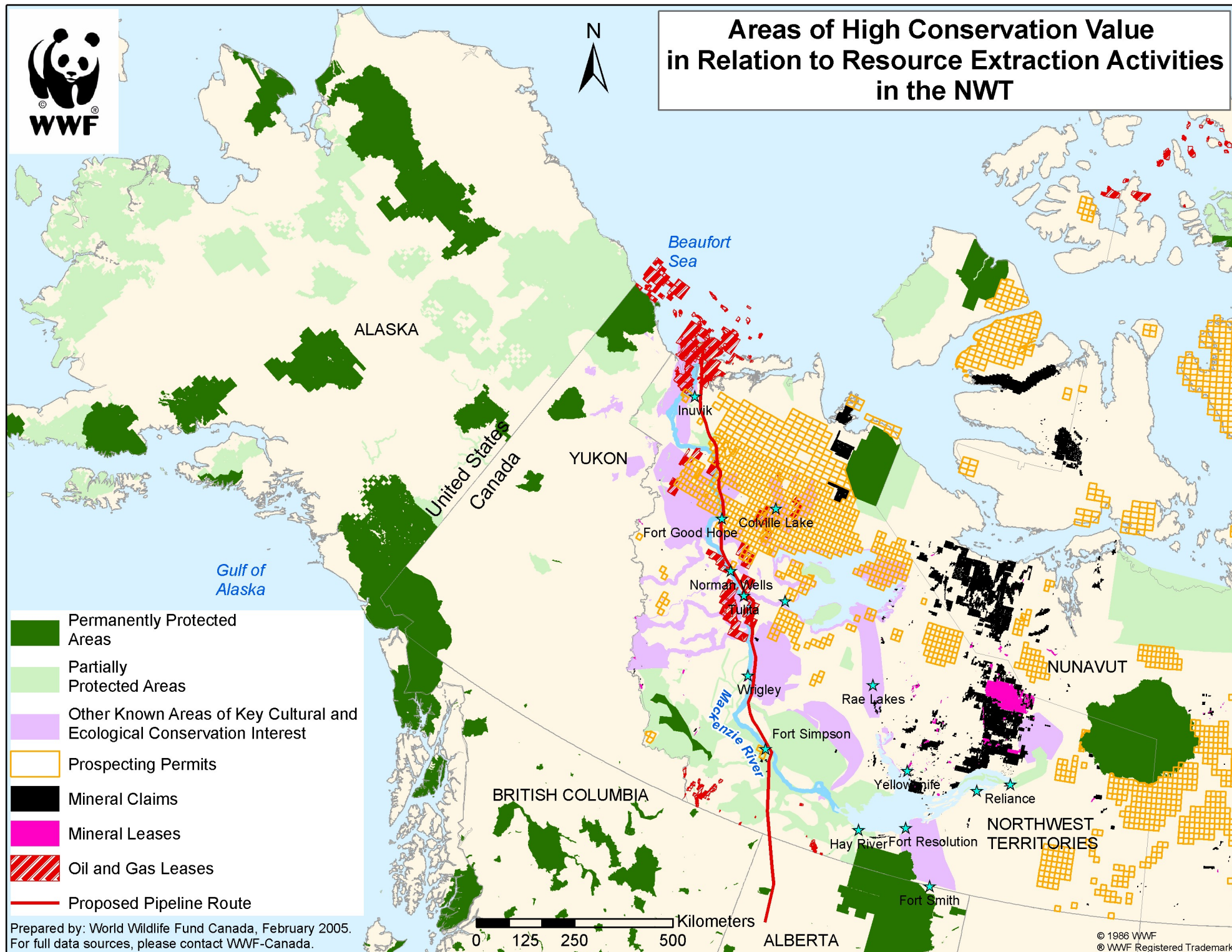




Areas of High Conservation Value in Relation to Resource Extraction Activities in the NWT



- Permanently Protected Areas
- Partially Protected Areas
- Other Known Areas of Key Cultural and Ecological Conservation Interest
- Prospecting Permits
- Mineral Claims
- Mineral Leases
- Oil and Gas Leases
- Proposed Pipeline Route

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For full data sources, please contact WWF-Canada.

The cumulative footprint of industry is expanding in Canada's Arctic. Mineral claims, leases and permits, now cover 73 million hectares of the NWT and Nunavut - this represents over 20% of the land area of the two territories. Oil and gas leases cover an additional 2% of the terrestrial NWT, while 1 million hectares of oil and gas leases are located in the Beaufort Sea.

The need to resolve conflicts between conservation opportunities and non-renewable resource extraction is most apparent in the Sahtu Settlement Area of the NWT, where there is a draft land use plan in progress, only 500,000 hectares of interim conservation areas (2% of the Sahtu Settlement Area), and no permanent protected areas. Meanwhile, the combination of oil/gas and mineral tenure comprise about 40% of the Sahtu Settlement Area. This compares with 20% of the Sahtu Settlement Area, or about 5.7 million hectares, identified as potential conservation areas in the Sahtu Preliminary Draft Land Use Plan. In fact, non-renewable resource tenure now overlaps about 35% of these proposed conservation areas, mostly in prospecting permits, with the effect of potentially limiting community decision-making through land use planning and the Protected Areas Strategy.