

Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Re: Ta'an Kwäch'än Council to complete Range Road dumpsite clean-up

Whitehorse, Yukon — The Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, with assistance from biologists at Environmental Dynamics Inc. (EDI), is in the final phase of its clean-up project at the old Range Road dumpsite located at the confluence of McIntyre Creek and the Yukon River.

The Ta'an Kwäch'än Council has been working on this project since 2006. Most of the debris has now been removed and site re-contouring work has begun. The waste material has been disposed of at the Whitehorse Municipal Landfill and tires have been separated and set aside for recycling through the Yukon Government's tire recycling program.

By the end of November 2008, an estimated 1,100 tons of metal and 3 truckloads of tires were removed from the site. The crew is now landscaping the hill area which involves the removal of clean-up access roads.

The site lies in Ta'an Kwäch'än Traditional Territory and features a one-time fish camp with the strong possibility of other heritage sites in the vicinity. McIntyre Creek is also a documented Chinook salmon spawning and rearing stream and the receiving waters in a side channel of the Yukon River an important waterfowl staging habitat during the spring. To minimize disturbance to nearby water bodies as well as existing vegetation, an EDI biologist has been on site to monitor the clean-up efforts. In the spring of 2009, Ta'an Kwäch'än members with assistance from EDI biologists will re-vegetate the site using local, native plant species.

"Dumping sites like these threaten the natural environment and tarnish the landscape. We want people to stop using dump sites like Range Road, especially once they have been cleaned-up and reclaimed. It's really important that people use the proper channels for disposing their waste so that we don't end up having to clean up more sites like this one," says Ruth Massie, Chief of the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council

Funding for this project, in 2006, was provided through the Yukon Community Development Fund and the Yukon Waste Reduction and Recycling Initiative with in-kind contributions by the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and the City of Whitehorse. In 2007 and 2008, funding was also received from the Northern Strategy Fund to continue with the site reclamation.

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