



**Question #1:** A key issue in the discussion of appropriate ATV management tools in the Yukon wilderness is whether the plan should be proactive or complaints driven. The PROACTIVE approach would have the government “get out in front” of damage by providing direction on how and where ATV’s can be used. The alternative is to do nothing until damage has been done and someone complains about it – the current government’s choice that is called a COMPLAINTS-DRIVEN process.

If elected, will you support and promote a proactive approach **or** a complaints-driven process for managing ATV’s in the Yukon wilderness?

Answer:

Yukon New Democrats support a pro-active approach. As Yukoners we value wilderness that underpins our way of life, puts food on the table, supports outdoor recreation and adventure tourism and so much more. While we acknowledge there is personal responsibility among most ATVer’s of all ages, some ATV operators are careless and cause a lot of damage to our sensitive landscapes. So much of our wilderness is fragile and once disturbed the land, wildlife and the plants may never recover.

Collectively we need to support public education and responsible travel in our wild spaces, within communities and beyond. The matter of all-terrain vehicles has been a concern of Yukon First Nations and many different stakeholders in the territory from Renewable Resources Councils, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Board, Local Advisory Council’s, unincorporated communities and other user groups for years. As a Yukon community we need to foster environmental stewardship.

**Question #2:** A second important consideration when addressing ATV management in the Yukon wilderness is to determine if there should be a COMPREHENSIVE plan for the whole territory or a piecemeal plan for just the damaged places. A comprehensive plan could/would have different levels of protection for different areas but would provide guidelines for the entire territory. A PIECEMEAL plan would only address protection for damaged areas that of course leaves ATV users free to move to unregulated areas and repeat the damage.

If elected, will you support and promote a comprehensive plan for the whole territory **or** a piecemeal plan covering just the already damaged areas?

Answer:

A comprehensive strategy for wilderness protection is needed and in the long-term

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regional land use planning could address this. We all know land use planning takes time, so as Yukoners we need to figure how to move ahead on environmental protection before the damage is irreparable. Action is required now. Changes to the territorial lands act would allow for the interim protection of sensitive areas in the short-term to protect sensitive habitats, while we create a collective investment in enforcement. A Yukon New Democratic team would be pleased to work with TOYA and other stakeholders to identify areas facing the highest risks and find a long term solution.

**Question #3:** Registration of all ATV's to identify them is essential for effective enforcement of rules pertaining to their use. This could be as simple as an identifying plate or decal and could be similar in cost to registering a boat trailer – about \$10.00 for 10 years.

If elected, will you support and promote the mandatory registration of all ATV's in the Yukon?

Answer:

ATV's are powerful motor vehicles. Yukon New Democrats support registration for a host of practical reasons supported by Yukoners and demonstrated in nearly every jurisdiction in the Canada.

**Question #4:** TOYA believes that it is far past time to act effectively to manage ATV's in the Yukon wilderness.

If elected, will you support and promote the enactment of necessary legislation and regulations to effectively manage ATV's in the Yukon wilderness within the first 24 months of a new government mandate?

Answer:

Yukon New Democrats have been the only party speaking up and proposing solutions, and we understand the legislative levers that can be put to work. We will act during our first term in office.

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