

Clear Creek – Klondike Watershed

Home of the Clear Creek Caribou Herd which is being displaced and pushed north because of extensive mining in their home

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
- **Long history of development:** Clear Creek Watershed has been intensively mined and altered for many decades with limited regulation.
- The **Dawson Regional Land Use Plan** establishes management objectives that acknowledge the sensitivity the Clear Creek Caribou and their habitat, yet significant portions of their range remain outside any approved plan in FNNND territory.
- **Cumulative Effects:** The combined impact of widespread historic and current mining are already being seen in the ecosystem — most notably in Clear Creek Caribou.
- FNNND seeks a regional watershed health study using Traditional Knowledge indicators.

04

Heritage

- The Clear Creek area has been a **harvesting and travel** area for FNNND for a long time.
- Heritage resources are likely to be found across the region, yet **minimal assessment and archeological monitoring** has occurred to date.

02

Fish & Wildlife

- **Caribou:** the Clear Creek Caribou population continues to struggle as their home range has contracted and shifted north, avoiding areas of high disturbance.
- Widespread linear feature (roads, trails, cutlines) development has impacted wildlife populations and **increased public access** and activity significantly.
- **Moose:** as populations in and around Mayo continue to decline, **impacts to moose** in Clear Creek Watershed will further impact FNNND citizens' ability to harvest.
- **Freshwater Fish:** Fish populations are being impacted by increased sedimentation, creek and river diversions, and loss of riparian habitat. As salmon access closes — their populations and habitat are critical to FNNND food security.

05

Socio-economic Considerations

- **MMIWG2S+:** transient work camps raise documented risks to women, girls, and 2SLGBTQ+ people.
- Cumulative camps in the region — **hundreds of non-local workers** — must be assessed together.
- **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.
- Wetlands, creeks, and all downstream waterbodies have suffered heavily disturbance with **minimal assessment of reclamation success**.
- **Long-term potential quartz mine developments** pose significant risk to the already stressed watershed.
- Clear Creek Watershed is among the most impacted in FNNND territory. Action is needed now to protect **important freshwater fish habitat** that remains.

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 CLEAR CREEK - KLONDIKE

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Placer and Quartz Activity in the Clear-Klondike River Watershed, June 2026

