

Draft Agenda: YESAA Forum on Cumulative Effects

Dates: January 26-29, 2021

Time: 8:30AM – 12:30PM (Mountain time)

Location: Zoom (link to be sent to participants)

In November 2019, the YESAA Oversight Committee recommended that the YESAA Forum Steering Committee prioritize cumulative effects at a future Forum session. It recommended addressing key aspects of the issue, such as reviewing existing work on cumulative effects assessment and management, having assessors and regulators explain their cumulative effects assessment and management policies, exploring mechanisms in YESAA whose processes are not fully developed, and identifying data gaps.

Day 1: Cumulative effects in the Yukon context

Day 1 of the YESAA Forum will lay the foundation for the remainder of the event by addressing past and ongoing efforts within cumulative effects assessment, management, and monitoring in the Yukon. The morning speaker will provide context for the Forum by highlighting outcomes and recommendations from previous events related to cumulative effects in the territory, including the 2012 YESAA Forum and 2019 Yukon Land Use Planning workshop. The intention of setting the stage in this way is to avoid repeating past conversations and build on what has already been identified as central to advancing practice within the realm of cumulative effects.

The panel presentation will bring together representatives who are currently working to address cumulative effects from assessment, management, and monitoring perspectives in the Yukon. These presentations are intended to be concise and focus on three components: current practice, limitations, and recommendations for future efforts. This approach reflects the need to address several important misconceptions or challenges within the cumulative effects landscape in the Yukon, such as the perception that project-level impact assessment is sufficient on its own to assess cumulative effects, the perception that regional land use planning will be capable of managing all cumulative effects concerns, uncertainty on the relationship between adaptive management and cumulative effects, and the challenge of understanding what it takes to collect good baseline information (from both a Western science and Indigenous knowledge perspective), especially for understanding and monitoring socio-economic and socio-cultural values.

The afternoon breakout group discussions will be based on several guiding questions. The breakout groups provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on conversations from the day and share perspectives and experiences on current efforts within cumulative effects assessment, management, and monitoring. The objective of the breakout groups is to allow participants to begin shaping their own understanding of the current cumulative effects framework in the Yukon, as well as a collective understanding of where key gaps and challenges within that framework exist.

January 26, 2021

Time	Agenda item	Details	Presenters
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Introductions	Welcome by facilitators Opening prayer Opening remarks from Samantha Paterson, Oversight Committee	
9:00 – 9:30 AM	Background to the Forum topic	Review of recommendation on cumulative effects from previous workshops	Lindsay Staples, Consultant Ron Cruikshank, Yukon Land Use Planning Council
9:30 – 10:30 AM	Presentation: Cumulative effects in the Yukon	Overview of how cumulative effects are assessed, managed, and monitored in the Yukon:	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship between regional planning and assessment in the <i>UFA</i> and <i>YESAA</i> 	Laura Cabott, YESAB Lois Craig, Yukon Land Use Planning Council
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cumulative effects in <i>YESAA</i> 	Tim Smith, YESAB
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range planning for caribou 	Mike Suitor, Yukon Government
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dawson regional land use planning and cumulative effects 	Megan Hornseth, Yukon Government/Dawson Regional Land Use Planning Commission Cumulative Effects Working Group
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Nation regional-level data collection (e.g., Selkirk First Nation Traditional Land Use Study/Atlas + Household survey) 	Lindsay Staples Lois Craig

10:30 – 10:45 AM	Break
10:45 – 11:00 AM	Facilitated question/discussion period
11:00 – 11:45 PM	Breakout group discussions
11:45 – 12:15 PM	Report back
12:15 – 12:30 PM	Wrap-up by facilitators

Day 2: Cumulative effects in other jurisdictions

Day 2 of the YESAA Forum will focus on cumulative effects assessment, management, and monitoring in other jurisdictions across Canada. The panel presentation in the morning will highlight recent thinking in how cumulative effects are treated in impact assessment (e.g., federal legislation), areas where thinking on cumulative effects management is considered to be more advanced (e.g., BC), and regions where Indigenous authorities are leading the way in shaping the role traditional knowledge plays in assessing and monitoring cumulative impacts (e.g., NWT). Similar to day 1, the presentations will focus on current practice, limitations, and recommendations for future efforts. Presenters will be encouraged to consider lessons learned and recommendations that could inform Yukon approaches. Facilitators of the afternoon breakout groups will provide a high-level overview of the previous days' conversation to remind participants of the nature and extent of challenges within the Yukon cumulative effects landscape. The discussion will focus on building that conversation to better understand whether and how the Yukon context can learn from efforts in other regions, recognizing the unique nature of different jurisdictions. The objective will be to begin providing participants with the lessons and insights they need to advance conversations about an agenda for change (day 4).

January 27, 2021

Time	Agenda item	Details	Presenters
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Introductions	Welcome by facilitators Review of previous day	

9:00 – 10:00 AM	Panel: Cumulative effects outside of the Yukon	Presentations from representatives involved in cumulative effects assessment, management, and monitoring outside of the Yukon:	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal legislation – new approaches in the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i> 	Brent Parker, federal Impact Assessment Agency
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New thinking in cumulative effects assessment 	John Sinclair, University of Manitoba
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cumulative impact assessment and monitoring in the NWT 	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) representative
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cumulative effects assessment and management: limitations and opportunities from a mining industry perspective 	Justyna Laurie-Lean, Mining Association of Canada
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Facilitated question/discussion period		
10:30 – 10:45 AM	Break		
10:45 – 11:45 AM	Breakout group discussions		
11:45 – 12:15 PM	Report-back		
12:15 – 12:30 PM	Wrap-up by facilitators		

Day 3: Implementing innovations in cumulative effects

Day 3 of the YESAA Forum will advance discussions from day 2. Where day 2 focussed on the general frameworks for cumulative effects assessment, management, and monitoring established through legislation in other jurisdictions, day 3 will look at what it takes to implement these efforts. While some of the ideas being proposed in other jurisdictions are not necessarily new, they are being implemented in innovative ways. The panel presentation in the morning will focus on insights from those with experience in putting processes such as strategic/regional impact assessment or cumulative effects management into practice. The presenters will be asked to address what it takes for these processes to be effective on the ground and what advice they might have for similar approaches in the Yukon. The breakout group discussions in the afternoon will again focus on building participants' understanding of where there are opportunities for change in the Yukon, setting the stage for Day 4 of the Forum.

January 28, 2021

Time	Agenda item	Details	Presenters
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Introductions	Welcome by facilitators, review of previous day	
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Presentation: Lessons on implementing innovative approaches to cumulative effects	Presentations addressing how innovative approaches to cumulative effects can be implemented:	Presenters:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing strategic/regional impact assessment 	Jill Blakley, University of Saskatchewan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous-led cumulative effects management and monitoring 	Ross Wilson, Metlakatla First Nation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements for effective regional scale planning that addresses cumulative effects (working title) 	Justina Ray, Wildlife Conservation Society
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-operative governance in cumulative effects monitoring and management 	Jessica Clogg, West Coast Environmental Law Centre
10:00 – 10:30 AM	Facilitated question/discussion period		

10:30 – 10:45 AM	Break
10:45 – 11:45 AM	Breakout group discussions
11:45 – 12:15 PM	Report-back
12:15 – 12:30 PM	Wrap-up by facilitators

Day 4: What is the agenda for change in the Yukon?

The final day of the YESAA Forum will shift the conversation towards building an “agenda for change” in the Yukon. In the morning, the facilitator will summarize key pieces of the approaches, tools, and lessons from the previous three days. The breakout group discussions will then be the focus of the day. The groups will be tasked with identifying specific recommendations for advancing cumulative effects assessment, management, and monitoring in the Yukon. Critically, the groups will also be asked to speak to their priorities in the development and implementation of these recommendations and, where possible, identify those with a potential role to play in implementation. This question is central to the effectiveness of recommendations that stem from the workshop. These recommendations will provide guidance on where priorities exist, what is relevant to the Yukon context, why they are important to address based on multiple areas of expertise and experience, and how these recommendations can be put into practice. The objective of these breakout groups is ultimately to inform a workshop deliverable that outlines an agenda for change in how cumulative effects are assessed, managed, and monitored in the Yukon.

January 29, 2021

Time	Agenda item	Details
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Introductions	Welcome by facilitators Review of the approaches, tools, and lessons from the previous 3 days
9:00 – 10:00 AM	Breakout group discussions	Small breakout group discussions to focus on identifying actions/approaches required to advance cumulative effects assessment, management, and monitoring in the Yukon

10:00 – 10:15 AM	Break	
10:15 – 11:15 AM	Breakout group discussions	Continued from above
11:15 – 12:15 PM	Report-back	Breakout groups report back on key points from their discussion
12:15 – 12:30 PM	Wrap-up by facilitators	