the desire for continued access and recreation opportunities, while others asked the Committee to either expand these or strike a balance between these uses and ecological values.

### Q7. What other land use issues, concerns or opportunities do you want the steering committee to address? (All responses)



The issue of measures to manage and/or regulate the many different uses in the planning area was the next most common theme (20%), with some responses requesting off-road vehicle use be reduced and/or eliminated (8%). 16% of responses touched on the theme of First Nation use and/or priorities, with most calling for an emphasis on these both during and after the planning process.

The issue of garbage, litter and illegal dumping came up from 9% of respondents. Development was raised by 7%; while most of these comments indicated opposition to it, there were several requests for existing property owners to be allowed to subdivide. 6% of responses touched on the importance of

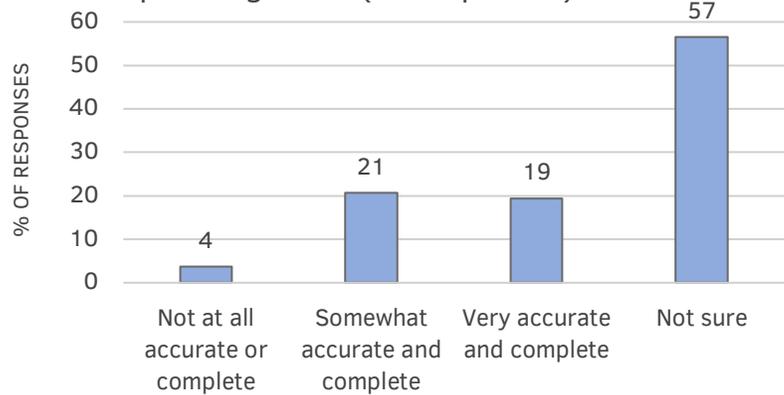
education and interpretation to better manage usage and help build understanding about the area's significance to First Nation people. 4% of responses expressed a desire for the Committee to manage perceived conflicts between hunting and recreation, with a small sample of those being from a KDFN citizen and non-First Nation person asking for expanded hunting opportunities).

### Accuracy/Completeness of Background Reports

The survey asked respondents to refer to the summary and background reports (note: online links were provided) and then attest to their completeness and/or accuracy.

57% of all question respondents indicated that they were “not sure” about the completeness or accuracy. 21% and 19% indicated they were “somewhat” and “very” accurate and complete, respectively, while 4% indicated that they were “not at all”.

Q8. How complete and accurate is the information that has been collected on the planning area? (All responses)



### Additional Information

A handful of survey respondents left comments and suggestions for additional information. These included:

- Report is generally well researched and presented
- More emphasis on local residents is needed
- More clarity is needed on application of hunting limits for moose and caribou in the area to First Nation citizens
- Fish populations seem lower/weaker than described
- There is more recreational use of the entire area for multi-day backpacking and winter use of the southern area (and connections to Alligator, Coal, and Rose lakes) than described
- There could be more details on mining activity in the Mount Granger area

#### IN THEIR OWN WORDS

##### On the background and summary reports

*“I have read the summary report, and it is very well presented.”*

*“The report seems to be light on details related to the coal mining and mineral exploration in the Mount Granger area..there is also multiday backpacking that occurs in the area...and a lot of winter use of the trail between Fish Lake and the Coal Lake road...”*

*“More emphasis could be made on the local residents. Most Yukoners taking part in this survey probably don't realize how many of us are out here (and think of it as largely untapped).”*

*“I believe that the knowledge of the First Peoples should be key.”*

*“I think the public outreach is really strong in this project... Great work!”*

*“I don't have time to read two reports to do a survey.”*

*“Talk to more Elders, more public engagement..”*

*“No additional information but I am excited to learn more about the Fish Lake area. For myself and for my children.”*

*“Families’ campsites new/old should be recorded and marked on maps for reference.”*

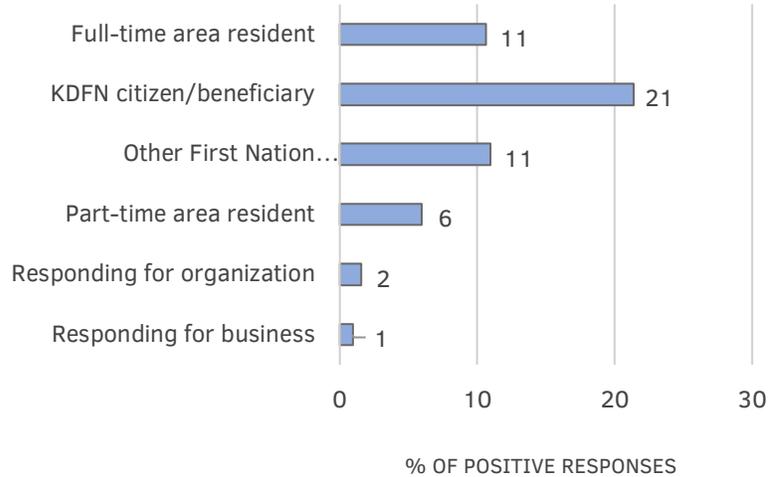
## Participant Demographics

21% of all survey respondents indicated being a citizen or beneficiary of KDFN, while another 11% indicated citizenship of another First Nation. 11% of all respondents were full-time residents, while another 7% were part-time residents.

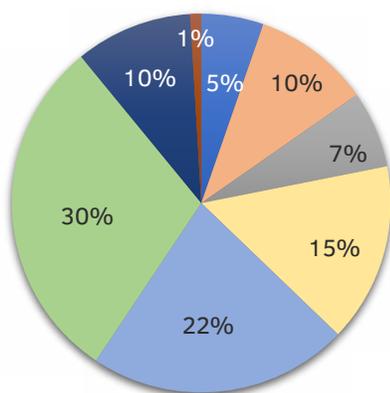
A total of three and five surveys were completed on behalf of businesses and organizations, respectively, accounting for a combined 3% of responses.

A majority (53%) of all survey respondents identified as female, as compared to male (38%). People in the 30-39 age group accounted for 30% of all surveys, followed by 40-49 (22%), 50-59 (15%), and 18-29 and 60-64 (10% each).

Q10-13. Please indicate which of the following applies to you. (All responses)

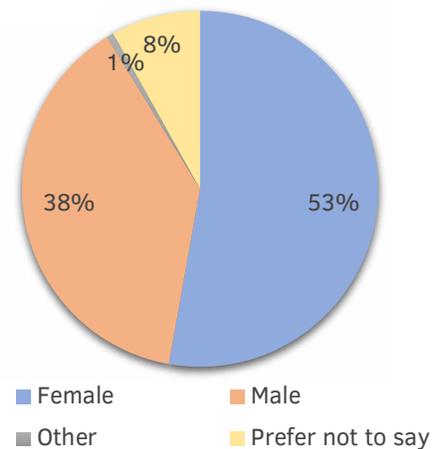


Q15. How old are you? (All responses)



- Prefer not to say
- 50 - 59 years old
- 18 - 29 years old
- 65 years old or older
- 40 - 49 years old
- Under 18 years old
- 60 - 64 years old
- 30 - 39 years old

Q14. How do you identify? (All responses)



## EVENTS

### KDFN Citizen's Events

#### Pre-2022

KDFN conducted citizen outreach around the LZM area numerous times in the decade leading up to the onset of the LZM planning process. This included a Traditional Knowledge workshop in 2009, a two-day On the Land Gathering in 2017 at Jackson Lake Healing Camp, and a three-day Fish Lake Gathering in 2018.

The Fish Lake Gathering resulted in a summary document structured around the past, present, and future – including where citizens want to go and how they wish to get there. Key themes from each include:

#### **Where we have been**

- LZM was an important harvest, subsistence and gathering area and key destination within a trail network extending to the coast of Alaska and into the Kluane area
- Wildlife and fish stocks were abundant

#### **Where we are now**

- The dam has created lasting impacts to water levels and shoreline
- Fish stocks are depleted
- Tourism and recreation have brought many new visitors, and associated impacts, to the area

#### **Where we want to go/the Path Forward**

- Visitors should be managed through infrastructure (i.e., bathrooms, garbage cans, etc.) and education (i.e., signage, boards, guides)
- Wildlife and habitat should be protected through regulations, traditional practices, and Special Management Areas
- Education, infrastructure (i.e., campground and lodge) and commercial licensing are needed to manage visitor impacts
- A gathering place for KDFN citizens is needed
- Development should be minimized, including no new road development and very limited residential
- Access points, including existing roads and trails, should be managed

The 2018 summary document is included in Appendix B.

#### August 2022

To update citizens on the planning process, celebrate the LZM area, and provide an avenue for input (in addition to the online survey), a KDFN citizens' event was held on August 2<sup>nd</sup> at the McIntyre community rink. The event featured a BBQ and a host of fun activities, such as LZM trivia and kids' activities. In addition to promoting the survey to citizens who had not yet filled it out, Steering Committee members and KDFN/YG

staff enjoyed many conversations with attendees. Some of the key take-aways from these interactions include:

- There is a generally shared desire for little to no change and protection of the area
- Citizens want other users of the area to have more awareness of its cultural and historical context to KDFN
- There is a dynamic tension between continued use and access and preservation of wilderness
- Citizens want the area to be treated respectfully, given its wealth of history and memories for KDFN; this respect extends to the inherent dangers of recreating on the lake itself

### Planning Area Residents' Event

An input/information session was held for Fish Lake area residents on August 18<sup>th</sup> at Sky High Wilderness Ranch from 6:30-8:45 p.m. About 20 people attended the event.

The evening began with a presentation from YG Land Planning Branch on local area planning (LAP) and the process steps and anticipated timelines for the Fish Lake LAP. Attendees were then divided into three smaller groups for three rounds of discussion on values, vision, and issues/opportunities for the plan. Each discussion round was facilitated and recorded by a mix of YG and KDFN staff, a YG Committee member, and the planning consultant assisting the Parties.

The following is a summary of what residents shared in each of the three breakout groups. Points are listed in approximate order of frequency (i.e., top bullets were mentioned by multiple groups).

#### Values

Residents shared the things they valued most about living in the Fish Lake area, including:

- Clean mountain air and water
- Peace and quiet
- Proximity to wilderness, alpine and nature (but relatively easy access to town)
- Wildlife
- Respect, sharing and sense of community among residents
- Ability/freedom to forage and use the land
- Local history and culture
- Trails being shared by a variety of users and modes without conflict
- Lack of infrastructure (and accompanying self-sufficiency)
- Lifestyle
- Unique climate and weather

## **Vision**

When asked about their hopes for the area in 25 years, residents shared the following responses:

- Relatively little change
  - People still living like they do now
  - Beauty and quiet are intact
  - Sense of freedom intact
  - Continues to offer special, spiritual experiences and spaces
  - Minimal new private land tenure and more shared land
- Area is protected/preserved
- Reduced motorized vehicle use the area via:
  - Increased regulation
  - Protection of habitat, wetland, and alpine areas
  - Defined or designated trails (and no new ones)
  - Non- motorized (or only electric motored) watercraft on Jackson Lake
- Water is still clean
- Excellent trails
- All users sharing the land
- Public access to the lake, etc. is carefully thought out
- Area is no longer used for Christmas tree cutting
- Young people can live there
- A positive relationship with ATCO Electric Yukon

## **Issues**

Participants shared the issues or concerns that they hope the plan will address, including:

- High visitation without infrastructure to manage impacts
- Degradation of the environment (and experience) with garbage, fires, Christmas/live tree cutting, human waste, widespread camping, partying, fireworks, etc.
- Threats to water quality via motorized boats
- Degradation of trails from overuse and off-road vehicle use
- Dwindling moose population
- Marginal road quality and communications (although road improvements are likely to usher in even more visitation)
- Expectations of more development (from Whitehorse population, politicians)
- Some conflicts with dogs (i.e., brought by visitors to area)

## **Opportunities**

In response to the question, “What opportunities are you hoping this plan might create?”, attendees shared the following ideas:

- Development of infrastructure to manage visitors
  - Designated fire pits
  - Washrooms
  - Garbage/recycling bins

- Improved parking
  - Campground
- Conservation and protection
  - Wildlife/wilderness refuge
  - Jackson Lake game reserve
  - Conservation area
  - Bans on hunting except for First Nation citizens
  - Water quality protection (i.e., motorized boat management)
- Trail improvements and management
  - Formalized trails
  - Mapping and marking/signage
  - Segregated areas for motorized vs. non-motorized
  - Off-road vehicles regulated/restricted to trails
  - Avoid creating new trails
- Education
  - For general public on how to minimize their impact
  - For residents on how to build and live sustainably in the area
- More commercial tourism management
  - Schedule for tour buses and large commercial buses
  - Regulate trail usage

## Fireweed Farmer's Market

The Steering Committee and governments hosted an information booth at the Fireweed Farmer's Market in Shipyards Park on July 11, 18 and 25. In addition to promoting the online survey, Steering Committee members and KDFN/YG staff enjoyed many conversations with market visitors. Some of the key take-aways from these interactions include:

- There is a generally shared desire for little to no change and protection of the area
- Many people know and value the area for its recreation opportunities and have less awareness of its cultural and historical context
- There is a dynamic tension between continued use and access and preservation of wilderness

Committee members noted that both audiences – general public and KDFN citizens – shared a similar vision for the area's future.

## OTHER OUTREACH

### Stakeholder Group Submissions

Upon the launch of the public survey, an e-mail and attached letter was sent out to a list of 34 organizations anticipated to have a direct or indirect interest in the Fish Lake process (see sidebar). Five organizations participated in the survey but did not self-identify; they may or may not have been on this list.

In addition to the five survey responses, four direct responses were received from organizations. These are detailed below.

#### **Fish Lake Association**

The Fish Lake Association was formed in 2021 to represent the interests of people living along, and or in areas accessed off, the Fish Lake Road (not including Jackson Lake). The association submitted an e-mail to the governments with a 35-page comprehensive report titled “Fish Lake area planning & management – A compendium of local residents’ opinions”. The report was based on interviews with 15 residents between July and October 2021; both interviews and the resulting report were a volunteer effort.

The report introduces Fish Lake residents as the “boots and eyes on the ground”, people who choose a simple, off-grid existence and are inclined towards independence and self-sufficiency. The Fish Lake area is their way of life, and all residents deeply care for it, its environment, and the natural resources it provides them (i.e., drinking water, food, and firewood). Residents are further described as having limited interactions with KDFN citizens but an interest in learning more about their culture and history in the area.

The report inventories the changes residents are seeing - namely increased visitation from both tourists and Whitehorse recreationists - and accompanying impacts such as litter, fires, noise, parking overflow, parties, new trails (and eventually roads) created by off-road vehicles, degradation of sensitive areas from motorized vehicles, fewer wildlife sightings, and smaller fish. Improvements to the access road have ushered in more visitors and resulted in speeding and cars ending up in the ditch (particularly from non-local visitors). Reported changes extend to cultural and behavioral norms as well; residents feel that some visitors lack

### Stakeholder List

#### Sport and Recreation Groups

Athletics Yukon  
Contagious Mountain Bike Club  
Dog Powered Sports Association Yukon  
Equine Association of Yukon  
Klondike Snowmobile Association  
Run for Life (Reckless Raven)  
Trails Only Yukon Association  
Velo North  
Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club  
Yukon Bird Club  
Yukon Canoe and Kayak Club  
Yukon Outdoors Club  
Yukon Wind Sports Association

#### Industry Associations

Tourism Industry Association of Yukon  
Wilderness Tourism Association of Yukon  
Yukon First Nation Cultural and Tourism Association  
Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce  
Yukon Agricultural Association  
Yukon Chamber of Commerce  
Yukon Chamber of Mines  
Yukon First Nation Chamber of Commerce  
Yukon Wood Products Association

#### Environmental/Conservation Organizations

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society  
Friends of McIntyre Creek  
Yukon Conservation Society  
Yukon Fish and Game Association  
Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board

#### Resident Associations

Fish Lake Association  
Jackson Lake Community Association

#### Other

ATCO Electric Yukon  
Chu Niikwan Development Corporation  
Icy Waters  
Yukon Historic and Museums Association

caring or awareness that there is a local community, and they are recreating or tree harvesting near people's homes. Incidences of property crimes and disruptive parties and gunshots are also reportedly up.

The report includes the following recommendations (note: this is not a complete list):

#### **Process**

- Acknowledge and consult with local residents
- Manage the area collaboratively by establishing a Management Committee

#### **Environmental protection**

- Protect water quality
- Designate no-development areas for wilderness preservation
- Allow for very careful and limited development in specific areas
- Do not promote Christmas tree cutting on Fish Lake Road

#### **Monitoring and reducing the impact of visitors**

- Install outhouses/garbage cans near Fish Lake trailhead and end of Franklin Lake Road
- Require event organizers to clean up
- Install etiquette/educational signage at Fish Lake trailhead

#### **Continue monitoring and limiting the impact of tourism**

- Establish a tourism strategy for the area
- Encourage operators to be respectful and committed to protection

#### **Protecting Yukoners' heritage and way of life**

- Acknowledge and encourage local dog mushing culture
- Main free access to the area
- Ensure zoning regulations do not prevent simple, off-grid lifestyles

#### **Jackson Lake Community Association**

The Jackson Lake Community Association (JLCA) reached out to KDFN and YG governments after the official engagement period was over, requesting the opportunity to provide a written submission after a December meeting of its membership. This letter was received in early January and is summarized below.

#### **Vision and Values**

- Protect the ecological integrity of Jackson Lake and environs
- Ensure clean drinking water that supports healthy fish populations for future generations
- Respectful use of lands and resources by all who use the area, whether for recreation, living, business, or cultural traditions

## Concerns

- Water quality, including upstream uses and development at Fish Lake that could negatively impact downstream Jackson Lake water resources
- Increased ecotourism levels at Fish Lake have spill-over effects at Jackson Lake, creating more pressure on the area and increasing impacts on the environment (i.e., water quality, lakeshore erosion, bird nesting, and other flora and fauna).

## Process

- Develop the plan with respect and prudence
- Ensure ecological integrity of Jackson Lake area is fully considered in planning and management decisions

## **Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club**

The Whitehorse Cross Country Ski Club (WCCSC) submitted a letter to the governments. The club noted the importance and considerable usage of the Skyline Trail by its members and that they have been requesting a parking lot improvement/expansion from YG Highways and Public Works for several years to avoid the safety issues from parked cars along the Fish Lake Road. The letter also noted that the condition and safety of the McIntyre Descent trail has deteriorated due to high snowmobile use in recent years; as such, the club hopes to explore the feasibility of developing another Descent trail connected to the Skyline Trail, portions of which could potentially fall within the planning area. Lastly, the club predicted the growing importance of the Fish Lake area as climate change progresses and expressed its possible interest in expanding its network of ski trails both within and near the Fish Lake area in the future.

## **Whitehorse Walks**

Whitehorse Walks is an online walking advocacy website administered by Whitehorse resident Peter Long. Mr. Long submitted a three-page summary of context and ideas which generally fall under the banner of improving and expanding trail and walking opportunities in the Fish Lake area. He suggests that trails need maintenance and improvements, inter-connections and mapping/signage/waymarking as a starting point. Trail huts and guided hikes could be developed, along with safety patrols. Leadership of these efforts is recommended for KDFN, which could develop a youth-oriented educational and work initiative centered around trails.

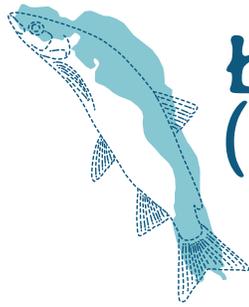
## **Property Owner Submissions**

Two e-mails were received from Fish Lake area residents requesting that the Steering Committee allow for the subdivision of existing lots to enable lot owners to continue their on-the-land lifestyles in the face of high housing prices in the Whitehorse region. One of the e-mails cited subdivisions in other Whitehorse periphery areas such as Robinson and Annie Lake as precedent. The other e-mail also specifically requested that both existing and future lots retain their rural residential zoning to enable continued lifestyle “flexibility”.

# APPENDIX A

## Summer 2022 Survey Form





# Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake)

LOCAL AREA PLAN

## Public survey about the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) area

The Government of Yukon and Kwanlin Dün First Nation are working together to create a local area plan for the Łu Zil Män (Fish Lake) area. A steering committee has been created to assist in developing the plan.

The local area plan will be built upon a shared vision for the Łu Zil Män area to benefit all Yukoners, including future generations. All available local, traditional and scientific knowledge will be used to develop the plan.

We are asking Yukoners who have an interest in the Łu Zil Män area to complete this survey. We want to hear about your vision for Łu Zil Män and about what you know and value about this special place. The information we collect will inform the plan.

The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete and can be submitted online or returned by mail. Printed copies are available at the Land Planning Branch (Elijah Smith Building, Room 320, 300 Main Street) or at Kwanlin Dün First Nation (35 McIntyre Drive). The survey will close on August 31, 2022.

Your responses will be shared with the governments and the steering committee for analysis and reporting purposes, but will remain anonymous.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this survey please call Jocelyn McDowell at 867-393-7043 or Roy Neilson at 867-332-1717.

A report summarizing the results of the survey will be available on the Łu Zil Män website later this year. There will be more opportunities to provide your feedback; check the committee website for updates.

Individual respondents will not be identified in any reports or associated materials. Information collected through this survey is protected in accordance with the *Statistics Act* and the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

**\*1. How do you currently use the Łu Zil Män area? Check all that apply.**

- Hunting
- Fishing
- Traditional/ cultural use
- Foraging (for example, berries or mushroom picking)
- Non-motorized land-based recreation in spring, summer or fall (for example, hiking or mountain biking)
- Non-motorized land-based recreation in winter (for example, skiing, biking or snowshoeing)
- Motorized land-based recreation in spring, summer or fall (for example, off-road vehicles)
- Non-motorized water-based recreation in spring, summer or fall (for example, canoeing, kayaking or paddleboarding)
- Motorized water-based recreation in spring, summer or fall (for example, motor boating)
- Motorized recreation in winter (for example, snowmobiling)
- Dog sledding
- Backcountry camping
- Living
- Working
- Aurora viewing
- Tourism business (for example, dog sled)
- Christmas tree harvesting
- Firewood harvesting
- Trapping
- Prospecting for mineral or oil and gas resources
- Other:
- None of the above

**2. What places in the Łu Zil Män area are the most important to you, and why?  
(See accompanying map.)**

3. The following is a list of activities and values associated with the Łu Zil Män area. Please indicate how important they are to you.

**\*Tradition and culture**

- Not important
- Somewhat unimportant
- Neutral
- Important
- Very important
- Not sure

**\*Wildlife and fish habitat**

- Not important
- Somewhat unimportant
- Neutral
- Important
- Very important
- Not sure

**\*Tourism**

- Not important
- Somewhat unimportant
- Neutral
- Important
- Very important
- Not sure

**\*Heritage resources**

- Not important
- Somewhat unimportant
- Neutral
- Important
- Very important
- Not sure

**\*Recreation**

- Not important
- Somewhat unimportant
- Neutral
- Important
- Very important
- Not sure

**\*4. What types of future development opportunities do you feel are appropriate in the area? Check all that apply.**

- Commercial tourism
- New trail development
- Improvements to existing trails
- Farms
- Recreation/ cottage lots
- Residential lots
- Mining, oil and gas or other industrial development
- Outhouse facilities
- Garbage cans
- General assembly site or culture camps
- Forest harvesting
- Firewood processing
- Renewable energy projects (for example: solar, wind, hydro)
- Campground
- Other:
- None of the above

**5. What would you like to see in the Łu Zil Män area in 25 years?**

**6. What do you not want to see in the area in the future?**

**7. What other land use issues, concerns or opportunities do you want the steering committee to address?**

The governments and steering committee have compiled all the available information on the area in a background report and summary report. Please take some time to review these reports before responding to the next questions.

**\*8. How complete and accurate is the information that has been collected on the planning area?**

- Not at all accurate or complete
- Somewhat accurate and complete
- Very accurate and complete
- Not sure

**9. If you have additional information (or corrections) that the committee should know to create this local area plan, please share them here:**

**\*10. Are you a resident of the Łu Zil Män area?**

- Yes, a full time resident of the area
- Yes, a seasonal resident of the area
- No

**\*11. Are you a Kwanlin Dün First Nation Citizen or Beneficiary?**

- Yes
- No

**\*12. Are you a Member, Citizen or Beneficiary of another First Nation?**

- Yes
- No

**\*13. Are you responding to the survey as an individual or on behalf of a business or organization?**

- As an individual
- On behalf of a business
- On behalf of an organization
- Other:

**\*14. Gender: How do you identify?**

- Male
- Female
- Other gender
- Prefer not to say

**\*15. How old are you?**

- Under 18 years old
- 18 - 29 years old
- 30 - 39 years old
- 40 - 49 years old
- 50 - 59 years old
- 60 - 64 years old
- 65 years old or older
- Prefer not to say

Thank you for taking the survey.

# APPENDIX B

## KDFN Fish Lake Gathering Summary



# Fish Lake Gathering



## What We Heard

### Where we have been

**łū Män** (pronounced hloo mun) and **£l Zil Män** (pronounced *Clue Zell Man*) are the indigenous names of Fish Lake.

**Fish Lake** had a good beach at the north end and water levels were lower before the dam was built. The area was part of a trail system that connects all the way to Juneau and out past Kluane.

**Fish Lake Families** would hunt, trap and forage all over Fish Lake Area. These families are still in the area and need to grow their roots back and keep connected to the land.

“This is my home, I want to come home. I’m 60 years old and I want to come home now.”

- Irma Scarf, KDFN Elder

**Wildlife** was once abundant. Caribou, Moose, Ptarmigan, Grouse, Ground Squirrels and Rabbits were hunted and trapped sustainably.

**Fish Stock** in the lake were always good. Lake Trout and Grayling could always be found. The fish were always large and healthy.

**The Trail To Whitehorse** existed along a similar route to where Fish Lake Road is now. During the winter months

### Where we are now

**Fish Lake** has a higher water level than in the past due to the dam. This has created a wetland at the north end of the lake

**The Fish Lake Dam** has changed the lake. The water level is higher, the old beach is sunk, and;

**Fish Stocks** have depleted. There are fewer Fish now, and they are smaller than they used to be.

“When levels were brought up on lake, the next year fishing was bad”

- Ray Sydney, KDFN Councillor

**Sky-High Wilderness Ranch** has a difficult and emotional history. The relationship with them is in a poor state.

**Tourism** has brought many visitors to this area. Fish Lake is a common destination for tourists and Whitehorse locals alike- with the Bonnaville Lakes trail being a popular hike. Weekends there are

“Fish lake is where we are grounded when we get lost in the cities”

- Judy Anderson, KDFN Elder



# Fish Lake Gathering



Where We Want To Go

## Management

**Bathrooms** are needed at the head of Fish Lake near the Boat Launch

**Garbage Cans** are needed near the boat launch, and at all trailheads.

**Signs** should show where settlement lands are at all access points, and ask people to respect the land.

**Wildlife & Habitat** should be protected. All disturbances should be identified and

**Traditional Management** practices can guide our management today. Setting maximum harvest yields can help protect wildlife for future generations.

**Special Management Areas** (SMA's) can provide protection for sensitive areas.

## Development

**Residential** development is to be extremely limited in the Fish Lake area, especially in the areas close to the lake.

**New Road** development should not occur, and existing roads should be managed properly.

**4X4 Trails** should be prevented, especially in the Bonnaville and Ptarmigan Pass areas.

## Tourism

**Education** of Kwanlin Dün Culture should be central to all tourism in Fish Lake Area. This includes interpretive panels and guided walks

**Campgrounds** could host tourists and generate revenue for KDFN. This would also minimize the impact of people by ensuring they camp in suitable areas

**A Tourism Lodge** with a visitors center could include a Bannock & Tea café, display art, artifacts, and be a place to celebrate KDFN's rich culture.

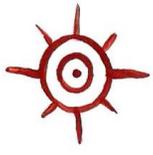
“Let's welcome visitors and show off our culture. We are proud of who we are!”

- Brandy Mayes, KDFN Citizen & LRD Staff

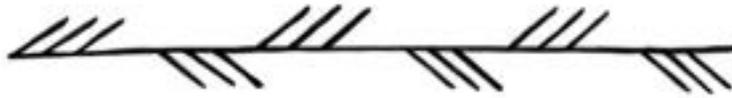
**A Gathering Place** for KDFN people near the lake. A place where everyone can connect to the land.

**License Other Wilderness Operators** so that they must know the values of the land. Make them contribute to the management of the land they are using.

**Manage Tourists** by educating them on how to respect the land, and by teaching them our stories



# Fish Lake Gathering



The Path Forward

What We Heard

Our Goals

## Management

Wildlife	• •	Habitat Mapping
Waste	• •	Bathrooms & garbage cans
Fish & Fishing	• •	Develop regulation options
Trails & Access	• •	Traditional Territory signs

## Development

Residential	• •	Limit new housing near lake
Roads	• •	Maintain existing roads only
Traditional Uses	• •	Develop regulation options
Trails & Access	• •	Traditional Territory signs

## Tourism

Gathering Place	• •	A place for KDFN Citizens
Campground	• •	A place that can host campers
Education	• •	Informative Boards & Guides
Trails & Access	• •	Manage access points