

TSÉ TAGÉ / *Beaver River Watershed*

Home to healthy populations of char fish, large carnivores, moose and other fish and animals

Re
Proposed quartz / placer exploration – FNNND Traditional Territory

Position
The project should not proceed until a land use plan is implemented and effective mitigations are in place

FNNND demands **Honour the Treaty**

Over 30 years after the Final Agreement, no Chapter 11 regional land use plan exists for this watershed. The Yukon Court of Appeal has affirmed FNNND's Treaty right to co-manage its lands. Authorizing development before planning is complete irreparably reduces what a future plan can protect — an impact that cannot be mitigated.

01

Systemic & Structural Concerns

- **No land use plan:** Chapter 11 co-management never delivered, despite decades of requests
- **Development without planning:** Significant current and proposed developments have already undermined the planning process.
- **Subregional planning:** the **Beaver River subregional land use plan** has stalled, with appropriate protections for the watershed now in jeopardy.
- **Cumulative impacts:** Current assessments and mitigations fail to accurately assess and mitigate. Project approvals in isolation ignore the combined effect of development in this sensitive watershed.
- FNNND seeks a regional watershed health study using Traditional Knowledge indicators.

04

Heritage and Culture

- **Development proximity:** Previous development applications have **mischaracterized settlement land** use and activity. Fulsome and immediate protections are needed for these vital areas.
- This area has a long history of use and is an **important harvesting area** for FNNND citizens. Further impacts to moose, caribou, and salmon in the Beaver River will continue to infringe on FNNND's harvest rights.

02

Fish & Wildlife

- **Moose:** densities are relatively **high** compared to the rest of the Mayo Moose Management Unit — though numbers here have also been declining.
- **Salmon:** **Critical Spawning** sites are located throughout this watershed. It is critical that these areas are protected and salmon populations are allowed to recover.
- **Bears:** recent studies have shown that **grizzly are already impacted** by the scale of development in the Beaver River watershed.
- **Linear Feature Development:** associated with both placer and quartz mining have been shown to negatively impact many species (e.g., caribou, moose, bears) — **no new roads** should be developed until a land use plan is in place

05

Socio-economic Considerations

...to develop economic self reliance for Yukon Indian People; and...obtain economic benefits that flow directly from Settlement Agreements."

FINAL AGREEMENT, S. 22.1.1, 12.1.1.3

- **MMIWG2S+:** transient work camps raise documented risks to women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ people.
- Multiple, large scale camps in the region means **hundreds of non-local workers**.
- **Wellness:** health is inseparable from access to healthy land and water.

03

Water Quality and Quantity

- **Water is sacred** — not a resource. FNNND lives in relationship with water.
- Tsé Tagé watershed is incredibly important to FNNND citizens. NND has already observed and documented **decreases in water quality**. Protection of riparian habitat and all waterbodies is critical to prevent further degradation.
- **Ongoing Stream Acidification** has been identified here, yet sources/causes remain unidentified.
- **Wetlands:** wetlands are a vital component of ecosystem health. They must be protected and all impacts avoided (not minimized).

What FNNND asks:

PAUSE, PLAN, & CO-MANAGE

1. Do not authorize the project until a **regional land use plan** is in effect.
2. **Adopt a precautionary approach** given the absence of robust cumulative-effects assessment and management tools.
3. **Uphold recommended terms in full** — do not weaken, remove, or otherwise them.
4. **Honour the FNNND Mining Policy** and implement meaningful consultation timelines.
5. **Fulfill the obligations** of Final Agreements and YESAA — where project effects are, or are likely to be, significant DO NOT approve.

EXTENT OF MINING DEVELOPMENT, CLAIMS, & PERMITS IN TSÉ TAGÉ

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Placer and Quartz Activity in the Beaver-Keno River Watershed, June 2026

