



STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

Renewal and Allocation for New, Vacant and Under-Utilized Traplines

Updated: November 2022

Contents

1.0	Introduction.....	2
2.0	Definitions and Acronyms.....	3
3.0	Trapline Allocation Process.....	4
4.0	Jurisdiction and Responsibility	5
4.1	Teslin Renewable Resources Council.....	5
4.2	Teslin Tlingit Council	5
4.3	Department of Environment, Government of Yukon	6
5.0	Application Guidelines and Eligibility Criteria	6
5.1	Adequate Equipment.....	6
5.2	Experience	6
5.3	Minimum Age	7
5.4	Prior Wildlife Convictions	7
6.0	Criteria for Establishing Reasonable Effort	7
6.1	Effort and Interest	7
6.2	Production Evaluation Criteria	8
7.0	Revocation and Reassignment of Trapping Concessions.....	8
7.1	Notification of Expiration of Concession.....	8
7.2	Public Notice	8
7.3	Recommended Time Limit	9
7.4	Dispute Resolution Process	9
7.5	Process for the Allocation of a Vacant Trapline	9
8.0	Contact Information	10
	Map of Traplines	11

1.0 Introduction

The following criteria will be used by the Teslin Renewable Resources Council to assist them in making their recommendations to the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Minister of Environment on the use and allocation of Category 1 and Category 2 traplines. These guidelines may be reviewed and amended on a regular basis.

Chapter 16 of the Teslin Tlingit Council Final Agreement states that the Teslin Renewable Resources Council may establish bylaws under the Wildlife Act R.S.Y. 1986, c.178, for the management of furbearers.

The Teslin Renewable Resources Council may make recommendations to the Minister and the Teslin Tlingit Council on the use of traplines and the reassignment of all new, vacant, and under-utilized traplines.

Section 16.11.2 states that in establishing local criteria for the management and use of furbearers, the Council shall provide for:

- The maintenance and enhancement of the Yukon's wild fur industry and the conservation of the fur resource.
- The maintenance of the integrity of the management system based upon individual trapline identity, including individual traplines within group trapping areas.
- The Renewable Resources Council established for the Traditional Territory of a Yukon First Nation described in 16.11.3 shall establish additional criteria for the process by which the transition to the target set out in 16.11.3 is to be achieved, including transfers of traplines other than those pursuant to 16.11.3.3, which also may be permitted notwithstanding 16.11.3.1.
- The overall allocation of traplines which have more than 50 percent of their area in that portion of the Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory which is not overlapped by another Yukon First Nation's Traditional Territory is 28 traplines held by Yukon Indian People and aboriginal people who are beneficiaries of Transboundary Agreements and four traplines held by other Yukon residents.

Guidelines approved:

Sandy Smarch, Chair
Teslin Renewable Resources Council

2.0 Definitions and Acronyms

<i>Category 1 Trapline</i>	means those traplines identified as such in Schedule B of Chapter 16 of the Final Agreement and those traplines subsequently so designated, as evidenced by the written consent of the registered holder of that trapline. <i>The Teslin Tlingit Council has the final allocation authority over these Category 1 Traplines.</i>
<i>Category 2 Trapline</i>	means those traplines not designated as a Category 1 Trapline. <i>The Minister will have final allocation authority for Category 2 Traplines.</i>
<i>Under-utilized Trapline</i>	A trapline in which the concession holder does not demonstrate reasonable effort by way of harvesting fur or improving upon the trapline by way of trapping, trail or cabin development.
<i>Vacant Trapline</i>	Is a trapline that has no Concession Licence issued and has been deemed as vacant by the Minister.
<i>Final Agreement</i>	Teslin Tlingit Council Final Agreement
<i>Traditional Territory</i>	Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory
<i>Minister</i>	Minister, Department of the Environment, Yukon Government
<i>TTC</i>	Teslin Tlingit Council
<i>TRRC</i>	Teslin Renewable Resources Council

3.0 Trapline Allocation Process

For the purpose of these guidelines, a vacant trapline would be one that is considered open for any of the following reasons:

- Failed probationary period
- Death of the Concession Holder
- Relinquishment
- Under-utilized
- Concession holder fails to renew within 90 days of the expiry date.

The TRRC shall regularly review the use of traplines and make recommendations to the Minister and the Teslin Tlingit Council on the assignment and reassignment of all new, vacant and under-utilized traplines pursuant to the criteria that it establishes in accordance with 16.6.10.6 and 16.6.10.7 of the Teslin Tlingit Council Final Agreement.

New and vacant traplines shall be assigned with regard to criteria established by the TRRC and, to the extent possible, in accordance with the following provisions of the Final Agreement:

- 16.11.3** the overall allocation of traplines in each Yukon First Nation's Traditional Territory shall be approximately 70 percent held by Yukon Indian People and aboriginal people who are beneficiaries of Transboundary Agreements and approximately 30 percent held by other Yukon residents;
- 16.11.10.2** additional criteria for the allocation of Category 1 Traplines may be established by the Teslin Tlingit Council;
- 16.11.10.3** Category 1 Traplines may be temporarily assigned to other qualified Yukon residents, but such assignment shall not alter the Category 1 status of the trapline;
- 16.11.10.4** upon mutual agreement between the trappers concerned, and with the approval of the TRRC, the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Minister, a trade may be arranged between Category 1 and Category 2 Traplines, with consequent re-designation of the status of the traplines;
- 16.11.10.5** the Government of Yukon and the TRRC shall maintain a register of Category 1 and Category 2 Traplines, and the Teslin Tlingit Council shall also maintain a register of Category 1 Traplines;
- **In addition to this provision, the TRRC will also maintain a map of all traplines within the Teslin Tlingit Traditional Territory.
- 16.11.10.6** for Category 1 Traplines, the final allocation authority shall rest with the First Nation;
- 16.11.10.7** for Category 2 Traplines, the final allocation authority shall rest with the Minister;

- 16.11.10.8** the Teslin Tlingit Council, the Government of Yukon or any affected person may refer any dispute arising out of 16.11.10 to the dispute resolution process under 26.4.0 and;
- 16.11.10.9** the Teslin Tlingit Council Final Agreement may set out additional provisions for trading Category 1 and Category 2 Traplines.

4.0 Jurisdiction and Responsibility

4.1 Teslin Renewable Resources Council

Has three primary roles relating to trapping and traplines:

1. Authority to establish bylaws under the Yukon Wildlife Act for the management of furbearers.
2. Authority to make recommendations to the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Minister on the management of furbearers.
3. Authority to make recommendations to the Teslin Tlingit Council and the Minister on the use of traplines and the reassignment of all new, vacant and under-utilized traplines. In cases where the TRRC reviews and makes a recommendation, they will forward these as follows:
 - **Recommendation to the Teslin Tlingit Council in the cases of Category 1 Traplines**
 - **Recommendation to the Minister in the cases of Category 2 Traplines**

The Teslin Renewable Resources Council will have available to the public a current list of all registered trapping concessions within the Teslin Tlingit Traditional Territory and their status.

All traplines which fall under the allocation process shall be reviewed by April 1st of each year.

All open lines will be publicly posted for a minimum of 60 days, in order to receive applications for the open line.

4.2 Teslin Tlingit Council

The Teslin Tlingit Council is primarily responsible for all Category 1 Traplines as identified as such in Schedule B of Chapter 16 of the Umbrella Final Agreement, and those traplines subsequently so designated, as evidenced by the written consent of the registered concession holder. The Teslin Tlingit Council has final allocation authority over these lines.

With consideration given to the recommendations of the Teslin Renewable Resources Council, the Teslin Tlingit Council will make final decisions respecting the allocation of Category 1 Traplines, including the allocation of new and vacant traplines.

Sale of Category 1 Traplines: The Teslin Tlingit Council will have final allocation authority concerning any Category 1 traplines offered for sale.

4.3 Department of Environment, Government of Yukon

The Department of Environment will administer the issuance of concessions on Category 1 and Category 2 Traplines.

Prior to March 1st, the local District Conservation Officer and the Teslin Renewable Resources Council will review traplines due to expire on March 31st of that current year. The Teslin Renewable Resources Council will make recommendations as appropriate on traplines with concerns.

5.0 Application Guidelines and Eligibility Criteria

5.1 Adequate Equipment

- The applicant should have sufficient trapping equipment or finances available to conduct trapping activities. Equipment requirements and costs will vary given the location of traplines and distances involved.
- The cost of equipment may prove a hardship for trappers faced with exchanging their equipment to meet new requirements and standards.

5.2 Experience

- Demonstrated bush experience and knowledge:
 - working with a concession holder as an assistant
 - time in the bush on a trapline
 - number of years assisting
 - most recent harvest records; this criterion should be flexible to accommodate declines in fur populations, prices, etc.
- Successful completion of an approved trapper training course.
- Previous trapping experience.

5.2 Residency

- Priority given to residents of the Teslin Tlingit Traditional Territory.
- 1 year residency requirement under the Yukon Wildlife Act.

5.3 Minimum Age

- Concession holder must be a minimum of 16 years of age.

5.4 Prior Wildlife Convictions

- No prior wildlife convictions under the Yukon Wildlife Act in the previous 5 years.

6.0 Criteria for Establishing Reasonable Effort

6.1 Effort and Interest

- **Concession Holder must have a current trapping licence each year, and he/she must demonstrate fur harvest activity within the 5-year period.**
- Demonstrated activity over the previous 5-year period could include:
 - fur harvest records
 - construction and year-round maintenance of line cabins
 - trail development and maintenance
 - proof of intent
 - cottage industry crafts (i.e., sewing/crafting with trapped hides/fur)
 - providing trapping assistance to other trapline holders
 - participation in trapping related workshops, training and events
 - trapping equipment purchase
- Where the Concession holder is an Elder, assistant trappers may contribute to meeting the required demonstrated activities.
- Fur harvested must have a minimum value of \$2,000 over a five-year period; or, fur harvested must be a minimum of 40 pelts of assorted species over a five-year period. These minimums may be reconsidered in the cases of traplines that have quotas issued and when fur prices are low.
- Reasonable effort will take into consideration other factor such fuel prices, inflation, supply-chain issues, safety considerations such as snow depth, or unanticipated events.
- Reasonable effort may be decided according to accessibility and distance to the trapline in question. Except where the economics of trapping and fur prices are a factor in limiting activity, traplines will be classified in the following manner:

Class A:

- Traplines close to the Village of Teslin
- must demonstrate activity 3 years out of the 5-year term

Class B:

- Traplines accessible by an all-season road and within 50 miles of Teslin
- must demonstrate activity 2 years out of the 5-year term

Class C:

- Traplines accessible by air, water, or more than 50 air miles from Teslin
- must demonstrate activity 2 years out of the 5-year term

6.2 Production Evaluation Criteria

- Prior to March 31st, all **Probationary Concession Holders** must submit a year-end report which would entail proof of use, i.e., harvest reports, receipts, etc.
- The concession holder fails to utilize his trapline where within the time limit set out in his classification of trapline he fails to take from the trapline: *Furbearing animals to an optimum number that can be taken from a given area on a sustainable basis, but with consideration given to extenuating circumstances, such as furbearer population cycles, species availability and animal quotas limiting harvests and fur prices of that current year. **The onus will be on the trapper to supply proof of catch.***

7.0 Revocation and Reassignment of Trapping Concessions**7.1 Notification of Expiration of Concession**

The Teslin RRC will contact those Concession Holders whose Concessions are due to expire on March 31st of the current year. A request for information will be made to assist the Council during the Concession Review Process.

The Department of Environment shall notify the registered concession holder, by registered letter, within ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of their concession to advise that their file has been forwarded to the Teslin Renewable Resources Council for review.

All traplines declared vacant by the Department of Environment shall be forwarded to the Teslin Renewable Resources Council for recommendation of reallocation.

The Teslin Renewable Resource Council will respect a 1 Year “grace period” in cases where death of the concession holder occurs.

In the case of a death of a First Nation concession holder, the Teslin Renewable Resource Council will respect Tlingit culture and suspend any decision- making regarding the deceased affairs until a headstone potlatch is held.

7.2 Public Notice

Traplines declared vacant shall be posted publicly where allowed in Post Offices, First Nation and Community Council offices, and any other government agency available for public access within the Teslin Tlingit Traditional Territory, for no less than sixty (60) days.

Category 1 Traplines deemed vacant due to a death shall be posted as per the guidelines after a headstone potlatch has been held. This posting will notify family members of the deceased that they may make application to the Teslin Renewable Resource Council to express their

interest in acquiring the Concession. Should there be no interest expressed to the initial posting of 60 days, then a standard posting open to the general public shall apply.

7.3 Recommended Time Limit

The Teslin Renewable Resources Council will make a recommendation regarding the reallocation of a trapline within one year following the time being declared vacant.

7.4 Dispute Resolution Process

The Teslin Tlingit Council First Nations Final Agreement (16.11.10.8) states that a person may refer any dispute arising out of 16.11.10 to the Dispute Resolution process under 26.4.0.

7.5 Process for the Allocation of a Vacant Trapline

- Teslin Renewable Resources Council (TRRC) receives notification from the Minister of a vacant trapline within the Teslin Tlingit Traditional Territory.
- TRRC posts an advertisement of the vacant trapline for application. This notice is posted for sixty (60) days.
- TRRC screens applications for interviews.
- TRRC interviews applicants.
- TRRC makes a recommendation to the appropriate government on whom they recommend that the trapline to be awarded to.

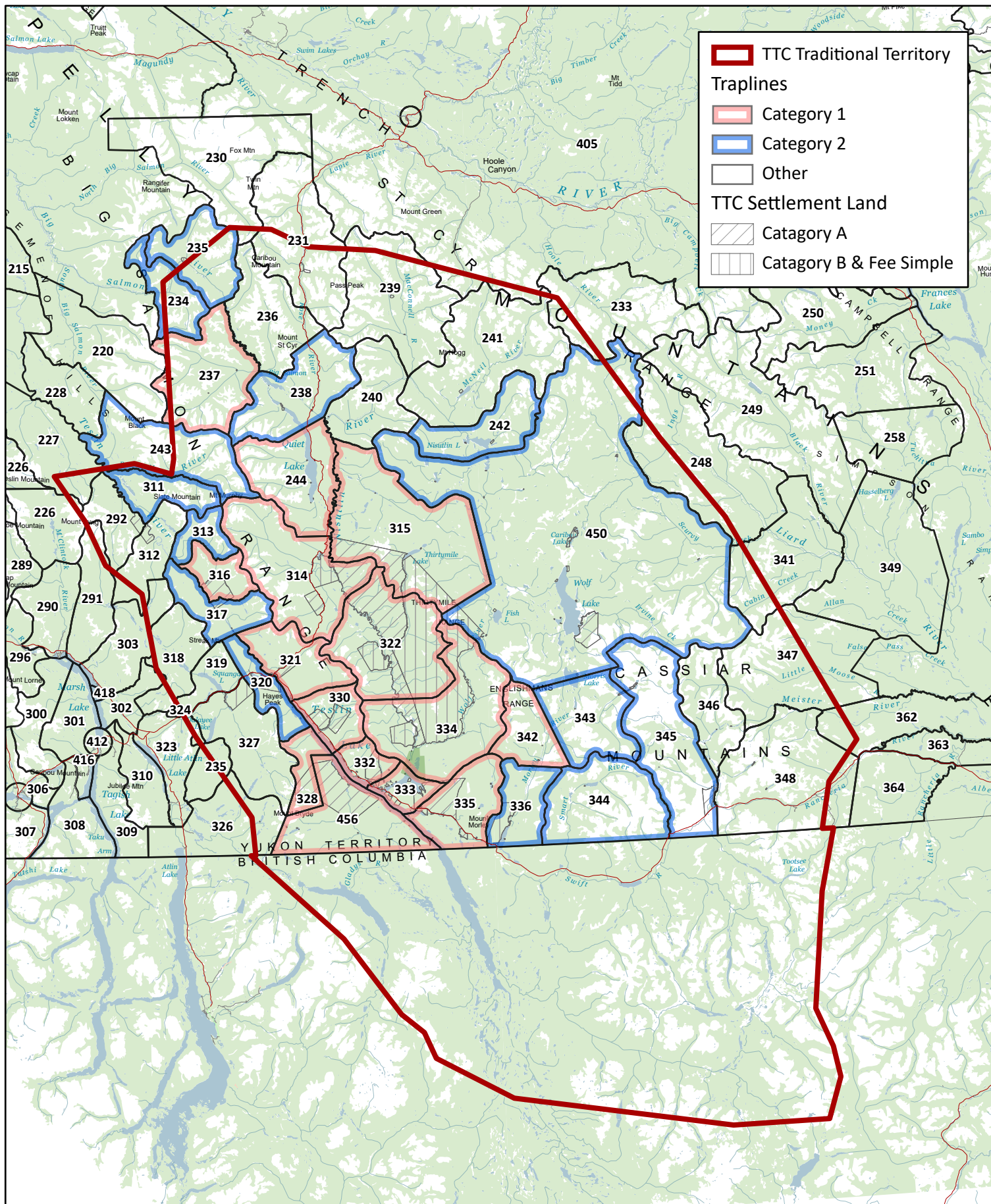
Category 2 Trapline	Category 1 Trapline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TRRC makes a recommendation to the Minister of Environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TRRC makes a recommendation to the Teslin Tlingit Council.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minister of Environment sends information from our interview process to the Concession and Compensation Review Board for the Board to review and make a recommendation back to the Minister. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teslin Tlingit Council advises Minister of Environment of their final allocation decision.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concession and Compensation Review Board review our process and recommendation to the Minister and then in turn make a recommendation to the Minister. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Department of Environment implements Teslin Tlingit Council decision with administration and registration.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minister reviews the Concession and Compensation Review Boards findings and makes a decision. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minister informs successful applicant of being awarded a trapline. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Department of Environment implements decision of the Minister with administration and registration. 	

8.0 Contact Information

Teslin Renewable Resources Council
P.O. Box 186
Teslin, Yukon
Y0A 1B0

Phone: (867) 390-2323

Email: teslin@rrc-yukon.com



Data Source Disclaimer: Spatial data downloaded from the Yukon Government Geomatics Yukon platform is considered current and comprehensive on the date of download; however, the data is dynamic and may be subject to change.

Prepared: April 2022
Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 8
Scale: 1:1,500,000

Teslin Tlingit Traditional Territory Trapline Concessions



0 15 30 60
Km