

Asi Keyi Natural Environment Park

PARK MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS



The Asi Keyi Steering Committee held the first round of public consultations on the park management planning process in April and May. The goals of this consultation process were to obtain feedback on the Committee's proposed park vision and guiding principles, and to hear people's management concerns for Asi Keyi Natural Environment Park. Public feedback was obtained by means of an online questionnaire hosted on the Committee's webpage, mailed in questionnaires, and directly from people who attended the community meetings in Destruction Bay, Burwash Landing and Beaver Creek. This newsletter summarizes the feedback received, provides the final park vision and guiding principles, highlights the management concerns brought forward, and outlines the next steps.

The Park Vision

The feedback received indicated that the majority of respondents generally supported the park vision. However, some respondents found that there were contradicting ideas within it and that some of the terms within were confusing and could be interpreted in several different ways. The Steering Committee amended the vision to provide clarity without changing its original intent.

Asi Keyi (“my grandfather’s country”) Natural Environment Park is the homeland to past, present and future generations of people, plants and animals. The footprints of our grandparents are on the land. Asi Keyi Natural Environment Park is a place to explore and connect with the natural and cultural landscape in ways that leave it unimpaired, allowing it to evolve naturally.

“Best to keep this as wild as possible, without interpretive centres or trails. If people want to use this park they need to make an effort.”

COMMENT RECEIVED DURING CONSULTATION

The Guiding Principles

The feedback received indicated that the majority of respondents generally supported the guiding principles. The majority of feedback related to wanting more clarity, clearer terminology, and ensuring that the guiding principles are actually achievable. When the body of the management plan is written text within it will help to provide more context and clarification around the guiding principles. The guiding principles were changed in the following ways. The titles of Homeland/Collaborative Management and Regional Integration guiding principles were changed. The guiding principles Protection of Park Values, Adapting to Change, Regional Integration, and Economic Benefits and Opportunities were amended to simplify their text and provide clarity without changing their intent.



“We are pleased that the vision encompasses a view to the past and how the land was historically used, while having an eye towards the future to ensure that people, plants and animals can continue to benefit from Asi Keyi.”

COMMENT RECEIVED DURING CONSULTATION

The Guiding Principles, continued

One of the questions posed in the questionnaire and at community meetings asked if people thought that the guiding principles should be ranked in order of importance. The majority of respondents did not feel that all six principles should be ranked. However, the majority of respondents did say that in the case of conflict between guiding principles, the Protection of Park Values guiding principle should take precedence. The Steering Committee agreed.

Protection of Park Values

It is the responsibility of the Parties,* park managers, and all people who enter the park to ensure the long-term protection of the natural beauty, ecological, archeological, historical and cultural values of Asi Keyi Natural Environment Park. Human activities within the park will be managed to maintain the ecological integrity of the park. In the case of conflict with other guiding principles this guiding principle takes precedence.

Collaborative Management

The Parties will strive to work together and use innovative approaches to manage Asi Keyi Natural Environment Park.

Adapting to Change

The Parties recognize and accept that land and water are always evolving and changing naturally. Monitoring and documenting changes will occur as practicable.

Three ways of Knowing

Three ways of knowing allows us to expand our understanding and our caring for this land. Traditional, local, and scientific knowledge will be the fundamental tools used to make informed management decisions.

Transboundary Management

Asi Keyi Natural Environment Park management will include, as practicable, coordination and collaboration with the neighbouring protected areas of the Kluane/ Wrangell–St. Elias/Glacier Bay/ Tatshenshini–Alsek World Heritage Site and others.

Economic Benefits and Opportunities

Asi Keyi Natural Environment Park will have some economic benefits and opportunities. Park management welcomes First Nation initiatives in developing these benefits and opportunities.

*The Parties are the Government of Yukon, Kluane First Nation and White River First Nation.



Participants at the community meeting in Beaver Creek watching the video of the 2015 Elders trip into Asi Keyi Natural Environment Park.



Participants at the community meeting in Burwash Landing listening to the presentation by Jean Langlois, the Government of Yukon delegate on the Asi Keyi Steering Committee.



The Asi Keyi Natural Environment Park information panels displayed at the community meeting in Beaver Creek.

“I think it needs some qualification as to what kinds of economic activities would be allowed — specifically excluding extractive industries and road developments.”

COMMENT RECEIVED DURING CONSULTATION

Park Management Issues

One of the questions asked during consultations was whether or not people had any management concerns relating to the park. Many respondents shared their views.

The management issues brought forward were related to:

- Access
- Park Infrastructure
- Ecological Integrity
- Species at Risk
- Invasive Species
- Historical Resources
- Water Quality
- Wildlife Populations and Health
- Economic Development
- Resource Extraction
- Education
- Visitor Use
- Visitor Safety
- Special or Significant Values

Next Steps

The next steps for the Steering Committee are to identify all the management issues to be addressed within the park management plan and to develop options for addressing the management issues. Following this, the Steering Committee will host another round of public consultations that will include community meetings. During this round of consultations, the Committee will be seeking feedback on the options proposed for addressing the management issues.



“Maintaining the ecological integrity, especially wildlife in the area [is a management concern].”

COMMENT RECEIVED DURING CONSULTATION

The exact dates for the next round of consultations on the park management planning process are not yet determined, but we anticipate this will be in late fall or early winter.

“Maybe the Economic Opportunities guiding principle should state that there will be opportunities for all people, but special considerations for WRFN and KFN.” COMMENT RECEIVED DURING CONSULTATION

The Steering Committee wants to hear from you

In its ongoing efforts to ensure that the opinions of Yukoners are heard and considered during the management planning process, the Steering Committee wants to encourage you to continue to submit your feedback.



At this time the Committee wants to know if there any management issues that have not been brought forward that you would like to see addressed. Please submit your feedback:

- online via the “Contact the Steering Committee” tab at asikeyipark.ca
- by emailing the Committee Secretariat at Jessica.Elliott@gov.yk.ca
- by faxing the Committee Secretariat at 867-393-6223; or
- by mailing the Asi Keyi Park Steering Committee at P.O. Box 2703 (V4), Whitehorse, YT Y1A 2C6