

Dease-Liard Sustainable Resource Management Plan



May 2012



Ministry of Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations

Foreword

The first phase of the Dease-Liard Sustainable Resource Management Plan was approved in November 2004. It included chapters on biodiversity, timber, wildlife, visual quality, cultural heritage resources, and community use.

This document is the second phase of the plan. It adds chapters on protected and special management areas, minerals and aggregates, oil, gas and energy, access, tourism and recreation, and climate change. It is intended to be a supplement to the original plan, and therefore does not include content such as a glossary that would normally be included in a stand-alone plan. Care has been taken to ensure that only updates are included so that duplication has not occurred.

Both documents and maps are available from:

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<http://www.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/slrp/srmp/north/dease-liard/index.html>

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1. Introduction

The Dease-Liard Sustainable Resource Management Plan (SRMP) addresses the management of land and resources in the Dease and Liard River drainages in northern British Columbia.

There are two phases of the SRMP. The first phase of the SRMP was approved in 2004. It focussed on timber, wildlife and biodiversity. The second phase was initiated in 2005. It adds chapters for minerals and aggregates; oil, gas and energy; access, and tourism and recreation. The direction from Phase 1 should be considered for all resource development. A final protected area is also being recommended, consistent with the Kaska Dena's interests. With these additions, management direction is set for the full spectrum of resource values in the Dease-Liard area.

As in the first phase, this phase of the Dease-Liard SRMP has been developed to recognize the many unique and important environmental, social, cultural and economic values of the plan area and to manage these values in a sustainable manner. An important goal for the plan is to provide for a range of economic opportunities in the area while maintaining the integrity of natural resources.

The Kaska Dena were partners in the development of the plan and all decisions were made by consensus. Both the Tahltan Central Council and Teslin Tlingit Council were invited to participate in the planning process. The Tahltan chose not to participate, but provided input on the minerals and aggregates; oil, gas and energy; and tourism and recreation chapters.

1.1 Plan Area

The Dease-Liard plan area covers approximately 2.38 million hectares within the Dease-Liard Timber Supply Block of the Cassiar Timber Supply Area. It extends north-south from the Yukon Border to the Dease Lake/Upper Turnagain watershed and east-west from Tatisno Mountain/Tatisno Creek to the Little Rancheria watershed (Map 1). The majority of the plan area falls within the traditional territory in British Columbia of the Kaska Dena First Nations (Map 2: First Nations Traditional Territories). Their entire traditional territory is approximately 24 million hectares (93,000 square miles), or about the size of the entire state of Oregon. It spans one province (BC) and two territories (Yukon and Northwest Territories), and constitutes 25% of the Yukon Territory and 10% of the entire land area of British Columbia.

There is an overlap with the traditional territory of the Tahltan First Nations in the southwest and a small overlap with the territory of the Teslin Tlingit in the west. There are three communities within the plan area: Dease Lake, Good Hope Lake and Lower Post. The old town site of Cassiar is also located within the plan area. Watson Lake is 20 km north across the Yukon border.

The topography of the Dease-Liard is predominantly rolling terrain incised by major rivers into shallow valleys in plateau/plain areas and into steep-walled canyons in mountainous areas. The geography includes numerous features of glacial origin such as kettle lakes, drumlins and esker formations. Because the area is north of the Arctic divide, rivers drain northeast to the Liard River and into the Mackenzie River system before finally emptying into the Arctic Ocean. The climate is continental (relatively dry and cold), with low snow depths relative to more coastal areas.

See phase one of the SRMP for a more extensive description of the plan area.

1.2 Plan Context and Goals

1.2.1 Current Policy Framework for SRMPs

SRMPs address the range of resource values in a region with consideration for both economic interests and environmental stewardship. They are designed to provide strategic, overarching management direction for users of Crown land and resources. Forestry, mining, tourism and other uses of Crown land must look to SRMPs to identify what kinds of activities can occur in a particular area and how those activities are to be carried out.

Cabinet has approved a set of sustainability principles to guide planning and management of Crown land and resources. These principles fall within the themes of providing certainty in decision-making, shared stewardship, and accountable and responsive government. The Dease-Liard SRMP has been developed consistent with the sustainability principles outlined in Appendix A of phase one.

This document also recognizes the government-to-government relationships that exist between individual First Nations and the provincial government. The plan has been developed within the following principles:

- Aboriginal rights will not be unjustifiably infringed upon by resource development activities of the Crown or its licensees;
- The Crown and its licensees are legally obligated to consider potentially existing aboriginal rights in decision-making processes that could lead to impacts on those rights; and,
- Consultation with First Nations will proceed consistent with current provincial government policy.

1.2.2 Transformative Change Accord and New Relationship

In 2005 the Province, Federal Government and First Nations Leadership Council signed the Transformative Change Accord (TCA) to close the socio-economic gap between First Nations and other British Columbians, to reconcile Aboriginal rights and title with those of the Crown, and to establish a new relationship based on mutual respect and recognition. The New Relationship, signed in 2005 by the Province and the First Nations Leadership Council, supports the TCA and is based on respect, recognition and accommodation of aboriginal title and rights; respect for each others' laws and responsibilities; and for the reconciliation of Aboriginal and Crown titles and jurisdictions.

The TCA and the New Relationship, along with the Crown's legal obligations for consultation and accommodation based on current case law, provide opportunities for the Province and First Nations to develop new arrangements for sharing decision making, establish governance agreements on lands and resources, and develop local economies and healthy communities based on stewardship and community sustainability principles. These new arrangements and agreements will allow more efficient and effective consultation and accommodation, create economic diversity, and provide land and resource certainty for all parties through collaborative management.

The Dease-Liard SRMP is an example of how the Kaska Dena and the Province of British Columbia have worked together in the spirit and intent of the New Relationship.

1.2.2.1 Kaska Dena's Vision and Principles for Implementing the New Relationship in the Traditional Territory

This section outlines the Kaska Dena's vision and principles for implementing the New Relationship. It is written from their perspective, and has been *italicized* everywhere it appears throughout this document in order that it is clearly identified as Kaska perspective. The Province of BC acknowledges that these are the Kaska Dena's perspectives and are not necessarily shared by the province.

The Kaska Dena endorse the vision and principles of the Transformative Change Accord and the New Relationship. We are stewards of the land and water within our traditional territory, and are committed to being partners in shared decision making, resource revenue sharing and collaborative management.

Vision

The Kaska Dena are ready to develop a new relationship with the provincial government. This is a relationship committed to the reconciliation of Aboriginal and Crown titles and jurisdiction, and a concurrence to develop and implement government-to-government agreements based on respect, recognition and accommodation of Aboriginal rights and title. These rights have been accepted by Canada and the British Columbia Government, and are protected under the Constitution Act (1982). This new relationship with government will need to move to collaborative management approaches that speak to shared management including planning, land protection, implementation, monitoring, revenue-sharing and capacity benefits.

The new relationship for resource development encourages the natural resource industries to engage the Kaska Dena early in the process to seek common understandings, and to develop Impact Benefit Agreements that provide economic, capacity and community benefits.

To accomplish this new relationship, natural resource development, land management, industry and government have accepted that we have a relationship to the land that is important to our culture and maintenance of communities, governance and economy. They have accepted that we have aboriginal interests and title within our traditional territory. This can be achieved by recognizing us as land stewards with shared decision making on the type and pace of development.

Resource development will be consistent with the Dease-Liard SRMP, which is a Kaska Dena-British Columbia shared plan. The plan is based on the best science available, traditional knowledge and Kaska community direction. The planning process has identified lands for protection and special management, and provided a defined land base for the Kaska Dena, Province of British Columbia and industry.

Land use planning is essential, but as part of the New Relationship, we are expecting new collaborative management agreements that move beyond land use plans. This includes joint plan implementation, monitoring and enforcement as well as joint fish, wildlife and water management, regulation and enforcement. Mineral development agreements with resource revenue sharing and community benefits are also being sought. In addition, development must occur using environmentally resilient management practices, monitoring strategies, adaptive management frameworks and reclamation strategies, since our communities will remain long after any project is completed. We expect that the application of our management practices and standards by industry and government will address our concerns.

In summary, our vision can be achieved by implementing:

- A process for shared decision making for land and resources;
- A process for Kaska Dena land use planning at all scales and for the reconciliation of Crown and Kaska Dena land use plans;
- Dispute resolution processes that are mutually determined in order to resolve conflicts as opposed to adversarial approaches to resolving conflicts;
- Financial capacity for the Kaska Dena and resources for British Columbia to develop and implement new frameworks for shared land and resource decision making, resource revenue sharing, and for other components described above; and
- Through the approval and implementation of this SRMP, the protection of landscapes, watersheds and/or sites identified by the Kaska Dena will occur (i.e. Ne'āh' Protected Area).

Respecting our principles for resource development and land management will bring certainty to the land base and enable a smoother transition for new resource development opportunities.

Principles

The following principles should assist government and industry by providing clarity on what we require for resource development in our traditional territory.

Shared Decision Making

- Collaborative development of Kaska Dena Land Use Plans with British Columbia that define Kaska Protected Areas, Special Management Areas and the application of our management practices.
- Acknowledgement and respect of Kaska using our Sacred Laws and traditional knowledge as core components for Kaska decision making in our participation in land use plans, environmental assessments and permitting of resource development projects.
- Develop agreements with industry associations, and government on management practices, monitoring standards, cumulative effects, adaptive management approaches and enforcement regulations.
- Establish collaborative agreements with British Columbia for the management of natural resources.

Economic Opportunities

- Create viable economic opportunities and assist in the improvement of social conditions of the Kaska Dena through economic diversification. Our first priority is to increase the number of Kaska-owned businesses. In addition, this can be achieved through development of industry agreements which include, but are not limited to:
 - Revenue-sharing, including profit sharing
 - Shares of equity in projects and companies
 - Sharing of jobs and contracts
 - Right of first refusal of qualified contract services
 - Commitments to use our businesses where possible
 - Employment of our monitors
- Provide economic benefits to us through tenures or other economic benefits related to mining, oil/gas/energy development, forestry or tourism received by British Columbia from natural resource development.
- Develop Interim Accommodation Agreements with Kaska Dena.
- Develop Impact Benefit Agreements with Kaska Dena.

Training and Capacity Opportunities

- Mentoring for the range of jobs related to the full life cycle of resource development projects (e.g. mining exploration to mine reclamation and closure).
- Scholarships for Kaska Dena seeking qualification at trades, technical and post-secondary institutions.

- *Training of Kaska Dena for natural resource development, environmental monitoring and enforcement knowledge and skills.*
- *Joint ventures with the Kaska Dena to provide services and goods during the full life cycle of resource development projects.*
- *Commitment to employ qualified Kaska Dena trades, technical and post-secondary graduates.*

Cumulative Effects

- *Pace of development: while recognizing that development is driven by resource prices, the Kaska Dena, through agreements with government and industry associations, want to influence how projects are staged to provide long term, stable employment and community benefits without the social and health problems that result from a “boom and bust” resource development cycle.*
- *Through agreements with government and industry associations, the Kaska Dena want to assess the current status of cumulative effects of all land uses and predict the potential future impacts from incremental development. This will be reassessed periodically and will be a tool for environmental assessments as well as amending Kaska Dena Land Use Plans.*

Monitoring and Enforcement

- *Using an adaptive management framework, ensure the monitoring and enforcement of Kaska Dena management practices, land use plans and approved environmental assessment certificates and permits.*
- *Acknowledgement and respect of Kaska Land Stewards and Kaska Sacred Laws and the use in the application for monitoring.*
- *A commitment to seek employment of Kaska Land Stewards and qualified Kaska Dena technical personnel for monitoring and enforcement throughout the full life cycle of projects.*

Kaska Dena Natural Resource Development and Environmental Protection Policies

The Kaska Dena in British Columbia have developed policies related to:

- *Mineral exploration and mine development*
- *Oil and gas exploration and development*
- *Fish and wildlife management*
- *Cultural heritage*
- *Biodiversity*
- *Protected areas*
- *Forestry*
- *Energy exploration and development*
- *Tourism*
- *Traditional knowledge protocol*

The policies were developed by the communities and are based on:

- *Protection of Kaska values, lands and water (paramount)*
- *Protection of Kaska rights*
- *The premise that Kaska Land Stewards and communities are engaged early and often with respect to resource development by both government and industry*
- *The understanding that Kaska are land stewards and have shared decision making on activities in our traditional territory*
- *Kaska benefitting from resource development throughout the full life cycle of various projects*
- *Development and management of resources and environmental values using all sources of knowledge, respecting traditional systems of management, and accepting community direction*

The Kaska Dena have developed these policies and a procedural document to assist government and industry in implementing the policies. The Dease River First Nation Mining and Heritage and Historic Resources policies have been included in Appendix B and C to provide examples for the public, government and industry. A complete set of policies is available from each Kaska First Nation

Environmental Standards

Environmental stewardship is the primary criteria when assessing the development of natural resources in Kaska Dena traditional territory. It is expected that environmental standards, study designs, thresholds, management practices, monitoring criteria, and permit conditions will be developed in collaboration with the Kaska Dena with the goal of exceeding provincial standards to maintain the environmental conditions of the area.

1.2.2.2 Kaska Dena's Perspective on Resource Development

The Kaska Dena would like to develop a new relationship with the Province through government to government agreements. The Kaska support the mining, oil and gas, energy and tourism industries with the understanding that we are partners in the development of associated projects. Any associated exploration or development will use environmentally resilient practices and monitoring strategies as Kaska communities will remain long after any project is completed. Any planning that occurs within Kaska territory must be inclusive as well as recognize and respect the Kaska principles for resource development. To aid with this approach, the Kaska have identified culturally and ecologically important areas that require additional management practices, strategies, and in one case, protection.

Of interest to the Kaska are alternative energy developments that can provide economic and capacity benefits to Kaska communities, especially developments that preserve the natural flow of water, maintain terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and reduce the rate of greenhouse gas emissions. The Kaska are interested in supporting or developing renewable energy resource developments such as small hydro or run-of-river projects, wind generation, solar power, and biomass cogeneration that can reduce the reliance of diesel generators. However, the scale of proposed energy development projects must be evaluated by Kaska communities to determine the potential locally and regionally adverse impacts.

Sector-Specific Issues

The following issues related to consultation (*) will be addressed if the Strategic Engagement Agreement currently being discussed is approved:

Oil, Gas and Energy

- * Not providing adequate resources for Kaska to build capacity in order to be able to participate in consultation;
- * Increasing access into Kaska Land Stewards areas without notification or consultation;
- Drilling waste that degrades water quality;
- Contaminated water that impacts terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, wildlife habitats, and wildlife that ingest this water;
- Degradation of air and water quality related to alternative energy projects;
- The volume of water required for oil, gas, and energy operations
- Water diversions, fish barriers and water contamination that impact aquatic ecosystems, fish habitats and fish populations;

- *Increased access for exploration, camps and well sites that leads to increased fish and wildlife harvesting;*
- *Incremental resource development through the regulatory framework that is not considered or evaluated in terms of its cumulative impact to watersheds;*

Minerals and Aggregates

Historically, mineral exploration, development, and placer mining have been issues for the Kaska Dena. Even today, there are still issues with individual companies. We have found that the economic benefits from mining have frequently left our traditional territory. There are several orphaned mining towns and sites left behind from finished or financially failed mines. Cassiar and Churchill are examples of orphaned mining towns. In addition, many old placer sites can be found within the McDame watershed

Specifically, we have serious concerns with on-line mineral staking, environmental practices, the reclamation process, the capacity provided to effectively participate in the consultation process, and the structure of the Environmental Assessment process.

Although in recent times, many exploration and development companies have worked with us in the spirit of recognition and respect for our interests, we will continue to lobby the Province or negotiate agreements to change these processes to meet our interests.

Tourism and Recreation

Tourism is a strategic objective for the Kaska Dena, particularly with respect to the development of backcountry tourism opportunities for members as well as community infrastructure to take advantage of front-country opportunities. We have spent considerable time and energy in assessing tourism opportunities in our traditional territory. We have also put considerable thought into the development of tourism strategies. For example, the following tourism documents have been developed by the Kaska Dena Council to guide Kaska Dena tourism development:

*Gap Analysis for Tourism Development - Strategic Plan (1998)
The Muskwa Kechika Regional Tourism Strategy (2001)
Kaska Dena Council Land Protection and Management Strategies (2002)*

Given the importance of tourism in the traditional territory, the following guiding principles have been identified to aid with Kaska Dena tourism development:

- *Develop a tourism industry that balances economic growth with respect for our culture, traditional lifestyle and the natural environment.*
- *Develop entrepreneurial and professional tourism skills that will open up greater opportunity for economic diversification as well as give local members ownership and more control of their own future.*
- *Position Kaska Dena as leaders of sustainable tourism and create a destination and tourism experience that is competitive on a global scale.*
- *Develop high quality tourism products and experiences that meet visitors' expectations for a service-orientated, safe, memorable and authentic travel experience.*

To uphold these principles, it is necessary to consider the following:

- *Developing Kaska Dena best practices and monitoring strategies for tourism that respect the environment;*
- *Providing capacity, opportunity and training to further tourism development by local members;*

- *Identifying a way for the Kaska Dena and the provincial government to jointly assist in the development of local tourism ventures;*
- *Providing capacity for Kaska Dena to effectively review commercial tourism proposals in the traditional territory; and*
- *Identifying areas where, due to the setting or sensitivity, wilderness tourism should be the main economic activity.*

** Although tourism is an important economic development strategy for the Kaska Dena, we have serious concerns regarding past provincial government policies and processes for adventure tourism tenures and the consultation process.*

1.2.2.3 Linkage to SEA, SLUPA and Treaty

Strategic Engagement Agreement

The Kaska Dena in British Columbia are currently negotiating a Strategic Engagement Agreement (SEA) with the Province. A SEA can define the processes for consultation, shared decision making and resource revenue sharing in Kaska traditional territory. The Dease Liard SRMP is linked to a SEA through land use plan implementation and through the government-to-government Strategic Land Use Planning Agreement. That is, where management considerations in the SRMP indicate areas for shared decision making or resource revenue sharing, a SEA can provide the direction on how this would occur.

Treaty Negotiations

The Kaska Dena are currently engaged in treaty negotiations with the Province. Outcomes from this process may cause the Dease-Liard SRMP to be amended in order to reflect new arrangements regarding land and resource management in the traditional territory.

1.2.3 Plan Goals

The vision and purpose of phase one of the Dease-Liard SRMP remain unchanged in phase two, with the addition of a goal for developing general and/or site specific objectives, measures and targets to guide mining operations.

This plan was developed with the principle of openness of information. During plan preparation and finalization, the former ILMB consulted with First Nations, stakeholders, and government agencies, and also held a public review of the plan (see Appendix D). The resulting plan reflects the concerns and/or interests expressed during the process. All information used to develop the plan is available upon request, with the exception of that which is legally recognized as confidential under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Third-party information used during the planning process may only be released with the approval of the respective third party.

1.2.4 Scope of the Plan

The first phase of the Dease-Liard SRMP, approved in 2004, was developed primarily to direct the management of forestry activities. For this purpose, objectives were created to sustain a range of resource values in the plan area including wildlife, biodiversity, cultural heritage, visual quality, community use and timber.

The second phase of the SRMP addresses minerals and aggregates, oil, gas and energy, access, tourism and recreation, and protection

1.2.5 Plan Format

The resource-focused chapters include the following components:

- **Resource Values**, which describe the resource value or land use in its local context and outlines area specific issues.
- **Management Direction**, which describes the general management direction for a resource value.
- **Goals**, which broadly describe the desired long-term future condition for the resource under discussion.
- **Objectives**, which describe the desired future condition for individual aspects of the resource. Objectives specify outcomes that will achieve identified goals.
- **Measures/Indicators**, which set out variables used to track the achievement of an objective.
- **Targets**, which provide objective standards to which resource managers will be accountable.
- **Management Considerations**, which provide implementation options to enhance achievement of the objectives and goals. They are included for guidance only, and are not considered a requirement.

1.2.6 Planning in Adjacent Areas

There are a number of land use plans that provide strategic direction for areas bordering the Dease-Liard. These are described in phase one of the SRMP; only updates are included here.

The entire northern portion of the plan area borders the Yukon Territory. In 2003, the Kaska First Nations signed a bilateral agreement with the Yukon government to establish a partnership in respect of “the management, development and beneficial enjoyment of lands and resources” within the Kaska traditional territory in the Yukon. In 2008, a draft regional forest management plan was developed that attempted to harmonize management direction on both sides of the border.

Within British Columbia, the Dease-Liard SRMP area adjoins the Cassiar-Iskut-Stikine LRMP to the southwest and the Fort Nelson LRMP to the east and southeast. The Atlin-Taku, where a strategic land use planning process is underway with the Taku River Tlingit, is located approximately 100 kilometres west of the Dease-Liard. Management zones for the Atlin-Taku have not yet been finalized.

1.2.7 Benefits of the Plan

In addition to the key benefits described in phase one of the plan, key benefits of phase two include:

Creates opportunities for mineral, aggregate, oil, gas and energy development

This plan provides management direction for mining/aggregate and oil/gas/energy activities that, like forest development, consider environmental, social and cultural values in consultation with First Nations, key stakeholders, government agencies and members of the general public. The SRMP provides agencies as well as current and future tenure holders with guidelines and management considerations for resource exploration and development in the plan area, particularly with respect to expectations for First Nations involvement and consultation. Likewise the SRMP is intended to provide tenure holders and companies with a level of certainty where local First Nations accept that development will be allowed to take place.

Creates opportunities for tourism and recreation development

This plan provides management direction for tourism and recreation activities that, like forest development, consider environmental, social and cultural values in consultation with First Nations, key stakeholders, government agencies and members of the general public. The SRMP provides agencies as well as current and future tenure holders with guidelines and management considerations for development in the plan area, particularly with respect to expectations for First Nations involvement and consultation.

2. Management Direction

2.1 Cultural Heritage Resources

2.1.1 Resource Values

The cultural heritage resource values are described in phase one of the SRMP.

2.1.1.1 Management Direction for Cultural Heritage Resources

It is important to recognize that to specifically define the number of trails, the density of grave sites, diversity of sacred areas, the traditional and current uses of the area, or the management principles that Kaska land stewards use to manage family areas would violate traditional knowledge policies and in many cases the sacred laws for the Kaska Dena. Kaska and the Province are working together to more effectively implement Kaska community interests and traditional knowledge.

Mineral exploration specifically addresses cultural heritage resources in the application for a *Mines Act* permit. First Nations are also consulted regarding proposed exploration programs. In the case of mine development, consultation with First Nations is required to identify archaeological sites and to assess the potential impacts of proposed mining operations. See Section 2.4 for management direction specific to minerals and aggregates and Section 2.5 for management direction specific to oil, gas and energy.

Plan Goal for Cultural Heritage Resources

- To recognize and respect the cultural and heritage values of archaeological sites, First Nations traditional use sites and pioneer heritage sites in planning and management of resource development activities.

Objectives 1-4 are found in the November 2004 SRMP document. Objective 5 is an additional objective for the management of cultural heritage resources.

Objectives	Measures/Indicators	Targets
5.0 Recognize, respect, maintain and preserve sites of cultural and ecological sensitivity to First Nations within Kaska Identified Watersheds (see Table 1 and Map 3)	5.1 Number of First Nations' culturally and ecologically sensitive sites preserved	100% where possible. Where not possible, Parties will work together to mitigate impacts.
	Management Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On a project by project basis and dependent on a protocol/agreement with each First Nation, any cultural sites will be identified that include, but are not limited to, culturally modified trees, trails, cache pits, house pits, grave sites, fishing sites, pictograph sites, smoke houses, cabins, camping sites and archaeological sites. First Nations will also identify any cultural areas that include, but are not limited to, hunting, fishing and berry-picking areas. Resource development operations to recognize and respect sites/areas of cultural and ecological sensitivity according to Table 1 and Map 3. Recommend that operations meet the 	

	<p>cultural heritage resource policies of First Nations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table 1 describes watersheds identified by Kaska as distinct from those identified as community sensitive watersheds in Community Use (see phase one of the SRMP). • Resource development operations to consider cultural and ecological sensitivity at the regional, watershed, operational, family and local scales. • Recommend that best efforts be made to integrate First Nations' interests into the technical review of proposed mine projects under the Northwest Mine Development Review Committee.
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Table 1: Kaska Identified Watersheds

Watershed	Specific Areas of Concern	Specific Values of Concern	Management Considerations
Blue River		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribou winter range • Moose calving areas • Caribou migration corridor • High fish values • Kaska trails and sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Nations involvement in pre-treasure planning. • Consultation with Kaska. • Kaska prefer shared management of watersheds and protection or special management of headwaters/source watersheds. • Recommend that resource developers work to determine the extent and potential impact of development on areas having a high density of trails and traditional use sites as well as sensitive Stone's sheep, mountain goat, caribou and moose habitat. • Recommend that resource developers consider cumulative effects in their development of these watersheds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Distribution, abundance and status of cultural, terrestrial, wildlife and fish values. ○ Distribution and density of roads, permanent loss of forest cover by seral stage, abandoned sites, reclaimed sites, current resource development projects and
Cottonwood River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needlepoint Mountain • Headwaters of the Cottonwood River • Parallel Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stone's sheep habitat • Mountain goat winter range • Caribou alpine range • Moose calving areas and wintering range • Kaska trails and sites 	
Cry Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cry Lake • Graveyard Lake • Beal Lake • Rapid River 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High density of traditional trails and sites • Stone's sheep habitat • Mountain goat winter range • Caribou alpine range 	
Dease Lake		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaska trails and sites • Moose calving and wintering range 	
Dease River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheeler Lake • Galic Lake • Poorman Lake • Long Lake • French Creek • Spring Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High density of traditional trails and sites • Stone's sheep habitat • Mountain goat • Caribou alpine range • Caribou migration 	

Little Rancheria River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Rancheria River Corridor • Table Top Mountain • Captain Lake • Alec Chief Lake 	corridor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moose calving and wintering range 	other related activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Degree of protection or impact on drainage of source watersheds within the major watershed. • Resource developers and the Province to work together with First Nations to identify high density traditional use areas as well as sensitive/critical wildlife and fish habitat. • Avoid development in areas having a high density of First Nations traditional use sites and trails. • Preserve sensitive and/or critical wildlife habitat. • Avoid new access within 500 metres of lakes and rivers, where not specifically required for development. • Industry and government are encouraged to deactivate and reclaim non-status roads that have no traditional use value by First Nations. • Refer to Tourism and Recreation chapter for specific management of trails and sites.
Lower Kechika River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kechika River Corridor 		
Middle Dease River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sylvester Mountain • Mount Pendleton • Eagle Mountain • McDames Creek • Dease River • Sheep Mountain 		
Turnagain River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turnagain River 		
Upper Liard River	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Ace Mountain • Liard River • Kaska Creek • Black Angus Creek • Mount Moncton • Hyland River Corridor • Tatisno Creek & Mtn • Albert Creek • Cormier Creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High density of traditional trails and sites 	

2.2 Protected Areas

The majestic northern boreal forest regions of interior British Columbia and the Yukon have some of the continent's most expansive and impressive wilderness areas, with a great diversity of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Extensive mountain ranges and wild rivers frame pristine boreal forest watersheds. Large free ranging populations of woodland caribou, moose, Dall's sheep, Stone sheep, a full suite of large carnivores, and hundreds of thousands of migrating neo-tropical songbirds and waterfowl make their home in these diverse boreal landscapes. Only a few roads cross this region, one of the wildest landscapes on the North American continent.

The Kaska Dena view their entire traditional territory as important and believe that shared decision-making is required throughout. In order to maintain the Kaska way of life, there are large concentrations of areas of Kaska cultural and sacred values, high wildlife diversity and abundance, and of current and historical importance that they feel need to be protected. These areas are different from Kaska Identified Watersheds (see Table 1) in which major watersheds include lower order watersheds where high concentrations of Kaska values are located. It is a difference in scale wherein landscapes need to be maintained across several major watersheds.

The first phase of the Dease-Liard SRMP (2004) was primarily concerned with the management of forestry activities; it did not deal with the establishment of protected areas. However, it did legally establish the Horse Ranch Zone to conserve cultural and historical values by not allowing timber harvesting within the zone.

Subsequent discussions with the Kaska Dena and stakeholders during the second phase of the SRMP have led to a recommendation for the Ne'āh' -- Horseranch Range/Deadwood Lake area (Ne'āh') to be protected. Of note is that the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society has promoted protection of the Horseranch Range.

2.2.1 Ne'āh' Protected Area

The Kaska have identified the Ne'āh' – Horseranch Range/Deadwood Lake area (Ne'āh') as a priority area for protection (Map 4: Protected Areas). It is approximately 231,300 hectares in size and includes the Horseranch Range, Horseranch Lake, Deadwood Lake, and Looncry Lake. It is considered a place worth protecting for future generations of Kaska, where the protection and co-management of all values is of high priority to them. This area is seen as a core area that provides linkages to other areas in the traditional territory via adjacent Kaska Identified Watersheds (see Table 1) or Large River Corridors. It has been and continues to be a very important place for the Kaska Dena.

Ne'āh' is an 'island' mountain range nestled between the Cassiar Mountains and the Liard Plains in northern British Columbia. It is an area of great cultural and spiritual value to the Kaska Dena. The area is comprised of high-value habitat for caribou, moose, Stone's sheep, mountain goat, bears, groundhogs and small furbearers. The Deadwood Lake portion of the area overlaps the western third of the Lower Kechika watershed. Similar to the Horseranch Range, the Deadwood Lake portion is important to the Kaska as it contains high-value habitat for wildlife. Protection of this part of the Lower Kechika watershed also enhances the linkage to the adjacent Muskwa-Kechika Management Area.

Since the Kaska Dena were neither involved in the Regional Protected Areas Strategy nor in the designation of Boya Lake Park, they are looking at their current involvement as a first step in collaboratively designating and making shared decisions for these areas. Their management goals for the Ne'āh' are:

1. Security for the Ne'āh' over time through a combination of processes;
2. Collaborative management of the area through management agreements;
3. Maintaining the ecosystem integrity of the area by applying a light footprint of human activities and focusing on conservation. This will leave large areas of undisturbed ecosystems influenced only by natural disturbance regimes.

A protected area management plan may further define management objectives for this area, as well as define acceptable uses and levels of use, zoning and other strategies to minimize conflicts and help to ensure the integrity of the protected area values. It is to be developed collaboratively with stakeholders, First Nations, the public, and government agencies.

Activities within the protected area will be managed with the intent to avoid impacts on wildlife and fish habitat, and on First Nations cultural values and uses. Commercial logging and mineral exploration and development are not permissible within the protected area, nor is hydroelectric development (other than for small-scale initiatives designed to supply power to approved uses within the protected area such as cabins or lodges, or nearby communities that do not otherwise have access to hydro-electric power). Existing tenures including licenses and leases that are eligible to continue under the *Park Act* will be allowed to continue and be converted into park use permits for the newly established protected area, where consistent with the management direction. Air access will continue to be allowed into and within the protected area, but there will be no development of new roads in the protected area.

Trapping, guide outfitting and commercial recreation are acceptable activities within the protected area, as are hunting, fishing and non-commercial recreation. Further specific direction for these activities may be provided in the protected area management plan.

There are currently no plans by government to implement limited entry hunting or change any regulations related to hunting. If this were to change in the future, all established consultation channels would be followed before any changes would be implemented.

2.2.2 Goal 2 Areas

As part of the Protected Areas Strategy, the Blue River Warm Springs and Liard Eskers were identified as Goal 2 areas. While not formally protected in this land use plan, they have key ecological and cultural values that will require further consideration through implementation. Within the first year after plan approval, a process will be established that engages interested parties (i.e. FLNRO, Kaska, CPAWS, AMEBC) to determine appropriate measures to conserve key ecological and cultural values. Formal protection will not be considered.

2.3 Timber

2.3.1 Interim Measures Agreement

In 2000, the Kaska Dena and the Province of British Columbia negotiated a 2-year Interim Measures Agreement (IMA). The IMA established a Forest Resources Council which handled consultation and planning between the previous Ministry of Forests and Range and the Kaska. The original IMA expired in December 2002, and the second IMA expired in June 2010.

Some of the tangible outcomes of the IMA are training of Kaska Dena in the technical, operational and management aspects of forestry as well as a Kaska Forest and Range Agreement. The agreement is critical to building on the IMA in positioning the Kaska as an

important economic development enterprise in the forest sector. It is anticipated that the new Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations will be entering into discussions with Kaska on a new agreement.

2.4 Minerals and Aggregates

2.4.1 Resource Values

This chapter provides guidance to the Province of B.C., First Nations, and the mining sector on mineral development within First Nations' traditional territories. The Dease-Liard area has some of the highest mineral potential in the Province (see Map 5: Mining). As such, there is potential for mining activity to play a key role in the area's development. The highest mineral potential exists with metals such as copper, lead, zinc, gold and silver. Potential for development of industrial minerals including limestone, clay and graphite is fair to low, largely because of the distance to markets. There is one small industrial mineral mine in the plan area operating on a seasonal basis. Aggregate resources including sand, gravel and quarried rock exist over much of the plan area. However, given the feasibility of transport to markets and other limitations, these resources are unlikely to be developed or even assessed on any significant scale in the near future. All aggregate production within the plan area is currently for use by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, with minimal use by local communities.

2.4.2 Management Direction for Minerals and Aggregates

The direction from Phase 1 should be considered for all resource development.

Mining policy in British Columbia is guided by the *BC Mining Plan*. This plan outlines the government's commitment to work with First Nations and local governments in partnering with mining firms, environmental organizations and other groups. These partnerships are a key to help ensure that the industry is profitable, socially and environmentally responsible and ultimately, sustainable for the long-term future. *The BC Mining Plan* is built on the following four cornerstones as guiding principles for a strong, healthy industry:

- Focus on Communities and First Nations
- Protecting Workers, Protecting the Environment
- Global Competitiveness
- Access to Land

Tenure and authority regarding mineral resources is provided under the *Mineral Tenure Act*, whereas aggregate tenures are issued under the *Land Act*. In terms of mineral exploration, the Province has legislated a land use system that allows for exploration over much of the land base. Even with the guidance of modern geosciences surveys, prospectors and mining firms still need to explore large tracts of land to find commercial ore bodies. Under the 'two-zone' legislated land use system, mining and mineral exploration applications are considered, subject to applicable laws, in all areas except for parks, ecological reserves, protected heritage properties and in areas where mining has been prohibited by an order under the *Environment and Land Use Act*. The remaining land base is designated as "mineral zone". Over 85 percent of the province is within this mineral zone and is open to exploration as part of an integrated land use approach.

Individuals and companies undertaking exploration and development activities that involve mechanical ground disturbance are required by law to assess impacts and mitigate effects on other resources under the *Mines Act*. All mining and mine-related activities are carried out in

ways that minimize impact on their surroundings, and BC's standards for environmental protection are among the highest in the world. Standards for clean air, clean water and healthy communities apply at every stage of a mine's life cycle, from exploration to reclamation. When mineral exploration or mine development proposals are brought forward, a range of provincial ministries work with industry and communities to help ensure environmental standards and community interests are not only met but continuously improved. Authorizations from ministries in the form of licenses, leases or permits (for example) must be obtained where applicable. For example, prior to harvesting timber on sites, an Occupant License to Cut is required and is obtained from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations. The Ministry of Environment becomes involved in the regulation of water quality discharge. The *Mines Act* and Health, Safety and Reclamation Code govern all work relating to a mine, including exploration. Reclamation security for all mining exploration and development, including construction aggregate, is assessed and held by the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM). The statutory decision maker permitting mineral exploration and development activities is obliged to consider the effects of the proposed activity and to make their decisions based on the reasonably expected impacts of the proposed work. Land use objectives and management considerations from the Dease-Liard SRMP will provide context for these decisions to ensure effective integration with other Crown land users.

Large or environmentally sensitive mining projects are reviewed under BC's *Environmental Assessment Act* under a harmonized process with the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. In the Dease-Liard plan area, the Northwest Mine Development Review Committee (NWMDRC) is the vehicle for undertaking the environmental assessment of proposed mine projects under the *Mines Act*, and for making recommendations to MEM regarding the issuance of mine permits. The Review Committee is also the environmental review body for mineral activities that fall *under* the Environmental Assessment (EA) threshold. The NWMDRC is responsible for reviewing all of the technical aspects for the life of a mine project from advanced exploration to the completion of reclamation and includes opportunities for representation by federal, provincial and municipal government agencies and First Nations. For projects at an EA level, the NWMDRC is the initial lead body, passing this to Environmental Assessment Office for the EA certificate, and then conducting the technical review and development of all the permits. The goal of the NWMDRC process is uniform decision making through the joint review of all project permits, resulting in a single set of consultations for the technical aspects of a project. First Nations participation on the NWMDRC contributes to MEM's duty to consult on a given project, but may not constitute the full level of engagement that may be required to address aboriginal rights, title and interests. For First Nations with rights, title and interests that choose not to or are unable to participate during NWMDRC project reviews, MEM must undertake other efforts to fulfill its duty to consult.

Land use planning issues related to the development of mineral and aggregate resources include:

- Unresolved land use issues;
- Other tenure holders;
- Creating certainty for exploration and development activity and for economic viability;
- Road access as necessary to support exploration and development activities;
- Environmental management for the full mine lifecycle;
- Economic stewardship of the mineral resource for the full mine lifecycle;
- Protection of Ne'āh' area; and
- Reclamation and access management of mine sites.

Plan Goal for Mineral and Aggregate Resources:

- To develop diverse and prosperous mineral and aggregate sectors using environmental stewardship practices that provide certainty for investors and encourage innovation, contribute to local and regional economies, recognize and respect First Nations' interests and values, maintain an environment without adverse impacts, and maintain an accessible land base for exploration and development.

Objectives	Measures/Indicators	Targets
<p>1.0 Promote mineral and aggregate projects that provide a variety of economic opportunities over their full life cycle.</p>	<p>1.1 Number of active mineral and aggregate tenures.</p>	<p>Maintain or increase</p>
	<p>1.2 Number of projects for mineral and aggregate exploration and development.</p>	<p>Maintain or increase</p>
	<p>1.3 Dollars spent on mineral and aggregate exploration and development.</p>	<p>Maintain or increase</p>
	<p>1.4 Percentage of local people employed by the mineral and aggregate sectors.</p>	<p>100% locally qualified employment, with 50% of this to be from First Nations</p>
	<p>1.5 Percentage of mines closed in accordance with a permitted reclamation plan.</p>	<p>100%</p>
<p>Management Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended that monitoring continue for the number of mineral tenures staked and lapsed, as well as the number, type and expenditure of exploration and development projects by Kaska Identified Watershed (Map 3) {e.g. Notice of Work, Annual Summary of Exploration Work (Mineral Activity), Annual Summary of Work (Placer Activity)}. • Best efforts made to integrate First Nations' interests into the technical review of proposed mine projects under the NWMDRC. • Suggested that studies funded by mining developers assess conditions using available baseline data such as First Nations' traditional knowledge and archaeological and traditional use 		

	<p>studies prior to the opening of a mine site to assist in the mine review process, and if approved, assist in the operational planning and mine site reclamation process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Together with First Nations and the Province, suggested that mining developers identify a range of mitigating strategies, including environmental standards and monitoring measures, to address potential and realized environmental issues. • Working with First Nations and the Province, recommended that mining developers apply adaptive management through mine closure planning to ensure ongoing safety of the environment. • Where materials and labour are available, companies to make best efforts to acquire goods and services locally. • Companies to make best efforts to hire qualified First Nations, and to partner and establish joint ventures with First Nations. • Companies to consider Impact Benefit Agreements with First Nations. • Economic and Community Development Agreements (ECDAs) to be considered for new major projects. Note that this would not apply to gravel pits, unless an ECDA might help MOTI. 	
<p>2.0 Recognize and respect First Nations' and local community interests over the full lifecycle of mineral and aggregate projects.</p>	<p>2.1 Percentage of permit applications for mineral and/or aggregate exploration, development and reclamation collaboratively reviewed with First Nations.</p>	<p>100%</p>
	<p>2.2 Percentage of mining companies having established communication processes with First Nations.</p>	<p>100%</p>
	<p>Management Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best efforts made to integrate First Nations' interests into the technical review of proposed mine projects under the NWMDRC. • Provincial government and First Nations to collaboratively review permit applications and provide recommendation to statutory decision maker for their consideration. • Provincial government and First Nations to create a mechanism for establishing collaborative review of projects (e.g. Strategic Engagement Agreement). • First Nations require funding in order to collaboratively participate in the application review process with government. • Provincial government retains the legal responsibility for the 	

	<p>permitting process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended that base First Nations participation in permitting include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recognition and respect by all parties for First Nations involvement and concerns ○ Open and transparent process ○ Defined scope and extent of reviews ○ Clear requirements and timelines for information. • The Province, industry and First Nations to work together on identifying, understanding and addressing the cumulative effects of mineral and aggregate development. • Mining and aggregate operations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recognize and respect First Nations’ traditional territories, governments and goals ○ Recognize and respect community interests and goals within development areas ○ Make best efforts to apply traditional knowledge and First Nations’ environmental standards and monitoring measures to mitigate environmental impacts on ecologically sensitive areas, culturally important areas and traditional use sites ○ Consider socio-cultural impacts as defined by First Nations ○ Make best efforts to provide education, training and skill development for the full lifecycle of projects to First Nations communities ○ Consider Impact Benefit Agreements with First Nations • Companies to contact appropriate First Nation(s) if archaeological sites are found. • Mining and aggregate developers to establish communication processes with First Nations at the outset of proposed projects and keep these in place for the full lifecycle of projects. • On a project by project basis, Kaska Dena are to make available information regarding culturally and ecologically sensitive zones and their importance to the Kaska Dena. • Mining and aggregate operations to reference Tahltan “Out of Respect” document with regards to projects in Tahltan claimed territory http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2004/natres_out_of_respect.pdf 	
<p>3.0 Allow access for mineral and aggregate exploration and development that considers First Nations’ interests.</p>	<p>3.1 Percentage of mining roads deactivated and reclaimed after mine closure</p>	<p>100% (subject to consultation with First Nations)</p>
	<p>3.2 Extent of access established for mining operations</p>	<p>100% (subject to consultation with First Nations)</p>

	<p>Management Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any access management plans to consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify lead agency to develop plans ○ Development of plans in consultation with First Nations ○ Where practicable, use of existing access for exploration and development before the development of new access; coordination and multiple use of access across resource sectors ○ Aerial or winter season access where practicable ○ Evaluation of the use of low-impact or lower ground pressure vehicles ○ Restoration plans for access corridors ○ Cumulative effects on biodiversity, wildlife and First Nations' social and cultural interests • Companies to contact appropriate First Nation(s) if archaeological sites are discovered during access development. • Deactivation and reclamation includes, but is not limited to, gating and/or bedding of roads. • First Nations may have interests in the continued use of access roads. Mine access deactivation and reclamation plans are to consider these interests. 	
<p>4.0 Avoid detrimental environmental impacts over the full lifecycle of mineral and aggregate projects</p>	<p>4.1 Incidence of adverse environmental impacts beyond permitted limit</p>	<p>No incidence</p>
	<p>Management Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best efforts made to integrate First Nations' interests into the technical review of proposed mine projects under the NWMDRC. • Suggested that studies funded by mining developers assess conditions using available baseline data such as First Nations' traditional knowledge and archaeological and traditional use studies prior to project commencement in order to measure impacts. • Working with First Nations and the Province, recommended that mining developers apply adaptive management strategies, including the application of First Nations' traditional knowledge and environmental monitoring measures, to mitigate environmental impacts. 	

2.5 Oil, Gas, and Energy

This chapter provides guidance to the Province of BC, First Nations and the oil, gas and energy sectors on exploration and development within the SRMP area.

2.5.1 Oil and Gas Resource Values

Oil and gas resources include petroleum and natural gas reserves, with the greatest potential for these resources occurring in geological sedimentary basins (see Map 6: Oil and Gas). The largest of these basins is the Whitehorse Trough Sedimentary Basin, which overlaps with the southernmost portion of the plan area. The Whitehorse Trough is estimated to have approximately 1.8 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas in place. Smaller sedimentary basins within the plan area include the McDame and Rapid River Basins. Oil and gas activity is limited in the Dease-Liard area; most of the province's natural gas and petroleum production takes place in the northeast region of B.C.

2.5.2 Management Direction for Oil and Gas

The direction from Phase 1 should be considered for all resource development.

Geophysical exploration, drilling and the establishment of oil and gas gathering and processing facilities all require surface land access and development authorizations. For surface rights on Crown land, a company must obtain approvals under various Acts including, but not limited to, the *Oil and Gas Activities Act*, *Land Act*, *Forest Act*, *Water Act* and *Environmental Management Act* as well as any prescribed regulations under those Acts. The Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) is the lead agency that administers oil and gas activity in the province, providing a single window to review industry applications and to ensure that environmental, economic and social impacts are addressed. The Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations may become involved if there are compliance- and enforcement-related issues relating to environmental damage and/or stream crossings (in reference to the *Water Act* and *Forest and Range Practices Act*, respectively).

Although provincial tenure agreements include rights to conduct exploration work, any company proposing to perform oil and gas activities must apply to the OGC for approval. Supporting materials and checklists for amendments and revisions must also be submitted to the Commission to ensure the proposed program complies with First Nations', public and legislative requirements. If no ground disturbance is involved, the amount of supporting material is reduced substantially. However, a *Checklist for Aeromagnetic/Gravity/Geochemical Surveys* is to be submitted to ensure that First Nations and the public have been informed of the proposal. Supporting materials typically include an *Application for Changes In and About a Stream* and a *Timber Harvesting and Field Assessment Form*.

Subsurface rights to oil and gas granted under the *Petroleum and Natural Gas Act*, and subsequent *Oil and Gas Activities Act*, give the holder of the rights the exclusive ability to explore, drill, and if successful, produce the oil and natural gas. A company is not permitted to explore or produce provincially owned oil and gas unless it is authorized by the Act or its regulations.

For planned oil and gas operations where proposed activity levels are considerable, consultation agreements with First Nations are sought. No consultation agreements are currently in place in the Dease-Liard SRMP area because oil and gas activity levels are very low. There are currently no active oil and gas tenures in the Dease-Liard plan area.

For all oil and gas activities, a plan for public consultation and notification is also required. Stakeholders such as trappers, guide outfitters, other overlapping tenure holders, and potentially affected landowners must be informed, while First Nations and local government authorities near a proposed oil or gas line must be notified and consulted about the program.

Oil and gas operations are not permitted in parks or protected areas in British Columbia. In specific protected areas where there are grand-parented tenures, any oil and gas activity may be contemplated, including production. A grand-parented tenure is generally within a protected area that existed prior to the area being designated as protected. There are presently no grand-parented oil and gas tenures within protected areas in the Dease-Liard SRMP area. Resource development, including oil and gas activity, is permitted on all Crown land outside of parks and protected areas, inclusive of “special management zones”.

Plan Goal for Oil and Gas Resources:

- To develop diverse and prosperous oil and gas sectors using environmental stewardship practices that provide certainty for investors and encourage innovation, contribute to local and regional economies, recognize and respect First Nations’ interests and values, maintain an environment without adverse impacts, and maintain an accessible land base for exploration and development.

Objectives	Measures/Indicators	Targets
1.0 Promote oil and gas projects that provide a variety of economic opportunities over their full life cycle.	1.1 Number of active oil and gas tenures.	Maintain or increase
	1.2 Number of projects for oil and gas exploration and development.	Maintain or increase
	1.3 Dollars spent on oil and gas exploration and development	Maintain or increase
	1.4 Percentage of local people employed by the oil and gas sector.	100% locally qualified employment, with 50% of this to be from First Nations
	1.5 Percentage of well sites fully reclaimed after well closure	100%
	Management Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended that monitoring continue for the number of tenures issued and expired, as well as the number, type and 	

	<p>expenditure of projects by Kaska Identified Watershed (Map 3).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested that studies funded by oil and gas developers assess conditions using available baseline data such as First Nations’ traditional knowledge and archaeological and traditional use studies prior to the opening of a well site to assist in the well review process, and if approved, assist in the operational planning and well site reclamation process. • Together with First Nations and the Province, suggested that oil and gas developers identify a range of mitigating strategies, including environmental standards and monitoring measures, to address potential and realized environmental issues. • Working with First Nations and the Province, recommended that oil and gas developers apply adaptive management through well site closure planning to ensure ongoing safety of the environment. • Where materials and labour are available, companies to make best efforts to acquire goods and services locally. • Companies to make best efforts to hire qualified First Nations, and to partner and establish joint ventures with First Nations. • Companies to consider Impact Benefit Agreements with First Nations. 	
<p>2.0 Recognize and respect First Nations’ and local community interests over the full lifecycle of oil and gas projects.</p>	<p>2.1 Percentage of permit applications for oil and gas exploration, development and reclamation collaboratively reviewed with First Nations.</p>	<p>100%</p>
	<p>2.2 Percentage of oil and gas companies having established communication processes with First Nations.</p>	<p>100%</p>
	<p>Management Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial government and First Nations to collaboratively review permit applications and provide recommendation to statutory decision maker for their consideration. • Provincial government and First Nations to create a mechanism for establishing a collaborative review of projects. • First Nations require funding in order to participate in the joint application review process with government. • Provincial government retains the legal responsibility for the permitting process. • Recommended that base First Nations participation in permitting include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recognition and respect by all parties for First Nations 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ involvement and concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Open and transparent process ○ Defined scope and extent of reviews ○ Clear requirements and timelines for information • The Province, industry and First Nations to work together on identifying, understanding and addressing the cumulative effects of oil and gas development. • Oil and gas operations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recognize and respect First Nations’ traditional territories, governments and goals ○ Recognize and respect community interests and goals within development areas ○ Make best efforts to apply traditional knowledge and First Nations’ environmental standards and monitoring measures to mitigate environmental impacts on ecologically sensitive areas, culturally important areas and traditional use sites ○ Consider socio-cultural impacts as defined by First Nations ○ Make best efforts to provide education, training and skill development for the full lifecycle of projects to First Nations communities. ○ Consider Impact Benefit Agreements with First Nations • Companies to contact appropriate First Nation(s) if archaeological sites are found. • Oil and gas developers to establish communication processes with First Nations at the outset of proposed projects and keep these in place for the full lifecycle of projects • On a project by project basis, Kaska Dena are to make available information regarding culturally and ecologically sensitive zones and their importance to the Kaska Dena. • Oil and gas operations to reference Tahltan “Out of Respect” document with regards to projects in Tahltan claimed territory http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2004/natres_out_of_respect.pdf 	
<p>3.0 Allow access for oil and gas exploration and development that considers First Nations’ interests.</p>	<p>3.1 Percentage of roads used for oil and gas activity deactivated and reclaimed after well site closure</p>	<p>100% (subject to consultation with First Nations)</p>
	<p>3.2 Extent of access established for oil and gas operations</p>	<p>100% (subject to consultation with First Nations)</p>
	<p>Management Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any access management plans to consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify lead agency to develop plans 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development of plans in consultation with First Nations ○ Where practicable, use of existing access for exploration and development before the development of new access; coordination and multiple use of access across resource sectors ○ Form of seismic lines that minimizes disturbance ○ Aerial or winter season access where practicable ○ Evaluation of the use of low-impact or lower ground pressure vehicles ○ Restoration plans for access corridors ○ Cumulative effects on biodiversity, wildlife and First Nations' social and cultural interests • Companies to contact appropriate First Nation(s) if archaeological sites are discovered during access development. • Deactivation and reclamation includes, but is not limited to, gating and/or bedding of roads. • First Nations may have interests in the continued use of access roads. Well access deactivation and reclamation plans are to consider these interests. 	
4.0 Avoid detrimental environmental impacts over the full lifecycle of oil and gas projects	4.1 Incidence of adverse environmental impacts beyond permitted limit	No incidence
	<p>Management Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested that studies funded by oil and gas developers assess conditions using available baseline data such as First Nations' traditional knowledge and archaeological and traditional use studies prior to project commencement in order to measure impacts. • Working with First Nations and the Province, recommended that oil and gas developers apply adaptive management strategies, including the application of First Nations' traditional knowledge and environmental monitoring measures, to mitigate environmental impacts. 	

2.5.3 Energy Resource Values

Energy resources within the plan area include potential hydroelectricity, solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, cogeneration and coal. The extent and degree of energy potential from these resources in the plan area are largely unknown. Resources may be plentiful in some cases, but limiting factors such as access and proximity to generation sites constrain project feasibility. Alternative energy sources, often referred to as clean, renewable and “green”, include small hydro (run-of-river), solar, wind, biomass, geothermal and cogeneration. Refer to Table 2 for a general description of these energy options and their potential in the plan area.

B.C.'s electricity transmission grid does not extend into the Dease-Liard plan area. The grid reaches its furthest point north at Meziadin Junction, approximately 330 kilometres south of Dease Lake on Highway 37. As such, diesel generators supply energy to most communities in

the plan area. There is one small hydroelectricity plant, known as the Hluey Lakes project, that provides power to the community of Dease Lake as an alternative to diesel generators. This project was sponsored by the Tahltan Nation Development Corporation with engineering and management provided by a firm based in Vancouver, B.C.

Table 2: Summary of Alternative Energy Sources and Potential in the Dease-Liard Plan Area

SECTOR	DESCRIPTION	DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL
Small Hydro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity is generated when water is channelled through a penstock and powers turbines that capture the energy of the moving water. • Includes run-of-river and micro hydro. • In run-of-river systems, turbines are placed in mid-stream with no or minimal water impoundment. • It is the flow of water and the height of the drop of the water that determines the size of a hydroelectric facility. • 32 small hydro projects exist in BC. • Low post-start-up fuel costs • Mature technology • Producers usually sell their hydroelectric energy to electric utilities, particularly BC Hydro. • Economically efficient for communities located off the grid. 	<p>Moderate to High:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steep mountain terrain lends itself to small hydro development. • Reliable supply of water courses • Close proximity of rivers to settlement areas.
Solar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar power is the conversion of solar radiation from the sun into electrical energy and useful heat. • Can be grouped into three primary categories: heating/cooling, electricity production and chemical processes. • Photovoltaic cells that are bundled into panels convert sunlight to electricity. • Solar thermal uses solar collectors to capture energy from the sun to provide heat. • The most widely used applications are for water and space heating. Ventilation solar air heating is also growing in popularity. Can be independent of a transmission grid. Productivity depends largely on the intensity and quantity of solar radiation 	<p>Low:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only a few areas in BC receive enough sunshine to make solar power commercially viable.
Wind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electricity is generated by wind farms using wind-powered turbine generators. The most common types of wind turbines operate on horizontal and vertical axes. • Performance depends on dependable wind speeds at peak electricity demand times. An average wind speed of at least 21 km/hr, ideally above 25 km/hr, is required. • An abundant resource and suitable for remote areas. 	<p>Low to Moderate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most suitable sites along mountain ridges. • Access issues.
Biomass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heat and power derived from biomass. • Sources include agricultural water, forest water and municipal waste. • Value-added use of wastes. • Cogeneration potential. 	<p>Low:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential varies with availability of fuel sources.
Geothermal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steam or hot water in the earth's crust is used to power turbines that heat or cool air and water for buildings. • Core energy uses temperatures found in the earth or water to heat or cool air and water for buildings. • Consistent supply and dependable capacity. • Over 30,000 geothermal heat pumps have been installed in Canada. 	<p>Low to Moderate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area has potentially lower temperature resources than elsewhere in BC.
Cogeneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The generation of heat and electricity, typically using natural gas, oil or wood wastes to produce electricity and heat for nearby thermal energy loads. • Uses the by-products of one energy system to generate energy. • New technologies are continuing to make cogeneration cost effective at smaller and smaller scales. • Cost effectiveness depends on fuel availability. 	<p>Low to Moderate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects are generally still limited to very large energy producers.

2.5.4 Management Direction for Energy

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is responsible for land use decisions and provides tenure rights for Clean Energy Projects under the *Land Act*; it also provides tenure rights under the *Water Act*. Most of these focus on hydroelectric power from run-of-river projects. Proponents are encouraged to consult with local governments and First Nations throughout the development process, beginning with the conceptual stage of a project. The land use and operational policies of other government agencies are also applicable where legislation defines their jurisdictional responsibilities. The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) leads the review of projects proposed to exceed 50 megawatts.

There is a number of planning and development issues related to energy projects in the Dease-Liard plan area. These include:

- Unresolved land use issues
- Infrastructure and cost requirements such as the proximity to transmission services and access to roads and towns;
- Physiographic factors such as rough terrain and the potential for clustering development;
- Climatic and ecological factors such as the intermittent and seasonal nature of the resources in question;
- A potential low level of awareness and support regarding energy alternatives;
- Possible competing uses with local and regional tourism operators and guide outfitters;
- Potential impacts on water quality and quantity, fish, wildlife, ecosystems and the timber harvesting land base;
- Protection of the Ne'āh' area; and,
- Reclamation and access management of mine sites.

Plan Goal for Energy Resources:

- To develop a diverse and prosperous energy sector using environmental stewardship practices that provides certainty for investors and encourages innovation, contributes to local and regional economies, recognizes and respects First Nations' interests and values, maintains an environment without adverse impacts, and maintains an accessible land base for development.

Objectives	Measures/Indicators	Targets
1.0 Promote alternative energy projects.	1.1 Number of permitted alternative energy projects	Increase
	1.2 Dollars spent on alternative energy development	Increase
	1.3 Percentage of local people employed by the energy sector	100% locally qualified employment, with 50% of this to be from First Nations

	<p>1.4 Percentage of permit applications for alternative energy development collaboratively reviewed with First Nations</p>	<p>100%</p>
<p>Management Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative energy sources include, but are not limited to, small hydroelectric (run-of-river), solar, wind, biomass, geothermal and cogeneration. • Provincial government and First Nations to collaboratively review clean energy project applications and provide to statutory decision maker for their consideration. • Provincial government and First Nations to create a mechanism for establishing collaborative review of projects. • First Nations require funding in order to participate in the collaborative application review process with government. • Provincial government retains the legal responsibility for the permitting process. • Recommended that base First Nations participation in permitting include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recognition and respect by all parties for First Nations involvement and concerns ○ Open and transparent process ○ Defined scope and extent of reviews ○ Clear requirements and timelines for information. • Energy sector operations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recognize and respect First Nations' traditional territories, governments and goals ○ Recognize and respect all community interests and goals within development areas ○ Make best efforts to apply traditional knowledge and First Nations' environmental standards and monitoring measures to mitigate environmental impacts on ecologically sensitive areas, culturally important areas and traditional use sites ○ Consider socio-cultural impacts as defined by First Nations ○ Make best efforts to provide education, training and skill development for the full lifecycle of projects to First Nations communities. ○ Consider Impact Benefits Agreements with First Nations. • Companies to contact appropriate First Nation(s) if archaeological sites are found. • Energy sector developers to establish communication processes with First Nations at the outset of proposed projects 		

	<p>and keep these in place for the full lifecycle of projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On a project by project basis, the Kaska Dena are to make available information regarding culturally and ecologically sensitive zones and their importance to the Kaska Dena.• Where materials and labour are available, companies to make best efforts to acquire goods and services locally.• Companies to make best efforts to hire qualified First Nations, and to partner and establish joint ventures with First Nations.• Energy sector developers to reference Tahltan “Out of Respect” document with regards to projects in Tahltan claimed territory http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2004/natres_out_of_respect.pdf
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2.6 Tourism and Recreation

2.6.1 Resource Values

Local residents enjoy the Dease-Liard landscape year-round. Outdoor recreational activities are an important component of local life as communities in the plan area have few, if any, leisure facilities. Summer-based activities include hiking, horseback riding, mountain biking, ATV'ing, dirt biking, fishing, swimming, hunting and paddling. Winter-based activities include ski touring, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, ice-fishing as well as some hunting, trapping and dog-sledding. Sustenance-related pursuits include hunting, trapping, fishing and plant gathering.

Visitors to the Dease-Liard are drawn by the area's expansive wilderness, arresting scenery and abundant fish and wildlife. Tourists generally fall within two broad categories: those traveling through the area, or "rubber tire" tourists, and those specifically traveling to the area to holiday, or "destination travelers".

Rubber tire tourists generally utilize the area's frontcountry features while traveling along Highway 37. This includes food, gas and lodging in Dease Lake and at the Alaska Highway/Highway 37 Junction, and gas/convenience store services in Good Hope Lake. Additional frontcountry locations include: Boya Lake Provincial Park; French Creek and Sawmill Point provincial recreation sites; Dease River Crossing Campground (canoe rentals, tents, RV hook-ups, cabin rentals, groceries); Dease Lake RV Park (full services within walking distance of community of Dease Lake); Water's Edge Campground (RV parking and tents on shore of Dease Lake); and Cassiar Mountain Jade Store and Mine (jade store with tour of jade-cutting and polishing process, rooms, coffee shop, gold panning, RV parking, tents, showers, interactive mining museum,). All of these tourist attractions are open seasonally during the summer months. No mid-country tourism infrastructure is known to exist at present.

Destination travelers to the Dease-Liard are attracted to its remote wilderness landscape, big game species and wild, navigable rivers. Visitation is concentrated in the summer and early fall and includes hunting, fishing, paddling and to a lesser extent, hiking and horseback riding. Few winter-based tourism activities are known to exist at present.

Guide outfitting is the area's most established backcountry tourism pursuit, drawing visitors primarily from Europe, the U.S. and Canada. Guide outfitting is a significant contributor to the local economy and employment base. There are four guide outfitters who have significant portions of their territories in the plan area and three others with a minor portion in the plan area. The guide outfitting industry is dependent on maintaining healthy wildlife populations and the wilderness experience of its clients.

Other guided tourism pursuits in the plan area include fishing, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing and rafting. Recreational fish species include lake trout, grayling, northern pike, burbot, rainbow trout and bull trout. While sporadic, guided hiking does occur in the plan area; this venture is relatively undeveloped to date. The same holds true for guided horseback riding.

Unguided destination travellers are generally short-haul visitors from BC and the Yukon who drive to the area primarily to enjoy hunting, paddling and fishing activities. Most unguided use occurs from August to early November. Front and mid-country locations are generally accessed by vehicle or ATV via roads or mining exploration trails. Backcountry areas are generally accessed by floatplane, ATV, jet boat, and to a lesser extent, by helicopter. Motorized boat use occurs during hunting season on a number of rivers in the plan area, including on the Dease and Liard Rivers.

Unguided paddling is a popular summertime activity on the Dease River and to a lesser extent on the Liard and Little Rancheria Rivers. Other navigable rivers suitable for paddling (kayaking,

canoeing and/or rafting) include the Turnagain, Hyland, Deadwood, Red, Eagle, Four Mile, Rapid, Blue and Cottonwood. McDame Creek is also suitable for paddling. Commercial rafting activities occur on the Dease, Liard, Rapid, Eagle and Turnagain Rivers.

While some unguided fishing occurs in the plan area, including Dease Lake and Dease River, most visitors to the region are travelling through to salmon rivers outside of the Dease-Liard. There are currently a number of guides who are licensed to operate on specific waters in the plan area. There are no destination-type fishing resorts at present.

One adventure tourism tenure exists over the Tootsee Lake and Tootsee River areas. One permanent secondary camp is located alongside the Tootsee River and another permanent secondary camp is located at the western end of Tootsee Lake.

2.6.2 Tourism and Recreation Economic Development

The Dease-Liard SRMP area has the potential for further tourism development and offers opportunities to expand existing tourism products to an international clientele. Trends suggest that tourism will gradually increase in the region based on factors such as increased highway traffic as well as a growing level of significance placed on large wilderness areas and their wildlife.

The Kaska Dena are already involved in tourism ventures ranging from guide outfitting in the Turnagain River watershed to establishing a front-country business in the Liard River Hotspings area. Other opportunities include river rafting, fly-in sport fishing, ecotourism lodges, cultural camps, recreational vehicle parks and trail riding. In addition, the Kaska have identified several watersheds where they feel that tourism should be the primary economic activity. These areas are described in more detail in the management direction section.

Table 3: Potential Opportunities for Tourism Development by Tourism Zone in the Dease-Liard

Tourism Zone	Definition	Development Opportunities
Front-country	Accessible by paved road or within 1 km of a paved road and influenced by the access it provides.	Amenity-oriented: Lodging, restaurants, gift shops, art galleries, specialty retail and rental shops, RV facilities and campgrounds.
		Activity-oriented: Excursion-related products such as front-country nature trails with interpretation centres and specialized retail merchandise, First Nations cultural centre/museum, boat/fishing gear rental.
Mid-country	Accessible by gravel road, or located no further than 5 km from a paved road. Generally features a front-country base that acts as a gateway to more remote venues.	Activity-oriented excursions: Summer guided opportunities include hiking, horseback riding, ATV'ing, paddling, fishing, nature walks and First Nations cultural interpretation. Winter-based opportunities include dog-sledding, ice fishing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and ski-touring.
Back-country	Areas occurring farther than 5 km from a road.	Summer activities: Land-based activities: hiking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing/bird watching, mountain bike touring and mountaineering. Other possibilities include hut-to-hut travel, backcountry lodges and eco-lodges, nature

Tourism Zone	Definition	Development Opportunities
		<p>interpretation and First Nations cultural experiences.</p> <p>Lake and river-based activities: guided canoeing, rafting, motorized boating and sport fishing, lodge/resort/cabin development</p> <p>Winter activities: Limited opportunities due to distance from market and limited infrastructure.</p>
Large River Corridors	Generally rivers that can be accessed by air, road, lake headed rivers, or access points within 1km of a paved road	<p>Summer Activities: Water-based activities: fishing, hunting, canoe trips, river rafting, day trips or multi-day camping.</p> <p>The key features to maintain are limiting access points to maintain scenic and wilderness settings, visual quality along the rivers and maintaining large river riparian characteristics such as terraces and benches, floodplains and/or alluvial sites.</p> <p>A listing of key rivers is identified in the management direction below.</p>

An inventory of commercial sport fishing potential was undertaken in 2003 for the Dease-Liard SRMP area (De Leeuw, 2003). There are two types of commercial sport fisheries summarized in Table 4: full season on larger lakes (less than 120 angler days per active fishing season) and partial season on smaller lakes (approximately 10 angler days per season, with day trips more likely). The inventory identified lakes according to their potential to support lodge development, based on known yields of sport fish (all species) and lake trout. The inventory did not consider the Turnagain watershed as the SRMP boundary did not cover this area at the time of the assessment.

Overall, opportunities for consumptive commercial sport fisheries in the plan area are limited. Of the estimated 5,992 lakes only 160 were found to support some level of commercial fisheries. No commercial sport fisheries are likely possible in lakes smaller than about 25 hectares. To consider commercial sport fishing of lakes in isolation of other opportunities would present an incomplete view of recreational potential in the area. There is an array of activities such as: catch-and-release fisheries, river fisheries, guided hunting, and hiking, that, in conjunction with fisheries, would augment income from recreational opportunities.

Table 4: Potential for Commercial Sport Fishing on Lakes in the Dease-Liard

Commercial Sport Fishing Potential			
Landscape Unit or Watershed	Full season – Large Lakes (> 120 angler days per season)	Partial season – Small Lakes (approx 10 angler days per season; all sport fish) Number of Lakes	Partial season – Small Lakes (lake trout¹) Number of Lakes
Blue River	None	6	1
Cry Lake	Beale, Cry and Looncry Lakes.	10	3
Dease Lake	Poorman and Wheeler Lakes. Commercial sport fisheries possible on Dease and Boya Lakes, but not likely due to substantial public sport fishery.	20	6
Horse Ranch	The lakes around Horse Ranch Lake as a group.	26 fly-in	17
Little Rancheria	Alec Chief and Captain Lakes as a group (sport fish and lake trout). Tootsie and un-named lake to the west as a group.	22	7
Lower Kechika	Deadwood Lake (grayling, northern pike, whitefish and lake trout)	4 fly-in	1
Middle Dease River	Meek Lake (primarily rainbow trout)	27	7
Upper Liard	None	28	8

¹ Lakes able to support partial lake trout fishery are a subset of lakes able to support partial fishery for all sport fish.

2.6.3 Management Direction for Tourism and Recreation

The direction from Phase 1 should be considered for all resource development.

Key tourism and recreation values in the Dease-Liard include its remote wilderness, abundant large wildlife, variety of sport fish, navigable rivers and large, pristine lakes. Objectives to maintain tourism values have been identified for application across the landbase as well as within specific, area-based zones (Map 7: Tourism Zones).

Objectives to maintain the quality of habitat for fish and wildlife are addressed in phase one (e.g. Biodiversity and Wildlife), and in previous sections of this plan (e.g. Protected Areas) Development within areas of high value caribou, mountain ungulate, moose and grizzly bear habitat will be consistent with provincial legislation and policy. In addition, the objectives and strategies for visual quality in phase one of the SRMP will contribute to the aesthetic quality of areas important to tourism.

Plan Goal for Tourism and Recreation:

- To provide the land-based conditions necessary to support a sustainable and viable local tourism industry offering a wide spectrum of wilderness-related outdoor recreation activities and quality products in a perceived wilderness setting.

Objectives	Measures/Indicators	Targets
1.0 Promote locally based, sustainable and high-quality tourism and recreation ventures.	1.1 Number of new tourism and recreation ventures	Increase
	1.2 Percentage of local people employed by the tourism and recreation sectors	100% locally qualified employment, with 50% of this to be from First Nations
	Management Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint tourism ventures are encouraged with local First Nations. Local business ownership is preferred over non-resident ownership. Appropriate commercial recreation/adventure tourism development and use on Crown land is encouraged. Provincial government to consider areas of interest and values of existing tourism operators and public recreationists in assessing applications for adventure tourism tenures. Tourism and recreation operators to avoid conflicts between other resource users and First Nations. Companies to use best efforts to hire local First Nations, and to partner with and establish joint ventures with First Nations. It is recognized that it may be difficult to achieve 100% local employment given the need for specialized skills and/or certification in the tourism and recreation industry. 	
2.0 Recognize and respect First	2.1 Percentage of referrals where First Nations are	100%

Nations in all tourism and recreation ventures	involved	
	Management Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On a project by project basis, Kaska Dena are to make available information regarding culturally and ecologically sensitive zones and their importance to the Kaska Dena. Companies to contact appropriate First Nation(s) if traditional use and/or archaeological sites are discovered during access and development. Provincial government to ensure First Nations are involved in planning and review for the adventure tourism and public recreation tenure processes. 	
3.0 Maintain or improve the integrity and functionality of tourism features and facilities according to the guidelines in Table 5.	3.1 Loss of integrity or functionality of facilities	No loss
	3.2 Percentage of First Nations engagement where there is a potential impact to facilities from resource development.	100%
	Management Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Nations to be consulted prior to and during any development that may impact the integrity or functionality of tourism facilities. The integrity and functionality of tourism facilities will take priority when management decisions are made. First Nations consultation is directed at gaining a proper understanding of the interests and mitigating concerns by finding workable solutions. See Table 5 - Guidelines for Features, Facilities and Trails Management. 	
4.0 Maintain or improve the integrity and functionality of trails according to the guidelines in Table 5.	4.1 Loss of integrity and functionality of established trails within 200m on each side of the trail.	No Loss
	4.2 Percentage of new resource development activities where consultation with First Nations takes place.	100%
	Management Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Table 5 – Guidelines for Features, Facilities and Trails Management. 	

Table 5. Guidelines for Features, Facilities and Trails Management

Identification	Elements of Integrity and Functionality	Consultation Stipulations	Impact Considerations	Mitigation Considerations for Management
Feature/Facility: Trails and Trailheads				
<p>Built or used by humans (also consideration for wildlife trails).</p> <p>Recognized by any one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Blazes ● Bridges ● Grading ● Cutting ● Signs of maintenance and/or current use <p>Includes spiritual and culturally significant trails.</p>	<p>Passable by ATV, snowmobile or foot traffic.</p> <p>Minimize adverse impacts to trail systems resulting from development-related changes to the hydrological regime.</p> <p>Maintenance of the visual experience².</p> <p>Minimize impacts from development, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Noise ● Dust ● Artificial light ● Altered access patterns <p>Maintenance of forest canopy to prevent excessive brush growth over trails.</p> <p>Minimal number of road crossings.</p>	<p>Kaska values are too sensitive to be mapped for the general public, but mitigations may be required through the referral and consultation process.</p> <p>Development proponents to demonstrate that they are not compromising the integrity and/or functionality of the feature within a 200 metre management zone.</p>	<p>Including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Functional integrity; maintain the natural tourism and recreational values of the trail system. - Visual impact of industrial activity on the trail system to remain subordinate to recreational values. - Through consultation, specific trails may be permitted to have visual impacts that are dominant (e.g. impacted by pine beetle). 	<p>Including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restoration of trails at road crossings. - Restoration of trails if harvesting occurs over them. - Consideration of the physical and temporal aspects of management for areas surrounding the feature, e.g. type of harvesting and seasonal variations in harvesting practices.

² Maintenance of the visual experience is directed at maintaining the visual quality for recreational use but does not preclude alteration that is compatible with the mitigating options identified.

Identification	Elements of Integrity and Functionality	Consultation Stipulations	Impact Considerations	Mitigation Considerations for Management
Feature/Facility: Shoreline Features, Access to Water Features and Popular Angling Sites				
<p>Spits, beaches, coves, bays, inlets, small islands, popular fishing sites and water body features.</p>	<p>Maintenance of visual experience.</p> <p>Minimize impacts from development, as above.</p> <p>No signs of debris from development in and around shoreline features (e.g. logs, oil drums, etc).</p>	<p>As above, but for a 500 metre management zone.</p>	<p>As above for functional integrity of feature</p> <p>Consideration for shelter and visual quality.</p>	<p>As above for management of areas surrounding the feature.</p>
Feature/Facility: Waterfalls				
<p>Greater than 1m wide and a drop of more than 2m.</p> <p>A geological formation with a constant flow of water (volume may vary).</p>	<p>Maintenance of visual experience.</p> <p>Minimize impacts from development, as above.</p>	<p>As above, but for a 200 metre management zone</p>	<p>As above for functional integrity.</p> <p>No physical impact on the feature from resource use and development.</p>	<p>As above for management of areas surrounding the feature.</p>

Identification	Elements of Integrity and Functionality	Consultation Stipulations	Impact Considerations	Mitigation Considerations for Management
Feature/Facility: Cliffs, Canyons and Caves				
<p>Rock formations with steep relief.</p> <p>Formations having significant spiritual or recreational value.</p> <p>Caves large enough to provide for human exploration. Wildlife caves used for denning are not included.</p>	<p>Geological formation not compromised by development.</p> <p>Maintenance of visual experience.</p> <p>Minimize impacts from development, as above.</p>	<p>As above, but for a 500 metre management zone.</p>	<p>As above for functional integrity.</p> <p>Consideration for visual quality.</p> <p>No physical impact, as above.</p> <p>No alteration of access to feature.</p>	<p>As above for management of areas surrounding the feature.</p>
Feature/Facility: Viewpoints and Modern Cultural Features				
<p>Lookouts, bridges</p>	<p>Maintenance of visual experience.</p> <p>Minimize impacts from development, as above.</p>	<p>As above, but for a 500 metre management zone.</p>	<p>As above for functional integrity and visual quality.</p> <p>No physical impact, as above.</p>	<p>As above for management of areas surrounding the feature.</p>

2.6.4 Area Specific Management Direction for Tourism and Recreation

For the purpose of managing attributes of importance to tourism and recreation, Tourism Zones have been identified throughout the SRMP area (see Map 7 – Tourism Zones):

Front-country (Highways 37 and 97)

Mid-country

Back-country

Large River Corridors

Large Lakes

McDame and Davie Trails

Communities (Good Hope Lake and Lower Post)

Management objectives, measures/indicators, targets and management considerations have been developed for each Tourism Zone. In addition, a set of “appropriate commercial recreation activities” has been identified for each zone to inform and help guide tenure decisions made by the Province. Objectives related to visual quality can be found in phase one of the SRMP for Scenic Areas A and B, and for Other Significant Visual Area.

Tourism Zone: Front-country (Highways 37 and 97)		
Objectives	Measures/Indicators	Targets
1.0 Manage Front-country Zones, as identified on Map 7 – Tourism Zones, to maintain a wide spectrum of public and commercial recreation values, opportunities and activities	1.1 Number of public and commercial recreation activities/developments which follow table of Potential Opportunities for Tourism Development by Tourism Zone.	Increase
	Management Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies funded by tourism and recreation developers assess conditions using available baseline data such as First Nations’ traditional knowledge and archaeological and traditional use studies prior to operations in order to measure impacts. • Tourism and recreation developers to apply adaptive management including traditional knowledge and First Nations’ environmental monitoring measures to mitigate environmental impacts. • Tourism and recreation developers to apply sensitively designed, well spaced, tourism-based infrastructure to maintain a perception of remoteness. 	
2.0 Encourage the establishment of new and expansion of existing tourism-based infrastructure.	2.1 Number of new or expanded tourism-based infrastructure development projects.	Increase

	<p>Management Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Province to provide opportunities for tourism and recreation tenures.
<p>Appropriate Commercial Recreation/Adventure Tourism Activities for the Front-country (Highways 37 and 97) Tourism Zone</p> <p><i>Summer-based:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kaska cultural and ecotourism site(s) focused on education and interpretation: fixed structures; guided outdoor tours. Nature-based education and interpretation: fixed structures; guided outdoor tours. Quality/authentic shopping, dining and lodging development. Gateway locale for guided or self-guided canoe and motorboat activities (lakes and river-based), river rafting, horseback riding, day-hiking and ATV use. <p><i>Winter-based:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gateway locale for guided snowmobiling, dog-sledding, ice-fishing and snow-shoeing. Quality/authentic shopping, dining and lodging development. 	

Tourism Zone: Mid-country		
Objectives	Measures/Indicators	Targets
1.0 Maintain the appearance of an undisturbed wilderness setting in those areas identified as Mid-country on Map 7 – Tourism Zones	1.1 Number of tourism developments that are designed to minimize visual impact on the landscape.	All
2.0 Manage Mid-country Zones, as identified on Map 7 – Tourism Zones, to maintain a wide spectrum of public and commercial recreation values, opportunities and activities	2.1 Number of public and commercial recreation activities/developments which follow table of Potential Opportunities for Tourism Development by Tourism Zone.	Increase
	<p>Management Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Studies funded by tourism and recreation developers assess conditions using available baseline data such as First Nations' traditional knowledge and archaeological and traditional use studies prior to operations in order to measure impacts. Tourism and recreation developers to apply adaptive management including traditional knowledge and First Nations' environmental monitoring measures to mitigate environmental impacts Tourism and recreation developers to apply sensitively designed, well spaced, tourism-based infrastructure to maintain a perception of remoteness. 	

Tourism Zone: Back-country		
Objectives	Measures/Indicators	Targets
1.0 Manage Back-country Zones, as identified on Map 7 – Tourism Zones, to maintain opportunities for recreation and tourism in a wilderness setting.	1.1 Number of tourism developments that are designed to minimize visual impact on the landscape.	All
	1.2 Number of commercial tourism and recreation activities/developments which follow table of Potential Opportunities for Tourism Development by Tourism Zone.	Increase
<p>Management Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In areas featuring high tourism values, resource development operations to manage access and the landscape to maintain the appearance of an undisturbed wilderness; mitigate noise pollution. • Tourism and recreation developers to blend new infrastructure into the natural setting and ensure low to no environmental impact. • Adhere to provincial legislation and policy regarding commercial back-country recreation, i.e. <i>Commercial Backcountry Recreation Policy and Guidelines</i> to ensure the development of sustainable tourism products. • Plan tourism and recreation activities to avoid conflicts between other resource users and First Nations. 		
<p>Appropriate Commercial Recreation/Adventure Tourism Activities for Back-country Tourism Zone</p> <p><i>Summer-based:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiking, mountaineering, climbing and mountain biking. • Hunting and fishing. • Paddling, rafting and canoeing. • Restricted motorized access on the Midway Mine Access Trail. • ATV use, though restricted in high value wildlife areas (See phase one: Wildlife). <p><i>Winter-based:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skiing, snowshoeing, ice-fishing and dog-sledding. • Snowmobiling, though restricted in high value wildlife areas (See phase one: Wildlife). 		

Phase one of the SRMP included a legally established objective for visual quality for the Dease River, and an objective for visual quality for the Liard and Hyland Rivers. This phase builds on those objectives by extending the management intent to additional rivers and creeks identified in the table below.

Tourism Zone: Large River Corridors (Dease, Liard, Rapid, Eagle, Little Rancheria, Tootsee, French, Turnagain, Four-Mile and Hyland Rivers; Four-Mile and McDame Creeks)		
Objectives	Measures/Indicators	Targets
1.0 Maintain the appearance of an undisturbed wilderness setting in those areas identified as Large River Corridor on Map 7 – Tourism Zones	1.1 Number of tourism developments that are designed to minimize visual impact on the landscape.	All
	1.2 Number of public and commercial recreation activities/developments which follow table of Potential Opportunities for Tourism Development by Tourism Zone.	Increase
	<p>Management Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a legally established objective in place for the Dease River (2004) to maintain visual quality – Ensure activities are not visible or difficult to perceive as viewed from the Dease River. • There is an objective in place for the Liard and Hyland Rivers (2004) to maintain visual quality – Ensure that resource development activities are not visually evident or, if evident, remain subordinate as viewed from the Liard and Hyland Rivers. • Tourism and recreation developers to locate and design commercial facilities to blend into the natural setting of the area. • Tourism and recreation developers to apply sensitively designed, well spaced, tourism-based infrastructure to maintain a perception of remoteness. 	
<p>Appropriate Commercial Recreation/Adventure Tourism Activities for Large River Corridors</p> <p>Tourism Zone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guided canoeing, rafting and kayaking. • Some guided motor boating, depending on the river and the current level of use. • Kaska cultural and ecotourism site(s) and guided tours. • Fly fishing. • Lodge-based wilderness viewing and naturalist activities. • Guided fishing and hunting opportunities. • Guided cultural education river tours. 		

Tourism Zone: Large Lakes

(Dease, Little Dease, Serpentine, Fish, Tootsee, Beale, Horseranch, Looncry, Deadwood, Cry, Meek, Moose, Halfmoon, Swinton, Eaglehead, Killarney, Wheeler, Old Faddy and two unnamed lakes near the Liard Eskers)

Objectives	Measures/Indicators	Targets
<p>1.0 Maintain the appearance of an undisturbed wilderness setting in those areas identified as Large Lakes on Map 7 – Tourism Zones</p>	<p>1.1 Number of tourism developments that are designed to minimize visual impact on the landscape.</p> <p>Management Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Province to manage viewscapes to maintain a natural wilderness setting. • Resource development operations to locate roads and time road development activities to minimize disruption to tourism and recreation activities as well as maintain a wilderness experience. • The Province, First Nations and tourism and recreation developers to consider opportunities for cultural, ecotourism and water-based tourism as well as guided tours and hunting. • Tourism and recreation developers to locate and design commercial facilities to blend into the natural setting of the area. • Tourism and recreation developers to apply sensitively designed, well spaced, tourism-based infrastructure to maintain a perception of remoteness. 	<p align="center">All</p>

Appropriate Commercial Recreation/Adventure Tourism Activities for the Large Lake Tourism Zone

Summer-based:

- Fishing (including fly-in fishing).
- Link activities on lakes to Kaska tourism sites such as river rafting, fly-in fishing, Kaska ecotourism and cultural camps, or guided hunts with McDame and Davie Trails and tourism activities.
- Bird-watching/wildlife viewing.
- Non-motorized boating: canoeing/rafting/kayaking.
- Limited motor-boating.

Winter-based:

- Ice fishing; ski touring/snowshoeing; dog sledding; wildlife viewing.

Tourism Zone: McDame and Davie Trails		
Objectives	Measures/Indicators	Targets
1.0 Maintain the aesthetic quality of the McDame and Davie Trails, as identified on Map 7 - Tourism Zones.	1.1 Number of industrial activities not visually evident or if evident, subordinate as viewed from within the zone	All
2.0 Maintain the structural integrity of the McDame and Davie Trails, as identified on Map 7 - Tourism Zones	2.1 Percentage of industrial activities which follow the Guidelines for Features, Facilities and Trails Management	100%
	<p>Management Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Province to manage viewscales to maintain a natural wilderness setting. • Non-motorized use only on the trails from spring thaw to fall freeze-up. • Use of ATVs, snowmobiles or other motorized vehicles permitted from fall freeze-up to spring thaw. • See phase one: Cultural Heritage Resources, objective 3. • Refer to Table 5 for impact considerations. 	
<p>Appropriate Commercial Recreation/Adventure Tourism Activities for the McDame and Davie Trails Tourism Zone</p> <p><i>Summer-based:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking. • Link activities on the trails to other Kaska tourism activities such as river rafting, fly-in fishing, Kaska ecotourism and cultural camps, and guided hunting. <p><i>Winter-based:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snowmobiling, ski touring, snowshoeing and dog-sledding. 		

Tourism Zone: Communities		
Objectives	Measures/Indicators	Targets
1.0 Provide opportunities for quality, community-based tourism operations adjacent to the communities of Good Hope Lake and Lower Post, as identified on Map 7 - Tourism Zones.	1.1 Number of community-based tourism operations.	Increase

<p>2.0 Manage Community Zones, as identified on Map 7 – Tourism Zones, to maintain a wide spectrum of public and commercial recreation values, opportunities and activities.</p>	<p>2.1 Number of public and commercial recreation activities/developments which follow table of Potential Opportunities for Tourism Development by Tourism Zone</p>	
	<p>Management Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of views from communities should be consistent with phase one: Visual Quality. • Ensure locally significant access corridors and trails are maintained for public and commercial recreationists to enjoy. • Ensure community members and tourism operators are meaningfully involved in all new tourism ventures. • The Province to ensure water quality and functional habitat for local fish and wildlife are maintained. 	
<p>Appropriate Commercial Recreation/Adventure Tourism Activities for Communities Tourism Zone</p> <p><i>Summer-based:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural education/interpretation: fixed structures; guided outdoor tours. • Nature education/interpretation: fixed structures; guided outdoor tours. • Quality/authentic shopping, dining and lodging development. • Gateway for guided or self-guided canoe and motor boat activities (lake- and river-based), river rafting, horseback riding, day-hiking and ATV use. <p><i>Winter-based:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gateway for guided snowmobiling, dog-sledding, ice-fishing and snow-shoeing. • Quality/authentic shopping, dining and lodging development. 		

2.6.5 Management Direction for Commercial Sport Fishing

There are a number of management considerations for the catch of sport fish and lake trout.

First of all, small lakes less than 25 hectares are likely unable to support any kind of commercial sport fishery for any species. Fish populations in these lakes are small and can be over-fished with only minimal exploitation.

Secondly, northern pike usually inhabit shallower near-shore habitat which is limited in extent for some lakes in the plan area. However, in British Columbia as a whole, populations of northern pike are typically not subject to collapse due to over-exploitation, although the largest “trophy-sized” individuals may be removed when harvest increases. It is generally acknowledged that lake trout are more broadly sensitive to overharvest due to slow growth, late maturity and low reproductive potential; populations of this species may experience permanent collapse under some conditions. The sensitivity of lake trout to overharvest has prompted a provincial review of the recreational angling regulations for this species.

Thirdly, there is almost no inventory information for lakes less than 100 hectares in the plan area. It may be that lake trout tend not to inhabit certain kinds of lakes in the Dease-Liard. If this is the case, then sport fishing opportunities could be considerably overestimated.

Objectives	Measures/Indicators	Targets
<p>1.0 <i>Maintain the potential for, and continuation of, commercial sport fisheries for lakes.</i></p>	<p>1.1 Number of commercial sport fishery tenures for lakes.</p>	<p>No decrease</p>
	<p>Management Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Province and commercial sport fishery operators to consider slot limits and catch-and-release fisheries as management options. • Commercial sport fishery operators are encouraged to collect and interpret basic lake and fish population information. • Commercial sport fishery operators and anglers are encouraged to keep track of the fisheries by collecting basic information such as age, size, growth rates of fish and angler success rates. • The Province to consider setting aside one or two lakes for every watershed in the plan area as “control” or “benchmark” lakes where no fishing takes place. Fish populations in these lakes would serve scientific and background information purposes. • The Province and commercial sport fishery operators to consider conducting studies and surveys to determine populations of large trophy fish. • Fish surveys and studies to involve First Nations representatives. 	
<p>2.0 <i>Maintain populations of large trophy fish in lakes.</i></p>	<p>2.1 Number of large trophy fish.</p>	<p>No decrease</p>
	<p>Management Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Management Considerations for Objective 1 above. 	

2.7 Access

The Dease-Liard remains relatively unroaded due to its remoteness, low population and small amount of resource development. Issues related to ecological and cultural heritage values may arise as access is developed for resource activities in previously unroaded areas.

2.7.1 Management Direction for Access

This plan highlights areas of concern and provides direction to guide access development. It is expected that the implementation of access management control for roads that may be developed for timber extraction within Timber Area A (see phase one of the SRMP) will be the responsibility of forest tenure holders. If required, access management control measures may be implemented on roads that may be developed for other resource activities outside of Timber Area A, such as for mining or tourism. These measures will be implemented in cooperation with the appropriate agencies, consistent with their mandates and guiding legislation. Management objectives pertaining to access are not mandatory for the exploration and development of sub-surface resources. However, they will be considered during the permitting and approval processes for mineral, oil and gas and energy-related projects.

The *Forest and Range Practices Act* and the Mineral Exploration Code provide the current framework for access development, such as road layout and construction, in consideration of a range of resource values.

Table 6 outlines the various types of roads relevant to the plan area and the agency responsible for each.

Table 6: Road Types and Agency Responsible

Name	Description	Agency Responsible
Trails, tote roads, footpaths	Most were established by use only and for the purposes of trade, food, aggression, etc. Many have fallen into disuse. New necessity like tourism may resurrect a trail's use. Can range from no status crown land or trespass to a future arterial corridor in the form of a Crown reserve. Should be considered for their cultural heritage and aesthetic values.	Likely no registered right of way agreement, therefore no status in the Land Title or other authority's systems.
Section 2 Roads	All roads, other than private roads, deemed common and public. Includes Provincial Highways. Most of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's (MoTI) business is conducted here (construction, maintenance, closures/exchanges, etc).	MoTI under the <i>Transportation Act</i> .
Forest Service Roads (FSR), Road Permit roads, Special Use Permit roads; roads for woodlot licenses, cutting permits, timber sale licenses and forestry licenses to cut	Related primarily to forestry. Road Permit roads are for forest harvest access. Special Use Permit roads are related to non-forestry industrial uses such as mining.	Most are Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations under the <i>Forest and Range Practices Act</i> . Forest licensees responsible for Road Permit roads. Special Use Permit holder responsible for these roads.
Petroleum Development Roads (PDRs) and lease roads	Related to oil and gas. Roads established by request to the Lands Branch via the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) and the user. Not "public roads" in the Provincial Highway sense, but the public can use them with some exceptions. Private owner may levy a fee for use.	OGC under the <i>Petroleum and Natural Gas Act</i> ; right of ways under the <i>Land Act</i> .
Mining roads; Mineral Exploration Roads	Related to mining. Not "public roads" in the Provincial Highway sense, but the public can use them with some exceptions. Most mining roads are not available for public use if they are controlled access i.e. gated. They are available to other industrial users and a fee may be charged for maintenance costs. The same applies to exploration roads during the exploration season.	Authority can be either the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) or Ministry of Energy and Mines, depending on whether the road is through Crown land, Crown land designated as Provincial Forest, or on mineral or placer title.

	Mining developer may have Special Use Permit road to access a claim.	
Industrial Roads	Much like PDRs and mining roads with the exception of jurisdiction. Private roads subject to rules, regulations and fees.	MoTI under the Industrial Roads and <i>Transportation Act</i> . Can also be multi jurisdictional by agreement (i.e. with Forest Service Roads).
Roads in provincial parks	Access to park campsites, facilities and trails.	MoE
New roads constructed after issuance of <i>Land Act</i> tenure by FLNRO	For access to various <i>Land Act</i> tenures, including Independent Power Projects.	After expiry of tenure, becomes non-status and FLNRO assumes responsibility.

Table 7 identifies the location of resource-specific objectives related to access both within this document, and in the 2004 SRMP.

Table 7. Objectives for Access Related to Specific Resource Values

Section	Objectives
2004 Dease-Liard SRMP	
Management Direction for Caribou	6 and 7
Management Direction for Moose	2
Management Direction for Mountain Ungulates	1 and 2
Management Direction for Grizzly Bear	2 and 4
Management Direction for Furbearers	4
Management Direction for Bull Trout	1
Management Direction for Endangered Wildlife	1 and 2
Management Direction for Community Uses	1
Management Direction for Cultural Heritage Resources	3
Management Direction for Access	1
2012 Dease-Liard SRMP	
Management Direction for Minerals and Aggregates	3

Management Direction for Oil and Gas	3
Area Specific Management Direction for Tourism and Recreation	Large Lake Bodies (1); McDame and Davie trails (1)
Management Direction for the Gu Cha Duga Zone	1

2.8 Gu Cha Duga Zone

2.8.1 Resource Values

Gu Cha Duga means ‘for the grandchildren’ in a Kaska Dena dialect. This name describes areas within the Kaska traditional territory that have a large concentration and diversity of cultural sites, sacred areas and wildlife, and are of current and historical importance to the Kaska Dena to maintain their way of life.

The Ne’āh’ area to be protected is considered a core Gu Cha Duga area. Surrounding the core area, extending north to the Yukon border east of the Dease River and south towards Rapid River, is the Gu Cha Duga Zone (Map 8: Gu Cha Duga Zone). It is approximately 370,000 hectares, which represents approximately 16% of the Dease-Liard SRMP area, and 4% of the Kaska traditional territory.

This zone provides linkages and connectivity to other areas in Kaska traditional territory via the adjacent Kaska Identified Watersheds and Large River Corridors. It also connects with the Muskwa-Kechika Management Area to the east.

2.8.2 Management Direction for the Gu Cha Duga Zone

The primary goal for management within the Gu Cha Duga Zone is to maintain its cultural values, ecosystem integrity and natural backcountry characteristics. It is also intended to provide opportunities for tourism, commercial recreation, guide outfitting, mineral exploration and oil and gas exploration, so long as these activities recognize and respect the main purpose of the area. The Gu Cha Duga Zone is further intended to emphasize and market non-traditional and innovative uses of the commercial forests such as for carbon credits or biodiversity offsets.

A number of Kaska Dena interests and concerns for the Gu Cha Duga Zone, including access, maintenance of traditional use areas, and resources important for sustenance activities, are addressed in other chapters of the SRMP. In accordance with provincial legislation and policy, access roads are to be reclaimed after the conclusion of industrial activities. Forestry regulations specify that road deactivation must occur following the completion of harvesting activities. Finally, Kaska Dena cultural and sacred areas will be avoided as specified by the Cultural Heritage Resources chapter in phase one of the SRMP.

The Kaska Dena see the Gu Cha Duga Zone as an important place which warrants, establishing it as a distinct zone to provide direction for the values to be maintained. Over time, the Kaska are interested in establishing a legal designation for wildlife in this area, such as a Wildlife Management Area or a Land Use Objective, with shared decision making on the lands around the core Ne’āh’ protected area.

This approach would, in Kaska’s view, maintain the goals for this zone by:

- *Placing an emphasis on its remote and natural backcountry characteristics as well as a priority for ecological and cultural conservation;*
- *Emphasizing marketing the conservation and cultural values of the area while supporting alternate uses of the commercial forest such as for carbon credits or biodiversity offsets;*
- *Supporting preferred activities such as tourism, commercial recreation, guide outfitting and mineral exploration that does not include permanent road access;*
- *Allowing temporary road development and once industrial activities are completed, deactivating and reclaiming roaded areas;*
- *Avoiding Kaska cultural and sacred areas; and,*
- *Maintaining the ecosystem integrity and cultural values of the area.*

Plan Goal for the Gu Cha Duga Zone

- To recognize and respect the areas that have a large concentration and diversity of cultural sites, sacred areas and wildlife, and are of current and historical importance to the Kaska Dena to maintain their way of life.

Objectives	Measures/Indicators	Targets
<p><i>1.0 Manage industrial activities and access to maintain cultural values, ecosystem integrity and the natural back-country characteristics of the Gu Cha Duga Zone identified on Map 8.</i></p>	<p>1.1 Percentage of roads deactivated and/or reclaimed following the completion of industrial activities.</p>	<p>100% (subject to consultation with Kaska Dena)</p>
	<p>1.2 Communication tools are in place that will provide clients and tenures staff with notice that deeper consultation is required (see Management Considerations).</p>	<p>Within 6 months after plan approval</p>
<p>Management Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate that this area is very important to the Kaska and that government will be undertaking a deeper level of consultation regarding mining and land use applications in this area. Examples of tools to be used in communicating this message include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Information Update on the MEMPR website: http://www.empr.gov.bc.ca/Titles/MineralTitles/InformationUpdates/Pages/default.aspx ○ Information layer on MapPlace http://www.mapplace.ca ○ Data layer on the government data warehouse (LRDW) which will then be available to Mineral Titles Online. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mine Management System (for Notice of Work) ○ Notation of Interest (to include details on rationale/intent for the zone, resource management considerations, contacts and process to acquire additional information). ○ Mineral Reserve ● Encourage non-road access where feasible. ● Ensure that all road access into the Gu Cha Duga Zone is temporary and that road approvals include plans for deactivation and/or reclamation following the completion of activities at the end of the development cycle. ● This chapter is consistent with objectives in the Access, Minerals and Aggregates, and Oil, Gas and Energy chapters. ● Refer to Cultural Heritage Resources and Wildlife chapters in phase one for objectives to maintain cultural values and wildlife populations, respectively.
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2.9 Climate Change

2.9.1 Background

Increasing atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, largely the result of fossil fuel burning, are causing global temperatures to increase. Between 1950 and 2001, average annual temperatures in northern British Columbia and southeast Yukon have increased by 2-3°C, with the greatest degree of change taking place over the winter months. The trend has been for an increasing growing season, earlier spring peak water flows, and a higher proportion of total precipitation falling as snow. The north is experiencing longer, drier summers and warmer, shorter winters. Climate change is expected to accelerate over the next hundred years. If steps are not taken to limit the overall warming to 2°C by 2100, the result could be the release of methane gas frozen in permafrost that could lead to even more intense, rapid and abrupt climate change (Walter, K.M. *et al.* 2006).

Boreal forests act as carbon sinks and thus play a critical role in regulating global climate and water cycles (<http://yukon.taiga.net/swyukon/indicators.cfm>). However, the opposite is true when the distribution and dynamics of boreal forests are largely *determined* by climate. The key findings of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment that pertain to the boreal forest include (ACIA Secretariat and Cooperative Institute for Arctic Research, 2007):

- The treeline is expected to move northward and into higher elevations, with forests replacing a large portion of the existing tundra and alpine habitats.
- Natural disturbances such as forest fires and insect infestations are very likely to increase in frequency, severity and duration. In turn, this could increase the potential invasion by non-native species.
- Increases in natural disturbances may lead to a shift to younger forests; populations of species dependent on old growth attributes and their associated habitat elements may decline.
- The possibility that some ecosystems may exceed critical thresholds and may collapse entirely with new types of ecosystems replacing them on the landscape.

- Although precipitation is generally projected to increase, there is the potential for longer and drier growing seasons that could lead to a shift from closed canopy, coniferous forests to more open canopy and dry deciduous forests.
- Animal species' diversity, ranges and distribution will change. This including species expanding their range north and changes in species with respect to their range-use, timing of migration and birthing according to the abundance of food.

2.9.2 Management Action for Climate Change

The B.C. government has set an ambitious goal for reducing the province's greenhouse gas emissions and initiated a series of commitments to achieve that goal through actions across all sectors of the economy. Follow this link for details:

<https://www.wheretheideaswork.gov.bc.ca/whatsbeingdone/provincialaction.html>

Key components of the provincial strategy on climate action are:

- [Aggressive but achievable targets for provincial emissions reduction for 2012, 2016, 2020 and 2050](#)
-
- [Legislated mandatory caps on major B.C. emitters, as part of a GHG trading system being developed with western partners](#)
- [A comprehensive set of sectoral actions to help achieve the provincial reduction targets](#)
- [Coordination through a new central government body responsible for ensuring that B.C.'s targets are met](#)

In addition, the Kaska Dena are moving forward to address the issue of climate change in their traditional territory by implementing their own climate change objectives and management considerations.

Kaska Dena Goal for Climate Change

- *To maintain Kaska Dena traditional practices, cultural values, and ways-of-life as the impacts and extent of climate change unfold in the traditional territory.*

Objectives	Management Considerations
<p>1.0 <i>Monitor the progression of climate change using all sources of knowledge</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Develop indicators and record observations on the status and trends of key environmental, cultural, social, and economic variables that may be influenced by climate change</i> • <i>Combine different types of knowledge using all available scientific, local, and traditional knowledge and lessons from past practices.</i>
<p>2.0 <i>Utilize adaptive management and implement precautionary measures to mitigate the effects of climate change</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Apply adaptive management practices in order to ensure management objectives are being met over time</i> • <i>Maintain conservation areas that are:</i> • <i>large enough to observe natural processes and ecosystem reactions to climate change</i> • <i>Represent a variety of ecosystem types</i> • <i>Maintain connectivity between conservation areas from north to south and low to high elevations.</i> • <i>Minimize greenhouse gas emissions from resource development activities including using alternative sources of energy.</i> • <i>Maintain large tracts of forests as carbon sinks and use them as carbon credits or biodiversity offsets.</i> • <i>Enhance carbon sinks.</i> • <i>Exercise risk management prior to making land use decisions where knowledge is uncertain, information is incomplete or deficient and the risks are unknown or not understood.</i>
<p>3.0 <i>Initiate climate change research to progress current understanding and practices</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Assess how climate change may affect the forests and ecosystems.</i> • <i>Assess how resource development activities, natural disturbances, and land use changes might affect current and future carbon stocks.</i> • <i>Inform Kaska communities the range of effects and develop Kaska Dena adaptations for the range of effects.</i>

References

Only those references not listed in phase one of the SRMP are included here.

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Appendix A: Dease River First Nation Principles and Policy For Mineral Exploration and Mine Development

Originally prepared by the Kwadacha Natural Resource Agency and modified by the Dena Kayeh Institute for the Dease River First Nation

Principles and Policy

RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS

1. *The Dease River First Nation has unextinguished Aboriginal rights, titles and interests in the Kaska Traditional Territory in northern British Columbia. These rights have been accepted by Canada and the British Columbia Government, and are protected under the Constitution Act (1982). These rights include priority rights to lands and resources.*
2. *The Dease River First Nation has inherent rights that derive from their political, economic and social structures and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories and philosophies, especially their rights to their lands, territories and resources.*
3. *The Dease River First Nation has the right to practice and revitalize their customs, practices and traditions. This includes the right to maintain, protect, and develop the past, present, and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artefacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies, and visual and performing arts and literature. In addition, Dease River First Nation have the right to manifest, practice, develop, and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, custom and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to use and control of their ceremonial objects and the right to the repatriation of human remains.*
4. *The Dease River First Nation has the right to maintain, control, protect, and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies, and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports, and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.*
5. *The Dease River First Nation has the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories, and other resources. This includes the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories, and other resources.*

6. *The Dease River First Nation has control over developments affecting them and their lands, territories and resources will enable them to maintain and strengthen their institutions, cultures and traditions, and to promote their development in accordance with their aspirations and needs.*
7. *The Dease River First Nation continues to depend on the land for their foods, medicines, and their physical and spiritual well-being. Therefore, the Parties agree that Kaska traditional activities (hunting, fishing, or gathering practices) must be afforded first consideration in planning exploration or mine development activities.*

PARTICIPATORY RIGHTS

8. *Consultation and accommodation principles with the Dease River First Nation are based on current case law.*
9. *Shared decision making and participation by the Dease River First Nation is fundamental in planning and decision-making within the Kaska traditional territory to avoid or mitigate impacts to Kaska rights and interests with respect to land and resource dispositions (including water-use) related to mining exploration and development.*
10. *The Dease River First Nation has participatory rights in decision-making through representatives and all parties must be respectful of the Dease River First Nation right to choose such representatives in accordance with Kaska internal procedures to ensure the maintenance and development of their own decision-making institutions.*
11. *There are multiple and often competing land and resource interests in the Kaska traditional territory and all parties must commit to supporting mechanisms for comprehensive land and resource planning that includes full participation of the Dease River First Nation. This commitment includes going beyond the current two-zone management system for mining and allows for special management of lands based on Kaska cultural values and traditional knowledge.*
12. *The Dease River First Nation has not had meaningful participation in historic land and resource planning. All parties must commit to support Dease River First Nation initiatives to protect identified Kaska protected areas due to their cultural and ecological importance or sensitivity.*
13. *The protection of Dease River First Nation values contribute to cultural integrity, environmental health, biological diversity, and ecological processes. All parties will respect these limitations on exploration and mine development activities.*
14. *The importance of traditional knowledge, cultural values, and sacred laws are core components of Kaska governance and management systems. Government and Industry will respect these components related to exploration and mine development activities.*

DEASE RIVER FIRST NATION PARTICIPATION IN DOCUMENT REVIEW SUBMISSION

15. *The Dease River First Nation is committed to working with all parties through the full life cycle of a project including the development of pre-application documentation, application documentation, mitigation/compensation plans, permitting, and reclamation/closure plans. The commitment is based on the Dease River First Nation and the Mineral Exploration and Development Industry (Industry) agreeing to participation agreements that provide resources for community involvement through the project approval process and an Impact Benefit Agreement prior to commencement of mine construction. Dease River First Nation participation in these processes would include incorporation of Traditional Knowledge (TK), participation in fish and wildlife field studies, participation in archaeological studies, integration of TK into the plans, and the identification of mitigation and compensation measures related to environmental assessments or screenings of mining developments.*
16. *The Dease River First Nation should be given the opportunity to review development plans prior to their release to government or submission to the environmental assessment/screening processes.*
17. *Where there is insufficient data regarding potential impacts, exploration activities should not be initiated until the Kaska are satisfied that there is adequate data or commitment to ascertain the nature and severity of the impact.*
18. *The Dease River First Nation expects the Industry to commit to provide information on their activities at all stages of exploration to ensure the Dease River First Nation's ability to determine possible detrimental effects to rights and interests. It also provides a forum to seek information, and recommendations and discuss economic opportunities through all stages of exploration.*

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

19. *Once a Protocol has been agreed, the application of Kaska traditional knowledge is required throughout the full life cycle of a project including planning, and mine exploration and development decisions in a manner consistent with Kaska policies and acceptable to the Kaska. All parties must agree that the Dease River First Nation has constitutionally protected Aboriginal rights to ownership, protection and custody of their knowledge.*
20. *The Dease River First Nation commits to negotiate in good faith with the Industry or Associations, a Traditional Knowledge Protocol that will allow the sharing of information or provide recommendations to ongoing activities. The Traditional Knowledge Protocol will protect the Kaska intellectual property rights of their knowledge, and set out how information will be shared based on an agreed workplan and budget.*
21. *The Dease River First Nation must be involved in any archaeological survey of any areas that may be affected by exploration or mine development activities within the Kaska traditional territory. In the event a burial or archaeological site*

is identified during exploration, companies must suspend operations and contact the Dease River First Nation to determine what action is required.

WATER AND LAND PROTECTION

22. *The Dease River First Nation and the Kaska Dena have as stewards of our traditional territory, the protection of water quality and quantity as a paramount requirement for any mining exploration and mine development. It is expected Industry will not move forward on activities until there is agreement on the standards and monitoring (including the employment of Kaska environmental monitors) for water quality and quantity. This includes the monitoring in Kaska culturally and environmentally sensitive watersheds downstream of the mine development and for the complete life cycle of the project.*
23. *The Dease River First Nation expects Industry and/or Government as part of any agreements related to mineral exploration and mineral development to assist in the reclamation of orphan mine sites particularly as it relates to protecting water quality.*
24. *The Dease River First Nation and the Kaska Dena have as stewards of our traditional territory, the protection of culturally important fish, wildlife and plant species as a paramount requirement for any mining exploration and mine development. It is expected Industry will not move forward on activities until there is agreement on the list of culturally important species to be conserved, the information collection standards, baseline studies, Traditional Knowledge collection, management practices/standards, and monitoring (including the employment of Kaska environmental monitors) for the complete life cycle of the project.*
25. *The Dease River First Nation expects Industry and/or Government as part of any agreements related to mineral exploration and mineral development to recognize the cumulative effects to the species and be prepared to jointly agree to the scope of cumulative effects studies, the joint information collection and analysis for the complete life cycle of the project. This includes reassessing the cumulative effects as new mines are developed in the traditional territory over the complete life cycle of the project.*

IMPACT-BENEFIT AGREEMENTS

26. *Impact Benefit Agreements with the Dease River First Nation are required to provide economic benefits to the Kaska Dena through economic benefits related to mining exploration and mine development.*
27. *The Impact-Benefit Agreements will identify the creation of viable economic opportunities and assist in the improvement of socio-economic conditions of the Dease River First Nation through economic diversification. Terms that will be included are as follows:*
 - a. *revenue sharing including profit sharing;*
 - b. *share of equity in the project or company;*

- c. *share of job and contracts;*
 - d. *right of first refusal of qualified contract services;*
 - e. *commitment to use Dease River First Nation and Kaska businesses, where possible; and,*
 - f. *employment of Dease River First Nation monitors.*
28. *The Dease River First Nation agree to develop with the Industry:*
- a. *joint ventures with the Dease River First Nation to provide services and goods during the full life cycle of resource development projects;*
 - b. *mentoring for the range of jobs related to the full life cycle of resource development projects (exploration to reclamation/closure);*
 - c. *scholarships for Dease River First Nation members seeking qualification at trades, technical, and post-secondary institutions;*
 - d. *training of Dease River First Nation members for natural resource development, environmental monitoring, and enforcement; and,*
 - e. *commitment to employ qualified Dease River First Nation members trades, technical, and post-secondary graduates.*

REVISIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESSES

29. *The Dease River First Nation acknowledges that the current environmental assessment process in British Columbia for evaluating mine projects is insufficient to address Kaska rights and interests, particularly the range of social impacts, as well as environmental and cultural impacts. It also does not address the cumulative impacts in a substantial and meaningful manner to adequately address the Dease River First Nation interests.*
30. *Taking into consideration the New Relationship agreement between the First Nations Leadership Council and the Province of British Columbia, the Dease River First Nation commits supporting or developing recommendations to improve the environmental assessment process.*

ONLINE MINERAL CLAIM STAKING

31. *Online Mineral Claim Staking Program is a serious concern of the Dease River First Nation, as the Province disposes land and resources without any consultation or accommodation. The Dease River First Nation commits to work with the Kaska Dena Council and other First Nations on the end of the program by the Province.*

MISCELLANEOUS

32. *The Dease River First Nation expects the Industry to commit to comply, to the extent possible, with land and resource planning completed or underway in the traditional territory.*
33. *The Dease River First Nation expects the Industry to commit to implementing strict environmental protection practices that are acceptable to the Kaska Nation, and including those “best practices” advanced by the Dease River First Nation.*
34. *The Dease River First Nation expects the reclamation and remediation of a mine will be planned and agreed by the Dease River First Nation prior to any construction commencing, and Impact Benefits Agreements will include compensation for disruption or loss of Dease River First Nation members’ landbase activities.*
35. *The Dease River First Nation commits to inform exploration companies of the expectations of the Dease River First Nation for companies considering mineral exploration including expectations for consultation, acceptance of management rules for Kaska special and protected areas, application of Kaska practices, and providing economic/capacity opportunities.*
36. *While recognizing that development is driven by resource prices, the Dease River First Nation will work to establish agreements with government and industry to ensure that projects are staged to provide long-term stable and sustainable employment and community benefits and minimize any social and health problems from a boom and bust resource development cycle. In addition, the Dease River First Nation will want to assess the status of cumulative effects of all land uses and project into the future potential impacts from incremental development. This will be reassessed periodically and be a tool for environmental assessments and amending Kaska Land Use Plan(s).*
37. *The Dease River First Nation expects the Industry and Government will agree to:*
 - a. *ensure the monitoring and enforcement of Kaska management practices, land use plans, approved environmental assessment certificates, and permits using an adaptive management framework*
 - b. *acknowledge and respect the Land Stewards and Sacred Laws with a commitment of their application for monitoring*
 - c. *employ Land Stewards and qualified Dease River First Nation technical personnel for monitoring and enforcement through the full life cycle of a project.*

Appendix B: Dease River First Nation Principles and Policy For Heritage and Historic Resources

Principles and Policy

RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS

- *The Dease River First Nation has unextinguished Aboriginal rights, titles and interests in the Kaska Traditional Territory in northern British Columbia. These rights have been accepted by Canada and the British Columbia Government, and are protected under the Constitution Act (1982). These rights include priority rights to lands and resources.*
- *The Dease River First Nation members have Aboriginal rights for the protection of their Ethnographic Historic Resources, and their Traditional Knowledge (see Definitions).*
- *The Dease River First Nation has inherent rights that derive from their political, economic and social structures and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories and philosophies, especially their rights to their lands, territories and resources.*
- *The Dease River First Nation has the right to practice and revitalize their customs, practices and traditions. This includes the right to maintain, protect, and develop the past, present, and future manifestations of their cultures, such as archaeological and historical sites, artifacts, designs, ceremonies, technologies, and visual and performing arts and literature. In addition, Dease River First Nation have the right to manifest, practice, develop, and teach their spiritual and religious traditions, custom and ceremonies; the right to maintain, protect, and have access in privacy to their religious and cultural sites; the right to use and control of their ceremonial objects and the right to the repatriation of human remains.*
- *The Dease River First Nation has the right to maintain, control, protect, and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies, and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports, and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.*
- *The Dease River First Nation has the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories, and other resources. This includes the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories, and their Ethnographic Historic Resources, and their Traditional Knowledge.*

- *The Dease River First Nation has control over developments affecting them and their lands, territories and resources will enable them to maintain and strengthen their institutions, cultures and traditions, and to promote their development in accordance with their aspirations and needs.*
- *The Dease River First Nation continues to depend on the land for their foods, medicines, and their physical and spiritual well-being. Therefore, all parties (includes the Province of British Columbia, Canada, industrial development, and commercial recreation tenures) agree that Kaska traditional activities (hunting, fishing, or gathering practices) must be afforded first consideration in planning related to biodiversity management and development activities (including commercial recreation tenures).*
- *Heritage Conservation for the Dease River First Nation means the management of human activities to maintain, protect or recover Kaska Archaeological, Ethnographic, Heritage, and Historic Resources.*
- *The Dease River First Nation expects all parties will recognize and respect the importance that traditional knowledge, cultural values, sacred laws, and traditional practices play in the Kaska Dena system of management for Kaska Archaeological, Ethnographic, Heritage, and Historic Resources.*
- *The Dease River First Nation believes in a Precautionary Approach to land and water management to maintain heritage and historic values based on joint management decisions to be made based on community knowledge and Traditional Knowledge without having to wait for results from western science studies to be completed and confirmed.*

PARTICIPATORY RIGHTS

- *Consultation and accommodation principles with the Dease River First Nation are based on current case law.*
- *Shared decision-making and participation by the Dease River First Nation is fundamental in the management, planning and decision-making within the Kaska traditional territory to avoid or mitigate impacts to Kaska rights and interests with respect to the Kaska Archaeological, Ethnographic, Heritage, and Historic Resources in the traditional territory including economic activities such as industrial development, guide outfitting, guided angling, or commercial tourism.*
- *The Dease River First Nation has participatory rights in decision-making through representatives and all parties must be respectful of the Dease River First Nation right to choose such representatives in accordance with Kaska internal procedures to ensure the maintenance and development of their own decision-making institutions.*
- *There are multiple and often competing land and resource interests in the Kaska traditional territory and all parties must commit to supporting mechanisms for comprehensive land and resource planning that includes full participation of the Dease River First Nation. This commitment includes going beyond the current management system for Kaska Archaeological, Ethnographic, Heritage, and*

Historic Resources, and allows for the protection or special management of heritage and historic features based on Kaska Dena cultural values and traditional knowledge.

- *The Dease River First Nation has not had meaningful participation in the management of our heritage and historic resources in the Kaska Dena traditional territory. All parties must commit to support Dease River First Nation initiatives to manage, protect, or restore Kaska Archaeological, Ethnographic, Heritage, and Historic Resources. This includes the application of identified Kaska protected areas or special management lands for these values.*
- *The protection of Dease River First Nation heritage and historic values contribute to the cultural integrity, environmental health, biological diversity, and ecological processes. All parties will respect these values and Dease River First Nation heritage and historic management systems when shared management decisions are being considered.*
- *The importance of traditional knowledge, cultural values, practices, and sacred laws are core components of Kaska Dena governance and management systems. All parties will respect these components related to management of Kaska Archaeological, Ethnographic, Heritage, and Historic Resources.*

DEASE RIVER FIRST NATION PARTICIPATION IN HERITAGE AND HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

- *The Dease River First Nation is committed on working with all parties through shared decisions mechanisms that respect the Dease River First Nation as co-managers for Kaska Archaeological, Ethnographic, Heritage, and Historic Resources in the traditional territory.*
- *The Dease River First Nation is agreeable to meaningful participation on a government to government basis with the Province of British Columbia for heritage and historic management. An agreement would include shared decision making, joint participation in the development, review, and implementation relating to legislation policy, regulations, management planning, inventories, monitoring, and enforcement. It would also include the incorporation of Traditional Knowledge (TK), participation in developing and conducting studies, integration of Kaska values and TK into management plans and decisions, the ability for joint management recommendations, development of capacity for monitoring and enforcement, the identification of mitigation and compensation measures, and revenue sharing based on economic activities related to impacts from industrial developments in the traditional territory.*
- *The Dease River First Nation is agreeable to participating as a member of the Kaska Nation and with neighbouring nations to work collectively on advancing heritage and historic resources management matters with provincial and federal governments.*
- *The Dease River First Nation is committed to working with parties interested in protecting Kaska Archaeological, Ethnographic, Heritage, and Historic that would*

provide for capacity, employment, training, and economic development opportunities for Dease River First Nation members.

- *The Dease River First Nation through community recommendations will identify areas in the traditional territory for the protection of Kaska Archaeological, Ethnographic, Heritage, and Historic Resources. This will be developed through community regulations and endorsed through Chief and Council. The Dease River First Nation will inform all parties of the regulation(s) and will work to have the land deferred.*
- *The Dease River First Nation through community recommendations will identify areas in the traditional territory for establishment of Culturally Important Areas. These areas would be deferred from forestry, mining, or road development. The Culturally Important Areas will be developed through community regulations and endorsed through Chief and Council.*
- *The Dease River First Nation will inform all parties of the Culturally Important Areas and will work to have the areas protected through federal or provincial designations.*
- *Where there is insufficient data regarding potential impacts from industrial development, guide outfitting, guided angling, or commercial tourism economic activities, the activities should not be initiated until the Dease River First Nation is satisfied that there is adequate data or commitment to ascertain the nature and severity of the impact(s) to Kaska Archaeological, Ethnographic, Heritage, and Historic Resources.*
- *The Dease River First Nation expects all parties to commit to provide information on their activities, which can impact Kaska Archaeological, Ethnographic, Heritage, and Historic Resources at all stages to ensure the Dease River First Nation's ability to determine possible detrimental effects to their rights and interests. It also provides a forum to seek information, provide recommendations for the protection and management of these values through all stages of activities.*
- *The Dease River First Nation expects all parties to commit to the principles of compensation for loss of Kaska Archaeological, Ethnographic, Heritage, and Historic Resources.*
- *The Dease River First Nation must be involved in any Kaska Archaeological, Ethnographic, Heritage, and Historic Resources study in the traditional territory. The Dease River First Nation expects all parties to commit to providing the opportunities for participation in surveys and studies and commit to providing the information once the study is completed. This may include presenting the community with results of the survey/study.*

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

- *Once a Protocol has been agreed, the application of Dease River First Nation traditional knowledge is required in a manner consistent with Kaska policies and acceptable to the Kaska. All parties must agree that the Dease River First Nation has constitutionally protected Aboriginal rights to ownership, protection and custody of their knowledge.*
- *The Dease River First Nation commits to negotiate in good faith with all parties, a Traditional Knowledge Protocol that will allow the sharing of information or provide recommendations to ongoing heritage or historic management activities. The Traditional Knowledge Protocol will protect the Kaska intellectual property rights of their knowledge, and set out how information will be shared based on an agreed workplan and budget.*

WATER AND LAND PROTECTION

- *The Dease River First Nation and the Kaska Dena have as stewards of our traditional territory, the protection of water quality and quantity as a paramount requirement for any activities. It is expected all parties will not move forward on activities until there is agreement on the standards and monitoring (including the employment of Kaska environmental monitors) for water quality and quantity. This includes the monitoring in Kaska culturally and environmentally sensitive watersheds downstream of development.*
- *The Dease River First Nation and the Kaska Dena have as stewards of our traditional territory, the protection of culturally important fish, wildlife and plant species as a paramount requirement for any fish and wildlife related activities. It is expected all parties will not move forward on activities until there is agreement on the list of culturally important species to be conserved, the information collection standards, baseline studies, Traditional Knowledge collection, management practices/standards, and monitoring (including the employment of Kaska environmental monitors) for the complete life cycle of the project.*
- *The Dease River First Nation expects all parties as part of any agreements related to development to recognize the cumulative effects to the species and be prepared to jointly agree to the scope of cumulative effects studies, the joint information collection and analysis for the complete life cycle of the project. This includes reassessing the cumulative effects as new projects are developed in the traditional territory over the complete life cycle of the project.*

HERITAGE AND HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COMPONENTS

The following components must be included in government to government agreements that speak to heritage and historic resources, and be included in Impact Benefits Agreements with resource development projects (including commercial tourism)

- *Parties recognize and respect to the ownership and custody of historic resources found in the Kaska traditional territory.*

- *Dease River First Nation will have access to existing historic objects found in the Kaska traditional territory, and data associated with these objects.*
- *Dease River First Nation must have the ability to relocate historic objects found in their traditional territory, to Kaska communities at such time that the Kaska have the facilities and training to provide proper management of historic objects.*
- *Dease River First Nation will, to the extent possible, repatriate historic objects to their traditional territory.*
- *Dease River First Nation will seek recognized designation of their historic resources in the Yukon and British Columbia through agreements with the British Columbia, and the Yukon Governments.*
- *Dease River First Nation will enter into agreements with proponents of industrial activities with respect to the ownership, custody and management of historic objects.*
- *Dease River First Nation will enter into agreements with proponents of industrial projects and governments, to develop historic resource plans as a component of, or contribution to, the project description and mitigation plan, that will,*
 - *build awareness and respect for historic resources,*
 - *identify historic resources in the project area,*
 - *collaborate in archaeological and paleontological studies,*
 - *apply prescriptions for the protection and mitigation of historic sites and objects,*
 - *incorporate Kaska views in the planning, development and operations of the project, and in particular Kaska Traditional Knowledge and Sacred laws, and*
 - *develop cultural awareness training to employees, contractors, and Kaska youth;*
 - *apply rules of conduct for research of historic resources*
- *No archaeological excavations of historic gravesites shall be conducted without the permission of the Dease River First Nation, and if permitted must be done in accordance with Kaska procedures, and with Kaska supervision.*
- *Permission will not be granted by the Dease River First Nation to conduct research in respect of historic resources, if the research is deemed to be disrespectful of Kaska culture and sacred laws.*
- *Dease River First Nation should begin discussions with Yukon Government to amend the Scientist's Explorers Permit, to enable the Kaska to play a key role in the permitting of Archaeological and Paleontological studies. Studies should not go ahead without the consent of the Dease River First Nation (as is the case with the Gwich'in in Peel River area of the Yukon).*
- *Before any studies are undertaken in the Kaska Traditional Territory, the proponent must apply in writing to the Dease River First Nation for permission to conduct the research.*
- *If the request does not contravene this policy, the proponent will be required to submit a research proposal to the Dease River First Nation, including the purpose of the research, a description of the methods proposed, and how the research results will*

be used.

- *Conditions for permitting should include (a) confirmation of ownership of historic objects, (b) the involvement of Land Stewards of the proposed study area, (c) involvement of Kaska youth as trainees, (d) methods of study that are acceptable to the Kaska, (e) acceptable means of sharing information and retaining confidentiality of sensitive information, (f) annual reporting obligations to the community and land stewards of the project area, (g) respect for Kaska Traditional Knowledge policies, and (h) compliance with this policy.*
- *Proponent should provide Dease River First Nation with a list of potential researchers of Historic Resource studies, and seek the advice of the Kaska as to the acceptable researcher, or the Dease River First Nation should provide the proponent with a list of acceptable research candidates.*
- *Proponent of an industrial project in the Kaska Traditional Territory must agree to halt excavation when they encounter a burial site, or human remains, and work with the Dease River First Nation to find ways to mitigate or continue research, if acceptable to the Kaska. Dease River First Nation should supervise the continuance of research agreed to.*
- *Dease River First Nation will require confidentiality agreements with any proponent wishing to excavate or use information pertaining to Historic resources.*
- *Proponents will support any strategies to display and describe their historic objects, and to properly disseminate information of an historic nature to Kaska classrooms*

MISCELLANEOUS

- *The Dease River First Nation expects the all parties to commit to comply, to the extent possible, with Kaska Dena or Dease River First Nation land and resource planning completed or underway in the traditional territory.*
- *The Dease River First Nation expects all parties to commit to implementing strict heritage and historic protection practices that are acceptable to the Kaska Dena, and including those “best practices” advanced by the Dease River First Nation.*
- *The Dease River First Nation expects any Impact Benefits Agreements will include compensation for the disruption or loss of landbase activities by Dease River First Nation members.*
- *The Dease River First Nation commits to inform all parties of the expectations of the Dease River First Nation for all parties considering industrial development, guide outfitting, guided angling, or commercial tourism activities including expectations for consultation, acceptance of management rules for Kaska special and protected areas, application of Kaska practices, and providing economic/capacity opportunities.*
- *The Dease River First Nation expects all parties will agree to:*

- *ensure the monitoring and enforcement of Kaska management practices, land use plans, approved environmental assessment certificates, and permits using an adaptive management framework*
- *acknowledge and respect the Land Stewards and Sacred Laws with a commitment of their application for monitoring*
- *employ Land Stewards and qualified Dease River First Nation technical personnel including monitoring and enforcement through the full life cycle of an activity or project*

DEFINITIONS

Archaeological object is an object that is the product of human art, workmanship, or use, and includes plant and animal remains that have been modified by, or deposited in consequence of human activities

Artifact is an archaeological object

Ethnographic object is an item of material culture relating to the history and traditional culture of an ethnic group (i.e. the Kaska)

Ethnographic historic resource is a historic resource that is of an ethnographic nature

Heritage Resources - valued objects and qualities passed down from previous generations.

Historic object – means an archaeological object or a paleontological object

Historic resources includes a historic site, a historic object, and any work or assembly of works of nature or of human endeavour that is of value for its archaeological, paleontological, pre-historic, historic, scientific or aesthetic features

Paleontological object is the remains or a fossil or other object that indicates the existence of extinct or prehistoric plants or animals, but not human remains

Appendix C: Involvement of First Nations, Stakeholders, Provincial Agencies and the General Public in the SRMP

Dease-Liard Sustainable Resource Management Plan Process

During the development of this plan, drafts were made available to affected First Nations; key stakeholders (Association of Mineral Exploration BC (AMEBC), guide outfitters, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, all tenure holders within the proposed protected area); regional districts, provincial government agencies (Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources; Oil and Gas Commission; Ministry of Forests and Range; Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and other divisions of the former Integrated Land Management Bureau). Advertisements were placed in the Northern Connector on August 27, 2010 and in the Yukon News on August 20, 2010. In addition, all tenure holders within the proposed protected area were sent a letter describing the implications of holding tenure within an area being proposed as a protected area. The plan was revised based on the comments received; those changes are documented in Appendix D, Public Review Summary and Response.

Kaska Dena First Nations

The Kaska Dena First Nations in BC were partners in the planning process. Kaska representatives were involved in all stages of plan development, and all decisions were made by consensus. The plan was reviewed by the Kaska Natural Resource Agencies, Daylu Dena Council and Dease River First Nation Leadership. The Kaska Dena Council held numerous community meetings throughout the planning process. The most recent meetings to finalize the plan are listed below. The comments from these reviews have been incorporated into the final plan. The Kaska Dena support the plan.

Dates of Community Meetings	Location
August 17-21, 2009	Muskwa Kechika Youth Camp
December 15, 2009	Good Hope Lake
December 17, 2009	Lower Post
January 12-13, 2010	Kaska Dena Council Assembly
March 15, 2010	Lower Post
March 16, 2010	Good Hope Lake

Tahltan Central Council

The Tahltan did not actively participate in the planning process for the first phase of the SRMP, approved in 2004. However, the Tahltan did become engaged in this phase and submitted comments. These comments and suggested revisions were incorporated into the plan. The draft plan resulting from the second phase of the SRMP was sent to the Tahltan Central Council office, and to the Iskut and Tahltan Band offices.

Teslin Tlingit Council

A letter was sent to the council in September 2006 to inform them about the planning process and to invite them to provide input regarding any values they might hold within the plan area. The draft plan resulting from the second phase of the SRMP was also sent to them.

Liard First Nation

The draft plan resulting from the second phase of the SRMP was sent in the fall of 2010. No response was received. The draft plan was emailed and mailed again in June 2011.

Ministry of Forests and Range

Comments were received, and in most instances, suggested changes to the plan were incorporated. MoFR supports the plan.

Ministry of Environment

Comments were received, and in most instances, suggested changes to the plan were incorporated. MoE supports the plan.

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

MEMPR was involved extensively in the planning process, particularly due to their interest in the minerals and aggregates; oil, gas and energy; and protected area chapters of the plan. In most instances, suggested changes to the plan were incorporated. MEMPR supports the plan.

Oil and Gas Commission

Comments were received from the OGC due to their interest in the oil, gas and energy; and protected area chapters. In most instances, suggested changes to the plan were incorporated. The commission supports the plan.

Public Consultation

An opportunity for the general public to review and comment on this plan began on August 20, 2010. Comments were accepted until the final plan was complete several months afterwards in 2011.

A summary of comments received and responses is presented in Appendix D.

Appendix D: Public Review Summary and Response

Source	Comments	Response
Canadian Parks and Wilderness (CPAWS)	Support protected area; want to see larger protected area	Expanded boundary of proposed protected area in consultation with AMEBC and Kaska.
Association of Mineral Exploration BC (AMEBC)	Overall support to plan (after change to proposed protected area boundary). SRMP should recognize adjoining areas to identify broader land use implications; Unfortunate that some mineral titles were forfeited due to SRMP; There was over-reliance in some areas to base planning boundaries on aboriginal political interests instead of science-based, biogeoclimatic info; There was lack of public disclosure of the mineral potential and socio-economic studies used to inform the decision makers of the land use trade-offs and considerations.	Modified boundary of proposed protected area in consultation with CPAWS and Kaska.
Angling Licensee	Has never been previously consulted or asked for any input	Jan 2003 – informed of process by letter; July 18, 2003 - informed of Open House in Dease Lake and sent draft SRMP by letter Aug 16, 2004 – Open House in Dease Lake Aug 4 and 11, 2004 - Advertised in Northwest Weekly Aug 6 and 10, 2004 – Advertised in BC Gazette Aug 17, 2010 - Mailed letter inviting input. Aug 2010 - advertised Yukon News and Northern Connector.
Angling Licensee	Use of aircraft for angling trips will require increased liability insurance to operate within a Park	Extent of costs is dependent on details of operation.
Angling Licensee	Adds cost and time of office work and Park Use Permits	Provided link to website on park use permits, including how to apply for one; provided contact info for BC Parks in Dease Lake.
Guide/Outfitter	Not being part of process; nervous about how protected area will affect	Phone calls and emails about process; referred to BCParks re

	business; increased costs under park use permit; unknown future re opportunity to use and operate on land as they currently do.	parks questions. Details added to Protected Areas section of plan regarding allowable uses and management direction.
Trapper	Concern over ability to continue trapping and use trapping cabin, snowmobiles, aircraft and trails in a protected area.	Personal letter of Aug 18, 2010 states "It is envisioned that commercial operations such as recreation, guide-outfitting and trapping will be permissible activities within the new Protected Area." Details added to Protected Areas section of plan regarding allowable uses and management direction
Trapper	Do not support a Park. Park will de-value the trapline.	Park may actually increase value of trapline, as it will be safe from development.
Placer Tenure Holder	Concern over loss of claims, history of not getting permits approved; claims are in placer reserves.	Letter of May 12, 2011. If proposed protected area is approved, you will be notified and be able to file a claim for compensation. Link provided.
Mineral Tenure Holder	Claims within proposed protected area are now effectively worthless, no registration reserve does not allow exploration to occur	Minister of Natural Resource Operations responded (see file).Exploration can continue under a no registration reserve.
Mineral Tenure Holder	Not involved in process	Process mostly gov-to-gov with First Nations; no planning table, public not involved in plan development. Kaska and Tahltan FN's make up majority of residents in area.
BC Wildlife Federation, Okanagan	Not involved in process	Minister of FLNRO responded. Process was largely gov-to-gov with First Nations; no planning table and public not involved in plan development. Kaska and Tahltan FN's make up majority of residents in area, so were asked to participate.
BC Wildlife Federation, Skeena	Not involved in this process or in 2004..	Process mostly gov-to-gov with First Nations; no planning table, public not involved in plan development. Kaska and Tahltan FN's make up majority of residents in area, so were asked to participate.
BCWF, Skeena	Hunting regs for Boya Lake be reviewed	Forwarded on to BCParks and to Ecosystems, FLNRO

BCWF, Skeena	Costs to land aircraft within protected area	Info on costs from BCParks
BCWF, Skeena	Lake trout are slow growing and pike have limited habitat	Provincial review of angling regs for northern pike. Proposed new regs for lake trout in 2011. Updated plan with new info from fish expert.
BCWF, Skeena	Against expanding guided fishing business	Gov not considering
BCWF, Skeena	Stock assessment, catch monitoring, catch and release, daily catch and possession limits and "Setting aside one or two lakes for every watershed in the plan area as control or benchmark lakes where no fishing takes place".	Letter of April 18, 2011. The large number of lakes in plan area preclude catch monitoring or stock assessment on most individual lakes.
BCWF, Skeena	Need clarity on proposed protected area boundary (2004 vs 2010). Recommend wording on Limited Entry Hunting (LEH) and continued ability to hunt, trap, fish and guide within new protected area.	Most recent map emailed on Mar 28, 2011. Changed wording re LEH and hunting, trapping, fishing and guide-outfitting within new protected area.
BCWF, Skeena	Moose Meadows Resort was sold to private interests and no longer offers public access or camping.	Updated plan to reflect new info.
BCWF, Skeena	Against increased fees in protected area	Detailed fee structure in a letter of April 18, 2011
BCWF, Skeena	Against fly-fishing only regulations	Letter of April 18, 2011 - gov't not considering change to regs at this time.
BCWF, Skeena	Recommend stocking program for Boya or Dease Lakes.	Letter April 18, 2011 provincial policy precludes new stocking of fish into waters which bear naturally occurring self-sustaining game fish populations, i.e Boya/Dease
BCWF, Skeena	Against establishment of control or benchmark lakes where fishing is prohibited.	Letter April 18, 2011 this type of reg has seldom been applied. Closures will likely only be applied in context of regional/provincial plan with justification and public input.
BCWF, Skeena	Want to be involved in future planning processes in region 6 (Skeena).	Letter April 18, 2011 states we will be seeking public input for Nass South in future.
MOTI	ECDA's will be considered for "new major projects". Does this apply to new gravel pits and/or expansions of existing gravel pits?	Added to mgmt consideration: Note that this would not apply to gravel pits, unless an ECDA might help MOTI.

MOTI	Plan states “100% locally qualified employment, with 50% of this to be from First Nations”. Multi-year contracts preclude the target from being met.	Intent is that 50% of qualified people are local First Nations. Key word is “qualified”.
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