

Taiga Plains Ecoregions report creates common ground

Yellowknife (June 11, 2007) – The first in a series of reports on ecosystem classification, “Ecological Regions of the Northwest Territories – Taiga Plains”, creates a common baseline that can be used by land use planners, natural resource managers and regulators.

Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Minister, Michael McLeod said, “This report offers an ecosystem classification that is appropriate for the Northwest Territories and divides the Taiga Plains into 45 ecologically-based units. Given the increasing pace and scale of development in the Mackenzie Valley, the Taiga Plains was selected as the first region to be reclassified.”

The next regions currently undergoing reclassification are the Taiga Shield (expected to be released by end of 2007) and Taiga/Boreal Cordillera (expected to be released in spring 2009).

Minister McLeod said, “The Ecological Regions of the Northwest Territories – Taiga Plains” report will allow the Government of the Northwest Territories to respond to local, regional, national and international enquiries and is an important reference document for environmental impact assessment, land use planning and conservation.”

Climate is an important component of the new ecological classification and the information can therefore also be used as a benchmark in evaluating climate change over the long term.

A companion poster has also been developed that illustrates the ecoregions of the Taiga Plains in an easy-to-understand format. The digital map data are also available on ENR’s Spatial Data Warehouse.

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