

7. PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT PROGRESS TOWARDS SYSTEMS COMPLETION

Given that the provincial governments are constitutionally assigned the responsibility for land and natural resources, the future of Canada's protected area system will depend in large part on their initiatives. As for the two territorial governments, they too are showing an increasing interest in developing protected areas systems to preserve their natural heritage. The progress made by the individual governments varies: individual jurisdictions are at different stages in their preservation efforts. This section serves as a status report to document the progress being made by these governments.

YUKON GOVERNMENT PROGRESS

1) New Sites Protected

- No protected areas were designated in 1991-92.

2) Systems Planning Progress

- In July 1992 the Yukon Parks System Plan was completed and released by the Minister of Renewable Resources. It describes eight park landscapes and twenty-two eco-regions which will be used as administrative units for park selection, park management planning and interpretive planning. The system plan outlines the means of achieving representation of each Yukon eco-region.
- The Yukon Parks and Outdoor Recreation Policy was approved by Cabinet in September 1991.
- Habitat Protection Amendments were passed which provide for the establishment of Habitat Protection Areas (HPA). This new initiative will enable effective stewardship of key wildlife habitats throughout the Yukon. Functionally HPA's will be established to come into effect on the dates that the Yukon First Nation Final Agreements are proclaimed.