

# THE STORY OF TAAGISH TÓO'E' / TAAGISH HÉENI



## Tagish River Habitat Protection Area Summary Draft Recommendations

Prepared by the Tagish River Habitat Protection Area  
Steering Committee

# Draft management recommendations

## Revitalization and enhancement of Carcross/Tagish First Nation culture

1. Create ceremony around seasonal transitions to help develop new or re-establish relationships to the Tagish River HPA.
2. Ensure that communication materials for the Tagish River HPA will be made available in Tagish and Tlingit languages.
3. Use and incorporate traditional Tagish and Tlingit place names and ceremony in communication materials and at events.
4. Continue to recognize and enable the Indigenous right to practice and revitalize culture, traditions and customs. This includes the right to use traditional harvesting techniques and practices within the Tagish River HPA.
5. Develop and distribute educational/outreach material related to traditional heritage values as well as the legal obligations associated with finding and reporting artifacts.

## Recreational users

6. Communicate the impacts of climate change to Tagish River HPA users to enhance general knowledge and understanding.
7. Establish a wildlife viewing area, including educational signage and outreach materials on the importance of reducing disturbance to birds along

the shoreline, for Carcross/Tagish First Nation traditional practices, boaters, off-road vehicle users, hikers, people taking photos, etc.

8. Develop and distribute educational/outreach materials (Appendix C) on respectful interactions with the river, other river users, and wildlife. This may include keeping distance from wildlife, keeping noise levels down, and keeping dogs on leashes.
9. Reduce or eliminate low flying aircraft use (including drones) in the Tagish River HPA during key life stages for migratory birds. This can be achieved by educating aircraft operators to avoid the Tagish HPA during specific times of the year. Evaluate the need to establish a controlled airspace over the Tagish River HPA during key life stages for migratory birds.
10. Create and distribute educational or outreach materials on invasive species and how to avoid introducing them into the Tagish River HPA (Appendix C).

## Fishing

11. Eliminate the use of lead-based materials (lead sinkers/shot) within the Tagish River HPA to reduce contaminate exposure to fish and birds.
12. Educate anglers using the Tagish Bridge about their potential impacts on the lake trout population, and the reasoning behind current regulations.
13. Encourage anglers to target whitefish and other fish species as an alternative to lake trout to reduce fishing pressure on the lake trout population.

## Boating

14. Develop and share educational and/or outreach tools on best management practices for using fuel near waterbodies (Appendix C).
15. Develop and share educational and/or outreach tools on boat speed and wake impacts on wildlife, habitat and shoreline erosion.
16. Gate the boat launches within the HPA in order to restrict boat access during critical spring staging periods. Closure dates may vary annually based on ice conditions and other factors.
17. Encourage the development and/or use of boat launches outside the Tagish River HPA for access to Tagish and Marsh Lakes in order to decrease boat traffic.
18. Educate boaters on the need to reduce boat speeds due to the impacts on fish and wildlife habitat and the potential to increase bank erosion. Evaluate the need to initiate the process to establish a speed limit for motorized boats during critical life stages to reduce disturbances to wildlife and habitat and to minimize erosion related to boat wake.

## Off-road vehicle users

19. Investigate tools to prohibit shoreline use by off-road vehicles and snow machines during spring to decrease disturbance to birds and other wildlife.
20. Develop a multi-use trail plan that directs off-road vehicles away from the shoreline to relieve pressure on the Tagish River HPA.

## Shoreline development and use

21. Minimize disturbance and development along the entire Tagish River shoreline to accommodate wildlife movement and to maintain nesting habitat, shading and shoreline stability.
22. Reduce docks, other shoreline structures and the cumulative impact of shoreline development. Reducing these structures on the Tagish River HPA would facilitate human and wildlife access and movement along the river.
23. Develop and distribute educational/outreach information on existing development restrictions within the Tagish River HPA and adjacent waterfront reserve.
24. Encourage the dialogue around the Tagish River HPA and adjacent lands as a wildlife corridor for east west movement.
25. Update or create best management practices for development activities to effectively address bird conservation needs within the Tagish River HPA, e.g. bridge maintenance, habitat enhancement, FireSmart and fuel abatement programs.

## Stewardship, research and monitoring

26. Determine key research and monitoring questions within the Tagish River HPA to be addressed by the parties, researchers or industry. These studies will involve local input at all stages and will incorporate local and Traditional Knowledge.

27. Establish an environmental monitoring and reporting program, enabling the collection and sharing of scientific data, Traditional Knowledge and local knowledge.
28. Review and evaluate the current and past water data collection regimes and determine information needs and gaps and take steps to fill these gaps.
29. Incorporate climate change adaptation in the development and delivery of local programs and projects at a local scale. Report on key indicators of climate change in the Tagish River HPA.
30. Collect inventory information on species of interest including species at risk in the Tagish River HPA.
31. Monitor fish populations' health and harvest sustainability within the Tagish River HPA as part of the interconnected Southern Lakes system.
32. Maintain or enhance the Tagish River as a spawning, rearing and over-wintering habitat, and as a migration corridor for fish populations.
33. Assess the feasibility and need for a salmon recovery project in the Tagish River HPA.