



MASTER PLAN 2007

YUKON WILDLIFE PRESERVE

(**DRAFT** – Pending completion of Section 6.0 - architectural drawings)

MASTER PLAN 2007 Yukon Wildlife Preserve

FOREWORD: Minister of Environment, President of Non-Governmental Organization

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Moose in semi-natural habitat

Executive Summary

The purpose of this Master Plan is to present a guiding document for the future operation and the capital development of the Yukon Wildlife Preserve (YWP) over the next 20 years. It also serves as a reference document for public dialogue. The plan will be reviewed every 5 years.

The history of the Yukon Wildlife Preserve is presented. A description of the facility and its operation, both in the past and the present is described. The future visions for the Wildlife Preserve are also outlined.

The operational and management principles for the development and operation of the facility outlined in this Master Plan are based on public input, the expressed goals and commitments of the Yukon Wildlife Preserve Operating Society (YWPOS), the Yukon Territorial Government (property owners), applicable legislation, and professional standards in the zoological community.

This plan provides an outline of all aspects of operation of the facility. The primary focus of the YWP is essentially twofold. First there is management of the wildlife in a safe and healthy environment. This plan outlines the operational and management principles that guide wildlife care both at present and in the future. The second main focus is the provision of wildlife viewing and educational opportunities for schools, colleges and the general public. The plan outlines the programs that are being offered at present, as well as new programs that are currently being developed. School programmes are currently being offered at the grade 4, 8, 9, 10 and 11 levels and we are working on expanding this to offer additional classes, specifically students in grade 7, in the near future. Most importantly, the plan outlines our vision for the future development of both infrastructure and programmes to promote the viewing and educational experience at the YWP.

The capital projects, such as an Interpretive/Education/Administration building, a Quarantine/ Rehabilitation/Research building, as well as viewing decks among others are planned and are described in outline. The actual design and anticipated costs will be incorporated into the plan once an architectural design has been developed.

The development of this Master Plan has been a collaborative effort between the YWPOS and the Yukon Territorial Government, with assistance from a zoo management consultant.



Entry, Official Opening Day June 12, 2004

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 HISTORY OF THE YUKON WILDLIFE PRESERVE

The Yukon Wildlife Preserve (YWP), located about 30 kilometres northwest of Whitehorse, was established in the late 1960's by Danny and Uli Nowlan and developed over 30 years. It operated as a private wildlife breeding and viewing facility and was known as The Yukon Game Farm. Danny and Uli Nowlan concentrated on propagating northern species of hoofed animals, which were relatively rare in international zoological institutions. Progeny has been sent to zoological gardens in many on and off-shore countries. The Nowlans bred indigenous species of falcons and raised other orphaned mammals. The hoofed animals were managed in spacious and wild habitat type enclosures, which accommodated species-specific behaviour-based husbandry regimes. The diversity of natural habitats on the 303.3 hectare (750 acre) site allowed for the unique presentation of northern Canadian wildlife. This together with its close proximity to Whitehorse, the capital of the Yukon, made it a prominent zoological facility with demonstrated visitor and tourism appeal.

An international tour company secured exclusive viewing privileges through annual contract, which brought over 20,000 tourists annually to the YWP during the last decade. The exclusivity agreement curbed the official marketing for general public visits for those years. Despite this the YWP is very well known and highly praised by its visitors and the local community.

The Nowlans resolved to retire and the facility was offered for sale through Colliers International, Vancouver in 2001, and by the owners in 2002 to 2003. Due to circumstances a buyer could not be found and the facility was destined to be dissolved, disposing of the wildlife and subdividing the property.

A non-profit organization, the Friends of the Yukon Wildlife Preserve Society, was formed in the summer of 2002. The Society's aim was to acquire the YWP and further "develop and operate it as a non-profit research and education facility to provide local economic development and other benefits to the community". The Society published a planning document, "*Yukon Wildlife Preserve – A Business Plan for its Future*" in March 2003, to assist in attracting government and private sector support to save the YWP. The envisioned support was not obtainable. The Society dissolved in 2003. The Nowlans were holding out to sell the facility as an intact Wildlife Preserve until December 2003 with inevitable dissolution of the facility and subdivision of the lands. In November 2003, the international conservation and zoo community responded by submitting letters of support and encouragement to preserve this valuable and unique facility for the future.

The Yukon Government purchased the assets of the privately owned YWP in December 2003, in order to preserve the lands, infrastructure and its resident breeding groups of northern species of wildlife, for the future. Encouraged by the international support and the sustained commitment by the YWP's supporters, the Minister of Environment initiated strategic steps to make the unique YWP a regional first class wildlife conservation and education center to strengthen environmental education, wildlife management, research, species conservation, nature appreciation and stewardship, economic growth and tourism.

The strategic reviews investigated models of governance to optimize public ownership, participation and access to external resources to ensure its ongoing development and economic viability. The model of working in partnership with an autonomous, non-for-profit organization, especially set up for this project and with a charitable status, received decisive support. The continued, keen interest by the citizens of the Yukon to save and advance the YWP as a world class facility, regrouped dedicated community members in December of 2003 to form the Yukon Wildlife Preserve Operating Society (YWPOS), to work in partnership with the Yukon government to achieve common goals.

The Department of Environment conducted a stakeholder workshop in January 2004 to obtain input from organizations and individuals connected to wildlife related policies and activities, education, economic development and tourism in the Yukon, to identify priorities, values and visions for the future development and operation of the YWP. The potential for a growing clientele of local, regional, national and international visitors remains very high. Environmental education, research and conservation opportunities are awaiting development.

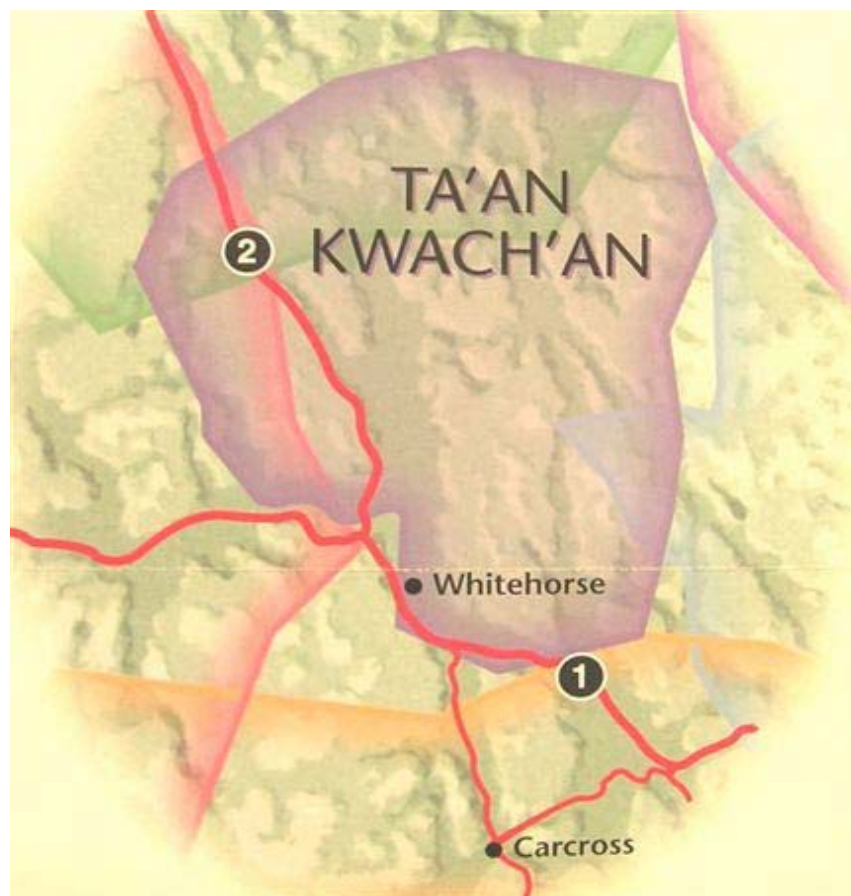
1.2 COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

The Yukon has approximately 33,000 people. Almost 25,000 live in and around its capital, Whitehorse. Early in the 19th century explorers traveled through the rugged lands, looking for the Northwest Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Indigenous people lived in the Yukon long before the early explorers arrived. Nearly a quarter of the population is of direct or indirect aboriginal origin. The Yukon is seen as one of the world's last wilderness frontiers. About a quarter of Yukon residents live in rural areas. Many First Nations people live in traditional ways. More than half of the lands are forested. Magnificent rivers and lakes, an impressive fauna, and most beautiful wild places form societal values. Hunting and fishing is deeply rooted in the way of life of aboriginal people as well as other people in the Yukon, who value wilderness and nature experiences.

The YWP area is situated within the Traditional Territory of the Ta'an Kwach'an and the Kwanlin Dun First Nations people.

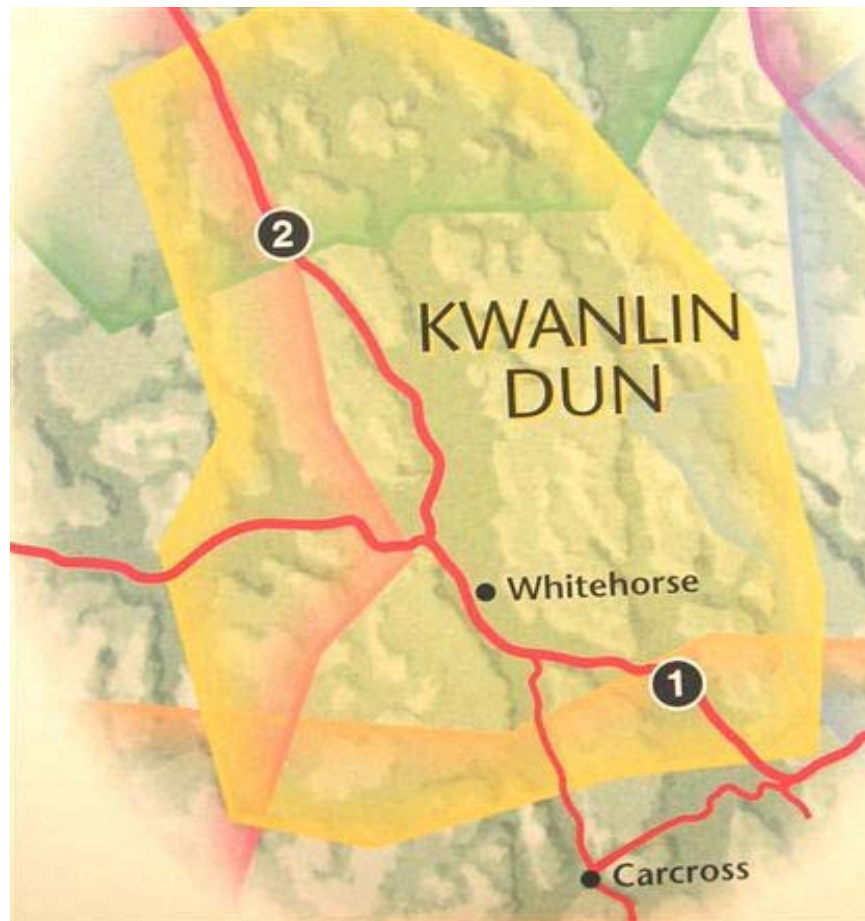
Map of Ta'an Kwach'an Territory

* Location of YWP



Map of Kwanlin Dun Territory

* Location of YWP



1.3 LEGISLATION

The establishment and operation of a wildlife conservation, education, and viewing facility is regulated through the Wildlife Act of the Yukon Territory. The Yukon Department of Environment is currently reviewing its legislation and intends to develop "Yukon Wildlife Preserve Regulations." In addition, the government intends to expand its Animal Health Act in the near future. Likewise, the federal "Animal Health Act" and "Animal Protection Act", the "Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species" (C.I.T.E.S.) and other regulations and laws outline mandatory standards and procedures for the animal care operations, including the import and export of wildlife.

The Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) has established comprehensive codes of ethics, guidelines, and mandatory standards for animal care and trade. These incorporate and, to an extent, exceed the standards in the above noted legislation. An accreditation program is maintained to approve, and periodically re-approve, a zoological institution's membership, based on performance within these

standards and guidelines. Membership in the national zoo association is seen as a prerequisite to operate a progressive zoological institution. The YWP is committed to holding institutional membership in CAZA.

1.4 ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING

In the past the administration was carried out by the two owners. Day to day operation was handled with the assistance of one to two experienced animal care staff with good general farm operating skills. Additional temporary staff were engaged to handle the busy summer season. A network of cooperative neighbours helped with animal restraint and medical procedures.

1.5 VISITORS

For a number of years the visitors entered the YWP by organized bus tours through a major tour company. The visitors essentially stayed on the bus, which alleviated safety concerns. The YWP recorded approximately 20,000 annual visitors in these years.

In 2002 to 2003, unscheduled, individual visitors or small groups were taken around by YWP staff in visitor's vehicles or company vehicles. In addition, some experienced bus tour companies took small groups of photographers around and supervised their safety. Self-guided tours were not offered to the general public. This made it unnecessary to develop typical visitor services and entry facilities. Individual admission fees were collected by the staff of the YWP.

A viewing platform was installed at the muskoxen enclosure to give visitors an opportunity to step out of the vehicle and view the animals in safety. Otherwise, there are no guard fences established to keep visitors back from the animal fences.

The primary clientele have been the tourists to the Yukon. In addition to the local population, many scientists and people working with, or interested in, wildlife husbandry and photography visited the YWP in the past. Visitor satisfaction was consistently high.



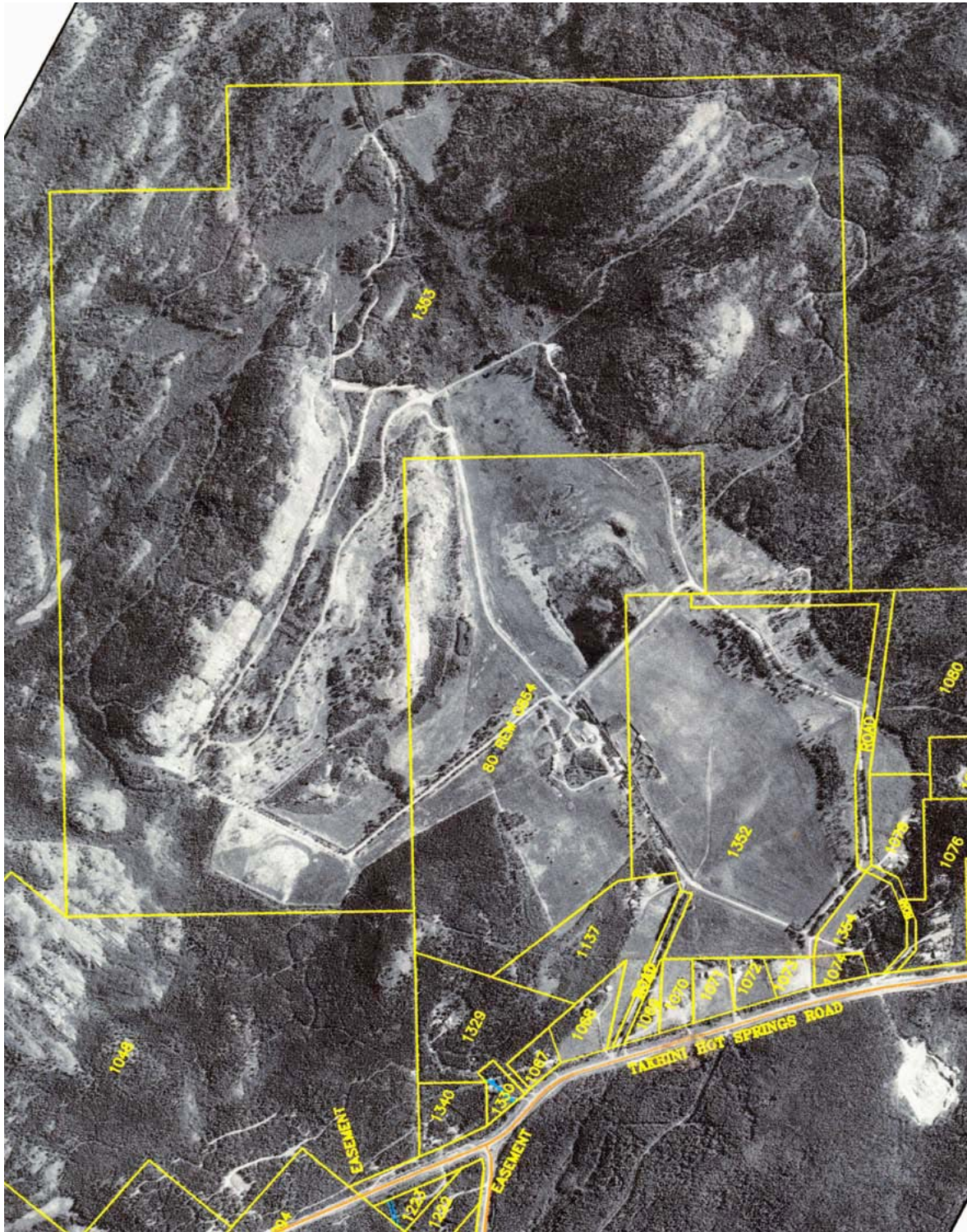
View to the NE from the office



Wapiti (elk) and wood bison in the meadow

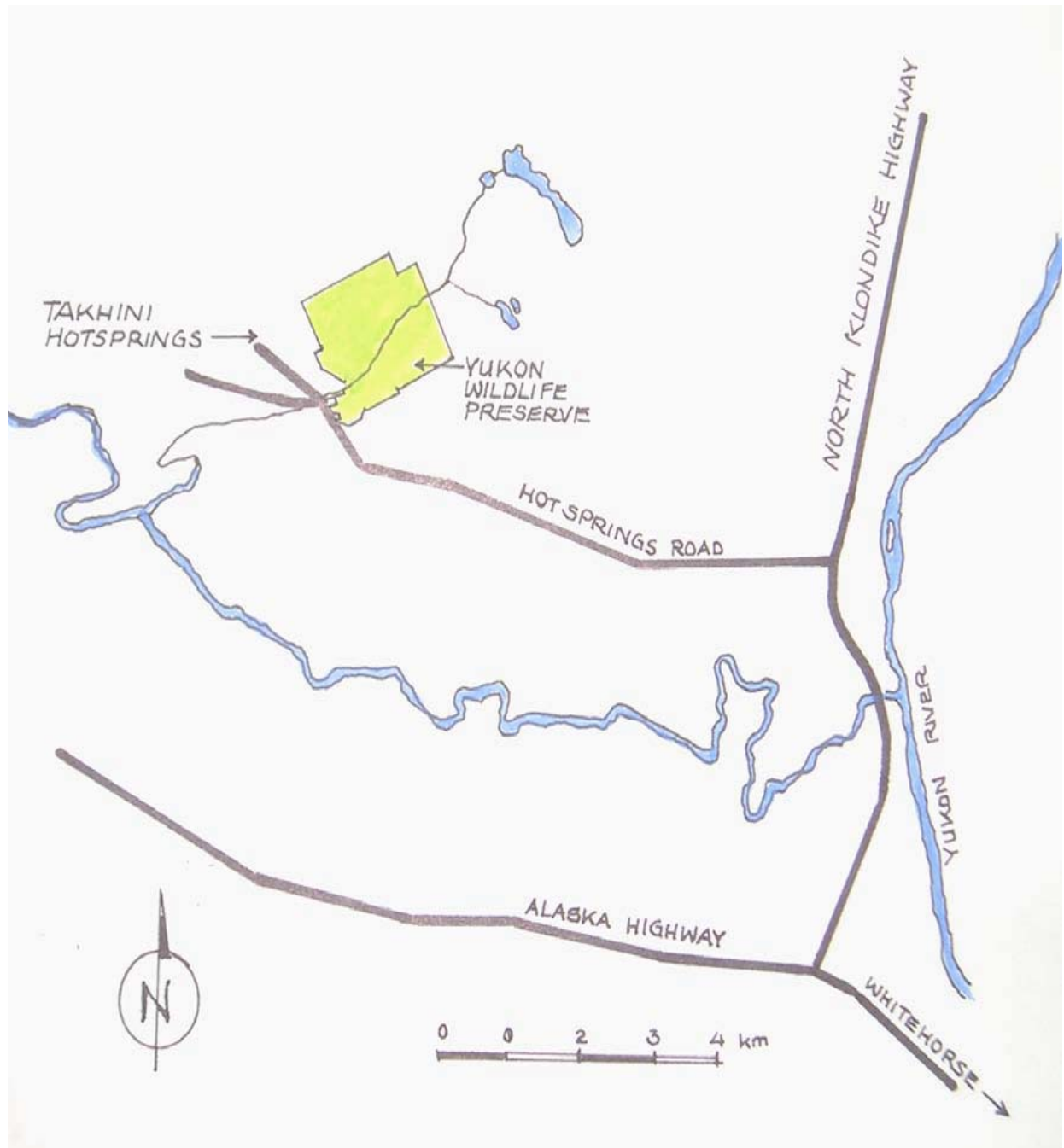
2.0 THE EXISTING YUKON WILDLIFE PRESERVE

AERIAL PHOTO



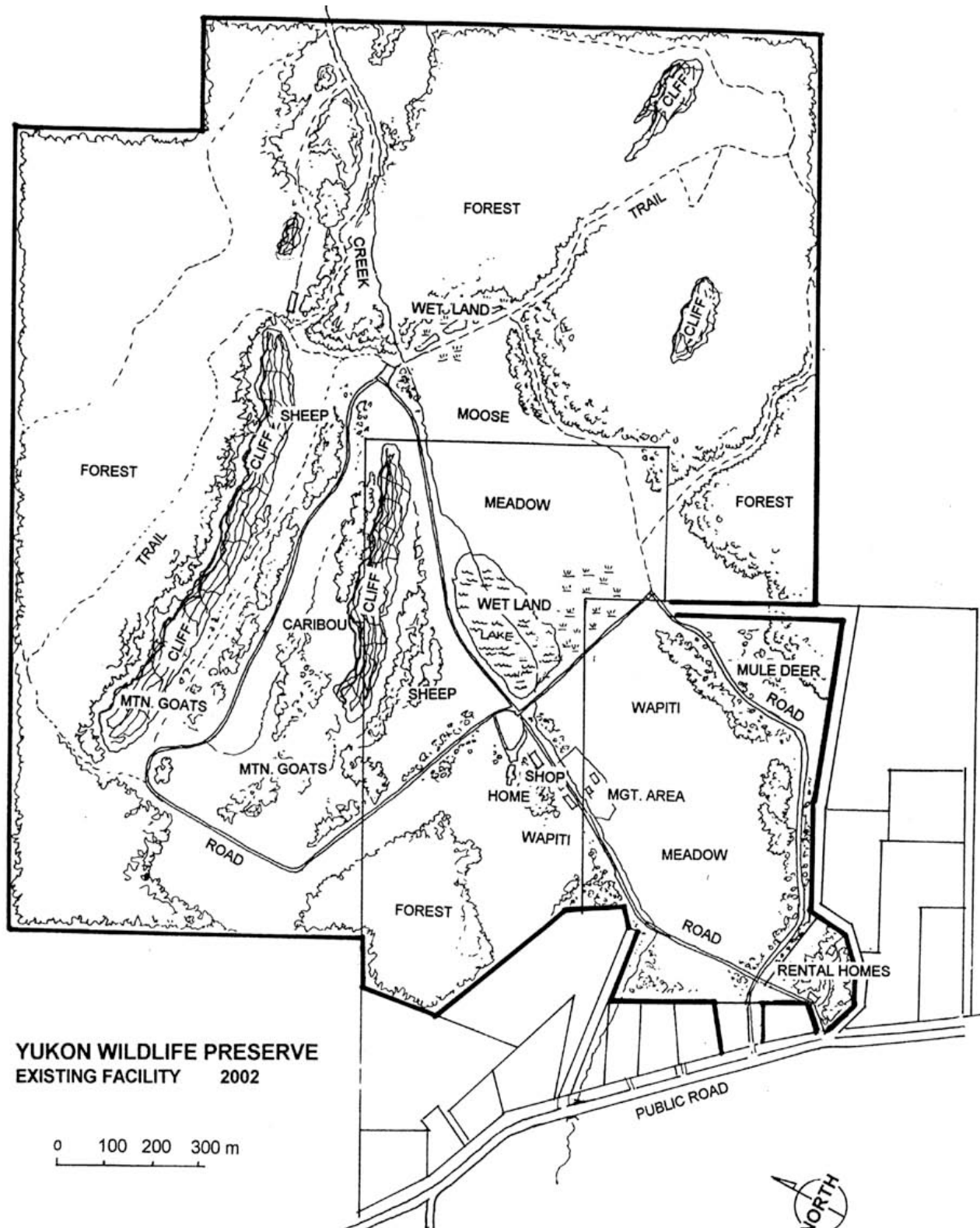
2.1 ACCESS

The entrance to the YWP is located at kilometre 8 (mile 5) on the Takhini Hot Springs Road, which branches off the North Klondike Highway. The North Klondike Highway, in turn, connects with the Alaska Highway to the south. The YWP can be reached within a 30 minute drive from Whitehorse.



Map showing highway and public road access

MAP OF EXISTING FACILITY
January 2004



2.2 EXISTING FACILITY

The property consists of five deeded land titles totaling 303.42 ha (749.73 acres). The lands are zoned Commercial-Recreation (CR), which allows for a wide range of operational activities. The area is subject to separate guidelines set out within the Order of Council (O.I.C.), which designated this zone for Game Farming, under the broader CR zoning. (see "Hotsprings Road Local Area Plan, Long Range Land Use Designation, Schedule B, 2002).

The property has a main office with a 211 square meter floor space. In addition there is a workshop of 112 square meters, which includes a garage and an office; animal management facilities of 135 square meters; and two hay barns with a combined capacity to store 240 tonnes of hay. The main office and workshop have hydro and telephone services. The buildings are heated with oil. The 8 km (5 mile) perimeter of the property is partially fenced with game and "Russell" fencing.

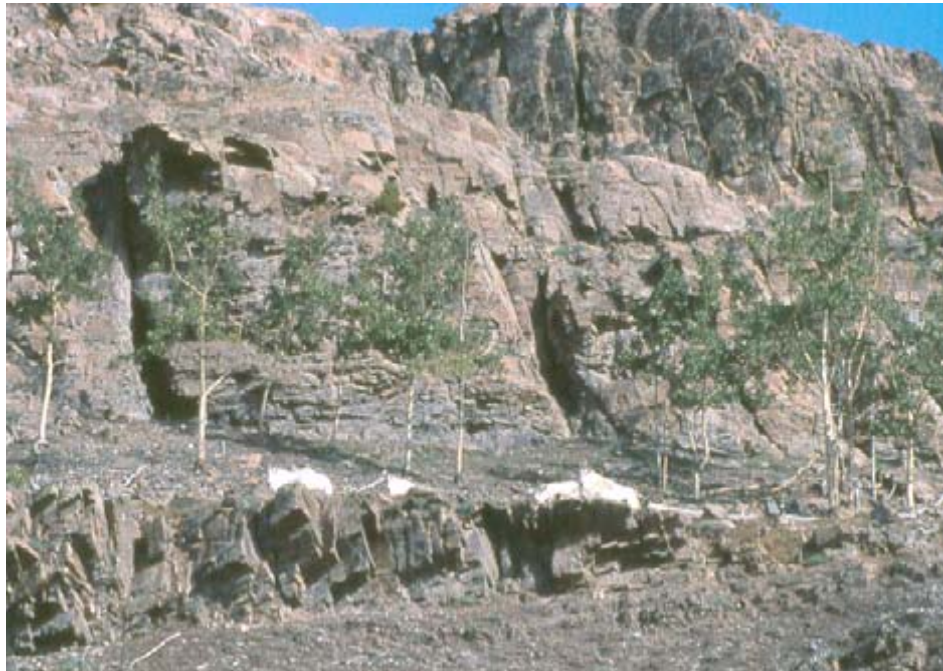
Ticket sales are currently handled by seasonal and/or full-time staff at the existing log reception building located in the parking lot. Washrooms (outhouses) are located in the parking lot.



Ticket office, summer 2004

2.3 TOPOGRAPHY

The topography is diverse, ranging from low-lying, arable, flat lands to rolling hills and steep rock cliffs. Elevation changes are significant with a variance of plus/minus 90 meters (292 feet). Approximately 25 ha can be used for hay crop production. Soil types range from silt-clay to clay-loam in the low elevation, to morainal and coarser soil types on the slopes and high elevation. This offers a good substrate for ungulate pasturing on the slopes.



Rocky Mountain goat habitat enclosure

2.4 ECOLOGY AND CLIMATE

The lands can be divided into ecosystems ranging from aspen parkland, to valley floor grassy meadows, south-facing bunch-grass slopes, wetlands and ponds, black spruce bog, boreal forest and mountainous habitats (cliffs and scree). The site has remarkable habitat diversity and dramatic elevation changes from wetlands to magnificent rocky cliffs

The diverse plant communities of the varied habitats are mainly natural. This allows the visitors to view the animals in habitats that are very similar, if not the same, as their natural habitats. This is a unique feature for a zoological facility. The exhibits are highly attractive for wildlife photography and film production.

The sub-arctic climate in this area is more extreme in temperature ranges compared to the more southern regions of Canada. Average temperatures range from minus 30 degrees Celsius in January to plus 16 in July. The summers are dry and have long

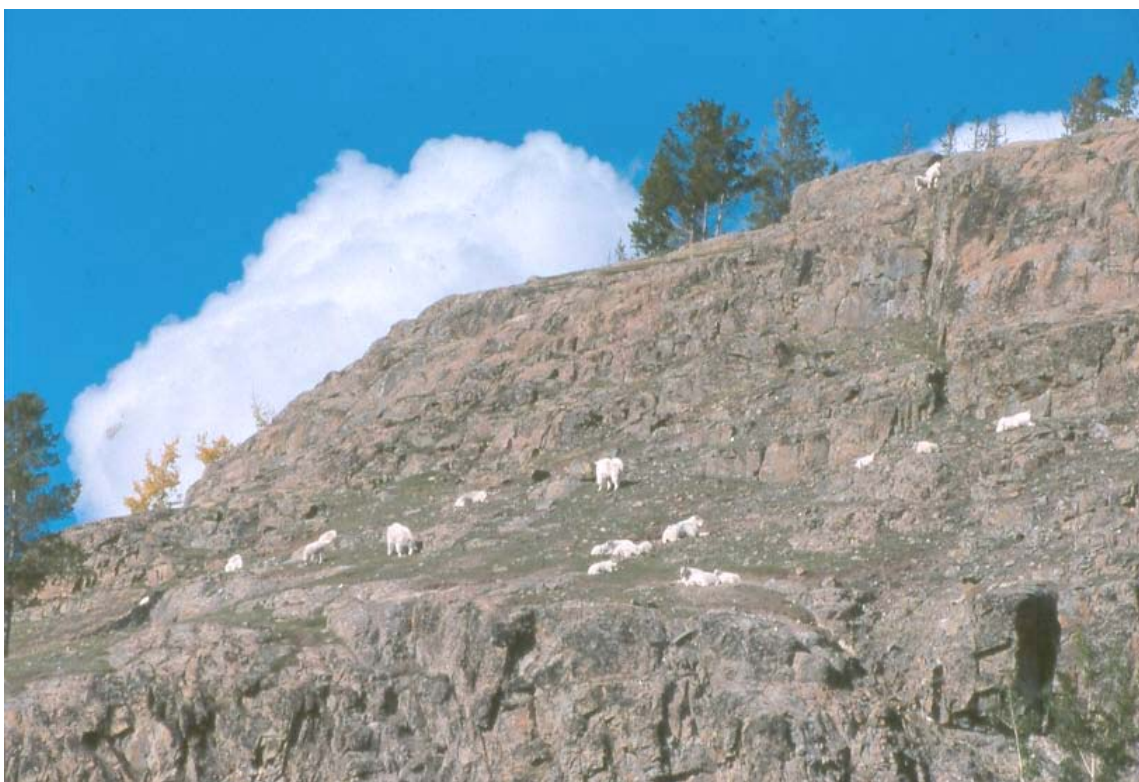
sunshine hours. This not only offers extended visitor hours, but also curbs proliferation of parasites and their ova due to the impact of UV radiation and low temperature.

Many of the neighbouring lands are rural residential and farmland. However, true wild hinterland stretches for hundreds of kilometres to the north of the YWP containing most of Yukon's wildlife species.

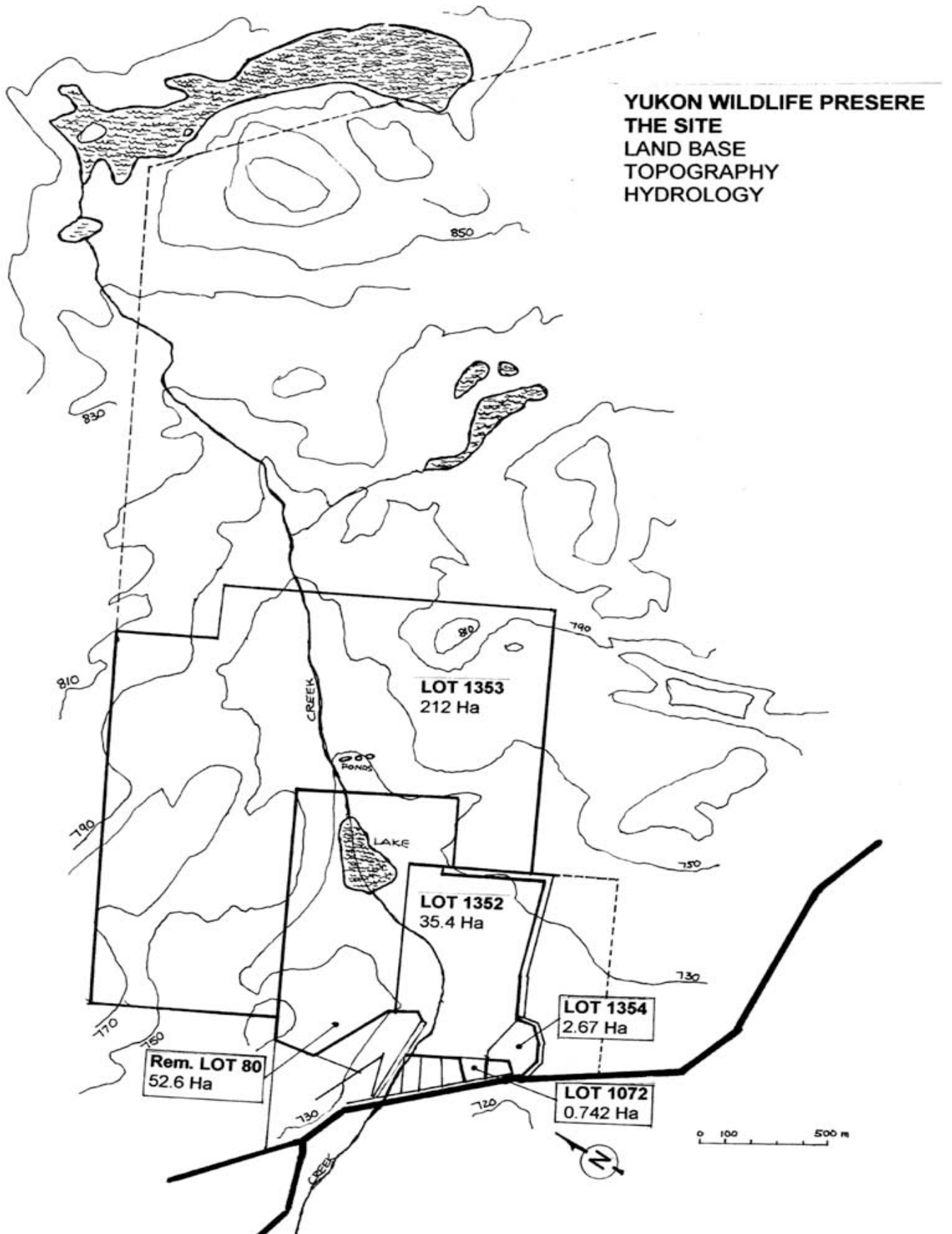
2.5 HYDROLOGY

The site is crossed by a seasonal creek from the northeast, which drains into the Takhini River. It provides water to a wetland in the central meadow. In the spring and early summer standing water is frequented by waterfowl and is a staging area for migrating birds. The creek flows from lakes outside the property, which are located to the north east. The creek was damned in the past to prevent flooding in the front pastures and to preserve the wetland areas found within the YWP. Unfortunately, the hydrological regime of the land upstream from the dam has now changed and, as a result, the flow of water into the wetland has been drying up. The reasons for this are not clearly understood, although lower annual rainfall is thought to be one contributing factor.

An annual water license permits drawing water from the lakes. Potable water is drawn from a 100-meter deep, drilled well near the main residence. It has adequate yields to serve the residence and a net work of watering troughs for animal enclosures.



The site has remarkable habitat diversity and dramatic elevation changes from lush wetlands to magnificent rocky cliffs.



2.6 ROADWAYS AND TRAILS

The internal road system is 5 km and is used to conduct tours. It also provides access to the pastures and a means for moving the animals to different enclosures as required. Placement of gates along the roadway allows for safe, easy movement of animals from one enclosure to another.

Secondary trails are negotiable with 4x4 vehicles to reach the perimeter of the property and to provide a network of trails to monitor the facility.

Business traffic and private vehicles are kept from entering the interior space as much as possible

2.7 VISITORS

Since the Spring of 2004 the YWP staff have been offering regularly scheduled interpretive tours to individuals and groups. This consists of a 90 minute guided driving tour on the YWP's tour bus. Visitors observe and learn about Yukon wildlife, birds, and plants. Stops are made at animal enclosures to allow visitors an opportunity to step outside the vehicle, view the animals and take photographs. More than 5,000 visitors toured the YWP in 2008.

From May to mid-June, bus and walking tours are available weekdays at 3.00 p.m., and on weekends bus tours are available at 10.00 a.m. 12.00 noon, 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. with self-guided walking tours available at any time during opening hours. From mid-June to September tours are offered every day at 8.00 a.m., 10.00 a.m. 12.00 noon, 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. Self-guided walking tours are also available for interested visitors at any time during opening hours. From October to April bus tours and access to the site for snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing are available by appointment.

In addition to interpretive tours, educational opportunities for students at primary, secondary, college and university levels are provided. Since 2005 a formal experiential learning based Grade 4 program has been offered, and over 700 students have participated in the program. Since 2008, the Preserve has offered an environmental monitoring program to high school students in grades 8 – 11. Additional programs in the areas of animal behaviour and bird watching have also been offered with great success. The YWP will continue to build on this success by expanding formal education programs into other grade levels and include hands on learning experiences in other curriculum areas.



Photo excursions with international clients



YWP Tour Bus



View from the cliffs to the south south-west

2.8 THE ANIMAL INVENTORY

As of April 29, 2009

Species	Male	Female	Unknown
Elk or wapiti (<i>Cervus elaphus nelsoni</i>)	5	4	
Moose (<i>Alces alces gigas</i>)	3	1	
Woodland caribou (<i>Rangifer tarandus caribou</i>)	5	8	
Mule deer (<i>Odocoileus hemionus hemionus</i>)	4	16	5
Dall's sheep (<i>Ovis dalli dalli</i>)	3	1	
Stone's sheep (<i>Ovis dalli stonei</i>)	1	4	
Rocky Mountain bighorn (<i>Ovis canadensis canadensis</i>)	1	4	
Mountain goat (<i>Oreamnus americanus</i>)	5	8	1
Muskoxen (<i>Ovibos moschatus moschatus/wardi</i>)	10	9	
Bison (<i>Bison bison athabasca</i>)	4	9	
North American lynx (<i>Lynx canadensis</i>)	1		

In addition to the animals in the enclosures, native mammals such as Arctic ground squirrels, red squirrels, coyotes, foxes, deer, and bears may be seen on the YWP. Over 60 species of indigenous birds have been sighted on the property.



Dall's and bighorn rams



Muskoxen cows and calves



Arctic ground squirrel



Hawk owl

2.9 ADMINISTRATION AND STAFFING.

The YWP is staffed by an Executive Director who works under the direction of the Board of the YWPOS, and, in conjunction with the Board, is responsible for financial management, administration, promotion and communication. There is a full-time Program Manager who designs and executes education programs for students, and interpretive tours for the general public. The Program Manager also assists the Executive Director in day to day management. Animal care, including medical and nutritional needs, is managed by a full-time veterinarian. Facility management and repair, as well as animal husbandry and care, is carried out by a full time Operations Manager.

During the summer months, seasonal Interpreters are hired to conduct tours and guide the students through various education programs. Additional Maintenance Assistants and an Animal Care Assistant are also hired to help during the busy summer months.

The YWP's Human Resources Committee has identified a need for additional staff in the areas of membership and volunteer development, fund raising co-ordination and office administration. These positions will be filled as funding becomes available.

2.10 ECONOMIC HISTORY AND ASSETS.

With the exception of the two years while the facility was offered for sale and marketing programs were on hold, the YWP had been developed and operated self-sufficiently from its beginning. The revenue was derived from admission and animal sales. Due to the uncertainty of a pending sale, and the failing infrastructure, the tour company, which generated about a quarter million dollars from year to year in the past, did not renew the contract. Gross revenue totaled approximately one half million over a five year average from 1997 to 2002.

The Yukon Government purchased the assets for \$2,040 000 on December the 19th in 2003.



Mule deer



Moose in wetlands

3.0 YUKON WILDLIFE PRESERVE: OPERATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

3.1 GOVERNANCE

The purchase of the Yukon Wildlife Preserve by the Yukon Government was intended to ensure its existence in perpetuity as an integral part of Yukon society. Like 13 of the 23 accredited zoological gardens and aquaria in Canada, the Preserve is operated in a partnership between government and a non-for-profit society. The Yukon Wildlife Preserve Operating Society (YWPOS) is run by a volunteer Board of Directors. One government representative sits as a non-voting member of the Board and parties work together to chart the course for the future of the Preserve. The Master Plan is, in effect, a long-range capital development agreement between government and the board to fulfill their stated objectives. The Staff of the Preserve follow direction of the Board. A joint management agreement currently recognizes Yukon Government responsibility for funding operational budgets for staff wages, animal care and facility maintenance. Further, capital costs as a result of initial start-up expenditures to bring the preserve up to current codes and legislated standards are recognized as Yukon Government responsibility. The vision is to move towards a self-supporting operational budget and to approach new infrastructure, innovative educational programs, tours and animal displays through public fund-raising.

3.2 VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS

The Vision Statement for the Yukon Wildlife Preserve (2009) is as follows:

“The Yukon Wildlife Preserve will be internationally recognized for knowledge and experience in arctic and boreal ecology.”

Mission statements reflect the goals and visions of an organization. The statement serves as an important point of reference for new initiatives and opportunities to expand, or contain, the scope of activities. Under the umbrella of education, conservation and recreation (tourism etc.) there are unlimited options to grow and expand. Economic constraints limit this, however. So does a commitment to retain an organizational culture and image, which is reflected in the mission statement.

The Mission statement of the Yukon Wildlife Preserve Operating Society (2006) is

To promote knowledge and foster appreciation of arctic and boreal ecology through the creation of a centre of northern education, conservation and research excellence at the Yukon Wildlife Preserve

3.3 SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

In 1798, the Jardin des Plantes of Paris, which included a menagerie, became the first zoological garden to be governed by a public body. Public governance has shaped zoos ever since and caused them to change from menageries to wildlife conservation centers with effective education programs. These programs are costly, and are dependant on public support beyond user revenues. Broad based community support is fundamental to success. For this reason it is important to establish a relationship with First Nations people regarding the existence and future operation of the YWP. Operating policies and capital development must serve the expectation and interest of the local community and in particular its visitors and program participants. People who visit and support facilities like the YWP come from all circles of society; it excludes no one and has a truly universal clientele. The investment of public resources is accessible to all. Every community is unique. Services and policies must be defined with local, public input.

The Yukon Conservation Strategy notes:

"Importance of Education; All Yukoners need to be aware of the environment. Learning about our surroundings and how our actions affect the environment is very important. Commitment to the Global Community: Species and ecosystems are not confined by the Yukon's boundaries. We need to cooperate with our neighbours, both near and far, to protect the environment "

The YWP will provide personal hands-on learning experiences and connect thousands of people with nature annually. It will *"lead by example to become a model citizen " in environmental education.*

3.4 PUBLIC INPUT

Public input and user feed back is an important tool to develop policies and criteria for the development and operation of the YWP. Relevant public opinions and statements were received from various sources:

- 33 Stakeholders attending Department Of Environment (DOE)/ Yukon Wildlife Preserve Project Meetings, Jan 23, 2004;
- 95 written submissions to the website of to the Friends of the Yukon Wildlife Preserve 2003 and comments by approximately 75 tourists, September 2002, (personal communication, Peter Karsten).

The input can be summed up as follows:

Expectations:

- Consistent support for continuation of the project with high standards
- Education, species conservation including related research and wildlife rehabilitation, plus tourism and film production to be of primary focus

- High standards of animal care. This standard also extends to facilities receiving YWP animals from trade, sale or donation.
- Emphasis on self-sustaining animal population, not production of surplus
- Public access and input to project policy directions
- Inclusion of First Nations views on wildlife in program planning
- Preservation of natural habitats and “authentic” presentation of wildlife
- Active marketing and general public admission
- Economic self-sufficiency
- International Showcase for environmental stewardship
- Partnership with regional Yukon Tourism programs and operations

Valued Features:

- Easy and assured way to view wild animals
- Visitor satisfaction by tourists expecting to see indigenous wildlife
- Outstanding photo and film making opportunities
- Showcase for northern wildlife in natural settings
- Admiration for the work done, which created the YWP
- A place for wildlife experiences for the young and old
- Diversity of habitats and naturally occurring species
- Visitor friendly ambience and hospitality
- Propagation of genetically valuable stock for zoological institutions

The public Expectations and Valued Features were recognized and pursued by the project leaders for the acquisition of the YWP and are given priority for its future development and operation. The governance by the YWPOS and the partnership with the public sector will accommodate the expectations with respect to public participation and access to information pertaining to the direction and activities of the YWP. In addition, institutional membership in the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) membership will set very high standards for the facility to maintain accredited status. There is general consensus in protecting the valued features, which represent a proven service to the community.

4.0 THE OPERATIONAL MANDATE

The operational mandate of the YWP delineates the activities to provide the expectations and values as outlined in Section 3.0. It describes in detail how the mission will be pursued. Organizational operating budgets and documents are records of activities and priorities.

4.1 VISITOR SERVICES AND FACILITIES

- ❑ Design and build infrastructure to meet the YWP's vision and mission statements
- ❑ Provide excellent customer service to visitors

4.2 THE YWP'S ENVIRONMENT:

- ❑ Maintain the habitat-based, open-space concept for animal displays
- ❑ Maintain high standards for photographic, filming benefits
- ❑ Maintain healthy and clean environment (set an example)
- ❑ Enhance environment with landscaping features
- ❑ Use of indigenous plant species for educational plant collections
- ❑ Balance self-sustaining animal population size with preservation of the environment
- ❑ Control visual impact of fences and structures
- ❑ Select a building design that is congruent with a "gateway to nature"

4.3 ANIMAL POPULATION

- ❑ Exhibit Yukon indigenous wildlife species and species of national recovery programs
- ❑ Maintain stock with high genetic diversity
- ❑ Operate within all applicable laws, regulations and industry standards
- ❑ Treat and present wildlife with high regards to its well being
- ❑ Provide wildlife rescue services in collaboration with the Department of Environment (DOE)
- ❑ Maintain a comprehensive health care program

4.4 ANIMAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM.

- ❑ Maintain a preventative (prophylactic) medical care program
- ❑ Retain a resident or assigned veterinarian on an ongoing basis
- ❑ Follow quarantine procedures and exit health testing for translocations
- ❑ Maintain detailed medical records
- ❑ Perform necropsy and applicable pathology on deceased animals
- ❑ Support relevant research into veterinary medicine
- ❑ Collaborate with *in situ* wildlife health programs

4.5 ANIMAL RESCUE AND REHABILITATION

- ❑ Ensure that animals submitted to the YWP are treated and cared for in a humane manner and are released back into the wild where possible



Rocky Mountain goat with kids

4.6 EDUCATION

- ❑ Provide appropriate educational content with a Yukon focus to the visitors of all ages
- ❑ Develop integrated, multi-disciplinary education programs with the school systems
- ❑ Provide innovative, experienced-based (hands-on) education programs
- ❑ Provide interpreters to visiting groups on trail vehicles (buses)
- ❑ Develop program for education volunteers (docents)
- ❑ Integrate First Nations culture into educational programs

4.7 RESEARCH

- ❑ Carry out non-invasive research to advance wildlife management technology and captive husbandry of wildlife
- ❑ Collaborate with Universities in relevant scientific study
- ❑ Collaborate with Veterinary Colleges in animal health research
- ❑ Collaborate with field research in wildlife management and biology
- ❑ Develop opportunities for resident students
- ❑ Give priority to regional study needs

4.8 CONSERVATION

- ❑ Participate in species recovery programs and national and international species survival programs where applicable
- ❑ Maintain detailed genetic and related animal records
- ❑ Participate in ISIS (International Species Information System)
- ❑ Assist in re-introduction programs for populations requiring rehabilitation
- ❑ Provide biological specimens to museums or universities for conservation and study

4.9 PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MARKETING

- ❑ Reconcile objectives with other wildlife related organizations
- ❑ Create a volunteer program
- ❑ Develop neighbourhood initiatives with First Nations people
- ❑ Maintain an active membership program to have public participation
- ❑ Present Annual reports to the Annual General Meeting of the membership
- ❑ Market and facilitate general visitor access to the YWP through publications, official communications, website, etc.
- ❑ Work with tourism and economic development agencies to advance business opportunity and partnerships
- ❑ Promote nature photography and wildlife film production
- ❑ Contribute to the local economy and employment base
- ❑ Maintain productive media relations
- ❑ Establish and monitor an active website (High Speed Internet access)

4.10 FUNDING AND BUDGETING

- ❑ Pursue self-sufficiency without compromising standards
- ❑ Develop and maintain active fund-raising program
- ❑ Develop 3 to 5 year operating and capital budget plans

4.11 OPERATING SOCIETY VALUES

- Animal welfare
- Expanding and sharing knowledge
- Fostering curiosity and exploration
- Love of, and respect for, nature
- Public safety
- High quality visitor experience
- Animal rehabilitation
- Conservation for future generations
- Gratitude towards our supporters, volunteers and members
- Respecting and reflecting aboriginal traditional knowledge
- Respectful relations with the communities with whom we interact
- Safe working environment
- Fulfilling work, fair remuneration and good working conditions for personnel

The above serve as guidelines to define operating programs and

related capital development.



Bison Herd

5.0 THE OPERATING PROGRAMS: CURRENT AND FUTURE

5.1 FACILITIES AND VISITOR SERVICES

Present

The YWP entrance is located at kilometre 8 (mile 5) on the Takhini Hot Springs Road, which branches off the North Klondike Highway. The North Klondike Highway, in turn, connects with the Alaska Highway to the south. The YWP can be reached within a 30 minute drive from Whitehorse.



Entry sign (Summer 2004)

Well-marked, convenient visitor parking is available. The parking is located at the entrance of the property. Commercial bus and recreational vehicle parking spots are provided close to the log reception building.

Dogs and other pets are NOT allowed on the YWP grounds. This is a measure to control the spread of disease to the wildlife on the YWP. There are currently NO facilities for housing pets during tours (except in the visitor's vehicles) or for walking pets. For the health and safety of the pets, we request that visitors please leave them at home.

A picnic area with tables is provided for the clients. Visitors can view the elk and bison as they eat. Two washrooms are located close by.

Static displays and hands-on exhibits introducing northern flora and fauna are located in the log reception building and can be viewed as visitors assemble for their tour.

Guided tours in a 24 passenger tour bus are offered at regular intervals throughout the day, 7 days a week, between June and September (See section 2.7). Tours are approximately 90 minutes long. The bus drivers are trained interpreters and they provide educational content, highly valued dialogue about the animals, the YWP and other aspects of interest. Along the 5 kilometre route visitors can view the wildlife in natural environments and learn about their biology and natural history. This is particularly appreciated by tourists. Tickets for tours may be purchased at the log reception building.

Tour participants board the buses outside the reception building. The tour bus stops where animals can usually be seen. The visitors can step out of the bus for short breaks to take in the magnificent vistas and environment and to take photographs.

Animal husbandry regimes have been designed to enhance visibility of animals through feeding at centrally located feeding stations in each enclosure. Depending on the time of the tour, they may or may not coincide with the feeding schedules. Public feeding of any kind will not be allowed.

Future Vision

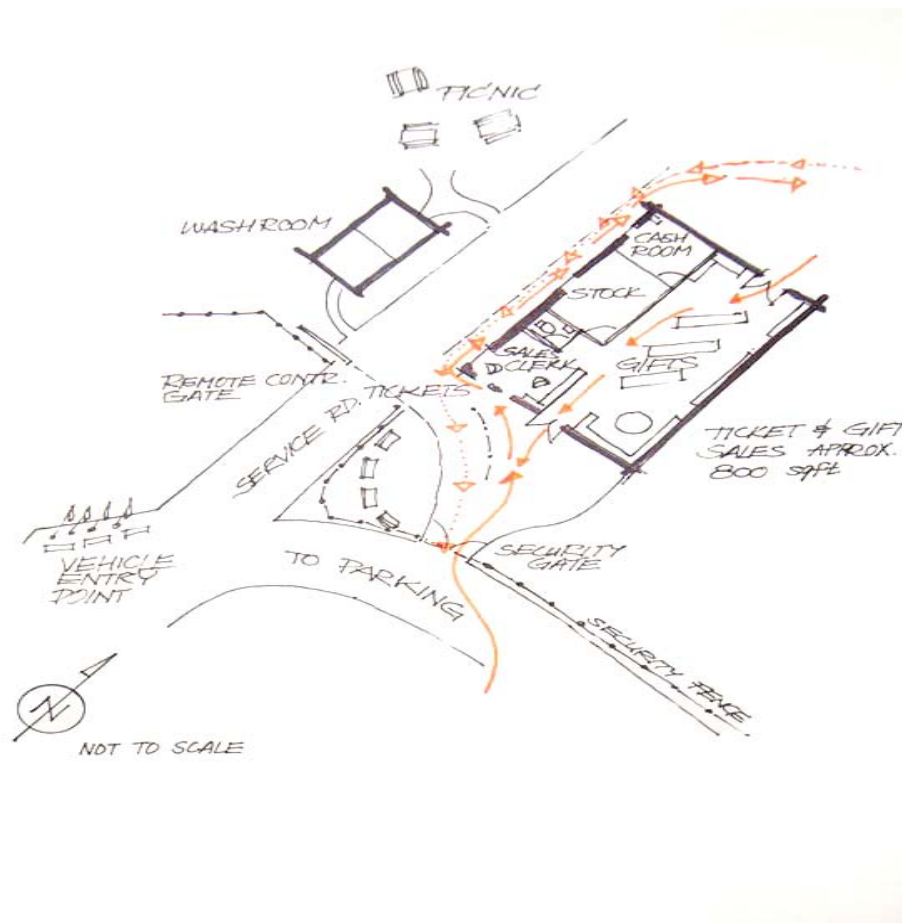
Our goal is to have a complex of buildings near the entrance to the YWP. This complex will include an Interpretive Centre incorporating ticket sales, a gift shop, administration offices and a possible eating establishment, as well as an Animal Quarantine and Rehabilitation building with laboratory space and offices.

In future, we may consider additional landscaping to the parking lot using native plants to create shade and sight barriers. The all-weather surface will remain gravel for the main parking area, with a grass surfaced overflow extension. All public pathways and buildings will have wheelchair access.

The ticket sale function will be linked with the gift shop. The gift shop would provide souvenirs and possibly non-perishable food and beverage items. A more extensive food service facility may evolve over time. Membership sales can be handled at the ticket sales position and/or in the gift shop.

In future some consideration may be given to a pet walking and shelter area.

Entry services may include stroller rental, first aid, lost and found. As many staff as possible will be supported to obtain first aid certification.



Entry and Exit Routes – depends architectural design

In future more tour buses may be needed to handle the busy periods. The point where visitors board the tour bus could be developed with static information posters, donor recognition plaques. Seating benches are present already at the waiting area.



Ticket sales, Gift Shop - Depends on architectural design

A walking area may be developed early on to allow visitors to see various smaller exhibits near the entry. These could possibly include viewing a suitable portion of the Rehabilitation Center and some rehabilitated animals which can't be released back to the wild, a native plant garden, a display of bird houses and bird feeders, native plant collections, picnic area and other features. The path system will connect with the bus stop.



Architectural design concept drawing (from original Master Plan)

5.2 ADMINISTRATION

The administration office will be under one roof with the entry/gift shop building. The administration building will accommodate the society's executive office, including

marketing, public relation, fundraising and finance functions. The number of offices will be determined by the number of the established staff positions. In the early years of operation some functions and office spaces may be combined. There will also be a meeting room for the board and committee activities. A VIP suite that has vistas to the animal enclosures of the YWP and the surrounding landscapes may be incorporated. Space within the former main residence could be considered for that purpose, however renovations must be examined carefully, since it is often more economical over the long run to design and build an efficient multi function building from the ground up, rather than retrofitting old existing buildings.

5.3 EDUCATION SERVICES

Present

We offer daily interpretive tours of the YWP for the general public and visitors to the Yukon. In addition to interpretive tours, educational opportunities for students at primary, secondary, college and university levels are provided. Since 2005 a formal experiential learning based Grade 4 program has been offered, and over 700 students have participated in the program. Since 2008, the Preserve has offered an environmental monitoring program to high school students in grades 8 – 11. Additional programs in the areas of animal behaviour and bird watching are also offered with great success. The YWP will continue to build on this success by expanding formal education programs into other grade levels and include hands on learning experiences in other curriculum areas. We have entered into discussions with the Department of Education concerning the addition of these activities/programs.

In 2006 we implemented a Program called Ecological Encounters. This program was specifically designed as a YWP member benefit, but we also encourage other members of the public to come out and enjoy the YWP. Using volunteer experts we offer half day activities including locating and identifying animal tracks, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, winter botany and bird-watching.



Grade 4 Education Program



Ecological Encounters – Stories in the Snow – Animal Tracks

Future

Options to develop education programs are virtually unlimited with the broad goal to provide environmental education. To gain focus zoological gardens have aligned their educational goals with the World Biodiversity Conservation Strategy, as outlined in the World Zoo Conservation Strategy (1993 World Zoos and Aquariums Association and IUCN–Conservation Breeding Specialist Group).

“The World Zoo Conservation Strategy emphasizes that conservation education makes it clear that nature conservation affects everyone, and everyone needs to be concerned with it. It can demonstrate that the future of human beings and nature is only ensured if the whole of humankind can live in a new harmony with nature. Furthermore, every person has both community and individual responsibility to help achieve this on a local, national and global scale. In addition to approaching conservation issues from the view of biological sciences, zoological institutions should also develop educational programs that elucidate the socio-economic backgrounds of the threats to nature. Through this, they should play an active role in increasing the public and political awareness of the connections between consumption and lifestyle and the survival of species and biological systems”.

Zoological institutions are powerful environments to provide impressionable learning experiences through personal discovery. The recreational nature of the visits to the YWP make study and learning an enjoyable and rewarding experience to people of all ages and backgrounds. The visitor experience must be both viewing and experiential. Conservation education will be at the center of all developments and activities at the YWP to make optimal contributions to conservation goals and to sort out priorities within the inexhaustible options of educational/recreational services. While overall goals for education can be embraced, the detailed programs will be locally inspired and designed to mesh them closely with regional education systems and culture. Multi-disciplinary education programs are being developed in collaboration with the public school system and institutions of secondary education.



**Personal discovery and connections with nature
are powerful tools of education**



Orphaned caribou

EXAMPLES OF ON-SITE EDUCATION TOOLS:

The Board has made a commitment to capture First Nations components in all educational possibilities

- ❑ Relevant composition of the animal collection
- ❑ Exhibit design, exhibit features to demonstrate species' adaptation and natural behaviour
 - Including First Nation's component in exhibit designs
- ❑ Appropriate mix of species within a given enclosure
- ❑ Macro space organization of exhibit complexes to convey differences of habitats and zoo-geographic concepts
- ❑ Informative signs identifying species and aspect of their biology
- ❑ Use of "props", for example animal artifacts that can be studied in hand
- ❑ Use of interactive exhibits
- ❑ Talks and presentations by trained interpreters, animal care staff and volunteers
- ❑ An active volunteer program (docents)
- ❑ Field trips, over night camps, bird-watching, plant identification walks
 - Nature walks into the undisturbed areas, which are not occupied by animals, that facilitate study of the biodiversity of indigenous plants and animals
- ❑ Outreach programs in collaboration with other organizations (e.g. partners in outdoor education)
- ❑ Various levels of research and student residencies
- ❑ Volunteer work experience (animal rescue program)
- ❑ Guide books, educational publications, newsletter to members, etc.
- ❑ Merchandise selection in gift shop (natural history books, videos etc.)
- ❑ Technical library and special staff training
- ❑ Media communication
- ❑ Production of documentaries, film clips, videos, photo library, etc.
 - ❑ Provision of an education center to accommodate scheduled school visits and booked programs conducted by other education organizations
- ❑ Adult education program and work shops (wildlife photography, bird-watching, art etc.)
- ❑ Student field study assignments

5.4 EXHIBIT ORGANIZATION

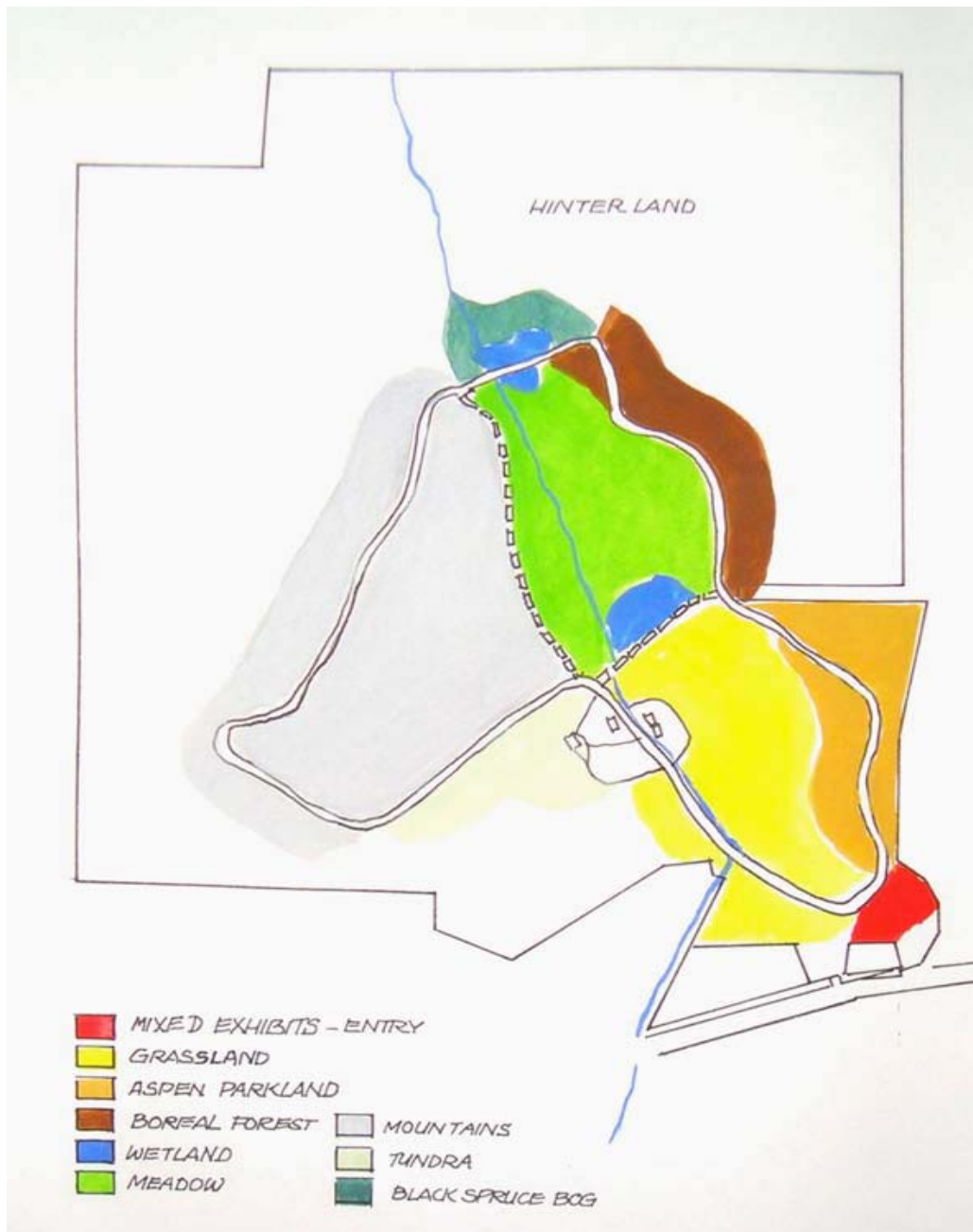
The YWP has naturally occurring "ecosystems" due to differences in elevation, natural hydrology, soil condition, and climatic exposures. Distinct plant communities such as aspen parkland, boreal forest, valley floor grasslands, wetlands with black spruce bogs and sloughs, cliffs and scree slopes, provide an opportunity to study animal and plant ecology in natural or semi-natural ecosystems.

In the future some of the enclosures may benefit from additional landscaping. For example, moranial boulders could be placed in the muskoxen enclosure to simulate a

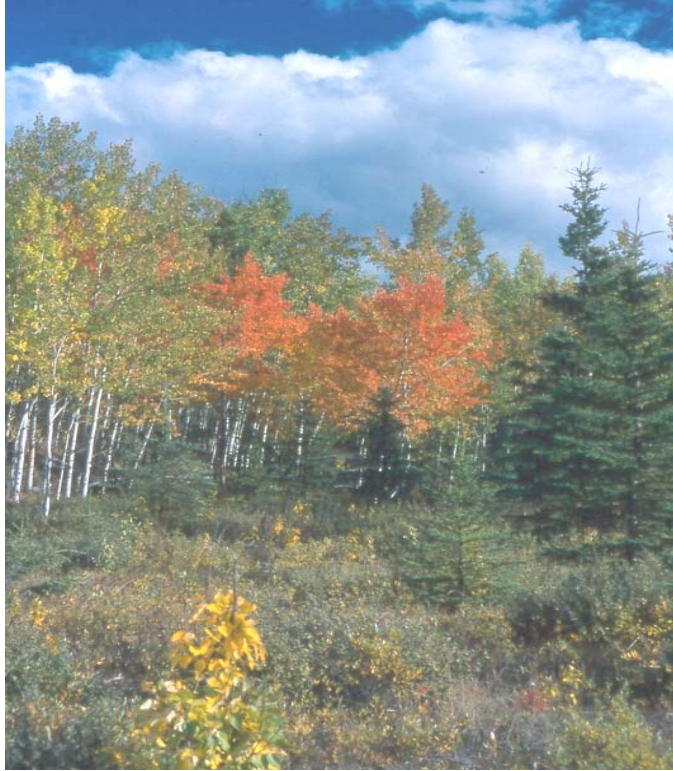
tundra environment. To enhance the interpretive content willow and other typical arctic plant species could be planted around the muskoxen exhibit viewing station.

Modifications may eventually be made to certain pastures to make them more representative of the animal's natural habitat.

The hinterland of the YWP offers unlimited natural study opportunities.



rework map – delete tundra and change wording



The hinterland has rich and diverse ecosystems for nature discovery



Wintering pasture for cervids (deer family)

5.5 VIEWING EXPERIENCE

Present

At present there are a few exhibits located in the log reception building in the parking lot. Here visitors can examine a variety of skulls, pelts and stuffed animals.

Guided tours are offered on a daily basis at the YWP (see Section 2.7). Each tour is accompanied by a trained interpreter or a staff member. Visitors are transported in our 24 passenger vehicle which is equipped with a microphone. The presentation by the interpreter is designed to foster nature appreciation, impart knowledge of the biology and natural history of the wildlife, as well as their conservation. The skill of the interpreter/driver is key to making the visit memorable. Our interpreters receive several weeks of intensive training and many love the job so much they come back every year.

Opportunities to take photo images of the animal(s) are provided. In some cases photographers are allowed to take photos inside the enclosures provided they are accompanied by a staff person and carry adequate liability insurance

Ruminants (herbivores) tend to rest out of sight for part of the day and come out into the open at dusk and dawn to fill up on food in a relative short time to reduce exposure to predators and then retreat to safer places. This is a natural survival strategy. With

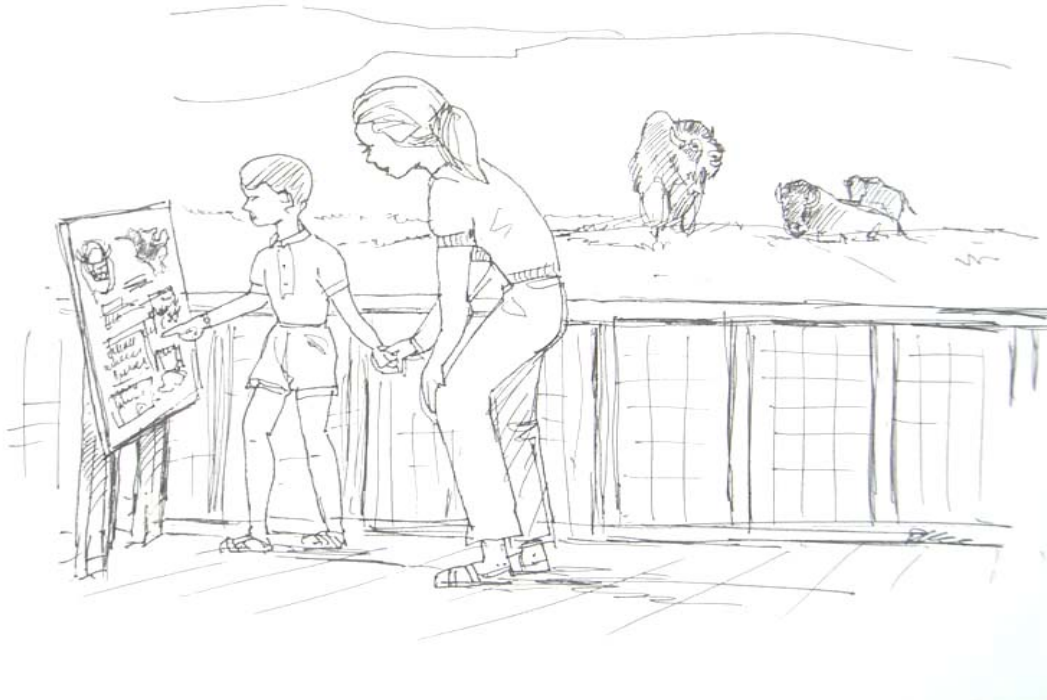
the absence of predators, opportunities for viewing are much greater than in the wild. The centralization of feeding stations near the road makes the chances of seeing the animals much greater.



Interpreter presenting the YWP to the visitors on a bus

Future

In the long-term, it is planned to build an Interpretive Centre which will contain many more static and interactive (self-guided) exhibits and educational displays. Small mammal and bird exhibits, as well as native plant gardens may also be included. Educational signs and graphic panels will be placed at the exhibits in both the self-guided small exhibit area and at the viewing decks along the bus trail.



Interpretive signage

Rescued animals that we are unable to release back into the wild may be placed on exhibit and proper case history information to explain their condition and reason to be held at the YWP will be provided.

Plans to construct a Canada lynx enclosure are underway. An engineered drawing of the enclosure is currently being designed and we are collecting cost estimates for supplies. The enclosure will satisfy the lynx's natural needs and allow them to roam freely. Trees in the enclosure will act as natural climbing posts. The terrain in the chosen area will offer varied perches for the lynx and plenty of opportunities for retreat and privacy. This enclosure will also provide visitors with excellent viewing prospects by means of a large viewing platform with a plexi-glass front.

5.6 ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

The standards of animal care meets and/or exceeds the standards outlined in the Federal Animal Welfare Act, the Yukon Animal Health Act, the Yukon Wildlife Act, the Animal Care Standards of the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the YWP Operation Manual. Animal management may be subject to scientific research protocols where appropriate. The following guidelines for animal management include concerns expressed during the public review.

Specific guidelines:

- Animal care procedures are documented in procedures manuals

- ❑ The species selection and distribution within the YWP is determined by the education and conservation goals
- ❑ The inventory is governed by the need of maintaining viable populations with a high degree of genetic diversity
- ❑ The population density per enclosure is governed by the preservation of the enclosure's plant community and substrate and not by maximum carrying capacity to produce progeny
- ❑ The herd management is consistent with social structure and natural, seasonal behaviour patterns (segregating rams into bachelor groups etc.)
- ❑ Ongoing maintenance and research of husbandry practices ensures a high degree of hygiene and prophylactic health care
- ❑ Inter-specific and infra-specific conflicts are managed to ensure the safety of animals
- ❑ New introductions follow quarantine protocols to keep disease and parasite transmission to a minimum
- ❑ Surplus animals will only be provided to institutions that provide high standards of animal care and do not permit the hunting of captive wildlife on their property
- ❑ Detailed demographic, genetic and medical history records are kept for the animal inventory. The use of ISIS /ARKS international standard record system is being used
- ❑ All breeding stock and its progeny have permanent ID.
- ❑ Emergency response procedures for fire, animal escapes and other emergency events are in place
- ❑ Security and surveillance procedures are carried out, including predator control, to protect the YWP, the animals, and assets
- ❑ Double gate systems are in place to safe guard against animal escapes into public areas
- ❑ The installation of a perimeter fence surrounding the existing YWP interior pasture fencing system will provide protection to and from outside wildlife and domestic animals. A trail/buffer area between the existing fences and the perimeter fence will provide access for repair and maintenance.
- ❑ The survey for the perimeter fence was done in March 2007. A capital agreement with the Department of the Environment was signed in Spring 2009. Installation of the fence is scheduled for Summer 2009 through this agreement.
- ❑ In order to manage disease and health issues, each animal is marked in a manner that individuals can be identified from a distance.

An Animal Collection Plan (2005-2011) was designed in June 2005. The plan includes the following:

- ❑ A reduction in the of the size of the current collection – to reduce feed cost, provide for better range management of the pastures, and to assist with disease management
- ❑ Gradual elimination of species not indigenous to the Yukon (Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep)
- ❑ Gradually supplement the animal collection with additional species that are indigenous to the Yukon to bring about a complete display of Yukon's large mammal fauna.

These animals include; wolverine, cougar, white-tailed deer and barren-ground caribou.

- Regarding the above points: The total collection size will be reduced from the current 102 to about 94 (subject to debate), by eliminating bighorn sheep and reducing some of the herd sizes, but at the same time adding a few species currently not displayed at the YWP.
- Improving the genetic heterozygosity of two species (Stone's sheep and Dall's sheep) by inserting animals captured in the wild, to prevent the negative impacts of inbreeding such as lowered reproduction and increased susceptibility to diseases
- Improving the appeal of the YWP to visitors by displaying a greater diversity of species and by attempting to mimic the natural setting by adjusting sex ratios and group sizes



Dall's sheep in an impressive habitat setting

5.7 HEALTH AND QUARANTINE

The health care program is consistent with standards set out by the Yukon Wildlife Act, the Yukon Animal Health Act, YWP Health Management Plan, YWP Operation Manual and stated policies set by the Yukon YWP Operating Society.

Specific Guidelines:

- ❑ The YWP has the services of a resident veterinarian, as well as a consulting veterinarian.
- ❑ Detailed medical records are maintained.
- ❑ The health care program is based on a prophylactic approach.
- ❑ Ongoing research into nutrition and veterinary medicine technology is being pursued.
- ❑ Provisions are in place to test and prevent diseases from spreading among the animals on the YWP.
- ❑ Provisions are in place to control contraction of zoonotic diseases by employees, volunteers and visitors to the YWP.

Managing Johne's Disease

Johne's disease (caused by *Mycobacterium avium*) is a slow growing, fatal bacterial infection of domestic and wild ruminants. The signs are wasting and intermittent diarrhea. There is no effective treatment for the disease. Due to the slow-growing nature of the bacteria, there is a lack of a reliable fast diagnostic test for John's disease. The accepted tests (fecal culture and PCR) require culturing a fecal sample for up to 16 weeks and looking for the bacteria's DNA (using PCR techniques) before a sample can be called negative.

The YWP staff consulted with various veterinarians and created a plan to manage the disease. The YWP continues to implement disease control measures including – pasture management, fencing, population control and further testing (blood, fecal, biopsies and necropsies) to assess and safeguard the health of the animal inventory and surrounding wildlife.

The following stringent measures have been put in place to reduce or prevent the spread of the disease at YWP and to reduce any risk to surrounding wildlife.

1. Approximately 93 percent of the YWP animal population has been tested for Johne's. Testing is done on an annual basis.
2. Interior pasture fences have all been replaced with game fencing to help prevent free-ranging animals from entering the pastures, or YWP animals from escaping into the wild.
3. Feeding stations have been put in place to prevent contamination of feed with fecal material.
4. All people entering high risk pastures are required to wear booties to prevent the spread of disease from pasture to pasture and ultimately between species.
5. In consultation with veterinarians and Johne's experts, most animals that tested positive for Johne's at the YWP were euthanized. Various organs are tested to confirm the disease (and others) in these animals. Double culture tests are

performed from each sample to increase the chances of finding the bacteria within the samples.

In the view of Dr. Elizabeth Manning, one of North America's leading experts on the disease, appropriate measures and actions have been implemented by the YWP and should be continued (CAZA conference, September 2006). Several negative tests of various types over many months are required before any animal can be declared clean of the disease.

5.8 FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of the facility is a shared responsibility between the government, the hired staff, and the YWPO Society. A comprehensive maintenance program governs the up-keep and replacement of assets on the YWP. Public safety and secure animal containment are of highest priorities. Facility maintenance is in keeping with guidelines set out in the YWP Operation Manual.

5.9 WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

In close cooperation with the Department of Environment, the YWP will carry out wildlife rehabilitation services to the best of its ability and capacity, without compromising animal welfare, facility hygiene, employee/volunteer safety and public relations.

Specific Guidelines:

- ❑ The YWP will actively seek funding from the private sector and other sources to offset operating cost and capital development
- ❑ The YWP will make best possible attempts to rehabilitate indigenous species
- ❑ Euthanasia will be done under the direction of a veterinarian
- ❑ Rehabilitated birds will, whenever possible, be released back to the wild. Some specimens which cannot be released may remain at the YWP
- ❑ Rehabilitated and orphaned wildlife will remain at the YWP
- ❑ A volunteer program will be established to defer operating costs and to increase service capacity
- ❑ The YWP will maintain detailed records of origin, disposal and medical history of specimens
- ❑ The records will be collected to provide a monitoring program of *in situ* wildlife diseases and presence of parasites, physiological norms etc. through the incoming specimens. Special funding will be necessary to carry out this research
- ❑ Incoming and outgoing specimens will be handled under medical protocol to establish health status, and to control disease transmission.



YWP Veterinarian and Animal Care Assistant feeding orphan caribou

5.10 RESEARCH

Research opportunities are extensive. The implementation of research projects will be governed by priority and available funding. Research projects will only be allowed provided they meet the following conditions:

- Humane treatment of animals
- Non- invasive research
- No research requiring the sacrifice of the research subjects
- Researchers must be appropriately qualified
- Research must not interfere with the primary objectives of the YWP (wildlife viewing, educational programs)
- Re-imbursement of any expenses or YWP staff time commitment that the research project may incur
- Research must be relevant to wildlife population and habitat management on the YWP, Yukon game farms and /or on free-ranging wildlife
- Researchers must have the necessary permits to carry out their research

There are many possible research projects that could be carried out on the YWP property. Potential research projects may include the following:

- Long-term monitoring such as annual breeding bird and wintering bird surveys; monitoring of plant phenology; monitoring effects of climate change on plants and

animals; monitoring nesting boxes; monitoring wild berry production (soapberry, bearberry)

- Determination of forage production and how this is influenced by precipitation and other climate factors
- How forage production might be enhanced by prescribed burning or other range management methods
- Dynamics of Johne's and other disease agents
- Trials with new tranquilizer drugs and medications
- Animal behaviour and zoo biology studies
- Study of genetic diversity among captive animals
- Animal forage/nutritional research through feeding trials
- Sub-arctic threatened and endangered species captive breeding recovery programs

Cooperative Research projects with colleges and universities, regionally, nationally and beyond are visualized and will be sought after. Joint projects between the YWP, the local Agriculture Branch and Yukon College is anticipated. Cooperative research committees would review proposals, make recommendations, and assist in fund development.

The establishment of living quarters for in-resident scientist and students is being considered, but will require major fund-raising.

6.0 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT

Capital development projects for the YWP include: An Education/Interpretive Centre/Administration Building; and an Animal Clinic/Quarantine/Rehabilitation/Research Building. Additional projects are also listed within this section and timelines for these capital projects are forecasted.

The buildings referred to above will be located at the perimeter of the property. The design criteria will be guided by the Mission statement and operating objectives. Architectural expression must be subservient to the established goals and not become a focal point in itself.

Design criteria are as follows:

- ❑ Emphasis on natural environment versus architectural elements
- ❑ Use of natural (landscape) form and color schemes
- ❑ Prominent use of "natural" construction materials
- ❑ Nature-themed concept
- ❑ Good quality construction
- ❑ Design to keep maintenance cost low
- ❑ Extensive use of landscape elements, i.e. native buffer planting, shade trees, plant color and texture, etc.

Detailed design and construction drawings will be produced by architects and structural engineers. Implementation of these will be affected by the ability to secure funding and possible changing priorities. Periodic reviews of the Master Plan will be carried out to adjust to new opportunities and constraints.

6.1 EDUCATION/INTERPRETIVE CENTRE/ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

This has been preliminarily designed as a one story building.

The building might include:

- ❑ Gift shop
- ❑ Reception area; tour ticket sales, membership sales, visitor information
- ❑ Interpretive displays and exhibits
- ❑ Multi-purpose meeting room/indoor classroom; education, interpretation, conference
- ❑ Theatre
- ❑ Kitchen/food prep area – staff/volunteer and multi-purpose room
- ❑ Public Washrooms
- ❑ Restaurant
- ❑ Prep Lab/Workshop area
- ❑ Storage area for artifacts, books, specimens
- ❑ Staff/Volunteer meeting room
- ❑ Office space for administration - four
- ❑ Employee Washrooms

It will be built such that entry for the public is from the outside of the secured grounds to allow for after hour programs. Access to the interior of the YWP will be from the back of the building.

6.2 ANIMAL CLINIC/QUARANTINE/REHABILITATION/ RESEARCH BUILDING

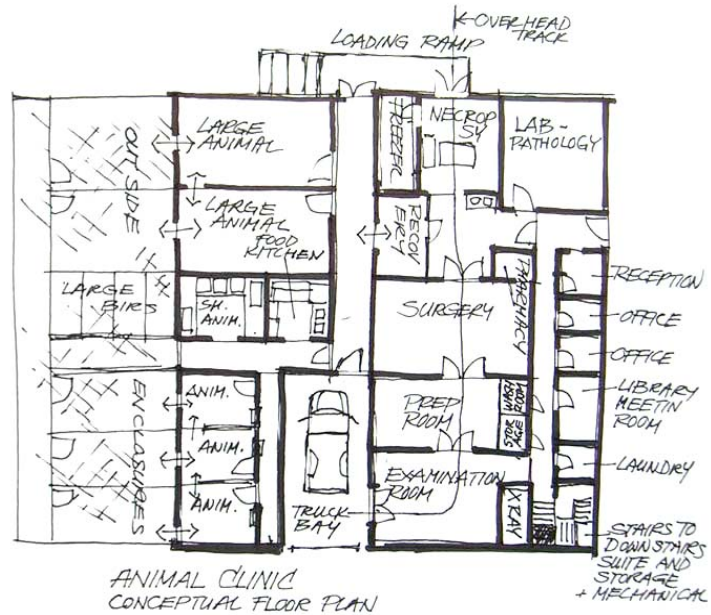
Ideally our building will be similar to the floor plans described in the Animal Clinic Floor Plan conceptual drawing (p. 50), Quarantine Building Floor Plan conceptual drawing (p. 51), and Functional Diagram – Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre (p. 53) in original Master Plan. These include:

- Large Animal Holding Area – indoor/outdoor
- Small Animal Holding Area – indoor/outdoor
- Bird Holding Area – aviary
- Exam Room/X-ray
- Animal Food Kitchen/ Animal Food Prep Area
- Animal Prep Room
- Surgery Room

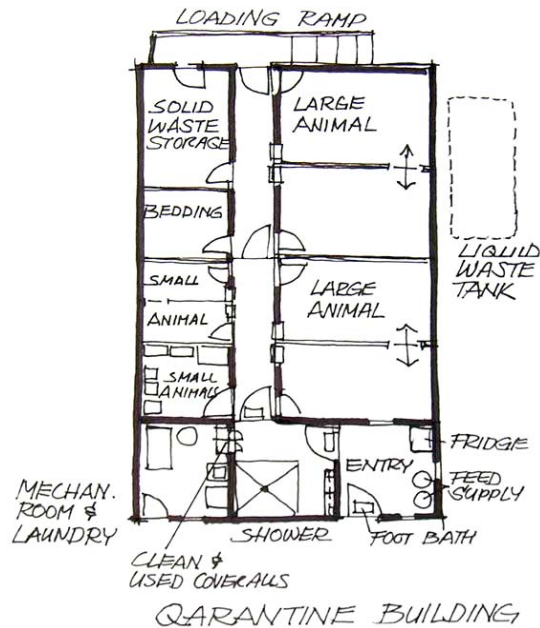
- Recovery Room
- Necropsy Room
- Pathology Lab
- Pharmacy
- Freezer Room
- Research Lab
- Storage
- Laundry Room
- Office (2)
- Reception
- Library/ Meeting Room
- Resident Veterinarian/Researcher Suite
- Washrooms

The floor plan will be based on efficient building plans, which have been used successfully in zoological institutions. The layout of rooms is based on the sequence from arrival, to medical procedures and final disposition or transfer of the animals. The location of the building will provide access to the interior and exterior of the YWP. The size of the buildings will be governed by the available funding and future program scope .

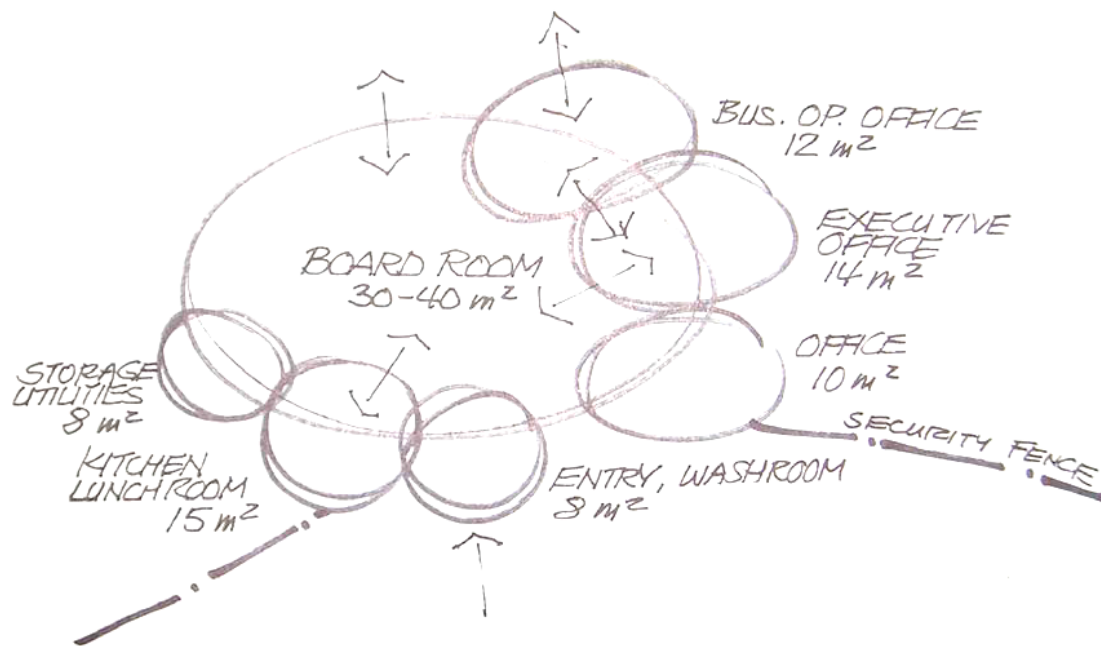
The quarantine facility plans require approval by federal Health of Animal Department, CFIA, to provide for off-shore quarantine of animal imports, if the Preserve should pursue endangered species recovery program in the future.



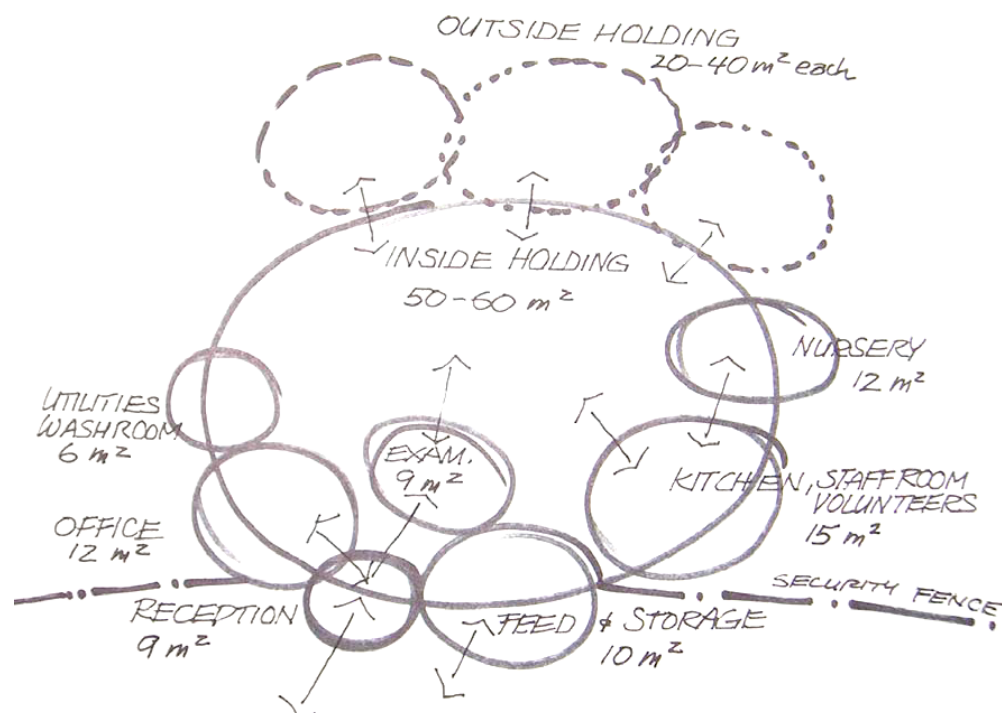
Animal Clinic Floor Plan (conceptual) – from original Master Plan



Quarantine Building Floor Plan (conceptual) – from original Master Plan



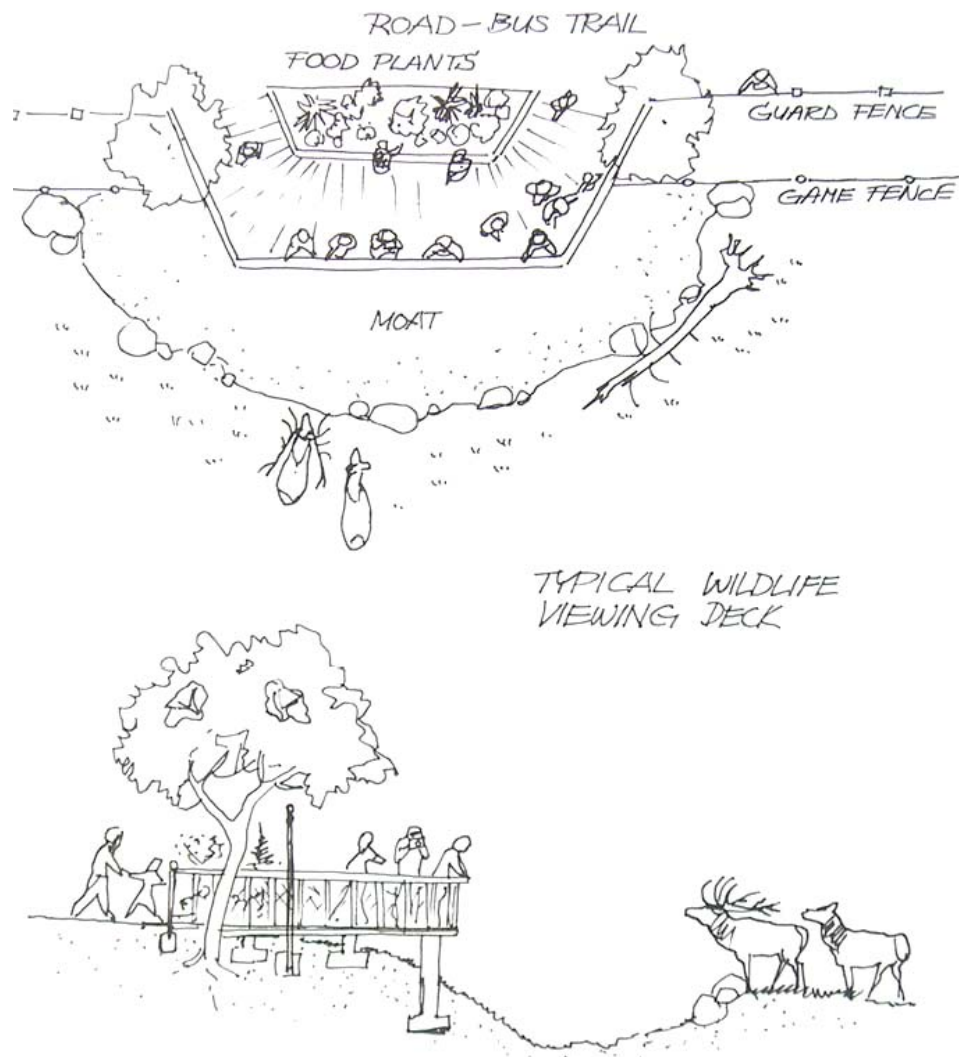
Functional Diagram – Administration Building – from original Master Plan



Functional Diagram - Wildlife Rehabilitation Center – from original Master Plan

6.3 ADDITIONAL CAPITAL PROJECTS

- ❑ Establish animal holding for the rehabilitation of wildlife at the existing animal management buildings until a rehabilitation building is constructed.
- ❑ Viewing decks along the trail at each enclosure
- ❑ Graphic education panels placed at each viewing deck
- ❑ Plans to construct a Canada lynx enclosure are underway. An engineered drawing of the enclosure is currently being designed and we are collecting cost estimates for supplies. The enclosure will satisfy the lynx's natural needs and allow them to roam freely. Trees in the enclosure will act as natural climbing posts. The terrain in the chosen area will offer varied perches for the lynx and plenty of opportunities for retreat and privacy. This enclosure will also provide visitors with excellent viewing prospects by means of a large viewing platform with a plexi-glass front.



Bus Route Viewing Deck (conceptual) - from the original Master Plan

6.4 CAPITAL PROJECT TIMELINES

Need to assign dates to each project

6.5 CAPITAL PROJECT COST ESTIMATES

Dependent on architectural design

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In preparing this Master Plan, the Board of Directors of the YWP's Operating Society (YWPOS) would like to acknowledge, first of all Danny and Uli Nowlan for their vision and hard work that brought the YWP into being and to the state of success that it had achieved at the time the Yukon Government purchased it. The foresight of the government in acquiring the facility on behalf of Yukoners and all who appreciate northern wildlife, for enjoyment, educational and research purposes, is also acknowledged and greatly appreciated. The diligent professional staff of the YWP who ensure the daily and continuing care for the animals, whose healthy condition is of utmost importance to the future of the facility, is also gratefully acknowledged. Many individuals have contributed to the ongoing success and growth of the facility, whether as summer interpretive staff, as members of the Operating Society, or as individual volunteers. The Board wishes to acknowledge the assistance of all such individuals. Lastly, we want to express our appreciation to the visitors to the YWP and their support of it.

Data and images for this Master Plan have been in part provided by the former Friends of the YWP Society, "A Business Plan for its Future", March 2003; Danny and Uli Nowlan, former owners of the YWP; Colliers International: "Offering Memorandum, YWP and Game Farm", The Department of Environment, Yukon Government and board members of the YWP Operating Society. The contributions are accepted with gratitude. All artwork sketches are by Peter Karsten, photos are by Peter Karsten, Rebecca Bradford-Andrew and Carolyn Thorne.