



July 11, 2022

CPAWS Yukon
101-301 Hawkins Street
Whitehorse Yukon, Y1A 1X5

To: Parks Branch, Department of Environment, Government of Yukon

Re: Modernizing Park and Campground Regulations for Yukon

The Yukon Chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS Yukon) advocates for the territory's most valuable and priceless resource: our abundant wilderness. Our mission is to conserve the land, water and wildlife of the Yukon for current and future generations. As a conservation organization, we carry a responsibility to ground our actions within a commitment to reconciliation, and we recognize that the lands and waters we advocate for are also the Traditional Territories of Yukon First Nations, the Inuvialuit, and transboundary First Nations in British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, and Alaska.

CPAWS Yukon is strongly supportive of modernizing the Yukon's park and campground regulations under the *Parks and Land Certainty Act*. The proposed changes are a tangible way to embed respect for the land, wildlife, and users of the land into legislation.

Our mandate most closely aligns with the intended outcome of "protecting natural and heritage values," which we support, although we are also supportive of "ensuring public safety and quality visitor experiences" and "efficient operation and administration".

Noise

We agree that noise should be limited between 11 pm and 7 am. In addition to improving visitor experience, as mentioned in the discussion document, reducing noise and prohibiting fireworks also reduces stress and disturbance for wildlife.

Liquor & Smoking (including cannabis)

We agree that the proposed changes reflect current and accepted practices behaviors within Yukon Campgrounds. These changes will allow park users to enjoy territorial parks and campgrounds, in a respectful way. We support the increased authority for enforcement of rules by park officers - particularly as related to use by minors.

Domestic animals

CPAWS Yukon is supportive of clarifying and expanding rules for keeping domestic animals under control in the park system. We agree this is important to reduce the chance of disease transmission and wildlife harassment.

Yukon Government may wish to consider whether there is a need for increased enforcement authority for parks officers. For example, the issuance of fines for out-of-control dogs in campgrounds and wildlife harassment.

On-road and off-road vehicles

CPAWS Yukon agrees that the toolbox for managing on-road and off-road vehicles, as well as horses, dogsleds, and snow machines, should be expanded. While these activities may be appropriate in some locations, they are conservation and safety concerns in others, and clear regulations for restricting and managing their use on some trails is needed.

Aircraft use including drones

CPAWS Yukon supports the proposed regulations which would restrict the use of drones and other aircrafts to permitted users in territorial parks. We believe this is important to reduce the likelihood of wildlife harassment and/or disturbance by drones. Permits would limit the number of drones and other active aircrafts within territorial parks, and would improve the ability to enforce regulations when inappropriate piloting is reported.

Park zoning

Park zoning is a critical tool for protecting the ecological integrity of parks, while also supporting a quality visitor experience, and CPAWS Yukon is supportive of backstopping zoning policies with regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,



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