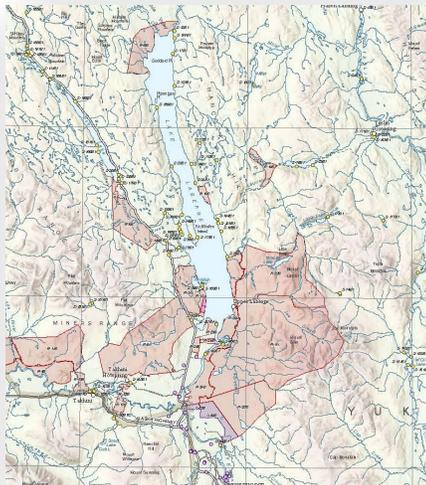




Top of the Territory

Aerial surveys conducted this fall will provide the LRH Department with important baseline updates on the condition of remote TKC parcels.



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This fall, the LRH Department conducted two aerial surveys by helicopter over areas within TKC's Traditional Territory; including the east shore of Lake Laberge, the Thirty Mile River and the mountains east of Lake Laberge. The purpose of these surveys was to capture and update information on TKC's remote site-specific settlement land parcels and rural blocks to inform an enhanced inventory of these sites.

In preparation for these surveys, The LRH Department compiled information previously collected on the settlement land parcels, as well as Traditional Knowledge spatial data layers and land claim selection documents. Gathering this information together, staff were able to determine what information was currently available for these sites and what further information could be collected, such as the condition of any buildings or structures on the site or signs of recent use.

The surveys were completed on October 6th and 8th to maximize ground visibility by selecting a time after the leaves come off and before the snow flies. During the flights, data was collected by two LRH staff accompanied by the Chief, Elders and a Councillor to assist with sharing knowledge of the areas surveyed. Chief Kane and Elder Joe Jack participated in the first survey flying over the east shore of Lake Laberge and the Thirty Mile River. Elder Shirley Adamson and Councillor Gordon Harvey Jr. participated in the second survey, flying over the mountains east of Lake Laberge. The information gathered during the survey was enhanced by the Citizens involved who provided valuable input during the surveys.

During the surveys, staff found that some sites still had existing structures in varying ages and degree of upkeep. In several areas, there were trails observed but no structures or indications of one were observed. Several of the site-specific parcels appeared to be in a natural state with little indication of recent human presence. Observations on land use in the vicinity of TKC's settlement land parcels were also noted, including the condition of the Livingstone Trail. While the Livingstone Trail is a fairly confined area in several locations where the trail crosses a wet area, the trail appeared braided and evidence of rutting was apparent.



Overall, these surveys provided staff with baseline information on the condition of these remote site-specific parcels and was intended to be the first step to further work. The observations made during the aerial surveys will help determine what areas to focus on during ground patrols and give staff a clear idea on what to expect at these sites. These observations also provide a record of the condition of the parcels that is incorporated in the inventory along with information previously collected for these sites.



The LRH Department plans on posting a full report where you can find more details on these surveys on the website in the new year. If you have any questions about the surveys or would like to hear more about it, please contact our GIS Analyst or Natural Resources Technician.



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