



July 7, 2015

Afan Jones, Secretariat
Kusawa Park Steering Committee
Environment
Box 2703 V-4
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6

Dear Mr. Jones,

Re: Draft Kusawa Park Management Plan

The Carcross Tagish Renewable Resource Council has had the opportunity to review the draft plan for Kusawa Park.

The Kusawa Lake area is a priceless cultural and natural heritage for all Yukoners. In general the proposed guiding management principles and supporting background information and analysis is comprehensive and through the Committee is to be congratulated for a job well done.

While the protection of cultural and ecological values in the area for the long term is paramount, the current high level of use by Yukoners for camping, hiking, fishing and hunting and outdoor recreation needs to be a major component of the plan. In particular, the management plan needs to encourage and facilitate the continuation of low intensity backcountry and wilderness uses by Yukoners, as well as, higher intensity camping and recreational use in the road assessable areas. This would involve the use of focused and ongoing educational and monitoring approaches to the management of low intensity uses, especially in more remote and backcountry areas with more formal regulation, if and when necessary.

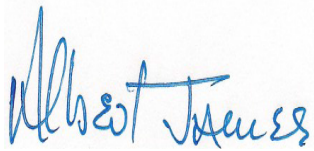
A key factor is the 12km access road from the Alaska Highway. Significant improvements to the Kusawa Road such as paved access would be a game changer, as it would bring in a lot more RV and motorized use and non-resident traffic to the area. Thus any improvements to the access road should not be considered without a full environmental assessment of long-term direct and indirect impacts and consequences to park values and users.

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We would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan. Should you have any questions or require further information please do not hesitate to contact the Council.

Sincerely,



Albert James
Co-chair



Ken Reeder
Co-Chair

cc: Lands Manager, CTFN