

# The Cabin Lake Project

# **Conceptual Closure and Reclamation Plan**

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# DOCUMENT UPDATE LOG

Update #	Date	Update Description	Comments
1	April 24, 2018	Version 1	Submitted to the Kwe Beh Working Group
	May 15, 2018	Version 1	Submitted to the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board
2	June 8, 2018	Version 1.1	-Submitted to the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board -Update to remove winter road access references as requested in email "FW: Rover Metals Land Use Application" by Sarah Elsasser to Ron Woo, Judson Culter and Dave White on June 6, 2018
3	April 23, 2021	Version 2.0	Updated to include Tłįchǫ Ice Road and Access Road Closure Plan (version 2.0), effective Mar 8, 2021

# 1 HISTORY

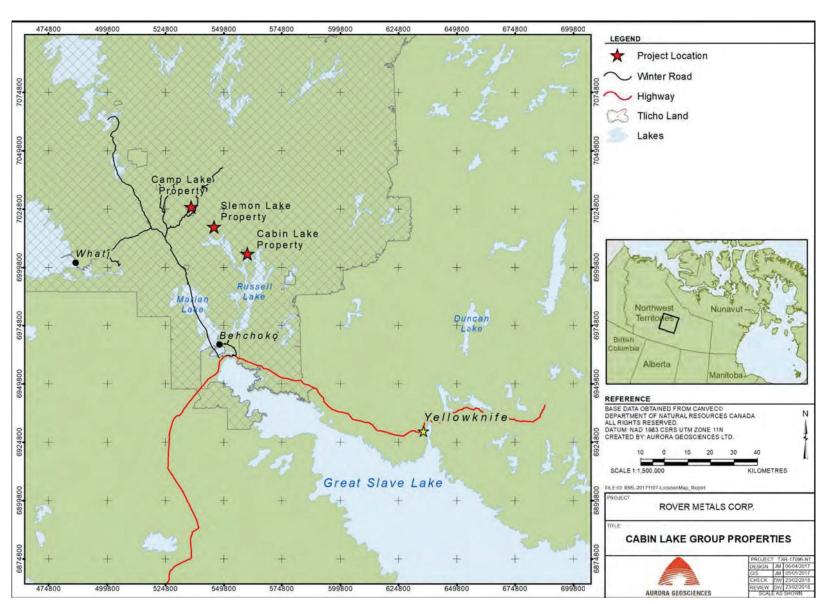
Rover Critical Minerals Corp. ("Rover") is a small junior exploration company that is exploring for precious metals (gold)in an area lying just 110 km northwest of the City of Yellowknife and 40 km from the community of Behchoko in the Northwest Territories. The project area is called the Cabin Lake Group Project is shown in Figure 1, below.

The Cabin Lake Group Gold project is the only project of its kind in the Northwest Territories. It consists of a separate land areas:

1. Cabin Lake property

#### Cabin Lake property

The property was first staked in 1939, by Thompson, and then re-staked in 1945 by Andy Bugow. In 1946, the property was acquired by Andrew Yellowknife Mines Limited in which seven zones were tested by drilling 39 holes totaling 2,267 metres. In 1962, ownership of the claims was transferred to Rio Algom Limited. In 1982, Highwood Resources Limited acquired the claims and in 1984, ownership was transferred to Cominco Limited. Cominco Ltd. performed geological mapping, sampled old trenches, and performed magnetic surveys. In 1985, Cominco drilled six holes on the property; ownership was returned to Highwood Resources Limited in 1986. In 1986 and 1987, Aber Resources Limited conducted a program of drilling and detailed mapping. Aber was successful in outlining a high-grade zone of about 70,000 tonnes at a grade of 10.29 g/t Au. In early 1987, Freeport-McMoRan Gold Company acquired the option to earn 51% interest. Freeport-McMoRan completed geophysical surveys, bedrock trenching, rock-chip sampling, and 68 metres of diamond-core drilling. Navigator Exploration Corporation acquired the interest in the property from Aber Resources Limited in February 2000. Aber Diamond Corporation retained a 2% royalty and the right to market any diamonds produced from the property. In May 2004, Navigator Exploration Corp. and Strongbow Resources Inc. merged to become Strongbow Exploration Inc. and in May 2007, Strongbow Resources Inc.'s rebranded company, North Arrow Minerals Inc. became the property owner. The mineral claim was dropped by North Arrow Minerals Inc. and re-staked by DEMCo Ltd. in September 2013.





The claim was subsequently staked by Silver Range Resources Ltd. in July 2016. Rover purchased the claim from Silver Range in November 2017.

# 2 INTRODUCTION

# 2.1 GENERAL

There are many small gold showings within the Cabin Lake Group Gold project area and Rover believes these showings are the surface expression of a much larger system hosting gold mineralization at depth. There is significant exploration that needs to be completed for this concept to be properly tested, like using geophysical surveying (both ground and airborne), intense prospecting, sampling, geological mapping, channel sampling using rock saws and diamond-core drilling.

In order to complete this exploration work, Rover is looking to obtain a Class A Land Use Permit under the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board. The purpose of this plan is to describe the natural environment (including plants, rocks, water bodies and animals) of the Cabin Lake Group project site, how the current project has affected the environment and how Rover would clean up the site if it decided to withdraw from the project.

Any areas of proposed work which might be disturbed by drilling equipment or other activities can be managed to encourage plants to grow back. All the proposed activities that would be done to restore the site, should this project close down, are described in this plan.

Should the Cabin Lake Group Gold project continue to grow, then Rover will continue to update the Closure and Reclamation Plan and submit any new updated plans to Wek'èezhii Land and Water Board. We intend to include the various stakeholders and will use industry best practices to return the land to a stable, healthy environment meeting future land use needs and should require no active monitoring.

# 2.2 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN

Rover has prepared this Closure and Reclamation Plan (CRP) for the Cabin Lake Group Gold project as required by section 7 of the land use permit application. The plan has been written using best practices for the mineral industry.

The Cabin Lake Group Gold project is located just 110 km north-northwest of the city centre of Yellowknife, NT, and just 40 km to the north of the community of Behchoko (Figure 1). Exploration logistics for the project will be completed from Yellowknife. The Area of Influence (AOI) for the Rover's proposed land use permit is:

- Between 62°43'35.93"N and 63°31'18.15"N
- Between 115°25'39.60"W and 116°49'2.09"W
- Covering portions of 1:50,000 scale National Topographic System (NTS) map sheets:  $_\odot~85$  J/13, 85 K 16, 85 N 01, 08, and 85 O04 and 05

Exploration activities will comprise follow-up ground and airborne geophysical surveys, detailed prospecting, sampling, geological mapping, channel sampling and exploration diamond-core drilling. All drilling will comprise using BTW or NQ core (approximately 2" in diameter).

This is likely the first ever land use permit applied for in this area and as such the CRP is conceptual in nature. Figure 2 show the Cabin lake access trails. Rover does not have GIS coordinates for any access trails within the Camp Lake or Slemon Lake claims boundaries.

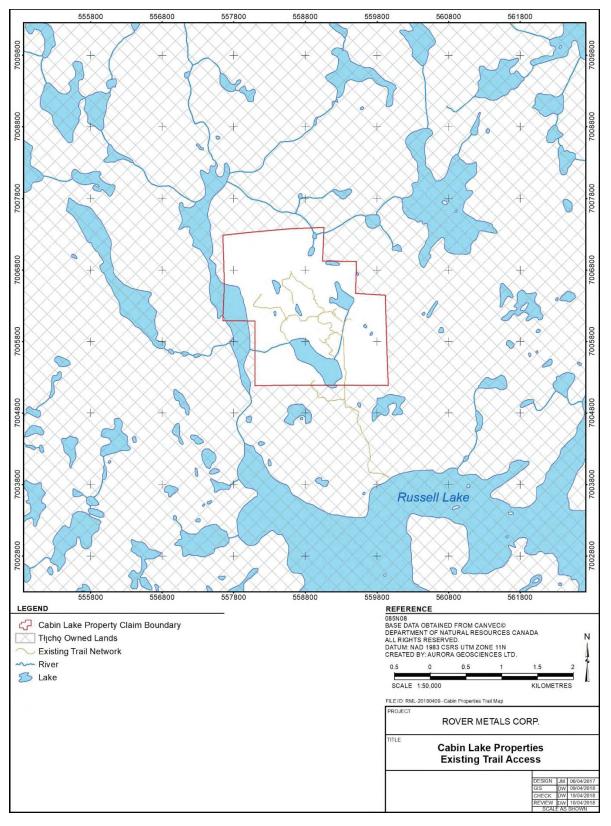


Figure 2: Location map of Cabin Lake exiting trails

# 2.3 GOAL OF CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLAN (CRP)

The overall CRP goal is to return any mineral exploration land use areas to viable, self-sustaining ecosystems compatible with a healthy environment and human activities. This will be done by following the four closure principles of leaving behind sites that are:

- 1. Physically stable;
- 2. Chemically inert;
- 3. Present zero long-term active care requirements; and
- 4. Are to be as compatible as possible with future land use activities (including aesthetics and values).

Aspects of the mineral exploration program that will require remediation consist of:

- 1. Land based diamond-core drill setups and lay-down area;
- 2. All fuel caches; and
- 3. Any trench works.

Exploration activities will comprise of prospecting, sampling, geological mapping and geophysical surveying. Drilling would be helicopter supported from Yellowknife. There will be a camp for this project.

### 2.4 CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION PLANNING TEAM

Present exploration activity is being conducted for Rover by Aurora Geosciences Ltd. (AGL) of Yellowknife. In this CRP, the role of primary contractor on any reclamation activities falls to AGL. This includes progressive mitigation and remediation of any land-based drill set-ups, fuel cache sites or trench works along with the management and other progressive restoration activities. Where needed, outside expertise in the form of consultants or First Nations Traditional Knowledge (TK) will be included in the process.

AGL has three and a half decades of experience operating mineral exploration programs in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Yukon. This includes the proper reclamation activities of old project sites. In addition, as responsible corporate citizens, the company undertakes to help with remediation efforts in areas of their operations where third-party legacy sites have not been properly closed, reclaimed or remediated.

### 2.5 ENGAGEMENT

Rover will continue to engage the Tłįchǫ communities and stakeholders affected by exploration in this area. An updated engagement log is included with the registry open file pertaining to this land use application.

### 2.6 REGULATORY INSTRUMENTS FOR EARLY STAGE CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION

At the present time, there are no outstanding agreements, permits or authorizations. There are no surface leases for lands involved in the land use activities. Rover is very comfortable in recognizing their responsibility to action the regulatory instruments, specifically a new land use permit, once it is received.

# 3 PROJECT ENVIRONMENT

At present the development status of the project is best termed as early exploration or grassroots exploration. There is a legacy trench and drilling at the Cabin Lake / Bugow showing used by a previous operator to sample the showing for gold grade. There is no camp currently existing here. There will likely be a plan to establish a camp at the Property site. The area will have one fuel cache, with an outline of a second potential site, to support the drilling and any potential ground vehicles that might be on site (snowmachines, snowcat). The largest impact from this program will be from diamond-core drilling. We will use industry best practices and the over-seeing from the Land Use Inspector to confirm all regulations are being followed and any concerns are being mitigated.

### 3.1 Atmospheric Environment

The project area is located just 110 kilometers north-northwest of Yellowknife, NT. The project area experiences an extreme and semi-arid polar climate typical of the Taiga Shield Ecozone of Canada (Ecological Stratification Working Group, 1995).

Climate in the region is marked by cool summers and very cold winters, and has a sub-humid, high boreal ecoclimate. The mean annual temperature is approximately varies from -10 to -5°C. The mean summer temperature is 11°C and the mean winter temperature is -21.5°C. The mean annual snowfall ranges from 100 cm to 500 mm The mean annual precipitation ranges 250-500 mm. Yellowknife has the lowest mean annual temperature of all Canadian cities (-5°C) and the lowest average nighttime winter temperature (-30°C). Wildlife includes moose, black bear, minimal barren ground caribou, wolf, beaver, muskrat, snowshoe hare, ptarmigan and spruce grouse.

Daylight hours range from 5.5 to 6 during the Winter Solstice to effectively 24 hours at the Summer Solstice. The spring and fall (vernal and autumnal) equinoxes occur in March and September, respectively. During these times, daylight hours equal night time hours.

#### 3.2 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

#### 3.2.1 Terrestrial

The Cabin Lake Group Gold project is located in the Tiga Shield ecozone. This ecozone consists of broadly rolling terrain composed of a mosaic of uplands and associated wetlands. It is dominated by Precambrian bedrock outcrops and discontinuous hummocky and ridged morainal deposits. Some lacustrine and marine deposits are also present. A characteristic of the ecozone is the largest concentration of long, sinuous eskers in Canada. Dominating the Precambrian landscape are thousands of lakes and wetlands in glacially carved depressions. Lowlands are covered with peatlands and are commonly waterlogged or wet for prolonged periods. Permafrost is discontinuous but widespread. Brunisolic and Humo-Ferric Podzolic soils are dominant in the southern portion, and Cryosols in the northern portion with a mix of these in the latitudinal centre of the ecozone. Gleysols and Organic Cryosols occur mainly in the lowlands.

#### 3.2.2 Fire Ecology

Fire in Tiga Shield ecozone, fires are frequent and their ecological influence species, stand and landsape and this in turn drives forest vegetation dynamics. This subsequently affects the movement of wildlife populations, whose need for food and cover means they must relocate as the forest patterns change. A map showing the locations and extent of recent forest fires in the area of the permit as shown in Figure 3.

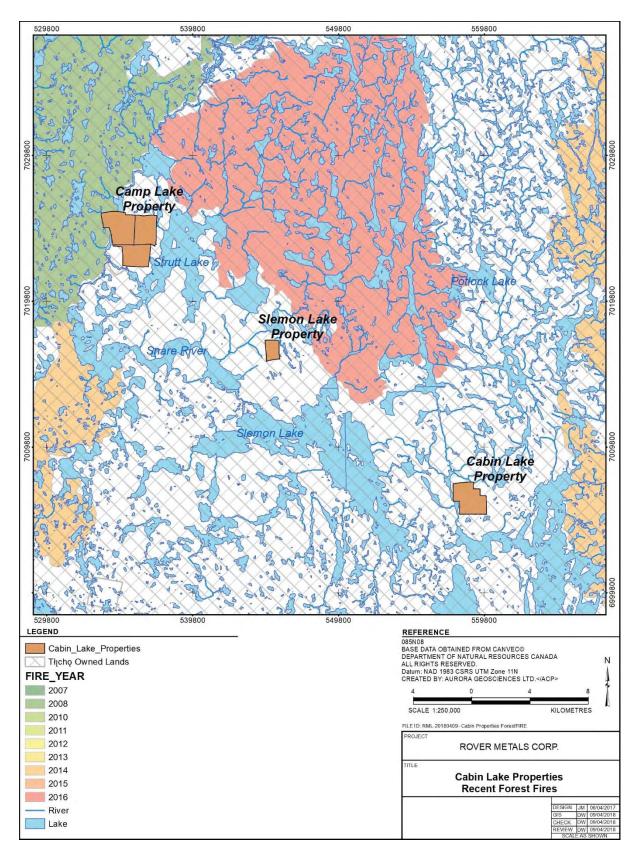


Figure 3. Forest Fire Location Map showing the proximity to the Cabin Lake group of properties

### 3.3 CHEMICAL ENVIRONMENT

At this extremely early stage of exploration at the Cabin Lake Group Gold project, little is known about baseline conditions affecting soil, sediments, surface waters and groundwater. As this project moves further along in the development process, baseline studies will be completed to accurately understand the effects from acid rock drainage and metal leaching.

### 3.4 BIOLOGICAL ENVIRONMENT

Habitat at the Cabin Lake Group Gold project area is within the sub-Arctic taiga coniferous forest. Yearround fauna includes red fox, Arctic ground squirrel (sik-sik), black bear, moose, Arctic wolf, coyote, beaver, muskrat, ermine and ptarmigan. Migratory species include Barrenland caribou and many species of shore birds. During the summer, heavy concentrations of parasitic, biting flies (predominantly mosquito and black fly) are present.

Vegetation in the area is characteristic of sub-Arctic taiga with moss, sedges, lichen and dwarf varieties of willow and birch trees but with most low-lying areas dominated by black and white spruce, jack pine and aspen.

# 4 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### 4.1 GENERAL

Rover is a junior exploration company that is exploring for precious metals (gold) in an area surrounded by Tłjcho Lands.

Rover is looking to perform mineral exploration work including, but not limited to, geophysical surveying (both ground and airborne) prospecting, sampling, geological mapping, channel sampling using rock saws and diamond-core drilling.

There is no current land use permit for this project. In order to complete this exploration work, Rover is looking to obtain a Class A Land Use Permit under the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB)

# 4.2 SITE BEDROCK AND MINERAL DEPOSIT GEOLOGY Cabin Lake property

The claims are underlain by an Archean sedimentary sequence of interbedded greywacke and argillite, which have been metamorphosed to cordierite and/or andalusite grade. Amphibolitic iron formation and

garnetiferous schist are interbedded within the sediments. In the northern part of the claim group the sedimentary package is intruded by granite. South of Cabin Lake, the sediments are intruded by a small granitic pluton. Pegmatitic, granitic - felsic porphyry and mafic dykes intrude the metasedimentary rocks. Proterozoic diabase dykes intrude all Archean lithologies. Detailed structural mapping has been completed on the BUGOW property. First phase isoclinal folds (F1)are northwesterly- oriented, refolded by a second (northeasterly)phase, and possibly a third (northeasterly)phase (F2, F3) The most prominent cleavage is northwesterly trending, oriented from 5° to 15° clockwise from bedding and is axial planar to minor folds that post-date F1 (Brophy, Sept. 1986 Property Visit Report) An east-trending regional metamorphic isograd to the south of the property marks the boundary between low-grade rocks to the south and medium-grade (cordierite-andalusite-bearing) rocks to the north. Gold is associated with amphibolite (silicate facies)iron formation beds that vary in width from several centimetres to over 10 metres and are discontinuous along strike. Several distinct iron formation units have been identified on the property. Amphibolitic iron formation locally contains siliceous nodules, garnets, and up to 25% sulphides. Pyrite, pyrrhotite, and arsenopyrite, the main sulphides, vary fromsemi-massive laminated or bedded, to disseminated.

### 4.3 PROJECT SUMMARY

At present the development status of the project is best termed as very early stage or grassroots exploration. There is legacy drilling by previous operators.

There will be camps used during the project exploration program. The area will have at least one main fuel cache to support the drilling and helicopter activity associated with normal exploration programs. There are no plans for further trench works to bulk sample any of the existing veins, but this will be a part of the proposed exploration permit. The diamond-core drill rigs will core using BTW or NQ core, both about 2" in rough diameter.

The current exploration strategy is to validate historic drilling by twinning some of the drilled holes.

Project success is entirely dependent upon drill results. At any stage in a mineral exploration program a decision may be made to discontinue the land use activities associated with it if economics or exploration results are not conducive to continued success. If that were to occur, closure and reclamation of the site would occur using the descriptions outlined below.

# 5 PERMANENT CLOSURE AND RECLAMATION

### 5.1 DEFINITION OF RECLAMATION

"The act or process of returning something to its former, better state." Using PDAC's e3 Plus: A Framework for Responsible Exploration, best practices will be followed in reclamation and closure of this mineral exploration project. Final restoration would mean no further requirement of active monitoring.

## 5.2 PERMANENT RECLAMATION REQUIREMENTS

#### 5.2.1 Project Components:

**Drill sites** – All drill sites will be cleaned and restored to their natural site, or as closely as possible. Trees that are felled for the purpose of clearing a drill pad will be bucked into 4-foot lengths and pilled at the side of the clearing.

#### Tailings Containment Areas – None

**Buildings and Equipment** – No permanent structures will be erected. Emergency shelters will be dismantled and removed. All equipment and waste will be removed from site to Yellowknife for appropriate disposal.

#### Mine Infrastructure - None

**Transportation Routes within the claims boundary** –Where pre-existing trails within the claims boundary are utilized, Rover will work with the land use inspector to ensure that these trails are satisfactorily reclaimed. Portage areas will be evaluated during summer months to determine if they require a nutrient cover for suitable terrain enrichment and re-establishment of natural vegetation. This is typically prevented by LUP conditions that prohibit rutting of the active layer of permafrost during the spring thaw.

**Landfills and Other Waste Disposal Areas** – No landfills. All materials will be disposed of properly in Yellowknife, either through Kavanaugh or the City of Yellowknife waste facility. General and construction refuse is handled by expediting and warehouse staff. Any hazardous or potentially hazardous waste is handled by KBL Environmental Ltd. of Yellowknife.

**Water Management Systems** – The only water management systems that will be in use are the water pumps, coil stoves and mud recovery units (if required) used to support diamond-core drilling. There may

be water lines and storage tanks used for channel sampling. The equipment and facilities associated with water use will be drained and completely removed from site.

## 5.3 LONG TERM RECLAMATION OBJECTIVES

The long-term objectives for the closure and reclamation of the Cabin Lake Group Gold project are:

- 1. Return all sites to a state similar to other habitats in the same region that have not been affected by mineral exploration activity;
- 2. Restore or replace any local habitat that may have been affected by exploration activities;
- 3. Return the area to a state that supports a properly functioning ecosystem consistent with traditional and non-traditional land use activities; and
- 4. Create a landscape compatible with any end use of former exploration sites.

Rover will strive to make the following commitments in relation to the closure and reclamation plan:

- 1. Minimize, to the extent practical, all areas disturbed by mineral exploration activities;
- 2. Recover as much disturbed soil as possible for use in reclamation activities;
- 3. Seek every opportunity for the early reclamation of exploration sites;
- 4. Inform relevant First Nations groups of the closure and reclamation plan; and
- 5. Maintain active liaison with other mineral exploration projects to gain knowledge and experience for understanding challenges and successes related to reclamation activities.

# 6 PROGRESSIVE RECLAMATION

At present, there are no plans to develop an operational mine.

Rover is committed to:

- 1. Reduce the recovery time of the sites of land use operations;
- 2. Minimize the exploration footprint of the project;
- 3. Minimize the effects of mineral exploration activities on wildlife;
- 4. Conduct ongoing, progressive reclamation for earlier recovery of land use areas;
- 5. Use e<sup>3</sup> Plus best management practices for all site cleanups; and
- 6. Continue dialogue and engagement with relevant Aboriginal groups and all stakeholders.

### 6.1 OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROGRESSIVE RECLAMATION

This Closure and Reclamation plan is currently conceptual in nature. At the current level of activity, progressive reclamation will consist of encouraging the re-establishment of natural vegetation on any land-based drill sites and cuttings sumps. It will also require timely removal and disposal of any fuel or hazardous materials spills at emergency shelters, drill sites or fuel caches.

The trench works at the Cabin Lake site will be reclaimed during the life of this project by walking in a portable excavator during the winter months for summer reclamation. The equipment will then be removed in the same manner by walking it out the following winter. Once the trench is back filled the chain link fence will be removed and suitable terrain enrichment encouraged through application of a nutrient cover to re-establish a viable ecosystem.

Short-term objectives include:

- 1. Reclamation of any disturbed areas as soon as they are no longer required;
- 2. Minimizing any erosion and sediment loss effects from on-site runoff;
- 3. Maintaining safe working conditions at all work sites;
- 4. Removing and disposing of any infrastructure and material when no longer required to meet project objectives;
- 5. Removing or land farming (contingent on Inspector approval) any potentially contaminated soil materials; and
- 6. Maintaining an environmentally safe work site.

# 7 INTEGRATE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

This Closure and Reclamation Plan (CRP) is conceptual in nature. As exploration work advances, the requirements for Reclamation will develop in detail and be reported in the form of a series of updated CR Plans.

There are currently no plans for the development of a mine. Rather, project success depends upon economic gold grades within the granitic host rocks which may support the continuance of exploration to the Advanced Stage.

# 8 POST RECLAMATION SITE ASSESSMENT

Proposed activities are restricted to mineral exploration. Ongoing site inspection reports will be provided by Land Use inspectors, including seasonal closure of operations.

# 9 FINANCIAL SECURITY

There is no mining infrastructure present or planned in the project area. All closures are seasonal in nature and temporary. Current financial security will comprise a deposit for the Land Use Permit and associated land use operations.

# **10 REFERENCES**

**Ecological Stratification Working Group, 1995**; A National Ecological Framework for Canada. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Research Branch, Centre for Land and Biological Resources Research and Environment Canada, State of the Environment Directorate, Ecozone Analysis Branch, Ottawa/Hull. Report and national map at 1:7,500,000 scale.

# 11 APPENDIX: ICE ROAD & ACESS ROAD CLOSURE PLAN



# ICE ROAD & ACCESS ROAD CLOSURE PLAN

# DOCUMENT CONTROL LOG:

Update #	Date	Update Description	Comments
1	Dec 18, 2020	Version 0.1	
2	Mar 8, 2021	Version 2.0	<ul> <li>Updated to reflect comments</li> <li>Background Section removed as requested by Tłįchǫ Government.</li> <li>In response to Comment 1 from GNWT - ENR - EAM (Environmental Assessment and Monitoring): Central Email GNWT in the Review Comment Table, the requested language has been added.</li> <li>In response to the Comment # 1 from WLWB in the Review Comments Table, language the heading has been updated to reflect both the ice road and the access road; in the Closure Plan Principles, text has been simplified to mention only Ice Road and Access Road.</li> <li>In response to the Comment # 4 from WLWB in the Review Comments Table, language relating to culverts has been removed in the Procedures section</li> </ul>



# ICE ROAD & ACCESS ROAD CLOSURE PLAN

#### CLOSURE PLAN GOALS:

The overall closure plan goal is to return any mineral exploration land use areas to viable, self-sustaining ecosystems compatible with a healthy environment and human activities. This will be done by following the four closure principles of leaving behind sites that are:

- physically stable;
- chemically inert;
- present zero long-term active care requirements, and;
- are to be as compatible as possible with future land use activities (including aesthetics and values).

#### CLOSURE PLAN PRINCIPLES:

Rover will work with the GNWT Land Use Inspector to ensure that Ice Road and Access Road are satisfactorily reclaimed. Portage areas will be evaluated during summer months to determine if they require a nutrient cover for suitable terrain enrichment and re-establishment of natural vegetation. This is typically prevented by LUP conditions that prohibit rutting of the active layer of permafrost during the spring thaw.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

Objectives include:

- 1. Reclamation of any disturbed areas when no longer required;
- 2. Minimizing any erosion and sediment loss effects from on-site runoff;
- 3. Maintaining safe working conditions at all work sites;
- 4. Removing and disposing of any infrastructure and material when no longer required to meet project objectives;
- 5. Removing or land farming (contingent on the Inspector's approval) any potentially contaminated soil materials; and
- 6. Maintaining an environmentally safe work site.

#### PROCEDURE:



# ICE ROAD & ACCESS ROAD CLOSURE PLAN

- 1) If constructing a winter road and using water from Russell Lake, the Proponent should conduct a survey in the area the Proponent plans to remove water, prior to commencing activities, to determine the presence of any nearby muskrat push-ups or beaver lodges and ensure that the water outtake location is reasonably distant from any of these features. Water will be removed in sufficiently deep water and using the required intake filters so as to protect wildlife and fish.
- 2) Rover will adopt the Government of the Northwest Territories Northern Land Use Guidelines: Access Roads and Trails

https://www.lands.gov.nt.ca/sites/lands/files/resources/nlug\_roadstrails\_2015\_english\_16\_sep t\_2015.pdf

The following definitions will apply.

Access Road:

- Provides initial access to resource areas for exploration
- Requires minimal design work
- Designed to carry low traffic volumes at low speeds
- Designed to link via a dock on Russell Lake

Ice Road:

- Constructed by dragging and leveling the surface to allow smoother travel
- Water may be used to build up ice for the roadbed
- 3) The purpose of this closure plan is to safety decommission the access road to the standards as defined by Rover's Land Use permit. This includes:
  - a) Removal of structures, equipment and garbage at the end of the exploration program.
  - b) If needed, Rover will contour the topography for erosion control, including cross drainage when required. For slopes where soil erosion is of great concern, Rover will contact the Department of Lands resource management officer and Department of Environment and Natural Resources on approved seed mixes for active revegetation.
  - c) Rover will restrict access to the road upon closure. A barrier will be constructed at the ends of the road. Material can be slash and debris on the road right of way, or snow piles during winter months.
  - d) Place a sign on a road stand saying that the road will not be maintained with a defined date and is closed (sign to be removed when ice melts).