

SFN Traditional Use Study and Minto Mine Monitoring Program for YESAA Forum

How these contribute to Cumulative Effects Understanding and Assessments

SFN TU Study 2017

The Selkirk First Nation Traditional Use Study, 2017 (SFN TUS, 2017) summarizes key aspects of historic traditional use as well as current use, linkages and a basis for future SFN use



Selkirk First Nation Traditional Use Study

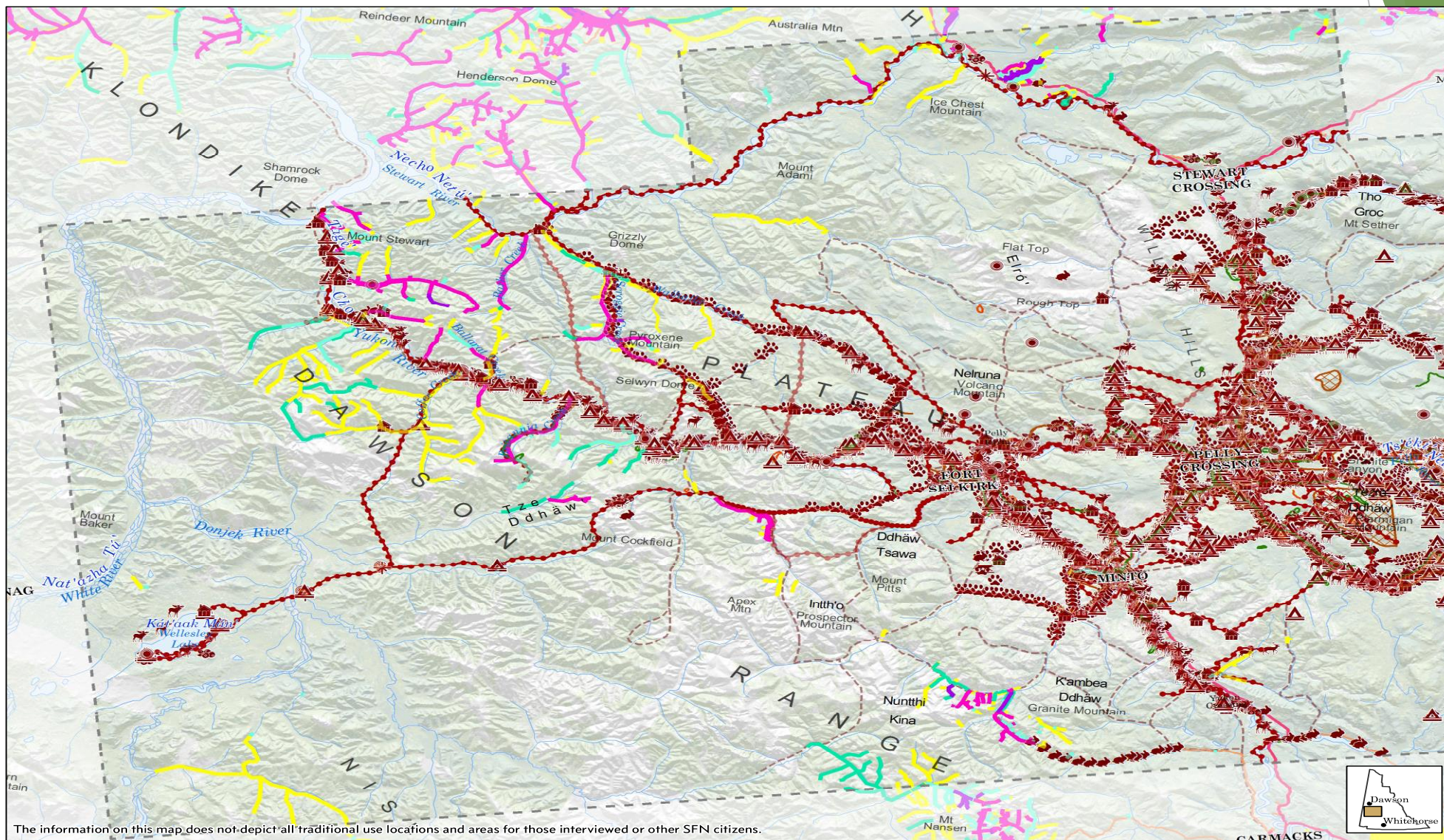
2017

SFN Traditional Use Study and Mapping

- Leadup to this work being initiated (several large projects impacting TT, concern about reduction in chinook salmon)
- A key driver: Traditional Use often misunderstood and quality of information in YESAA assessments poor at best
- Study was initiated in 2017 for western portion of TT; completed in 2018 along with mapping and work on eastern portion TT initiated
- TU maps prepared for this study and compiled in a SFN Atlas identified known special places, burial sites, overnight sites, cabins, harvest areas, place names, other sites, areas and travel routes, amongst other activities and practices - i.e. cultural geography demonstrates the attachments of SFN people to the land and water- in the past and currently

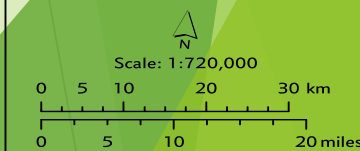
Implications for CE upon SFN from Findings

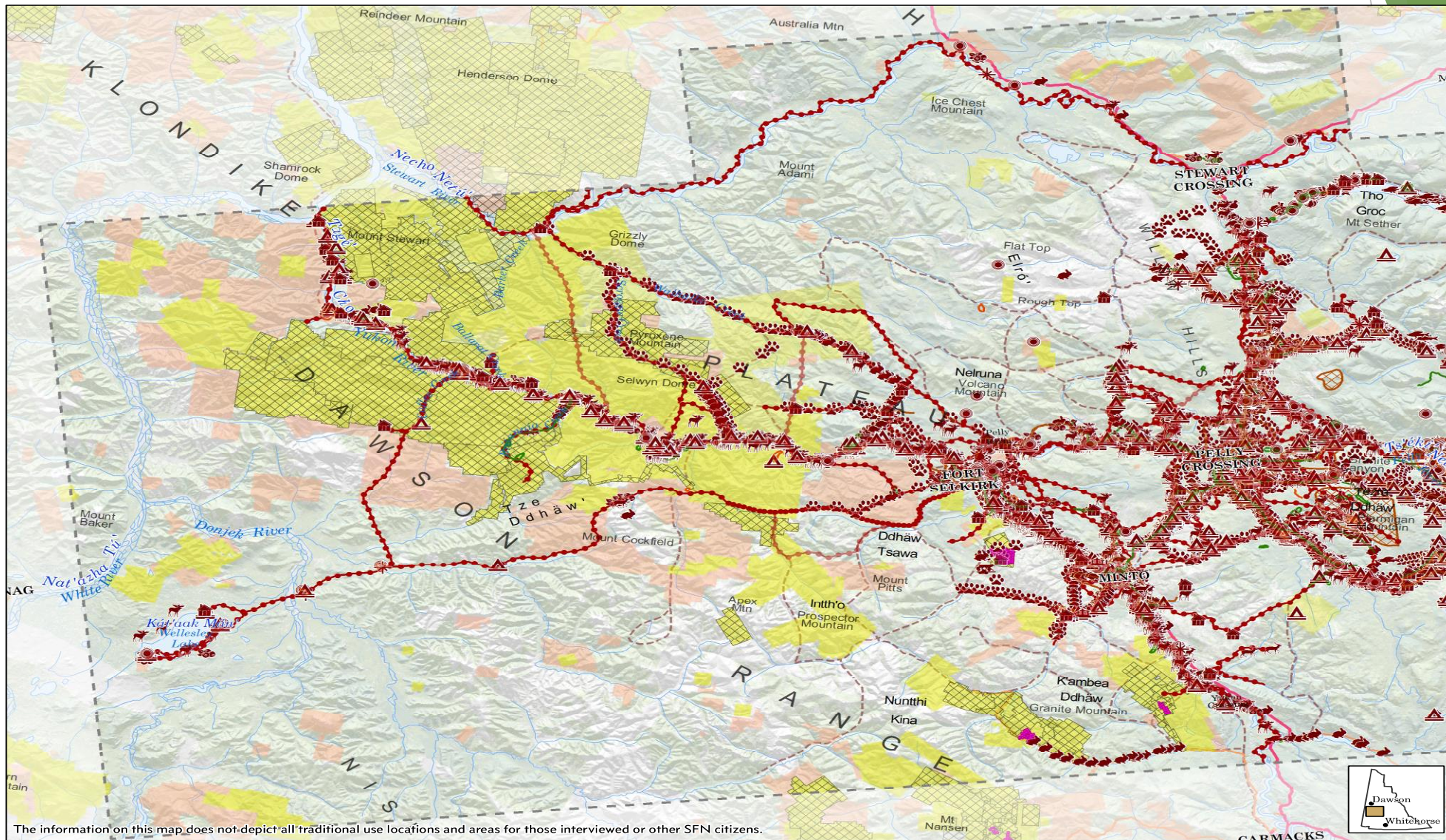
- YESAA assessments focus on one project and its potential effects: does not adequately address TU of lands and resources as a central, defining feature of SFN
- YESAA project assessments including CEA do not understand or address the strong interdependencies between socio- economic including cultural and ecological valued components
- SFN has consistently cited concerns about cumulative effects, especially for chinook salmon, moose, traditional use and community wellbeing, in the assessment of impacts
- This includes projects on SFN Settlement Land (Minto Mine), projects within SFN traditional territory (Coffee, Casino & Resource Gateway) and projects impacting SFN traditional territory (Faro Mine Remediation)



**Map 24w: Placer Mining
Activities, 2020, and SFN TUS
2017-2019 All Features
[SFN traditional territory--west]**

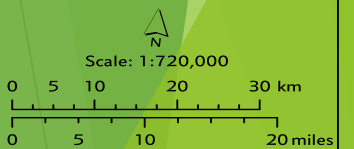
- mining: placer land use permit--valid
- mining: placer land use permit--completed
- mining: placer prospecting lease
- mining: placer claim--active
- mining: historical placer claim
- ▲ SFN TUS 2017-2019 study





Map 23w: Quartz Mining Activities, 2020, and SFN TUS 2017-2019 All Features [SFN traditional territory--west]

- mining: quartz
- mining: quartz land use permit--valid
- mining: quartz land use permit--completed
- mining: quartz claim--
- mining: quartz claim--
- mining: quartz claim--
- ▲ SFN TUS 2017-2019 study



TU and CE

- Cumulative effects from mines and access roads impact traditional use in extensive and varied ways (e.g. TU including hunting and fishing, gathering places, special places, harvest areas, harvest limits, avoidance and more)
- Land use, pressures, and diminished access to and availability of key species also directly impact food security, socio cultural well-being and carrying capacity of vital landscapes and water bodies
- SFN remains highly concerned about cumulative effects arising from project assessments that do not consider impacts on the s/e, socio- cultural and ecological wellbeing of resources in SFN TT as well as citizens

Selkirk First Nation Minto Mine SE Monitoring and Cumulative Effects

- 2010-2013 Minto Mine s/e Effects baseline information and effects assessments for various expansion proposals were poor:
- Company, YG and SFN agreed to a requirement s for project specific monitoring of effects with development and launch of a comprehensive s/e framework and monitoring program : SFN and YG YESAA Decision Documents supported this
- S/e Effects Monitoring Framework was approved in 2014: monitoring commenced- 5 years so far with intent to digitally release 2019 results this year
- Program is a tri- partite collaborative initiative (Minto Mine, SFN and YG)
- Goal is to assess s/e project effects to company predictions during the assessment, enhance the management of positive and negative effects resulting from the mine, and improve the information collected to strengthen the monitoring program

Selkirk First Nation Minto Mine SE Monitoring and Cumulative Effects

- ▶ 16 valued conditions (VCs) 5 key living conditions, 65 indicators ; some are reported on annually and others every 5 years;
- ▶ A key feature of the program is that SFN reports on several indicators every five years following its household survey of citizens aged 16 residing in Yukon
- ▶ *Knowing Ourselves, The Selkirk First Nation 2015 Household Survey of Living Conditions* informed the Minto Mine SEMP Annual Report, 2015 with vital and new s/e, socio cultural information previously uncollected and reported in Yukon

cont. Selkirk First Nation Minto Mine SE Monitoring and Cumulative Effects

- Findings from the 2015 SFN Household Survey informed analysis in TU study
- SFN and YG are prepared to launch a CE monitoring framework and program arising out of Minto Mine Decision Document with a pilot project under discussion
- Other priorities and work have precluded progress; however both parties agree that this is needed in Yukon
- Project focus would be on select key VCs to contribute to a meaningful CEA for SFN (and would be informed by TUS, SFN Household Survey, Minto SEMP and recent SFN YESSA submissions concerning proposed projects in SFN TT)

Connection to Land + Water – Select VCs from Minto Mine SE Monitoring Program

Valued Conditions	Indicators	Scale and Frequency	Data Source	Rationale
Connection to Land and Water	#50 % of workforce aged group engaged in harvesting activities	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	Participation in land/water-based activities is central to SFN culture and the maintenance of traditional knowledge
	#39 % of workforce aged group engaged in harvesting activities	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	Participation in land/water-based activities is central to SFN culture and the maintenance of traditional knowledge
	#51 Frequency of participation in harvesting activities	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	Participation in land/water-based activities is central to SFN culture and the maintenance of traditional knowledge
	#51 Level of satisfaction with access to traditional foods	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	Reflects Significance
	#52 Perception of likely level of participation in harvesting activities in 5 years time + reasons	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	Future trend re. participation in land/water-based activities and potential cultural impacts
	#52 Strength of connection as a reason for staying in chosen community	Pelly/Other Yukon: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	Reflects Significance

Traditional Economy

Value & Conditions	Indicators	Scale & Frequency	Data Source	Rationale
SFN Traditional Economy	#39 Percentage of workforce aged group engaged in harvesting activities	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	Participation, opportunity and preference in hunting, trapping and fishing
	#40 Percentage amount of traditional foods consumed	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	Economic contribution to household domestic needs
	#41 Satisfaction with the quality and availability of traditional foods	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	Sufficiency of wildlife resources and harvest sharing to meet domestic needs (quality and quantity) and contribute to food security
	#51 Level of satisfaction with access to traditional foods	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	Sufficiency of harvest access (e.g. time, equipment, money, competition)

Cultural vitality

Valued Conditions	Indicators	Scale and Frequency	Data Source	Rationale
Cultural Vitality	#40% Amount of traditional foods consumed	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	Consumption of traditional foods is central to SFN cultural continuity
	#53% Amount of traditional foods consumed	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	Consumption of traditional foods is central to SFN cultural continuity
	#53% Knowledge of traditional (Dooli) laws and custom	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	Traditional laws and customs are culturally significant instruments of social organization and cohesion.
	#54% Level of participation in processing or preparing traditional foods	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	Consumption of traditional foods is central to SFN cultural continuity
	#55% of citizens speaking Northern Tutchone	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	Language as a reflection of cultural continuity.

Social Cohesion

Valued Conditions	Indicators	Scale and Frequency	Data Source	Rationale
Social Cohesion	#56 Description of activities, events, initiatives, programs and expenditures by Minto to protect SFN cultural and community well-being, including educational assistance and scholarships, cultural awareness programs for non-aboriginal employees, support for traditional and cultural activities, language programs, employee assistance programs (for cash management, alcohol and drug counseling, stress management), and family and community healthy living initiatives, etc.)	Pelly: Annual	Minto Mine	Commitments to maintenance of social cohesion.
	#57 Level of participation in sharing or exchanging traditional food	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	Inter-household and intra-family sharing and social capital support
	#58 Frequency of participation in sharing or exchanging traditional food	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	
	#58 Level of satisfaction with family and community life	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	General satisfaction with social life is indicative of social harmony
	#59 Knowledge of Dooli laws and custom	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	Traditional laws and customs are culturally significant instruments of social organization and cohesion.
	#59 Strength of family and social networks as a reason for staying in current community	Pelly/Whse: 5 Yr	SFN Survey	State of social networks are reflective of social and community cohesion

Fate Control + Preparedness

Value and Conditions	Indicators	Scale and Frequency	Data Source	Rationale
Fate Control and Preparedness	#60 Ability of Minto/SFN/YG to manage Project-related socio-economic commitments, impacts and risks	Pelly/Minto/Yukon: Annual	Minto/YG/SFN Round Tables	Capacity, ability and preparedness of MEL, YG and SFN to manage predicted impacts and surprises.
	#61 Resilience of households to manage stresses resulting from Project-specific and cumulative effects	Pelly: Periodic	SFN Round Table	Relative capacity of households to manage change

Challenges

- ▶ Continued fragmentation of SFN TT, by activity approved in the absence of cumulative effects assessments and management at the regional scale, are increasing cause for concern to SFN
- ▶ Monitoring the impact of multiple activities, at a landscape level, within SFN TT and impacting SFN TT, is urgently needed in order to assess and evaluate potential cumulative effects and make informed decisions
- ▶ While impacts, positive and negative, from the Minto mine are generally understood due to the monitoring program, the same cannot be said for several other projects impacting SFN
- ▶ There are limits to growth and impacts; the question is what thresholds should be utilized to determine when the activity level can no longer be sustained.

CHALLENGES

- ▶ Settlement land and current governance models do not adequately enable SFN to manage landscape level impacts from projects and cumulative effects: new models are needed e. g . development and management of new resource access roads,
- ▶ Collaborative advance work on key species and values for regional cumulative effects assessments is desirable prior to submission of major projects to YESAB to inform the CE assessment
- ▶ Funding and leadership for comprehensive socio- economic monitoring programs and regional cumulative effects assessments is needed