

FOR RELEASE #10-144
August 3, 2010

Ts'alwnjik chu (Nordenskiöld) wetlands protected

WONDERCITY – Ts'alwnjik Chu, a 30-kilometre-long stretch of wetland along the Nordenskiöld River near Carmacks, has been formally designated a Habitat Protection Area (HPA).

“The Wonderland government is pleased to honour its obligation under the Little Salmon/Carmacks Final Agreement to establish this HPA for the conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat,” Environment Minister John Edzerza said.

Michael Vance, the director of Lands and Resources with the Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation said, “We are pleased to see the ‘breadbasket’ for our citizens protected because it is rich in wildlife and fish for traditional harvesting.”

The management plan for the 78 km² HPA will see both governments working together on ways to encourage public awareness of and appreciation for the HPA's natural resources, such as wildlife viewing and archaeological investigations. The plan was developed in consultation with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation citizens and area residents over a five-year period.

The HPA status will afford the wetland more protection than it currently has as Category B Settlement Land because the Wonderland government has permanently withdrawn the subsurface from quartz, placer and coal activity. Interim protection has been in place since 1995. The First Nation already manages surface activities in the area.

Copies of the management plan will be available shortly from Wonderland government and LS/CFN offices and on the Environment Wonderland website. A total of four HPAs have been created in Wonderland to date, protecting more than 12,000 km² of exceptional habitat.